



The Uniquely Abled Academy® Replication Guide

Element 10 – Provide Funding

Exhibit 10.4 - Fundraising

Publication Date: December 30, 2023

There must be funds for financing fund-raising and management of the Uniquely Abled Academy, e.g., administrative support, etc., beyond scholarships.

The Uniquely Abled Project has a compelling story and vision for the future of those with autism. We are focused on livable wages that enable independent, meaningful lives for what will be hundreds of adults with autism. The mission is grand but requires a willingness of others to help make it a reality.

How to Find Funding for Your UAA

1. Assemble a small group of committed volunteers. Ask them for recommendations. Connect via LinkedIn so you can see their personal networks. Don't be afraid to ask for introductions to potential funders: philanthropists, major company executives, etc.
2. Go to your local library with free access to Candid.org's fundraising database (find it at www.candid.org)
 - a. Once there, you can search your local community's philanthropic foundations. Look up terms like "workforce development," "special needs," and "financial independence" to cast a wide net for potential funders.
 - b. Look at funders of organizations in your area that do similar work. Those are often good prospects for funding your work.
 - c. Once you have a large list of potential funders, you'll need to check their website to understand their funding priorities, their deadlines, etc. Some do not accept unsolicited grant inquiries.
 - d. If possible, reach out to potential with a one-pager about the UAA to have an introductory conversation. In this conversation, you'll be able to learn if this is a good fit and spend your time accordingly.
3. Share your one-pager with potential partners who could help make your UAA stronger: your local MEP Center, university, community college, nonprofits, etc.
4. Sign up for grants.gov. When you join their email list, you can select the appropriate departments to follow.



See **Exhibit 10.5 – Possible Sources of Funds** and **Exhibit 10.6 – Names of Possible Sources of Funds**.

Sources

Free Fundraising Resources Library from Network for Good: library of free articles, etc., re: fundraising.

<https://www.networkforgood.com/resources/guides-templates/>