



MS Entrepreneur Project Ideas

Are you interested in applying for a MS Entrepreneurs Grant? This document includes a list of project ideas to address some needs people living with MS in your community may face. This is not an exhaustive list; we encourage anyone to apply who has a different idea that supports people living with MS.

If you are interested in applying for an entrepreneur grant, it is often beneficial to partner with another community organization, particularly in rural communities. Partnering with local organizations with similar goals allows for the sharing of resources, which can make your project stronger. These grants can be used to conduct a pilot program/feasibility study within your local community.

Many of the below areas of need contain activities that are considered high risk to an organization. If you are addressing an area of need, be sure to include in your grant application a plan and budget considerations for liability insurance, needed certifications, volunteer training, volunteer screening and other initiatives that can manage risk.

Personal Assistance and Caregiver Support

- Personal care assistance to individuals with MS (e.g., bathing, dressing, feeding) to allow them to continue living independently
- Respite Care – Support caregivers by sitting/visiting with a person who has MS to provide an afternoon off to the caregiver.
- Assist with or provide homemaking activities, such as cooking, cleaning, laundry and/or grocery shopping
- Provide accessible transportation to attend National MS Society programs, medical appointments, grocery shopping, and other needed activities.
- Grant study to assess the feasibility of providing personal care or transportation solutions to people living with MS as a community-based volunteer driven project

Home Improvement Projects

- Provide small repairs, such as painting, organizing, spring cleaning or lawn care
- Utilize the National MS Society Day of Service template to create a volunteer-driven Day of Service in your community.

National MS Society and MS Awareness Building Projects

- Educate and build greater awareness of multiple sclerosis and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society with key audiences:
 - Healthcare professionals
 - Corporate leaders and employers
- Community and civic leaders
- Government representatives
- Rural communities
- Create greater awareness of accessibility needs with professionals who build and design public spaces, government officials and local leaders.

Social Networking/ Recreational Projects

- Recreational Activities and/or programs for people with MS include: lunch groups, volunteer day projects, board games, book club, movie night, field trips, and leisure activities.
- Networking activities/projects for targeted groups with MS include: newly diagnosed, young professionals, African Americans, young adults, gay and lesbian, Hispanics, veterans, men, and singles, etc...

Wellness Programs and Activities

- Provide physical activity programs (e.g., yoga, wheelchair exercise, aquatics, Tai Chi, therapeutic horseback riding) in rural areas and/or where there are no current opportunities; such as: Arkansas, New Mexico, West Texas, the Texas Panhandle and rural areas.
- Group counseling sessions for individuals with MS or caregivers by licensed, professional counselors
- Adaptive cooking and/or nutrition classes

Digital Revolution Projects

- Develop a program to provide new or used computers, speakerphones or headsets, adaptive computer equipment or software to people living with MS to enhance their ability to communicate
- Provide basic computer/technology training

For further discussion, please feel free to contact us at kelly.moran@nmss.org or by calling 1-800-344-4867 (press 2). We look forward to hearing from you.