

Voice Discovered Grant Giving Guidelines *Individual Grant* (Updated January 2017)

AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) assessments, devices, training and therapy can be costly. However there are a number of funding sources available.

A Voice Discovered will assist the families, caregivers, and service providers of people with complex communication needs by helping to determine what funding sources are available and navigating the funding process.

Once all funding sources are exhausted, A Voice Discovered may be able to provide funding assistance for AAC assessments, devices, therapy and/or training.

Please contact A Voice Discovered for more information or if you have any questions about funding for AAC and/or the A Voice Discovered Grant Application process.

Grant Committee -- grants@avoicediscovered.com

Grant Process

For a grant to be given the following must happen:

- Grant application completed and screened by a member of the grant committee. If there are other potential funding sources, these will be discussed with the applicant.
- Grant application and additional documentation shared with the grant committee (e.g., AAC assessments, AAC funding reports, etc.)
- The grantee must meet the criteria listed in the policy below.

Grant Giving Policy

- AVD will fund up to \$1500 per applicant per year for AAC assessments, AAC systems and/or accessories, AAC therapy, staff/family training, and/or AAC camps.
- Applicants can apply multiple times per year up to \$1500. for example, the first grant may be for an assessment for \$500. After the assessment

is complete, if additional funding is needed for equipment or therapy the person can apply for another grant of \$1000 totalling \$1500 for the year.

- AVD will fund up to 5 hours for an AAC assessment at \$100 per hour and up to 2 hours for report writing to be conducted by a licensed speech and language pathologist (SLP) with AAC experience. If additional hours for assessment are needed to evaluate access methods (e.g., switch assessment, eye gaze, eye tracker, etc.) this can be discussed.
 - AAC assessments must follow guidelines set forth by Medi-Cal and insurance companies.
 - This includes that multiple systems were evaluated.
 - This includes that the applicant receive at least a 1-month trial with the recommended communication system or something similar and that documentation of progress is noted in the report.
 - AVD can provide access to a loaner iPad with various AAC apps if needed for this portion of the AAC assessment process.
- AVD will fund up to 15 AAC therapy sessions to be provided by a licensed speech and language pathologist (SLP) with AAC experience at \$100 per hour.
 - AVD can provide names of licensed SLPs with AAC experience
 - If the SLP providing services is not on this list, he/she will need to contact the Grant Committee (grants@avoicediscovered.com)
 - to discuss his/her AAC experience as well as provide proof of ASHA CCCs, current state licensure, and current liability insurance.
- AVD will fund up to \$1500 toward an AAC system, communication system (e.g., low tech communication devices communication books, binders, etc.), and/or accessories (e.g., keyguards, cases, switches, mounts, etc.)
 - As stated, AAC assessments must follow guidelines set forth by Medi-Cal and Insurance companies.
 - If an AAC device (e.g., low tech, mid-tech or high-tech) is funded, the family, caregivers, and/or support personnel must attend a training by a licensed SLP with AAC experience prior to receiving the communication system covering:
 - The specific AAC system and programming
 - Evidence-based AAC partner strategies
 - AAC implementation strategies

- When needed, AVD will provide a low-tech communication system (e.g., picture boards, picture binders, PIXON boards, alphabet board, etc.) to applicants.
 - An appropriate low-tech communication system should be determined by the AAC evaluation or recommendations from prior AAC assessments.
- AVD will only fund assessments and services that are evidence-based and provided by a licensed speech and language pathologist who has experience with AAC. This experience is based on ASHA (American Speech Language and Hearing Association) guidelines for SLPs who provide services to those who require AAC.
- At the end of each fiscal year, the board will re-evaluate the amount of money to be granted individually as well as the total grant amount for the year based on the amount of money raised each year from donors and fundraising as well as feedback from grantees.
- For the year 2017, AVD will fund up to \$7000 total per year for grant requests on a first come, first serve basis. Each individual grant can be up to \$1500 to cover the abovementioned services and/or equipment.
- For the year 2017, if AVD gives \$7000 in grants and still has applicants, those applicants will be notified and their applications will be reviewed at the first meeting in the next fiscal year.

How AVD will provide funding

- AVD will pay qualified, licensed SLPs with AAC experience as independent contractors. The SLP will need to sign a contract and work order and provide a copy of his/her ASHA CCCs, state licensure and professional liability insurance prior to providing any services. **Please see Grant Process and Timeline for additional information.**
- If an AAC device or accessory is granted, the company will be paid directly.
- If a communication App is funded an iTunes card will be issued in the amount of the App. A receipt must then be returned to AVD showing purchase of the agreed upon App.

Feedback and Follow-ups

- The grantee or the person who filled out the initial grant application will be asked to complete a follow-up form 6 months after services (e.g., AAC assessment, AAC therapy, AAC training) have been completed or an AAC system has been purchased to provide AVD with information about the client's progress, etc.
- The grantee or the person who filled out the initial grant application will also be asked to complete a feedback form 6 months after services have been completed regarding the grant process.

For more information or to answer any questions please contact the AVD Grant Committee -- grants@avoiceidscovered.com

If you need an application mailed to you please let us know and AVD will mail it to you.

Applications can be scanned and emailed to Teresa or mailed to:

A Voice Discovered
Attn: Grant Committee
PO Box 7389
Ventura, CA
93006