

TIPS for NIDILRR GRANT APPLICANTS

1. **Talk to NIDILRR:** A discussion with NIDILRR staff can provide insight on whether your proposed work fits within the requirements of a particular grant competition. You can contact the person listed after the "Grantor Contact Information" in the grant forecast, or in the published grant opportunity. The NIDILRR staff person can speak with you about program fit and share broad information about characteristics of successful applications. NIDILRR staff do not discuss substantive or methodological details of your proposed activities.
2. **Funding Opportunities:** If you wish to apply for a NIDILRR grant, identify an appropriate grant competition. Not all NIDILRR grants are competed or funded every year, so it is important to determine which topics or areas are likely to be competed in a given year and the timing of the competitions. NIDILRR publishes a forecast or a preview of the broad topical areas for grants expected to be competed and funded in a given year. NIDILRR posts this forecast information annually, by August 1. Information and links to forecasted or published Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs), can be found through <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?cfda=93.433>
3. **Sign up for NARIC emails about NOFOs:** The National Rehabilitation Information Center (NARIC) offers a service that will automatically send you an email within a few days of publication of any NIDILRR-related forecast or Notice of Funding Opportunity Announcement (NOFO). You may sign up for this service by going to the following NARIC page: "About NIDILRR Funding and Other Grant Resources" Once there, scroll to the middle of the page and locate the heading, "Interested In NIDILRR Grant Announcements?" Then type your email in the white text box and hit the "Submit" button.
4. **Plan ahead!** The Grants.gov registration process can take several days. Be sure to include these days in your planning if your organization does not already have a grants.gov account. All applications to NIDILRR must be submitted via grants.gov. All applicants must have a UEI number and be registered with the System for Award Management (SAM, www.sam.gov). Applicants must maintain an active SAM registration until the application process is complete.
5. **Language use:** NIDILRR is committed to funding research and development and related activities that contribute to positive outcomes among people with disabilities and allowing them to be full members of society. With the understanding that language evolves over time, the most recent style guides from the Associated Press (AP) and the American Psychological Association (APA) provide the most up to date recommendations. It is important to NIDILRR and the reviewers who evaluate applications that grant applications do not use outdated, offensive, or euphemistic language related to disability. Using either person-first language (i.e., person with autism, person with disability) or identity first language (autistic person, disabled person) are acceptable.
6. **Verifying Receipts:** You will want to verify that Grants.gov and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living received your Grants.gov submission on time and that it was validated successfully. To see the date/time your application was received, follow the instructions on Grants.gov's "Track My Application" page. A successful submission will have a date / time stamp that is 11:59 Eastern Time or earlier on the deadline date. The application status should be: Validated as "Received by Agency," or "Agency Tracking Number Assigned."