

From: Faculty Research Development Office  
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competition: Craig H. Neilsen Foundation's Creating Opportunity & Independence (CO&I) Grant Program

Date: November 4, 2019

The Craig H. Neilsen Foundation was established in 2002 as a private foundation dedicated to spinal cord injury (SCI) research and quality of life programs for people living with SCI. *Craig H. Neilsen Foundation's mission is dedicated to supporting both programs and scientific research to improve the quality of life for those affected by and living with spinal cord injury.* The Neilsen Foundation is interested in projects that promote community integration, participation and independence for individuals living with SCI; remove barriers and promote access; promote health and wellness in rehabilitation; promote self-efficacy; and address diverse regional needs and available resources.

In support of the Neilsen Foundation's mission, Creating Opportunity & Independence (CO&I) grants support innovative programs/projects that improve participation and independence for individuals living with SCI and address critical areas of need in rehabilitation, transitional stages, and in the community. CO&I grants cover diverse efforts that include **Projects, Program Support, and Capacity Building** that enhance the quality of life for individuals with spinal cord injury. Areas of focus include: assistive technology, education, employment, independent living, rehabilitation, and arts, sports and recreation.

**The grantee must be a nonprofit institution/organization. As a result, the selected PI must submit the letter of intent through the UNM Foundation.** Funding is for one year from \$25,000 to \$100,000. Funded programs may be more than one year, but funding for each subsequent year will be contingent on a favorable review of an annual progress and expenditure report. More information regarding the application and access to the submission portal can be found at <http://chnfoundation.org/creating-opportunity-and-independence/>.

Required Letters of Intent are due to the sponsor January 10, 2020 by 3:00pm MST. Invited full proposals are due April 27, 2020 by 3:00pm MST.

**This is a limited competition. Each institution is limited to one letter of intent.** If you are interested in submitting a required letter of intent to the sponsor, please send a statement of interest with a tentative project title, your proposed CO&I related effort and area of focus along with a brief description (200 words) by **noon, Friday, November 15, 2019** via e-mail to [limited@unm.edu](mailto:limited@unm.edu) with the subject line: **CHNF\_COI – your name**. Based on the e-mail responses received, the Limited Competitions Management Team may announce a call for preproposals.

*If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact Corey Ford ([CFord@salud.unm.edu](mailto:CFord@salud.unm.edu)) or Cassandra Misenaar ([CMisenaar@salud.unm.edu](mailto:CMisenaar@salud.unm.edu)) for more information.*