Blanche Fischer Foundation

- Empowering low income Oregonians with permanent physical disabilities

2026 Grant Eligibility Guidelines for INDIVIDUALS

The Blanche Fischer Foundation supports Oregonians with permanent physical disabilities by helping remove financial barriers to greater independence, access, participation, and quality of life. We recognize that independence looks different for every person and that the right equipment, technology, modification, or service can make a meaningful difference in daily life.

Grounded in the Independent Living Philosophy and the belief that people with disabilities are the experts in their own lives, BFF provides practical financial support that expands choice and helps individuals pursue their goals in their homes and communities.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

OREGON RESIDENCY:
Applicants must be current Oregon residents and provide a current, valid Oregon driver's license, Oregon state ID, Tribal ID, or military ID. If these forms of identification are not available, contact BFF for guidance.

DISABILITY VERIFICATION:
Applicants must have a permanent physical disability verified by an MD, NP, or PA. The required letter must be signed, on company letterhead, confirm the applicant has a permanent physical disability and what it is, and explain how the requested item or service relates to the disability.

FINANCIAL NEED:
Applicants must provide current household income and expense information by completing the **BFF Income & Expenses Worksheet**. BFF uses this information to understand the household's overall financial circumstances and ability to contribute toward the requested item or service. The worksheet is available on the BFF website with the Grant Application and Eligibility Guidelines.

DEMONSTRATION OF ENGAGEMENT:
Applicants are asked to describe how they are working to improve or maintain independence, health, daily functioning, communication, relationships, personal goals, or quality of life. Engagement is considered in the context of each person's abilities and circumstances.

ADVOCACY SUPPORT:
Applicants must provide an advocacy statement from someone familiar with their circumstances, needs, goals, and requested support. The advocate may be a professional, family member, friend, caregiver, or other trusted person.

PURPOSE OF REQUEST:

The requested item or service must be directly related to the applicant's permanent physical disability and support independence, access, mobility, communication, participation, safety, daily functioning, rehabilitation, or quality of life.

GRANT AWARD & PAYMENT

- **Maximum Grant Award:** Individual grants are available for up to $1,500.
- **Funding Frequency:** Eligible individuals may receive up to $1,500 in funding from BFF once every three years.
- **Vendor Payment:** Approved grant funds are paid directly to the vendor or service provider. BFF does not issue grant payments directly to applicants.
- **Requests Over $1,500:** Applicants may request funding for an item or service that costs more than $1,500. The application must explain how the remaining balance will be paid or secured.
- **BFF Pays Last:** When the total cost exceeds the BFF grant amount, the applicant must have the remaining balance paid or otherwise secured before BFF releases its portion of the funding to the vendor.

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WHAT WE FUND

BFF considers disability-related items, equipment, modifications, and services that support **independence, access, mobility, communication, participation, safety, daily functioning, or quality of life.** Examples include, but are not limited to:

Assistive Technology & Adaptive Devices

- Adaptive tools and equipment for daily living and personal care
- Low-vision, communication, hearing, sensory-access, and Braille devices
- Other assistive technology that improves independence or access

Mobility Equipment & Accessories

- Wheelchairs, scooters, power-assist devices, and wheelchair attachments
- Adaptive mobility equipment and related accessories

Home Accessibility & Safety

- Ramps, threshold and bathroom modifications, stairlifts, and other disability-related accessibility improvements

Vehicle Accessibility & Adaptive Driving

- Hand controls and adaptive driving equipment
- Wheelchair lifts, ramps, docking, and locking systems
- Other disability-related vehicle modifications

Medical & Independent Living Equipment

- Durable medical equipment, including specialized beds and walkers
- Therapeutic, prosthetic, orthotic, and other equipment that supports rehabilitation or independent living

Repair & Replacement of Disability-Related Equipment

- Repairs, replacement parts, batteries, components, and accessories needed to keep eligible equipment safe and functional

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WE DO NOT FUND

Ongoing Living Expenses

- Rent or mortgage payments
- Utilities
- Food and groceries
- General household expenses

Routine or Ongoing Healthcare Expenses

- General medical or doctor visits
- Prescription medications
- Co-pays
- Routine healthcare expenses

Reimbursements or Previously Paid Expenses

- Items or services purchased or paid for before BFF approval
- Reimbursement to applicants, family members, caregivers, or other individuals

General Home Repairs or Improvements

- Repairs, renovations, furnishings, or improvements that are not directly related to disability access, safety, or independent living.

Vehicle Purchases & General Vehicle Expenses

- Purchase or financing of a motor vehicle
- Fuel, insurance, registration, routine maintenance, or general repairs

Items or Services Unrelated to the Applicant's Permanent Physical Disability

- Requests must have a clear connection to the applicant's permanent physical disability and support independence, access, mobility, communication, participation, safety, daily functioning, or quality of life.

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APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

A complete application must include all of the following. BFF can review an application once all required materials have been received.

1. Completed & Signed Application
Complete all sections and sign the Certification and Agreement.

2. Income & Expenses Information
Provide current income and expense information for all household members.

3. Quote or Vendor Estimate
Provide a current written quote showing the vendor, requested item or service, total cost, and model or item number when applicable.

4. Advocacy Statement
Provide a completed statement from a case manager, service provider, family member, friend, caregiver, or other trusted person familiar with the applicant and their circumstances.

5. Disability Verification Letter
Provide a signed letter on official letterhead from an MD, NP, or PA confirming the applicant has a **permanent physical disability** and explaining how the requested item or service relates to the disability. See the Disability Verification Guidelines included with the application.

6. Proof of Oregon Residency
Provide a copy of a current Oregon driver's license, Oregon state ID, Tribal ID, or military ID.

7. Demonstration of Engagement & Personal Story
Complete the section describing the applicant's goals, activities, and efforts to maintain or improve independence, health, daily functioning, relationships, or quality of life.

BEFORE SUBMITTING

Use the Submission Checklist included in the application packet to confirm that every required item is complete and included before submitting the application.

HOW APPLICATIONS ARE REVIEWED

BFF reviews each completed application individually. Because every applicant's circumstances, disability-related needs, resources, and goals are different, funding decisions are based on the application as a whole.

In reviewing an application, BFF considers:

- **Financial Need:** Household income, expenses, and overall financial circumstances. Federal Poverty Level guidelines may be used as one indicator of need but are not the sole basis for a decision.

- **Connection to Disability:** How clearly the requested item or service relates to the applicant's permanent physical disability.

- **Need and Impact:** How the request may support independence, mobility, communication, access, participation, safety, daily functioning, rehabilitation, or quality of life.

- **Overall Funding Plan:** When applicable, how costs above the BFF grant amount will be covered.

No single factor guarantees or prevents an award. Completed applications are reviewed monthly. Funding decisions are generally made within 60 days after BFF confirms that an application is complete. Approved grant funds are paid directly to the vendor or service provider.