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 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) or Cassandra Misenar (CMisenar@salud.unm.edu) for more information.