STRATEGIC FUNDS
Access Support

**Access Support** funds individual applicants who self-identify as Deaf, having disabilities or living with mental illness, as well as groups and organizations that dedicate the majority of their resources towards supporting these communities. This supplementary grant provides a contribution towards costs for specific services and supports required to carry out a project funded through a Canada Council program (from this point on referred to as the [associated grant](http://canadacouncil.ca/glossary/associated-grant)).

# Grant type – [supplement](http://canadacouncil.ca/glossary/supplement-grant) to the associated grant

# Deadline(s) – You can submit an Access Support request with your associated application, or up to 90 days after receiving the result of your application.

Composite and Core grant applicants must request support annually. Year 1 is requested at the time of application. Subsequent years are requested when you submit your annual update. Please contact your program officer if this applies to you.

# Grant amount – Based on your access-related costs

# Notification of results

* Results will be announced 2 months after the notification of a successful associated grant.
* If you applied after receiving the result of our associated grant, you will receive your notification of results 2 months after applying

# Applicants – Who can apply?

Individuals must:

* self-identify in the [portal](https://apply.canadacouncil.ca/Login.aspx) as Deaf, having disabilities or living with mental illness
* be eligible to Canada Council programs.

Groups and organizations must:

* have a validated profile as a group or organization with a mandate to support artists who are Deaf, have disabilities or live with mental illness
* dedicate the majority (51% or more) of their activities, artistic content and financial and human resources towards supporting these artistic communities
* be eligible to Canada Council programs.

If you are an individual or group applicant who is eligible for Access Support, you are also eligible for [Application Assistance](https://canadacouncil.ca/funding/application-assistance) to pay someone to help you with the application process if you are experiencing difficulty.

# Expenses – What is eligible?

A contribution towards costs associated with disability-related supports and services required to carry out your activities, including (but not limited to):

* sign language interpretation
* personal care attendant or support worker
* a transcriber or specialized editor
* personal project coordinator or assistant
* a guide or visual describer
* converting material into accessible formats
* rental of specialized equipment needed for personal access or support.

Ineligible expenses include:

* major capital costs (e.g. purchase of a wheelchair, vehicle, computer, renovations, etc.)
* supports and services required for daily living (e.g. home care, regular therapy, medication etc.)
* services and supports that are not directly tied to your funded activities
* services and supports already funded by the Canada Council
* services and supports for which you are already receiving funding from another agency
* expenses incurred before your associated grant start date or after the submission of your final report.

Standard rates for disability specific services and supports can vary depending upon the region and type of support. The following is used as a **general** guide.

* Attendant Services/Support Worker
	+ $20-35/hr; $120-250 daily rate
	+ travel costs are eligible, per diems are not
* Sign Language Interpretation
	+ $75-100/hr
	+ travel costs are eligible, per diems are not
* Transcription Services/readers - $40-60/hr

# Assessment – How are decisions made?

Your application will be assessed by a program officer with advice from the Disability Arts Officer or other experts, as required, on the following criteria:

* a reasonable budget
* how directly the support is tied to carrying out the activities in your associated grant
* availability of funds.

Note that, to receive this grant, your associated grant must be successful.

# Required information and support material – What you need to apply

You will need to provide:

* the rationale and a detailed description of the services and supports required to carry out your proposed or funded activities
* an itemized budget.

# Grant payment and final reports

If your application is successful, the first step in receiving your grant payment is to complete the Grant Acceptance Form. Click [here](http://canadacouncil.ca/funding/grants/guide/if-you-receive-a-grant) for more information on the responsibilities of grant recipients.

A separate final report for this grant is not required; instead, you must report on the Access Support funding in the final report submitted for the associated grant.

**Contact information**
You are encouraged to speak with the [program](https://canadacouncil.ca/contact/officers) responsible for your associated grant application before submitting an application for Access Support.

Preview: Application form

This is not an official application form. You must use the portal to apply.

Use simple text formatting if you prepare your application outside of the portal. Formatted text uses additional characters, and some formatting may be lost when copied over.

**\*** = required

## Description of services and supports

1. **Give your application a name.** (approximately 10 words) **\***

The name you provide is for your reference and will identify this grant application in your dashboard.

1. **Reference number** of the associated grant application **\***

## Budget

1. **Total Access Support amount requested \***

This amount must match the sum of the amounts requested in the Detailed description and cost breakdown below.

If successful, you might not be awarded the full amount requested.

1. **Detailed description and cost breakdown \***

Describe in detail the services and supports required to carry out your proposed or funded activities.

The detailed description should include as much detail as possible and describe why the supports and/or services are required to carry out your activities.

**For example:**

| **Description** | **Cost breakdown** |
| --- | --- |
| I require sign language interpreters to travel with me from Montreal to Ottawa. This is to communicate with my script editor. I will need to hire 2 interpreters for 3 hours at $80 per hour each. I will need to meet with my script editor 3 times throughout the project. | 2 interpreters @ 80/hr x 3 hours = $480 x 3 meetings = $1440 |
| Travel expenses Montreal - Ottawa return by bus for sign language interpreters (2 bus tickets at $75 each). | 2 bus tickets @$75 each = $150 x 3 trips = $450 |