

Application

When can I apply for a grant?

The grant application process opens on Friday, September 1 at 8 am Pacific Standard Time (PST) and closes on Friday, December 1 at 5 pm PST. You are welcome to apply at any time during that period. We recommend that you submit your application as soon as possible and avoid waiting until the final week. **We will not accept applications after Friday, December 1.**

What can I apply for?

Applicants can apply for funds in **ONLY ONE** of the following categories each year:

- **Equipment expenses** (prosthetics, adaptive & non-adaptive sport equipment)
- **Travel/Competition expenses** (entry fees, flights and lodging for an event)
- **Coaching/Training expenses** (gym membership, paying a coach or personal trainer)

I received a grant last year. Can I apply again this year?

You can apply for a grant every year, however, **you can only apply for an equipment grant once every three years. The exception is for applicants under the age of 16 as they can apply for an equipment grant every two years.**

I received a grant last year. Do I have to complete an application again this year?

Yes. Every athlete must submit a new application each year. Updated information is needed each year and as athletes achieve new and amazing things, we want to know how CAF grants helped them achieve their goals.

Can I apply from outside the United States?

Yes. We awarded grants to athletes from 42 countries in 2017 and we strive to help international challenged athletes. We do have significant restrictions when it comes to shipping equipment outside of the U.S. The cost to deliver equipment from the United States is the responsibility of the grantee and is often much greater than the value of the equipment. Please consider these factors when completing your grant application.

I am not sure if my disability qualifies. How can I find out?

CAF only offers grants to individuals with **permanent physical disabilities**. Please see below (or provide link) for a list of eligible disabilities and if you have questions regarding eligibility, please contact us.

- Achondroplasia or dwarfism
- Amputations, acquired or congenital limb deficiencies
- Arthrogyrosis
- Ataxia
- Athetosis

- Cerebral Palsy
- Charcot-Marie-Tooth
- Leg length difference
- Hypertonia
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Paraplegia
- Polio
- Quadriplegia
- Spina Bifida
- Visual Impairment

I'm not sure how much an equipment item costs. How do I find out?

Talk to coaches and fellow athletes, search online, and contact manufacturers for input to help you choose an equipment item that is appropriate for your skill level. CAF has taken much of the guesswork out of the process by partnering with several distributors that offer equipment items at a discount for the grant program. By choosing an item from the dropdown list, an amount will automatically be chosen for you.

What is the maximum amount I can ask for?

Grant awards vary by each athlete's ability, financial need and type of request. In the application form, we will provide a base amount offered for most grant categories. If awarded, you can count on at least this amount and perhaps more based on your needs and the strength of your application. Keep in mind that our average grant amount is \$1500.

Do I have to submit a medical letter of reference?

Yes. We must have documentation of your permanent physical disability to determine if you are eligible for a CAF grant. This letter can be written by one of the following medical professionals: a physician, physician's assistant, nurse practitioner, physical therapist, occupational therapist, or prosthetist. Because we only offer grants to permanently physically disabled individuals, you are welcome to provide a medical letter of reference that was not written within the past year.

What is the personal letter of reference?

This letter of reference from a coach, teammate, co-worker, employer, etc., should explain why you should receive a grant from CAF. It should be reflective of your character, your participation in sport, and how a CAF grant will help you reach your goals. The letter should reflect your accomplishments in 2017.

What should I include in my biography?

Share your personal story of how sport and athletics contribute to your life. What are your dreams and goals in athletics? What are you doing to achieve them? Include the ways in which you mentor others, how you give back to your community, and how you contribute to the advancement of adaptive sport.

Finances

Why do I need to include my tax return or other financial statements?

Financial need is a strong consideration in our grant reviews. A clear picture of your annual income is essential in determining an individual's need for a grant. Please include the first two pages of your tax return to verify income, dependents and profession. If you do not have a tax return, please submit an SSI or SSDI statement of your annual benefits, or two recent pay stubs. Please conceal your social security number in all documents.

What if I am not a U.S. citizen?

Please provide your country's equivalent documents to show annual proof of income. **All finances must be entered in the form and converted to U.S. dollars.** A link has been provided in the application to assist you in the conversion.

What if I am not employed?

If you receive only SSI/SSDI benefits, please submit your full statement. If you receive unemployment, please submit a copy of 2 unemployment checks. You must also provide financial information from anybody that is providing financial assistance/support to you.

If my adult child (over 18) lives with me and applies, do I have to include my income?

Yes. ALL household income that helps support your adult child must be included. There is a section in the application called "Special Financial Circumstance" in which you can explain your situation for the reviewers.

Other Questions

Why was I denied for a grant in the past?

Please understand that we received nearly 2,000 applications last year. The CAF Access for Athletes Grant Program is highly competitive and some people will not receive a grant. We must strike a balance to make our grants meaningful in funds while striving to make as much of an impact as possible. The most common reason for denial is an incomplete application. Please be sure that your application is comprehensive, thorough, and completed well before the deadline on December 1.

Why are grants offered only once a year?

Our grant program corresponds with our fiscal year. We are better able to manage our grant budget and the processes that accompany our grant process by offering the program annually.

Why do I have to wait until April to find out about my grant?

The grant applications go through a series of evaluations and the process of readying grants for distribution is very intensive. This all takes quite a bit of time. Also, since our fiscal year begins in April, we can use the funding available to make the grants as impactful as we can.

Why is there no Spanish application?

In 2016, we offered a Spanish application form and discovered that there were not enough applications to justify offering this again. We apologize for any inconvenience that this might cause in completing your application.

Grant award or decline letters will be distributed in early April.