***A Movement to Change One Billion Lives***



Guidelines for Grantseekers

This document provides guidance for submitting a proposal to the Disability Rights Fund (DRF) and the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund (DRAF). If your organization has never received a grant from DRF or DRAF, we strongly recommend that you review [For Grantseekers](http://disabilityrightsfund.org/for-grantseekers/), [Frequently Asked Questions](http://disabilityrightsfund.org/faq), and [Glossary of Terms](http://www.disabilityrightsfund.org/glossary). All applicants, including DRF/DRAF grantees, should read these guidelines thoroughly, as they have changed.

***Important Notices for 2021 Round* *1*** *(RFP deadline: March 15, 2021)*

In response to changing conditions on the ground, grantmaking for **Myanmar has been shifted to Round 2**, which will be publicized in July 2021. To address the gap of time between Rounds, current grantees will be provided extensions and other forms of support.

Grantmaking for the **Pacific Island Countries (PICs) has been moved up to the Round 1** cycle. Any eligible organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in PICs are encouraged to apply.

For the rest of our Round 1 target countries – **Indonesia, Malawi, and Nigeria – OPDs are eligible to apply by invitation only**.

In 2021, repeat grantees who are **Small Grant recipients may apply for up to an additional $10,000** to fund core operating costs not covered by other sources. This increase in the Small Grants ceiling (up to $30,000 total for repeat grantees) recognizes that ours is often the only funding to especially marginalized and emergent OPDs, making it difficult for these organizations to cover necessary operating costs.

All applicants are encouraged to **consider constraints and/or advocacy opportunities related to COVID-19** in preparing proposals. At DRF/DRAF, we remain committed to adapting and innovating in support of our grantees’ redoubled efforts to secure rights for all during the pandemic and beyond.

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# ABOUT THE DISABILITY RIGHTS FUND & THE DISABILITY RIGHTS ADVOCACY FUND

Established in 2008, the [Disability Rights Fund (DRF)](http://www.disabilityrightsfund.org/) supports persons with disabilities – including particularly marginalized[[1]](#footnote-1) groups – in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and the Caribbean to build diverse movements, ensure inclusive development agendas, and achieve equal rights and opportunity for all. The [Disability Rights Advocacy Fund (DRAF](http://www.drafund.org/)), DRF’s sister organization, supports persons with disabilities to advance legal frameworks[[2]](#footnote-2) to realize their rights. Through grantmaking, advocacy, and technical assistance, the Funds support organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) to use global rights and development frameworks **–** such as the [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-%20of-persons-with-disabilities.html) and the [Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs) **–** toensure no one is left behind (including in the COVID-19 response and recovery).

DRF donors include: The Ansara Family Fund of the Boston Foundation; the Ford Foundation; The Estelle Friedman Gervis Family Foundation; the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation; UK aid from the U.K. government (FCDO); Foundation for a Just Society, the Foundation to Promote Open Society, part of the Open Society Foundations; Tambourine; WE Trust; and individual donors. DRAF is supported by the Australian Government’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The views expressed in this communication do not necessarily reflect the official policies of any of our donors, or the governments they represent.

**TARGET COUNTRIES**

*OPDs in DRF/DRAF target countries may apply during two annual grantmaking cycles. In 2021, these are:*

**Round 1:** RFP due March 15, 2021

* **RFP is open:** Pacific Island Countries (including Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)
* **RFP is by invitation only:** Indonesia, Malawi, and Nigeria (refer to “Eligibility” below)

**Round 2:** RFP to be released in July 2021

* **RFP is open:** Myanmar
* **RFP is by invitation only**: Haiti, Rwanda, and Uganda (refer to “Eligibility” below)

## ELIGIBILITY

*To meet the basic eligibility requirements for DRF/DRAF funding consideration in 2021, applicants must:*

* Be based in and conduct the majority of activities in a country targeted by the specific Round (above);
* Be a legally registered non-governmental OPD[[3]](#footnote-3), or a group of persons with disabilities acting under the fiscal sponsorship[[4]](#footnote-4) of a registered non-governmental organization; and
* Be invited to apply, if from Nigeria, Indonesia, or Malawi (in Round 1), or from Haiti, Rwanda, and Uganda (in Round 2). Invitations will be extended to most current grantees, as well as to new applicants that are organizations of women with disabilities and/or LGBTI persons with disabilities. Focusing our 2021 grantmaking in this way responds to the pandemic reality of increasing gender-based violence and other human rights violations affecting these groups. (Please refer to the DRF/DRAF [Gender Guidelines](http://disabilityrightsfund.org/wp-content/uploads/DRF-DRAF-Gender-Guidelines-Print.pdf) for more information about our commitment to intersectional equality and SOGIESC diversity.)

## DRF/DRAF FUNDING STREAMS

*DRF and DRAF currently administer three funding streams:****Small Grants, Mid-Level Coalition Grants,****and****National Coalition Grants****, as described below.* *Please note that all proposals must explicitly promote the CRPD and specify the Article(s) being addressed. If a project is addressing implementation of the SDGs or GDS18 Commitments, the specific Goals or Commitments should be referenced. Cross-disability and other partnerships are encouraged, particularly those that strengthen marginalized sectors of the disability community. Additionally, all proposals should take COVID-19 implications into consideration, especially the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic and related socio-economic effects on marginalized groups.*

**SMALL GRANTS**

The Small Grants funding stream supports growth of a broader and more diverse disability movement to advance the [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)](https://ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/ConventionRightsPersonsWithDisabilities.aspx) and the [Sustainable Development Goals](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs) (SDGs) at local levels. OPDs can use funds from DRF/DRAF to strengthen the capacity of persons with disabilities to participate more actively in decision-making processes regarding CRPD implementation and monitoring or to advocate for the advancement of rights defined in specific articles of the CRPD. In addition, this funding stream supports OPDs to participate in and influence decision-making processes and budgets related to implementation of the SDGs to ensure development efforts, particularly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, include all persons with disabilities. While DRF/DRAF welcomes applications from any OPDs, grassroots (rural), emergent (newly established) and more marginalized groups are especially encouraged to apply for grants in this category.

## 

Smallgrants range from USD 5,000–USD 20,000 for NEW applicants. For REPEAT grantees only, the Small Grants funding stream ceiling has been increased to USD $30,000.

**MID-LEVEL COALITION GRANTS**

The Mid-Level Coalition funding stream supports sub-national efforts to ensure that national legislation and policy which promotes and protects the rights of persons with disabilities is implemented at state (in a federal system), regional, provincial, or district levels, including through regulatory frameworks or establishment of disability-inclusive budgets. In addition, this funding stream supports sub-national level coalitions to advocate that development programs, policies and plans aiming to implement the SDGs at sub-national levels are inclusive of persons with disabilities and use the CRPD as a guideline, particularly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Advocacy at sub-national levels is especially critical in federal systems and in decentralized political systems – which make up the majority of DRF/DRAF target countries.

Grants for Mid-Level Coalitions are disbursed to **one** lead OPD, which is responsible for coordinating the Coalition and managing the grant. Coalitions led by sub-national umbrella organizations or federations may include member OPDs as partners, but must also include at least one outside organization to be eligible. Both the applicant organization and the application aim must have sub-national scope.

Mid-Level Coalition grants range from USD 30,000 – 40,000 per year (USD 60,000 – 80,000 over two years). Grants will support activities to be implemented over the course of two years, however grants are given one year at a time. A second-year grant will be awarded only with satisfactory completion of the first year.

**NATIONAL COALITION GRANTS**

The National Coalition funding stream supports advancement of the CRPD at national levels through lobbying for ratification of the CRPD/Optional Protocol or other international or regional human rights treaties protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. The stream also supports lobbying for national-level legislative, policy, and budgetary changes to advance the CRPD; monitoring and reporting on implementation of the CRPD or other international human rights mechanisms as they relate to persons with disabilities; or following up on recommendations made by UN human rights mechanisms to States in regard to implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities. In addition, this funding stream supports national-level coalitions to advocate that national development programs, policies, plans, and budgets aiming to implement the SDGs are inclusive of persons with disabilities and use the CRPD as a guideline, particularly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This stream is intended for organizations that are prominent in the disability movement at the national level.  Because of the importance of joint advocacy at this level, only coalitions of three or more organizations will be funded. Applicant organizations leading coalitions must be OPDs, while partner organizations can be either OPDs or other civil society organizations active in the promotion of human rights.

Grants for National Coalitions are disbursed to **one** lead OPD, which is responsible for coordinating the Coalition and managing the grant. Coalitions led by umbrella organizations or federations may include member OPDs as partners, but must also include at least one outside organization to be eligible. Both the applicant organization and the application aim must have national scope.

## National Coalition grants range from USD 30,000 – 50,000 per year (USD 60,000 – 100,000 over two years). Grants will support activities to be implemented over the course of two years, however grants are given one year at a time. A second-year grant will be awarded only with satisfactory completion of the first year.

**DRF/DRAF PRIORITY AREAS**

*To be considered for funding, applications must address one of the priority areas detailed below:*

**PRIORITY AREAS RELEVANT TO ALL FUNDING STREAMS**

1. **Promoting gender equality and SOGIESC diversity**

In accordance with the DRF/DRAF [Gender Guidelines](http://disabilityrightsfund.org/wp-content/uploads/DRF-DRAF-Gender-Guidelines-Print.pdf) and in recognition of intersectional discrimination, the inclusion and leadership of women and girls with disabilities as well as LGBTI persons with disabilities is encouraged throughout all other DRF/DRAF priority areas. Many OPDs may need targeted resourcing to integrate a gender lens across their structures, advocacy, and priorities. Many women’s rights and LGBTI organizations may also need support to integrate a disability lens. Starting in 2021, OPDs may apply under this priority area to support that work. Partnerships are especially encouraged between OPDs and women’s rights actors or organizations promoting LGBTI rights.

1. **Advancing achievement of** [**Global Disability Summit 2018 (GDS18) commitments**](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/global-disability-summit-commitments) **and advocating for** [**Global Disability Summit 2022 (GDS22)**](https://atlas-alliansen.no/global-disability-summit-2021/) **commitments**

The UK and Kenyan governments and the International Disability Alliance partnered to host the first Global Disability Summit in London in July 2018. New global and national commitments on disability inclusion were agreed by governments and other stakeholders. Following the Summit, the UK government provided funding via DRAF/DRF for OPDs to follow up on national government commitments. OPDs in pooled fund target countries which made GDS18 commitments can use DRF funding to advocate for government follow-through on those commitments, alongside the CRPD and the SDGs. The [next Global Disability Summit](https://atlas-alliansen.no/global-disability-summit-2021/) – to be held in Oslo, Norway in 2022 - is now being planned. OPDs may also use DRF funding to advocate to governments for new or renewed commitments towards GDS22.[[5]](#footnote-5)

1. **Ratification of the CRPD and/or the Optional Protocol (where not ratified), or of other international or regional human rights treaties relevant to the rights of persons with disabilities**

Ratification of international or regional human rights treaties (whether the CRPD or its OP, or the Marrakesh Treaty, or the African Disability Protocol) is an important step towards institution of human rights for persons with disabilities. OPDs and other civil society organizations can play an integral role in advocating for adoption of treaties advancing the rights of persons with disabilities. While DRF/DRAF primarily support National Coalition efforts for treaty ratification, Mid-Level Coalition and Small Grant applicants may also be considered.

**PRIORITY AREAS SPECIFIC TO NATIONAL COALITION GRANTS** – *National Coalition grants should be aimed at one of the following priority areas (or an area relevant to all funding streams):*

1. **Passage or amendment of specific national legislation and policies to accord with the CRPD (including those related to COVID 19)**

Some countries attempt to accord all national legislation and policies prior to ratification; others harmonize laws and policies after adoption (including those related to COVID-19). In either case, OPDs and other civil society organizations can play an important role in advocating for legislative and policy reform to ensure the CRPD is implemented, including through legal advocacy.

1. **Advocacy for budgetary measures as well as regulations to implement new or amended legislation and policy promoting the rights of persons with disabilities (including those related to COVID 19)**

Once national legislation or policies (including those related to COVID-19) are adopted or amended to address the rights of persons with disabilities, regulatory frameworks and budgets are needed to ensure implementation. OPDs can play a critical role in advising government about how best to ensure CRPD-compliance in regulations and budgets so that the lives of all persons with disabilities are improved.

1. **Production of and/or follow up to Alternative Reports to the CRPD Committee and other human rights treaty bodies or reports to the Human Rights Council for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

Two years after entry into force of the CRPD within a ratifying State, the State must present its first national report, using established reporting guidelines, on the baseline situation for persons with disabilities and any advancements in CRPD implementation to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Subsequent reports are due four years after submission of the baseline report. At the same time, OPDs and other civil society organizations may present “alternative” reports, which give a non-governmental perspective on the realities for persons with disabilities. Once Concluding Observations are published by the Committee, OPDs and other civil society organizations can use these Concluding Observations in their advocacy and follow-up with government about progress towards implementing the recommendations.

Committees of independent experts monitor implementation not only of the CRPD, but also of all [core human rights treaties](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/index.htm). Each Committee is created in accordance with the provisions of the treaty it monitors. It is critical that OPDs join other civil society organizations in reporting to all human rights treaty bodies[[6]](#footnote-6) about the situation of persons with disabilities.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a United Nations monitoring process which involves a review, under the auspices of the Human Rights Council, of the human rights records of all 193 UN Member States once every four years.  As with treaty bodies, OPDs and other civil society organizations can provide reports for the Universal Periodic Review of their State and follow up on recommendations made to governments.

1. **Engagement with national government SDGs focal point, civil society SDGs platforms, and National Statistics Offices to ensure national action plans, programs, monitoring frameworks and data collection methods for implementing and monitoring the SDGs are inclusive of persons with disabilities and use the CRPD as a guideline**

In the context of the SDGs, it is critical that persons with disabilities are considered and counted as a target group in national development planning and are involved at all levels of action planning, implementation, monitoring, data collection, and follow-up. The CRPD is often referred to as both a human rights and a social development treaty because of its expected impact in both areas. The CRPD can be used by OPDs to advocate for and guide this inclusion. OPDs can also advocate that the [Washington Group on Disability Statistics short set of questions](http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/washington-group-question-sets/) be used in censuses, national household surveys and other mechanisms to collect data about persons with disabilities critical for inclusive development.

1. **Advocacy to ensure inclusion of a disability perspective in national governmental implementation and/or monitoring of the CRPD**

Once the CRPD is ratified, as mandated in Article 33, countries should establish national implementation and monitoring mechanisms, including focal points (which may be specific offices under the President/Prime Minister, various Ministries or National Councils on Disability) and coordination mechanisms. As outlined in Article 33(3), countries also need to include representative organizations of persons with disabilities in these mechanisms. To ensure that this happens, OPDs and other civil society organizations need to advocate for active and ongoing participation of persons with disabilities in the work of these mechanisms.

**PRIORITY AREAS SPECIFIC TO MID-LEVEL COALITION GRANTS** – *Mid-Level Coalition grants should be aimed at one of the following priority areas (or an area relevant to all funding streams):*

1. **Passage of specific sub-national legislation (including ordinances), policy, regulations, and/or budgetary priorities (including those related to COVID-19) to accord with the CRPD**

In federal or decentralized political systems, legal or policy changes (including those related to COVID-19) at national level must be followed up with similar changes at sub-national (state, regional, provincial or district) levels. In the process of budget planning, budget priorities (including those related to COVID-19) at sub-national level must be disability inclusive. Civil society can play an important role in advocating for legislative and policy reform as well as budget priority setting at these levels. It is critical that OPDs, in particular, understand the process of government budget development, participate in it where possible, and demand sufficient resources and tracking to ensure that rights are made real.

1. **Advocacy for inclusion of persons with disabilities in government programs (including programs disrupted by COVID-19), such as education, health, or justice, at the state (in a federal system), provincial, regional or district level in line with CRPD articles**

Changes to mainstream government programs and services so that they are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities will support the implementation of the CRPD at the sub-national level. Advocacy led by OPDs is essential to ensure that the needs and rights of persons with disabilities are understood and considered by sub-national government officials and institutions.

1. **Advocacy to ensure that development stakeholders and development planning at sub-national levels, to implement the SDGs, are inclusive of persons with disabilities and use the CRPD as a guiding document**

In the context of the SDGs, to leave no one behind, it is critical that persons with disabilities are considered and counted as a target group and are involved at sub-national levels of development planning, implementation, follow up and monitoring. OPDs must demand inclusive indicators, targets, monitoring frameworks, and data collection activities, including those relevant to COVID. The CRPD – often referred to as both a human rights and a social development treaty because of its expected impact in both areas – can be used to advocate for and guide this inclusion.

**PRIORITY AREAS SPECIFIC TO SMALL GRANTS** – *Small Grants should be aimed at one of the following priority areas (or an area relevant to all funding streams):*

1. **Increasing OPD capacity to participate in advocacy and decision-making processes (including those related to COVID-19) regarding implementation of rights at local levels**

Grants in this category are aimed at supporting OPDs to build capacity (especially of marginalized persons with disabilities and emergent OPDs) to participate – in a meaningful manner – in advocacy for rights (according to specific CRPD articles) as well as inclusion in decision-making processes (such as township planning committees, municipal assemblies, or village development planning bodies) at local levels.

1. **Promoting inclusion of persons with disabilities in government programs, - such as education, health, or justice - and in budget planning and implementation (including programs and budgets related to COVID-19) at local levels**

Grants in this category are aimed at supporting OPDs to carry out advocacy to local government stakeholders or service providers on implementation of a specific CRPD article (such as Article 27 on access to work and employment or Article 13 on access to justice) in existing governmental programs and budgets. OPDs may also undertake projects, which inform or demonstrate to government or other key stakeholders how rights outlined in specific articles of the CRPD can be implemented in practice. Grants in this category are also aimed at supporting OPDs to lead monitoring of disability inclusion in local government budgets. Advocacy to influence budget priorities at the local level is also critical to ensure that disability inclusion is part of the local budget making process.

1. **Increasing OPD capacity to participate in advocacy and decision-making processes regarding implementation of the SDGs, including during COVID-19**

This priority area focuses on ensuring that OPDs have the capacity to be part of the process for implementation of the SDGs via local development committees, planning, and policies. This includes advocacy for participation of (especially marginalized) persons with disabilities at local levels where development planning is occurring; and advocacy for participation of grassroots OPDs in local, regional, or national development planning processes, policies, and strategies, including SDG National Action Planning. It can include activities by OPDs to build understanding among local stakeholders about the CRPD and how to use it in SDGs planning, implementation and monitoring.

1. **Advocacy for inclusion of persons with disabilities in the planning, implementation and monitoring of local government development plans and programs (as part of SDG implementation), including those related to COVID-19 response and recovery**

Grants in this category are aimed at supporting OPDs to carry out advocacy to local government stakeholders, local NGOs, or service providers to ensure local development plans, policies and programs are inclusive. OPDs may also undertake projects, which inform or demonstrate to government or other key stakeholders how the goals and targets outlined in specific SDGs (such as Goal 4 on education or Goal 5 on gender equality) can be implemented in an inclusive manner in line with the CRPD. Grants in this category are also aimed at OPD advocacy in local development committees to ensure local development priority setting (including COVID response and recovery) addresses persons with disabilities and implementation is aligned with specific rights in the CRPD (such as Article 25 on health or Article 28 on adequate standard of living).

## 

**IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE RFP**

*Please note several developments which may impact your organizations and/or proposals.*

1. **Accounting for COVID-19 Implications:** Applicants are encouraged to consider constraints and/or opportunities related to COVID-19 in preparing proposals. At DRF/DRAF, we remain committed to adapting and innovating in support of our grantees’ redoubled efforts to secure rights for all during the pandemic and beyond. Especially encouraged are advocacy efforts intended to address the disproportionate impact of the pandemic and related socio-economic effects on marginalized sectors of the disability community.
2. **Including OPD Strengthening** **in Project Activities and Budget**: Additional funds are available to mitigate areas of risk and address capacity gaps identified by the DRF/DRAF Program Team based on applicant due diligence and/or experience working with current grantees. Depending on specific grantee needs, this aligned funding stream can be utilized to build OPD capacities in areas such as safeguarding, financial management, governance, resource mobilization, and diversity. While these funds draw from a separate funding stream, for ease of grantee implementation, OPD Strengthening funds are granted with the first disbursement of any grant.
3. **Including Technical Assistance (TA) in Project Activities and Budget:** Projects addressing CRPD and/or SDG implementation can include line items for activities and costs for TA to support stronger implementation of the project. TA, as defined by DRF/DRAF, is about equipping organizations with technical skills, knowledge, resources and partnerships relating to the CRPD, SDGs, rights advocacy and movement building. TA must focus on the OPD personnel increasing skills and knowledge over time. It is NOT a consultant doing the job for the organization. TA is different from organizational capacity building activities, which aim to support OPDs to become stronger organizations.Examples of TA include:
   1. Training by a legal expert on what domestication of a specific article of the CRPD could look like in national or local legislation or policy;
   2. Coalition building with other civil society organizations already involved in SDGs implementation to advocate for disability-inclusive SDGs implementation at local levels;
   3. Training by human rights expert(s) on rights advocacy strategies to achieve project goals;
   4. Partnership with a research institute to carry out an analysis of gaps in the inclusion of women with disabilities in local health and/or social protection services to support advocacy for change.
4. **Including Core Operational Costs in Small Grant Budgets**: DRF/DRAF understand that especially for marginalized and emergent organizations of persons with disabilities, DRF/DRAF are often the only funder, and lack of other funding makes it difficult to cover all necessary operational costs. In 2021, repeat grantees who are Small Grant recipients may apply for up to an additional $10,000 to fund core operating costs not covered by other sources. Core operating costs are organizational expenses, such as rent, utilities, security, office supplies, face masks and other PPEs for staff, transport, and other operating costs not generally included in a project budget.

1. **Complying with Safeguarding Requirements:** All DRF/DRAF grantees are required to develop policies on Child Protection (CP), and Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harrassment (PSEAH). These policies document grantees’ commitments and actions to prevent harm occurring as a result of contact with their organizations. New grantees are required to submit CP and PSEAH Policies (and related documentation including verification forms and codes of conduct) within the first six months of project implementation. Any grantees with pending PSEAH and/or CP requirements are structured as multiple-tranche grants, with funding releases contingent on receipt of necessary DRF/DRAF-compliant safeguarding documentation. DRF/DRAF can provide policy standards, informational resources and funding to support grantee efforts to develop safeguarding frameworks. Please visit the Policies page on our [website](https://disabilityrightsfund.org/policies/) for more information.
2. **Developing Workplace Safety Policies and Procedures:** DRF/DRAF believes in promoting safe and healthy work environments, both within our own organization and those we fund. This is especially true during the pandemic, when there may be restrictions on in-person activities that can be funded using DRF/DRAF grants.. While not a requirement to receive DRF/DRAF funding, we strongly encourage applicants to develop workplace safety and security policies and protocols (including as they relate to personnel, infrastructure, and data)**.** DRF/DRAF can provide [resources](http://www.disabilityrightsfund.org/resources-search?region=&category=security) and support grantee efforts to promote workplace safety and security.

## WHAT WE DO NOT FUND

*DRF & DRAF do* ***not*** *support the following activities (please review the* [*FAQs*](http://disabilityrightsfund.org/faq) *for more information):*

* Organizations that work for people with disabilities, but do not have people with disabilities well-represented at governance, management, and staff levels
* Assistive devices or rehabilitation services
* Income-generation or service-provision
* Acquisition of land or buildings
* Reconstruction or renovation of physical spaces (offices, etc.)
* Individuals and scholarships
* Public schools and universities
* Governmental entities
* Religious activities: While we may fund a faith-based organization (as long as it meets other criteria), we do not fund any faith-based organizations that proselytize[[7]](#footnote-7) or have proselytization as part of their mission
* Sporting activities
* Training to learn sign language, Braille, or tactile communication
* Participation or intervention in an election campaign that expresses a view in support or opposition to a candidate for public office or for voter registration drive

## ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS

*Funding decisions are made by our Grantmaking Committees, comprised of global disability activists and donors (learn more about our* [*participatory grantmaking here*](http://disabilityrightsfund.org/our-model/)*). Criteria used to review applications include:*

* Correlation of applicant’s proposed project with DRF/DRAF priority areas
* Match of project aims and objectives with the proposed activities, budget and organizational capacity to carry out the planned project
* Extent to which the project promotes and advances the CRPD (and SDGs or GDS18 Commitments, where relevant), and uses specific CRPD articles, SDG Goals, and/or GDS18 Commitments to inform advocacy
* Extent to which persons with disabilities – and especially women and other marginalized groups – are leading efforts at organizational and project levels
* Extent to which marginalized sectors of the disability community are included in project advocacy
* Evidence of partnerships with diverse groups in the disability community or between OPDs and other human rights organizations, such as women’s and LGBTI rights organizations
* Extent to which the project responds to urgent advocacy priorities, such as ensuring that persons with disabilities are not left behind in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts

## GRANT MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Organizations selected for funding (grantees) will be required to submit progress and/or final reports (both narrative and financial). Reporting schedules and forms will be provided upon grant approval. Grantees are strongly encouraged to respond to inquiries from DRF/DRAF staff during the grant period, including to our Grantee Survey (distributed in the first quarter of each year), and may also receive site (or virtual) visits during the project period.

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

*The Request for Proposals is highly competitive, and we receive more requests than we are able to fund. To ensure that your application is considered, please note the following guidance:*

* Before submitting an application, please review these guidelines and the information on the [For Grantseekers page](http://disabilityrightsfund.org/for-grantseekers/), including [Frequently Asked Questions](http://disabilityrightsfund.org/faq).
* If you experience technical or accessibility difficulties with the RFP documents, or have any questions about the forms or process, please contact [grants@disabilityrightsfund.org](mailto:grants@disabilityrightsfund.org).
* Complete the application form and budget worksheet ([linked here](http://disabilityrightsfund.org/for-grantseekers/)).
* If possible, consolidate multiple pages of each attachment (e.g. bylaws, registration) into a single document
* In the subject line, include the applicant’s country and organization name. (For example: Nigeria - Youth with Disabilities Organization.) Applicants will receive email confirmation upon receipt of application.
* Send your completed application and attachments in one email to [grants@disabilityrightsfund.org](mailto:grants@disabilityrightsfund.org) by midnight (your time) on **the deadline outlined in the RFP**.
* Please submit only once, and include only those materials that are requested in the “Application Checklist”.
* Please note that applicants may be required to provide additional information as part of the review process.

1. “Marginalized” refers to women with disabilities, children and young people with disabilities, people with psychosocial disabilities, people with intellectual disabilities, people with albinism, little people, Deafblind and other specific impairment groups identified as marginalized in a target country. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. If an application includes lobbying activities, as defined in United States law, the application will be considered under DRAF. Please see DRF’s Political Activities and Lobbying [Memo](http://www.disabilityrightsfund.org/policies.html) for additional information. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. In DRF’s understanding of the term, “OPD,” OPDs are representative organizations or groups of persons with disabilities, where persons with disabilities constitute a majority of the overall staff, board and volunteers, and are well represented in all levels of the organization. It includes organizations of relatives of persons with disabilities (only those representing children with disabilities, people with intellectual disabilities, or the Deafblind) where a primary aim of these organizations is empowerment and the growth of self-advocacy of persons with disabilities. In addition, OPDs have an understanding of disability in accordance with the social model. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. A fiscal sponsor is an organization that is legally registered and eligible to receive funds from foreign donors. The fiscal sponsor takes on legal and fiduciary responsibility for management and reporting of grant funds and transfers funds to the applicant group of persons with disabilities to carry out project activities according to a Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement. Please contact DRF/DRAF if you have questions about this process. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. While DRF primarily supports National Coalitionsto advance GDS18 commitments, Mid-Level Coalition and Small Grant applicants may also be considered. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Including UN treaty bodies (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Convention on the Rights of the Child, etc.) as well as regional bodies such as the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. For DRF/DRAF purposes, the term “proselytize” means to convert or attempt to convert (someone) from one religion, belief, or opinion to another or to persuade them to become religious. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)