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Inclusive App Accelerator Launches Grant Program to Empower Individuals with Disabilities Through Mobile Technology

[Pittsburgh, PA] – [December 1, 2024] – The Inclusive App Accelerator (IAA), a groundbreaking initiative funded by a grant from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), today announced a new program to support the development of innovative mobile applications designed to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities.

This collaborative approach aims to empower individuals with disabilities by fostering the creation of 20 user-friendly apps over five years that address their specific needs in three key areas: health and function, community living and participation, and employment. *“We are thrilled to launch the IAA program and provide a platform for creative minds to develop impactful mobile solutions,”* said Dr. Dan Ding, Director of the Inclusive App Accelerator and Professor in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh. *“By harnessing the power of technology, we can make a significant difference in the lives of millions of people with disabilities.”*

A Multi-Faceted Approach to App Development:

The IAA program facilitates a unique partnership between academic researchers, app developers, disability advocates, and accessibility experts. It offers comprehensive support throughout the app development process. Selected applicants will benefit from the expertise of three dedicated support teams:

- **App Development Team:** Composed of professionals from leading inclusive app development companies, this team will handle the technical aspects of development, ensuring accessibility and usability for all users. **Critically, this means that coding and development experience is NOT needed to apply!** App Development Partners include [ArcTouch](#), FlutterFlow, Allyant, and Fable. *“ArcTouch is excited to partner with Pitt and this team of incredible accessibility leaders”* said Ben Ogilvie, head of accessibility at ArcTouch. *“The IAA offers a significant opportunity for us to create inclusive, lovable apps and build a more accessible app development ecosystem.”*
- **Business Support Team:** Led by the [IMPACT Center](#) at the University of Pittsburgh, this team will provide awardees with guidance on business planning, user testing, marketing, and app adoption strategies.

- **Community/Disability Team:** To ensure the apps are both useful, sustainable, and guided by the needs of the users, we have also partnered with national disability organizations such as the [Perkins School for the Blind](#), the [World Institute on Disability](#), the [United Spinal Association](#), and the [Consumer Technology Association Foundation](#).

Open Call for Proposals:

The IAA program welcomes applications from U.S.-based organizations and individuals with innovative app ideas. Applicants can secure up to \$10,000 funding to cover development costs, user testing expenses, and other essential resources. The initial call for proposals will open on Dec. 1 with applications due on Jan. 31.

For more information on the IAA program, eligibility criteria, and how to apply, please visit [InclusiveApps.com](#) or contact info@inclusiveapps.com.

About the Inclusive App Accelerator:

The Inclusive App Accelerator (IAA) is a grant-funded program dedicated to fostering the development of mobile applications that empower individuals with disabilities. Through a collaborative partnership between academic researchers, app developers, disability advocates, and accessibility experts, the IAA program aims to improve health and function, community living and participation, and employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The IAA is administered by [the Accessible SmartTech Research Group](#) at the University of Pittsburgh.

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