



Current RAD assets interested in applying for either a **Connection Grant** or an **Accessibility & Inclusion Grant** are encouraged to carefully review the following guidelines before submitting an application.

These guidelines along with fillable application forms can be found online at: radworkshere.org/pages/project-grants.

NOTE: Project grants are separate from the annual operating/capital grant program. Application for and/or receipt of a project grant does not impact consideration for annual operating or capital support.

CONNECTION GRANTS

RAD is interested in fostering cost-saving connections between and among regional assets to ensure assets' long-term sustainability. To encourage those connections, RAD has established a Connection Grant program.

The goal of this program is to support the implementation of new, long-term efforts that will **promote efficiency through structural/operational change and will result in revenue enhancement, cost savings, and/or reduced professional costs through sharing**. These efforts will be sustained and will enhance programming **for an extended period of time or permanently**.

Connection Grants are one-time grants designed to assist directly in the implementation of new connections between or among assets that include at least one of the following:

- Actual merger or consolidation of assets that will result in a reduction of overhead costs or that will otherwise sustain the assets' level of service to the community
- Agreements between or among assets to share a significant portion of administrative/operational costs and/or facilities for a minimum of three years
- Collaborative projects expected to result in long-term, demonstrated and defined revenue enhancement and/or expenditure control.

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS:

- Prior to applying, the organization should contact a RAD program officer to provide a brief summary of the considered grant.
- The lead applicant must be a current RAD asset and be up-to-date with all RAD reporting requirements, including having a current Data Arts (culturaldata.org) profile on file with RAD.
- Collaborating partners in the project must be a designated asset or otherwise be eligible for RAD support and meet all of the funding criteria in place for awards during the fiscal year in which the application is made. (See current RAD assets here: radworkshere.org/pages/awarded-grants and RAD eligibility requirements here: radworkshere.org/pages/eligibility) If the applicant is partnering with

organizations that are not currently RAD assets, additional information from those organizations is required, including proof of 501(c)3 status, an organizational assessment, governance and diversity information, a Data Arts profile for the last two recently completed fiscal years, and (if applying for \$25,000 or more) a copy of their most recent audit.

- Detailed support documents from partner organizations stating commitment to the proposed project as well as projected direct impacts on their organization(s) must be included at the time of application.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM GUIDELINES:

- RAD defines **Collaboration** in this context as partners working jointly for a common purpose in order to achieve a demonstrated solution to a clear, specific problem or challenge that both partners face. Or, partners see an opportunity for enhancing operations and will work jointly to achieve project goals. It is expected that all project partners will benefit from the collaboration and this should be clearly defined.
- Connection Grants may be used to pay for any costs associated with the project. However, **indirect costs are not eligible for support under this program.**
- RAD should not be the only funding source and expects these grants will lead to actual measurable results rather than the production of feasibility or conceptual studies. There must be a clearly projected defined return on RAD's investment. Funding should not be used solely for paying consultant fees.
- Assets may apply for any grant amount; however, grant awards may be limited and requested amounts may be reduced as a result of the availability of funds.
- Ineligible projects include: one-time festivals, parades, short-term programming, or marketing projects without ongoing economic benefit to assets. For additional information about eligibility for RAD funding, see radworkshere.org/pages/eligibility.

ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION GRANTS

As a part of its Regional Assets are for Everyone initiative, launched in 2014, RAD is accepting Accessibility & Inclusion grant applications for projects that will have a long-term benefit toward enhancing opportunities for those with physical and cognitive challenges to enjoy the benefits of asset programming. The ADA National Network provides information and guidelines for writing about people with disabilities: adata.org/factsheet/ADANN-writing.

RAD defines **Accessibility** as the equitable access given to everyone of all abilities and experiences. Accessibility encompasses the broader meanings of compliance and refers to how assets proactively and intentionally make space for all people, including those with cognitive and physical disabilities.

RAD defines **Inclusion** as involvement, empowerment, and recognition of the inherent worth and dignity of all people. An inclusive environment promotes and sustains a sense of belonging, provides equal access to opportunities and resources, and allows all people, including those with physical and cognitive disabilities, to participate fully. Inclusion is action-based and requires continued efforts.

These project grants are meant as one-time investments in facilities, equipment, or program development. The kinds of projects that will be considered include:

- Improvements that foster inclusion and lead to an overall welcoming experience for those with physical and cognitive challenges
- Changes to facilities including exhibits and signage
- Purchase or installation of equipment for hearing or sight assistance
- Projects to improve communication and marketing such as website accessibility enhancements

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS:

- The applicant must be a current RAD asset and be up-to-date with all RAD reporting requirements, including having a current Data Arts (culturaldata.org) profile on file with RAD. If the applicant is partnering with organizations that are not currently RAD assets, additional information from those organizations is required, including proof of 501(c)3 status, an organizational assessment, governance and diversity information, a Data Arts profile for the last two recently completed fiscal years, and (if applying for \$25,000 or more) a copy of their most recent audit.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM GUIDELINES:

- These grants are not intended to fund individual performances, staff, or travel to conferences but could be used for staff training on improved facilities or equipment. Projects that share and develop resources among assets are encouraged. Assets must commit to maintain the equipment and services once the investment is completed.
- Assets may apply for any grant amount; however, grant awards may be limited and requested amounts may be reduced as a result of the availability of funds.
- **Indirect costs are not eligible for support under this program.**

How to Apply

Interested applicants must contact a RAD program officer to discuss their project prior to filling out an application:

Diane Hunt – dh@radworkshere.org

Maggie Pike – mp@radworkshere.org

Application forms can be found online at radworkshere.org/pages/program-grants.

Applications may be submitted via email as a single pdf file to info@radworkshere.org

SUBJECT: Connection Grant Application *or* Accessibility & Inclusion Grant Application

Or mailed to:

ALLEGHENY REGIONAL ASSET DISTRICT

436 Seventh Avenue, Suite 2201

Pittsburgh, PA 15219