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The Independence Center (IC) Announces Grant Opportunity

***IC Fund: \$75,000 available for independence-promoting projects
improving access for people with disabilities***

[Colorado Springs, Colorado] - The Independence Center announced today the opening of the application cycle for the annual IC Fund grant. Applications will be accepted online at <https://www.theindependencecenter.org/ic-fund-application/> beginning Monday, January 6 through Friday, January 31, 2025.

Applications will be reviewed based on eligibility, impact, financial health, and alignment with the IC Fund's mission: Working with individuals, their families, and the community, we create independence so that all may thrive.

The Independence Center Fund (IC Fund) Overview

The IC Fund was established in 2010 with a \$1 million investment to honor the legacy of Ted Skoog, the late husband of Vicki Skoog, founder of The Independence Center. The fund provides annual grants, ranging from \$50,000 to \$75,000, generated through investment income. These grants support projects that promote independence and accessibility for individuals with disabilities in our six-county service area (Teller, Kit Carson, Park, El Paso, Lincoln, and Cheyenne Counties).

Eligibility

Grants are available to 501(c)(3) organizations or those under nonprofit fiscal sponsorship. Individuals, for-profit businesses, and government agencies are not eligible. Preference is given to organizations with active involvement from people

with disabilities in their operations or projects. The funded project must benefit one or more of the following counties: Cheyenne, El Paso, Lincoln, Kit Carson, Park, and Teller.

Grants are for specific projects and are not intended to provide general operating support. Seed funding is limited and typically intended to support projects lasting one year or with clear plans for future self-supported funding. Grantees must submit a final report detailing the impact of the funded project. Mid-year visits from the IC Fund Committee will assess progress.

Grantees must adhere to a non-discrimination policy that prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, disability, and other protected categories, ensuring an inclusive environment for all. Applications will be reviewed based on eligibility, impact, financial health, and alignment with the IC Fund's mission.

The IC Fund is committed to ensuring people with disabilities are Known, Valued, and Included through community-driven projects that help foster greater independence.

About the Independence Center:

Founded in 1987, The Independence Center is one of 500+ designated Centers for Independent Living (CILs) in the United States. Developed as part of the Independent Living Movement, CILs are nonresidential community-based non-profit organizations designed and run by people with disabilities to help other people with disabilities live independently. As a CIL, the Independence Center offers support and resources to people with disabilities, so they may create independence by leveraging their own unique abilities. Working with individuals, their families, and the community, we create independence so that all may thrive.

To learn more about The Independence Center, and the services, trainings, classes, and resources offered, please visit www.the-ic.org or call 719-471-8181.

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