

Empowerment Fund Grant Guidelines

Terms of Eligibility

Empowerment Grants are primarily need-based, awarded in fulfillment of the High Fives Foundation's (the Foundation) mission and vision. All are welcome to apply, provided the applicant meets the criteria below.

For information on the types of grants awarded, please refer to the *Eligible Funding Categories document (see Appendix A)*. Ineligible grant requests can be found in *Ineligible Funding Categories (see Appendix B)*

General Requirements

- Applicants must reside in North America and they must complete said grant in North America. The accident/injury does **not** need to have occurred in the United States or Canada.
- Effective January 1, 2014, to stay in compliance with the U.S. Government's Affordable Health Care Act, applicants **must** have current and up-to-date health care coverage.
- The applicant's injury must have been sustained within the last 25 years.

Eligibility and Evaluation

1. Any applicant who has sustained a spinal cord injury (SCI), traumatic brain injury (TBI), amputation, or a life-changing, mobility-limiting injury while participating in an outdoor action sport can receive funding toward a goal that pertains to their recovery.

The High Fives Nonprofit Foundation defines outdoor adventure sports as those that involve being out in nature, including but not limited to: skiing, snowboarding, ski BASE, ski mountaineering, ice climbing, Nordic skiing, kayaking/canoeing, surfing, mountain biking, rock climbing, winged sports, skydiving, base jumping, hiking/trekking, trail running, dirt biking, motocross, etc. (Certain exceptions to the definition of "outdoor action sports" can be made by only the Executive Director of the High Fives Foundation.)

- *Team sports such as football, baseball, soccer, volleyball, basketball, etc. are not to be considered outdoor adventure sports.*

2. Any applicant who has or continues to serve in the US military who has sustained a service-connected spinal cord injury (SCI), traumatic brain injury (TBI), amputation, or life-changing, mobility-limiting injury during service is eligible if their goal focuses on pursuing outdoor adventure sports.

Any Veteran applicant must upload the DD214 document with their application.

3. Any applicant who has sustained a spinal cord injury (SCI), traumatic brain injury (TBI), amputation, or life-changing mobility-limiting injury outside of the outdoor adventure sports community, through inertia-based accidents (ex: falls, car or motorcycle accidents, etc.), is eligible if their goal focuses on pursuing outdoor adventure sports.

Due to the nature of the mission statement, those who are born with a degenerative disease or medical condition are precluded from applying.

Due to the nature of the mission statement, those who have sustained SCI, TBI, amputation, or life-changing injuries from medical accidents are precluded from applying.

Due to the nature of the mission statement, those who have sustained a life-changing injury from violent acts are precluded from applying.

To be considered, the applicant must provide:

- A detailed description of the extent of their respective injury or injuries including the date of injury and how it occurred.
- Their goal(s) for recovery from the injury, identifying the specific manner in which the High Fives Foundation can help to achieve their goal(s), and also describe how they will follow through with said plan.
- A budget that outlines all costs in detail. The Foundation can assist with outlining a budget that involves any requests found within the *Eligible Funding Categories (Appendix A)* document.
- Applicants who have applied and received a denial from the High Fives Foundation must wait one calendar year before reapplying.
- The applicant's request must not exceed \$25,000 nor can the total cost of the request's value exceed \$25,000.

Applicants are NOT eligible for any future funding if:

- The applicant has previously been denied funding three times.
- The applicant is applying for funding toward recovery from a congenital degenerative disease or medical condition, due to the nature of the mission statement.
- The applicant is applying for funding toward recovery from a SCI, TBI, amputation, or life-changing injuries sustained during a medical accidents, due to the nature of the mission statement.
- The applicant is applying for funding toward recovery from a life-changing injury from violent acts, due to the nature of the mission statement.
- The applicant's injury was sustained over 25 years ago.

Funding is primarily need-based, in fulfillment of the High Fives Foundation mission, and documentation of need must support the grant application. The maximum amount awarded for one disbursement (or in a fiscal year for an individual) shall not exceed \$25,000.

Empowerment Fund Grant Cycles

The High Fives Foundation offers two grant cycles in the calendar year:

1. Cycle 1 –

- Those injured in outdoor adventure sports
 - Those injured as a result of outdoor adventure sports accidents are eligible to apply for funding in any of the **six funding categories**. See *Appendix A*.
- Service-related wounded veterans who wish to pursue outdoor adventure sports
 - Service-related wounded veterans are only eligible to apply for **adaptive sports equipment*** within the five pillars of sport at the High Fives Foundation.
- Those injured in inertia-based accidents who wish to pursue outdoor adventure sports.
 - Those injured in inertia-based accidents are only eligible to apply for **adaptive sports equipment*** within the five pillars of sport at the High Fives Foundation.

The Cycle 1 application is open from **January 1 - 31**. The Grant Selection Committee will review applications and provide their decisions by **March 1**. The award will expire 120 days after the initial award.

2. Cycle 2 –

- Open to those injured in outdoor adventure sports
 - Those injured as a result of outdoor adventure sports accidents are

eligible to apply for funding in any of the **six funding categories**. See *Appendix A*.

- Service-related wounded veterans who wish to pursue outdoor adventure sports*
 - Service-related wounded veterans are only eligible to apply for **adaptive sports equipment** within the five pillars of sport at the High Fives Foundation.
- Those injured in inertia-based accidents who wish to pursue outdoor adventure sports*.
 - Those injured in inertia-based accidents are only eligible to apply for **adaptive sports equipment** within the five pillars of sport at the High Fives Foundation.

The Cycle 2 application is open from **July 1 - 31**. The Grant Selection Committee will review applications and provide their decisions by **September 1**. The award will expire 120 days after the initial award.

Review Period and Notification

All grant applications will be presented by Dani Trujillo, Director of Programs, to the *Board of Directors Grant Selection Committee* within the timeframe of the respective request. All news on the Board of Directors' grant decisions will be sent out in a timely manner.

Applications will be reviewed and considered in the submission order in which they were received.

Parameters for Grant Agreement

If funded, the recipient must provide an invoice and other required documentation for all therapies, treatments, equipment, and/or other approved expenses, in detail, **within 120 days**.

Checks are never written to an individual (grant recipient). The provider of services and/or equipment shall be paid directly by the Foundation.

- The grant recipient must provide an invoice for all therapies, treatments, equipment, and/or other approved expenses in detail within 90 days. If not provided to the Director of Programs within 120 days, the grant will expire.
- To reiterate, checks are **never** written to an individual (grant recipient). The provider of services or equipment shall be paid directly by the Foundation.
- All grants MUST be paid by the end of the fiscal year, or the grant recipient assumes payment responsibility.
- Grant recipients are required to complete all necessary steps, provided by the Foundation and outlined in the Grant Agreement, within 30 days of the award. If not completed within 30 days, the award will expire. Some of these requirements include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Website information
 - Reviews
 - One-on-one conversations
 - Online surveys
- The award from the High Fives Foundation must be the last portion of funding contributed to a vendor if not fully covered by the original grant.
- The granted item must be ready for shipment before the time of payment.
- The High Fives Foundation reserves the right to suspend support and/or funding if the applicant acts in opposition to the moral and ethical principles of the Foundation.
- All awards are published. We reserve the right to share any/all documentation and/or photos. No personally identifiable information will be shared. Additionally, as part of the application process, you will be contacted for a phone interview (to be used to share with donors, supporters, and perspectives). Furthermore, information may be requested for compiling data, which may include photos, videos, and/or quotes, in the High Fives Foundation's internal and external documents. Any additional information that was not requested by way of this notice will be dismissed and not included in the review of your application.

All applications will be digitally submitted online at the link below.

ONLINE APPLICATION: <https://highfives.tfaforms.net/5>

The information on this document is subject to change by the High Fives Foundation.

Grant Guidelines -- *Appendix A*

Eligible Funding Categories

Adaptive Sports Equipment*

Funding for adaptive sports equipment must fall within the parameters of the five pillar sports of the High Fives Foundation (mountain biking, snow sports, surfing, fly fish, and motor-fed dirt sports). Eligible adaptive sports equipment might include mono-skis, waveskis, adaptive mountain bikes, etc. Prototype sports equipment is not eligible for funding.

*All requests for adaptive sports equipment require a letter of recommendation from an expert in the field to be submitted alongside the application attesting to the applicant's knowledge, skill, and passion for the sport. An expert in the field is defined as an individual with credibility who can share first-hand knowledge about the applicant. This might include a coach, physical therapist, program director, etc.

Healing Network

Includes, but not limited to, acupuncture, massage, chiropractic, optometry (for balance), yoga, Pilates, physical therapy, personal training, and spinal cord center programs (Loco Motor Program, Craig Hospital, Shepherd Center, etc.).

Medical Equipment

Includes Ankle, foot orthotics (AFO), Knee, ankle, foot orthotics (KFO), and other ambulatory walking aids, walkers, canes, crutches, wheelchairs, Bioness® units, medical aid devices, orthotics, specialty shoes/boots, MYOLYN functional electrical stimulation (FES), etc. Prototype medical equipment is not eligible for funding.

Programs

Funding for disabled sports programs that will enable the applicant to pursue their respective dream in the adventure sports community (i.e., Achieve Tahoe, NSCD, Teton Adaptive, etc. to be used for adaptive skill development).

Living Expenses

Home modifications or renovations to accommodate injury. Note: Modifying or altering a home may require landlord-specific permissions. Vehicle modifications include hand controls or other renovations to accommodate the injury. Rent coverage during in-patient care at an in-patient facility (i.e., Kent Place at Craig Hospital) for the applicant only (does not extend to family or caregivers), limited to six months maximum.

Emergency Care/Injury Expenses

This can include a one-time payment for life-flight care, a one-time payment of emergency medical bills from the time of initial injury, and/or a continuation of insurance coverage. Limited to six months maximum of insurance coverage.

Grant Guidelines -- *Appendix B*

Ineligible Funding Categories

Items that are not eligible for funding and can cause automatic denial include requests for the following:

- Requests that exceed \$25,000
- The total value of requested equipment/services exceeds \$25,000 (ex: a UTV that costs \$35,000)
- Action Trackchair wheelchairs
- Non-adaptive outdoor clothing
- Non-adaptive equipment
- College tuition
- New homes in full
- Cash donations
- Prototypes of any kind



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