The Uniquely Abled Project

The Uniquely Abled Academy® Replication Guide

Element 10 – Provide Funding

Exhibit 10.6 – Names of Possible Sources of Funds

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Possible sources of funds to cover costs include:
- State and Federal agencies
- Donations and Contributions
- Grants
- Private-pay Tuition
- Endowment

This Exhibit lists the names and links of specific funding sources.

Also check the Vocational Education Programs and Social Service Organizations links under the Resources tab on The Uniquely Abled Project website.

State and Federal agencies

To find your state Vocational Rehabilitation agency do a Google search on "vocational rehabilitation" for your state. Most community colleges have knowledge of a relationship with their state Voc Rehab agency.

The state employment department and Federal Department of Employment also are sources of funding, usually with specific grants.

Also check for a Workforce Investment Board[1] (also called Workforce Development Boards in some areas) or America Works[2] agency in your area.

- State employment development and economic development agencies
- State Community Redevelopment Act grants: see https://auditor.lacounty.gov/redevelopment-agency-history/ for an example from California
- U.S. Department of Labor

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[1] See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Workforce_Investment_Board
[2] See https://americaworks.com/

Donations and Contributions

- Amazon Smile: people used to be able to set up their Amazon purchases, so a percentage of the payment goes to a designated non-profit. This program was ended in early 2023.
- Benevity Causes: Benevity.org, for a company's employees to contribute.
- eBay for charity: establish a charity profile page so can receive proceeds from a sale.
- Fundraise: fundraise.org, nonprofit fundraising software.
- Pledge: pledge.to, has a donate button app for Zoom.
- PayPal: vehicle for people to make donations.
- Trello: Trello.com, platform for tracking teams, to-dos, etc.
- WePay: wepay.com. vehicle by which donors can donate.

Grants
- Autism Speaks: https://www.autismspeaks.org/

- Baird Capital: rwbaird.com, venture capital, has investing in Hopebridge, an autism therapy business.

- Community Reinvestment Act: https://www.federalreserve.gov/consumerscommunities/cra_about.htm For grants from banks to help raise the economic level of a community. A flyer focused on CRA grants for the UAP may be found at: https://uniquelyabledproject.org/community-reinvestment-act-cra/

- The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation for Adult Autism: https://djfiddlefoundation.org

- Grants.com: an extensive resource for finding opportunities and applying for grants. http://grants.com/

- Goodwill: grants typically given by local Goodwill organizations (rather than national).

- Haas Foundation: www.haasfoundation.org supporter of UAP, gives scholarship and building grants. If you're a community college, this is a clear fundraising prospect.

- Kessler Foundation: www.kesslerfoundation.org, "drives positive change for people with disabilities."

- Local workforce development (or investment) boards.

- MEP National Network: Federally-funded network of nonprofit consultants to manufacturers. Find your local office and reach out: www.nist.gov/mep

- Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation: meus.com, made a significant grant to Uniquely Abled Project to develop resources for UAAs.

- National Tooling and Machining Association (NTMA): local chapters may have scholarships for students working towards manufacturing careers.

  Recommended that UAAs establish relationships with their local chapters.

- Precision Metalforming Association (PMA): Similar to NTMA. With over 800 member companies nationwide, worth reaching out to your local chapter to discuss partnership.

- Special Needs Grants: a list of organizations that fund support for various diagnoses http://www.kidspeech.com/programs/special-needs-grants/

Private-pay Tuition

It may be possible for a Host School to provide scholarships for a for-credit program.

Endowment

This source is usually the Foundation associated with the Host School.