

Call for Proposals: Honouring Judy Heumann and Steve Estey Memorial Fund

We are pleased to invite proposals for the Honouring Judy Heumann and Steve Estey Memorial Fund, created to celebrate the legacies of two extraordinary leaders in disability rights. Their lifelong advocacy for inclusion, participation, and justice continues to inspire this fund's purpose: to advance disability-led initiatives that strengthen the leadership and participation of women and girls with disabilities.

Eligibility:

The Fund is administered through the Engendering Disability-Inclusive Development (EDID-GHDI) partnership and overseen by the Honouring Judy Heumann and Steve Estey Memorial Fund Committee, which guides its calls for proposals, reviews applications, and selects projects that promote inclusion, accessibility, and collaboration in keeping with the spirit of Judy Heumann and Steve Estey's work.

Grants will be awarded to organizations or institutions, rather than individuals, that demonstrate a clear commitment to disability and gender inclusion.

Eligible applicants may include

1. Disability-led or women's rights organizations,
2. Community-based groups,
3. Academic or research centres, and
4. Partnerships that include organizations led by persons with disabilities.

At least one project will be based in Canada, while others may be international in scope, reflecting the global reach of Judy and Steve's contributions.

Supported activities may include:

1. Community-based or participatory research
2. Leadership training
3. Workshops
4. Knowledge-sharing initiatives.

The Fund also welcomes proposals for creative and scholarly dissemination such as

1. Open-access publishing
2. Exhibitions, or storytelling projects that promote gender justice and inclusion.

Applicants should demonstrate how their proposed project aligns with the purpose of the Fund, how it will advance disability and gender equity, and how it contributes to accessibility, collaboration, and meaningful participation.

Funding Amounts and Disbursement:

Applicants may request support that is appropriate to the scale and scope of their project, within the range of CAD 5,000 to CAD 25,000. Grants will be provided in Canadian dollars. Funds will be ordinarily released in two instalments: half upon approval and the remainder following

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submission of a final report or an equivalent knowledge-sharing output, though exceptions may be made depending on the nature of the project.

Review Process:

Proposals will be reviewed by the Heumann-Estey Memorial Fund Committee, composed of representatives from the EDID-GHDI partnership and the broader disability community. Reviewers will consider how well proposals reflect the Fund's:

1. Purpose and values
2. Demonstrate leadership by or inclusion of persons with disabilities
3. Integrate gender equality and intersectional perspectives,
4. Show feasibility and clear planning,
5. Offer potential for lasting impact.

Language and Accessibility:

Proposals and final outputs may be submitted in English or French. Where work is conducted in another language, applicants are responsible for providing final deliverables in one of these languages. Accessibility measures such as captioning, interpretation, or alternative formats should be built into project plans and budgets wherever possible.

How to Apply:

Applications should be no longer than 3 pages in length and should outline the project's objectives, activities, timeline, expected outcomes, and an itemised budget in Canadian dollars, along with a short description of the organisation or partnership. Applicants may request support appropriate to the scale and scope of their project, generally within the small-grant range of CAD 5,000 to CAD 25,000, inclusive of any administrative or transfer fees. Letters of support are welcome but not required.

Timeline:

The call for proposals will launch on 3 December 2025, coinciding with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. All proposals must be submitted by 1 February 2026.

Applicants will be notified of the results in March 2026, and selected projects will begin in April 2026.

Please submit proposals by email to edid-ghdi@uoguelph.ca with the subject line *Heumann–Estey Fund Proposal*.