

## **CELEBRATE EDU MICROGRANT PROGRAM**

The Celebrate EDU Microgrant Program (the Program) makes available small grants (\$100-\$500) to individuals with disabilities in order to help them pursue entrepreneurship opportunities. Applicants are limited to one microgrant per year, and priority is given to first-time applicants.

### **Eligible Recipients:**

Individuals experiencing intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD), including Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, fragile X, learning disabilities or other cognitive and developmental differences are eligible to receive a microgrant. Applicants must be a minimum of 16 years old.

### **Eligible Projects**

Microgrants of between \$100 and \$500 will be awarded only for a specific new specific business concept or for an emerging business described in the application. Funding requested must be for specific expenses related to the development and implementation of the business as described in the application. Eligible expenses may include prototype development, equipment, materials, marketing or website expenses, entity formation fees or other similar expenses incurred in developing a business.

Microgrants will not exceed \$500 or be less than \$100.

The submitted application should provide as much detail as possible about the expense(s) the grant is intended to cover, including a description of each item, where it can be purchased and the estimated cost. A project budget must be submitted.

Applications that show evidence of business education, research and planning, and a clear statement of the business concept will receive priority.

### **Projects that are NOT eligible**

Established businesses that have generated more than \$3,000 in revenue, are not eligible to receive a microgrant under the Program.

The business concept must conform to all legal requirements and may not involve any of the following categories:

- Multi-level marketing or pyramid models
- Affiliated with a religious organization
- Franchisee of another business
- Cannabis or marijuana industry
- Involved in political campaigns or lobbying

### **Application Procedure –**

(If you have questions about completing the application, please contact [Microgrants@CelebrateEDU.org](mailto:Microgrants@CelebrateEDU.org))

Applicants must complete the online eligibility quiz before receiving an application.

Applications must be completed online. Note the application will require you to disclose your name, address, phone number, email address, birthdate, and whether or not you identify as having an intellectual or developmental disability. Celebrate EDU will use this information for purposes of administration of the Program, but may also use this information for research, internal analysis, analytics, and other purposes. Please review our *Privacy Policy* on how we may use and share this information.

Applicant must agree to the Celebrate EDU Microgrant Recipient Terms and Conditions.

Applicants may be contacted by Celebrate EDU staff for additional information after the application is submitted.

### **Application Review Process**

Applications will be reviewed by a committee consisting of representatives of Celebrate EDU and community members. The following criteria will be used to evaluate applications:

- How well is the business idea defined?
- How prepared is the applicant to launch or expand the business concept?
- Evidence that the target market and potential customers have been researched?
- How well does the applicant understand that the business concept offers something different from competitors?
- How feasible is the project in terms of time and budget?
- The level of support the applicant has to pursue their business

All information in the application will be shared with the review committee.

### **Application Cycle**

Applications can be submitted at any time. Applications will be reviewed at the next practicable meeting of the review committee after the application has been received. The review committee meets approximately 4 times per year on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday every three months. Applicants will be advised of the committee decision with 2 weeks of meeting.

### **Grant Payment Process**

If approved, grant recipients must sign a funding contract provided by Celebrate EDU. Payment will be made within two weeks after submission of the signed funding contract. Grantees will be required to complete a 3-month and 6-month progress report and follow-up survey. Applicant's business information will be shared with the grant committee, funders, and community members.