



Multiple Sclerosis Foundation

MS QUALITY OF LIFE GRANTS

Since 1996, the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, MS Focus®, has awarded grants and endowments to universities and other non-profit organizations that actively promote a better quality of life and create a brighter tomorrow for those living with MS. In 2005, the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation expanded this initiative to include providing financial assistance to MS centers, and other non-profit organizations, in the United States that are in need of expanding their programs and services. The MS Quality of Life Grant Program has been established to assist in expanding MS Day programs, diagnostic services and equipment, rehabilitation services, support services, social services, education and outreach, and medical care.

GRANT GUIDELINES

MS centers and other non-profit organizations are encouraged to submit brief proposals outlining the program or service in need of funding as well as, objectives, budget, and projected outcomes. The recipients will be responsible for disbursement of all related funds and publicizing the support from us and any collaborative partners through the best local medium. Applicants must apply annually for consideration. A mid-year outcome report must be submitted to us by July 31 of each year. We will only notify applicants who have been approved for funding. Due to the wide variety of program requests, the foundation expects to receive many more worthy requests than it can fund. To make the most effective use of available resources, we will follow the guidelines below when considering grant requests.

MS DAY PROGRAM EXPANSION GRANTS

MS Day Program Expansion Grants are designed to enable MS centers and other non-profit organizations to meet the progressively changing maintenance and rehabilitation needs of individuals with MS, by expanding wellness interventions that complement a participant's medical management of their disease. This would include physical, emotional, and recreational wellness strategies to maintain and improve functioning in core activities of daily living.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES GRANTS

Program and Services Grants will be provided for programs, services, and diagnostic equipment that addresses the greatest needs identified by healthcare professionals who care for those with MS. Programs and services considered for support must serve and benefit MS patients and target the needs of the MS community.

Eligibility:

- New and existing organizations in the United States.
- Organizations serving twenty-five or more MS patients.



MS QUALITY OF LIFE GRANTS FUNDING GUIDELINES

Priority will be given to efforts that:

- Address unmet needs
- Enhance or expand current services
- Use creative and innovative approaches to achieve positive outcomes
- Fill gaps in current services
- Directly affect individuals with MS and their families
- Include measurable outcomes to contribute to the body of research on quality of life interventions

Areas not funded:

- Grants for clinical research
- Grants to individuals
- Grants for religious or political purposes
- Grants for items covered under existing MS Focus programs
- Grants for capital improvements
- Grants for, or that include, overhead or similar expenditures
- Funding decisions will be based on the type and scope of the program. Due to the wide variety of program designs expected, varying amounts of funding will be provided.

Funding cycle:

- Grant proposals must be postmarked between September 1 and November 1 of each year. Those wishing to receive notification that their grant request was received should mail their proposals with a return receipt via U.S. post office. The MS Focus will not confirm receipt of proposals. The MS Focus will only contact organizations whose proposals have been accepted for funding.

Funding Decision Process:

- The MS Focus Grant Committee will determine the final outcome. No appeals or exceptions will be considered. Funding decisions and awards will be made by December 31 of each year.

For more information about the grant process, contact:

- Natalie Blake, Executive Director
Multiple Sclerosis Foundation
800-225-6495
n.blake@msfocus.org

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Please provide provide information on the areas below and attach the requested documents. Do not exceed five pages, not including the attachments. Please type your application and submit one original and two copies. Placing your Proposal in a special binder or notebook is not necessary and will not be considered in the decision making process.

Statement of Need:

A description of the program or service, including an explanation of why it is needed, the population that will be served, how many will be served, and what will be accomplished during a specific period of time (if applicable).

Program Design:

A description of how the project fits within the objectives of the specific program area under which the funds are requested, including the following:

- Methodology and plan of work describing activities to be undertaken and possible limitations that may affect project progress.
- Timetable of activities.
- Description of how funds will be used.
- Anticipated results of the project.
- An appropriate plan for evaluating (including quantitative and qualitative parameters as appropriate), reporting, and disseminating results of how the project met its proposed objectives.

Attachments:

- A cover letter detailing the amount requested and the grant period, if applicable. The person ultimately responsible for signing grant contracts on behalf of the organization must sign the letter and provide their contact information.
- A detailed line-item budget, showing all projected and confirmed sources and amounts of funding for the proposed grant period.
- Most recent institutional budget based upon your fiscal year.
- Copies of your annual report and audited financial statements. If these are not available, a copy of your most recent tax return and all non-profit U.S. organizations are required to include a copy of their latest IRS Form 990.
- Information about the organization seeking funds, including classification, board of directors, history, and accomplishments; number of MS patients served; qualifications of main project personnel; and names of all Board Certified neurologists and their affiliation to your organization.

Please mail your proposal to:

- Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, Inc.
Grant Committee
MS QOL Grants
6520 North Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309