



## **Eligibility Criteria and Funding Restrictions**

**Reminder:** Please read the full grant guidelines before starting your application. You can find all guidelines here: [Reeve Application Process](#)

### **Eligibility**

Eligibility Quality of Life grant applications are accepted from 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, municipal and state governments, school districts, recognized tribal entities, and other institutions such as community or veterans hospitals.

- **An organization must have its own 501(c)(3) tax status** (or be a part of or chapter of a national organization that is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization).
- **Fiscal Sponsors CANNOT apply** on behalf of non-501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.
- **501(c)(4) organizations** that do not have 501(c)(3) status are ineligible.

### **Funding Restrictions**

In accordance with our Federal cooperative agreement, **the Reeve Foundation is prohibited from funding the following:**

- Grants awarded directly to individuals
  - This includes **MONEY given to an individual** participant in a grant program such as:
    - A stipend or incentive to participate in a program
      - A stipend or honorarium paid to a speaker at an event is allowable because it would be part of the program cost, but money cannot be given to an individual to attend the program.
      - Scholarships can be provided for an organization to offer free services (e.g., therapeutic horseback riding lessons) to an individual provided money never exchanges hands with the individual receiving the scholarship to pay for the services, lessons, etc.
    - Money for a family to pay for respite or transition services. (Funds may be used by an organization to provide respite or transition services to individuals, but money cannot be given to the individual/family to pay for the services).
    - Travel reimbursements for participants to take part in a

program. (Funding may be used for travel reimbursement for personnel (e.g., coaches, etc.) as they are part of the program. Providing travel to individuals may be included as a part of the program (such as travel for a team to attend an adaptive sporting event), but no money must exchange hands with the individuals).

- This also includes **any expense** that would be seen as a “**gift to an individual**” such as a “ready bag” for disaster preparedness, t-shirts for a camp, jerseys, and uniforms, trophies, home modifications, gift cards for participants, etc.
- **Interest-bearing accounts** All awarded funds must remain in a non-interest-bearing account and be used solely for the approved project purposes.  
**Unused funds cannot be placed into:**
  - Savings Accounts
  - High-yield Savings Accounts
  - Money Market Accounts
  - Certificates of Deposit
  - Any additional interest-yielding accounts not listed
- **For-Profit Companies**
  - This also includes Nonprofit organizations acting as Fiscal Sponsors for a for-profit company
  - Organizations that do not have their own 501(c)(3) tax determination status.
  - Organizations that are a 501(c)(4) and not a 501(c)(3).
- Organizations and projects that are based outside of the United States.
- Projects that utilize contractors or vendors outside of the United States.
- **Research**
- **Rehabilitative Therapy**
  - However, programs that assist people living with paralysis to participate in **exercise opportunities** are allowable.
    - Programs that use physical or occupational therapists to work directly with persons with paralysis are considered part of rehabilitative therapy.
    - Exercise opportunities that are facilitated by someone who, for example, has a bachelor’s degree in exercise science or is a certified fitness instructor would be an allowable expense.
- **Capital Improvements for Leased/Rented Properties**
  - QoL will not fund capital improvements, or long-term equipment purchases for leased or rented properties. This restriction helps ensure that funds are used to benefit the grantee organization and its clients directly. Additionally, maintaining this guideline uniformly promotes objectivity and equity in our funding practices.
- **Construction of Buildings/Major Construction**
  - However, funds may support simple accessibility modifications to

existing structures, playgrounds, trails, etc.

- Requested funds for simple accessible bathroom modifications, for example, are allowable if they are for an already existing bathroom. Allowable expenses would include grab bars, accessible toilets, sinks, etc. We cannot fund the building of a new bathroom or a major renovation of the existing bathroom.
- If, for example, you are requesting funds for an accessible lift or elevator, this would be allowed under equipment that provides access and promotes independence. We cannot fund the excavation or construction of the elevator or shaft, as that would be considered major construction.

- **Equipment**

- Funding for repairs to pre-existing equipment or technology is NOT allowable. This also includes all costs related to insurance and inspections of pre-existing equipment. However, maintenance costs that are included for newly purchased equipment or modifications may be eligible.

Our grant funds support new purchases and significant upgrades to ensure long-term impact and sustainability through loan closets. Requests for loan closets must include a specified period of time. A device loan is typically 4 to 6 weeks (and sometimes up to 9 weeks/3 months) and enables individuals to try out and familiarize themselves with Assistive Technology or Durable Medical Equipment before acquiring it on their own. Open-ended and long-term loan closets will not be considered. (This also applies to ramps.)

- Equipment can be funded if it ***Provides Access*** and/or ***Promotes Independence***. Examples include:
    - Providing Access: Adaptive strollers that are used as part of a program, are not given out to individuals and remain onsite; a transfer chair at a community pool; a stair lift, an examination table, or gynecological examination table in a rural area where no such equipment is available in that region, etc.
    - Promoting Independence: A scale (Knowing your weight promotes independence. It allows people to remain healthy, as being overweight can lead to a myriad of chronic health conditions.); Beach wheelchairs and adaptive bikes at a community park or sports wheelchairs for a community sports team (these examples could also fit under the area of providing access).
  - Equipment may be purchased under the Nursing Home Transition grant program. See allowable expenses pertaining to that program.
- The development of prototypes for the invention of equipment or other research and developmental activities involving intellectual property rights.

- **New Playground Construction**
  - The construction of new playgrounds is not eligible for funding. **We cannot fund the installation of a new playground on land where a playground did not already exist.**
  - However, funds may support the modification of older, non-accessible playgrounds or parks.
    - Requesting funds for the replacement of older, non-accessible playground equipment or ground covering is eligible for an existing playground.
    - Minor relocations of playgrounds are allowable.
  
- **Projects that serve less than five (5) individuals with paralysis, their families, or caregivers**
- **Fundraising events or paid fundraiser positions**
- **Lobbying and/or efforts to influence legislation**
- **Projects that cannot be completed within 12 months of receipt of the grant award**
- **Projects that have already been completed**
- **Food** (meals, per diem, board, lunch, beverages, *water*, alcohol, etc.)
- **Medical services**

**Eligibility questions based on these restrictions will be asked in the application.** A “Yes” response to any of the questions will indicate that your organization and/or project are not eligible for funding.

### **Feedback on Grant Decisions**

According to the Administration for Community Living’s regulations guidelines (ACL), the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation is not permitted to provide feedback on applications.

### **Grant Selection**

We receive a **high volume of applications during each competitive QOL grant cycle.** While each grant application is thoroughly considered for potential funding support, **many may not be selected for final approval.** However, we encourage all grant seekers to apply to ensure a robust, diverse, and innovative pool of programs, projects, and assistive technology opportunities. For more information, click here for the [Statement of Objectivity](#).