

LIFE ENRICHMENT AWARDS PROGRAM (LEAP) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The purpose of the **Life Enrichment Awards Program (LEAP)** is to enrich the lives of youth and young adults with disabilities and chronic illnesses in the expanded Washington, DC metropolitan area. **LEAP** provides goods and services that are directly linked to youth transition planning and implementation that are usually not available from public service and government agencies. They are not covered by Medicaid or private insurance and are goods and services not considered “medically necessary.” Legal residents of the Washington, DC metropolitan area, up to Baltimore, MD and down to Richmond, VA will be eligible to receive program awards.

As a life enrichment program, **LEAP does not fund “life necessity” goods and services.** For example, the program does not generally fund food, clothing (except business clothes needed for school or job interviews), medicine, direct medical service, or housing. Additionally, awards of cash and gift cards are NOT allowed.

Eligibility

To be eligible for this program, the awardee must be between the ages of 14 and 26 with one of the following:

- Intellectual Disabilities
- Hearing impairments (including deafness)
- Speech or language impairments
- Visual impairments (including blindness)
- Serious emotional disturbance
- Orthopedic impairments
- Autism
- Traumatic brain injury
- Other health-experiencing developmental delays, as measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments and procedures, in one or more of the following areas: physical development, cognitive development, communication development, social or emotional development, or adaptive development; and who, by reason thereof, needs special education and/or health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally

Additionally, the awardee must be actively engaged in a transition process and their requested good or service must be directly linked to transition planning and implementation, such as youth development services, tools for transition, and support services. To the extent possible, partner organizations must confirm that award recipients have NOT received a LEAP award within the past three (3) years from them or any other LEAP partner organization.

No exceptions to the eligibility requirement will be made unless there are extenuating circumstances that require individual consideration. Approval for exceptions can ONLY be made by The HSC Foundation.

All partner organizations are responsible for ensuring that the selected awardees meet these eligibility requirements. No supporting documentation is necessary. However, a Certificate of Acknowledgement must be obtained from each awardee.