



PARENT<sup>TO</sup>PARENT  
USA

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

# Doctoral Research Program Award

Graduate Student Research Grant on Peer Support

TOTAL FUNDING  
**\$10,000 Available**

AWARDS AVAILABLE  
**Two awards of \$5,000**

APPLICATION DEADLINE  
**Dec 4, 2026 (5PM EST)**

PROJECT PERIOD  
**12 Months**

PROJECT START WINDOW  
**June 1 – Sept 1, 2027**

RELEASE DATE  
**July 15, 2026**

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Parent to Parent USA (P2P USA) invites applications for the P2P USA Doctoral Research Award. This funding opportunity is specifically designed to support doctoral student research focused on peer support for parents and caregivers of children with disabilities or special healthcare needs.

This award is intended to encourage rigorous, thoughtful, and practice-relevant scholarship that expands knowledge about parent-to-parent support and its role in improving outcomes for children, parents, caregivers, and families. P2P USA welcomes proposals that deepen understanding of how peer support is experienced, delivered, evaluated, and sustained across diverse family and community contexts.

Projects must place peer support for parents or caregivers at the center of the proposed work and must be clearly relevant to families of children with disabilities or special healthcare needs. Proposals may focus on research, evaluation, or pilot work that contributes to scholarship and informs practice, policy, or program design.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this award is to support doctoral student-led research that:

- Advances knowledge about parent-to-parent or caregiver peer support,
- Informs effective and equitable peer support practice,
- Strengthens the evidence base for programs serving families of children with disabilities or special healthcare needs, and
- Promotes research that is meaningful to families, practitioners, and communities.

P2P USA is especially interested in projects that connect scholarly inquiry with real-world relevance and that have the potential to support stronger services, better outcomes, and more responsive systems for families.

## TOPICS OF INTEREST

Proposals must relate to peer support for parents or caregivers of children with disabilities or special healthcare needs. Relevant topics include, but are not limited to:

### Parent & Family Dynamics

- Parent wellbeing, mental health, or stress reduction
- Caregiver confidence, resilience, empowerment, or coping
- Child health, development, or wellbeing
- Family functioning and family quality of life
- Parent-to-parent relationship dynamics and support processes

### Program Implementation & Innovation

- Program implementation, fidelity, or effectiveness
- Parent support provider readiness, training, supervision, or retention
- Matching strategies and factors that influence successful connections
- Technology-enabled, virtual, or hybrid peer support
- Community-based, cross-system, or interdisciplinary models of support

### Systems, Contexts & Equity

- Peer support for families navigating diagnosis, treatment, education, or service systems
- Support related to specific conditions, diagnoses, or developmental needs
- Support for families managing challenging behavior or complex care needs
- Culturally responsive or linguistically responsive peer support models
- Equity in access, engagement, and outcomes

*Community-engaged research, family-partnered research, and proposals that address underserved populations are especially encouraged.*

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must meet all of the following criteria at the time of application and during the project period:

- Be currently enrolled as a graduate student in good standing in a doctoral program at a US institution of Higher Education.
- Serve as the primary investigator or project lead for the proposed study.
- Propose a project clearly related to peer support for parents of children with disabilities or special healthcare needs.
- Have a faculty advisor, mentor, or supervisor who supports the proposed work.

Applicants from any relevant discipline are welcome, including but not limited to public health, psychology, social work, education, nursing, medicine, disability studies, public policy, sociology, and related fields.

## TYPES OF ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

P2P USA welcomes a range of research approaches, including:

- Dissertation research
- Qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-methods
- Pilot or feasibility studies
- Community-engaged/participatory research
- Program evaluation
- Secondary data analysis with clear relevance

Projects should be grounded in a clear conceptual, scholarly, or applied framework and should demonstrate methodological rigor appropriate to the proposed design.

## FUNDING INFORMATION & USE OF FUNDS

Two (2) awards of up to \$5,000 will be made to support eligible project expenses. Budget proposals should adhere strictly to the following parameters:

| ALLOWABLE EXPENSES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | UNALLOWABLE EXPENSES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participant support costs or incentives</li><li>• Transcription, translation, or data analysis</li><li>• Research materials and supplies</li><li>• Travel necessary for project activities</li><li>• Community partner support / compensation</li><li>• Software or project-specific operational costs</li><li>• <b>Grantee salary support (Up to \$2,000 max)</b></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Institutional indirect costs or overhead</li><li>• General tuition or mandatory university fees</li><li>• General living expenses or personal costs</li><li>• Equipment or expenses unrelated to the study</li><li>• Costs incurred before the award period begins</li><li>• Unrelated or general conference travel</li></ul> |

## APPLICATION PACKET REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should submit a proposal packet containing the following materials, combined into a **single PDF document** and arranged in the exact order listed below. To support a fair and efficient review process, please use the bolded section headings provided:

### I. Cover Page / Form

Complete a cover page that includes: project title; applicant name(s) and contact information; university or institution; current degree being pursued and year in program; faculty advisor name, title, department, and contact information; expected graduation date; brief statement of the applicant's role in leading the project; community or organizational partners (if applicable); and a description of any special circumstances reviewers should know.

## II. Project Abstract (Maximum: 250–350 words)

Provide a concise summary suitable for public announcement or program materials. State the problem/need, target population, purpose, overall design, and expected outcomes.

## III. Project Narrative (Maximum: 5 pages, single-spaced)

Format using a readable 12-point font and one-inch margins, structured under these subheadings:

- **Background and Significance:** Describe the problem, summarize literature, and explain why the topic matters.
- **Target Population and Context:** Describe participants, context, and how the project centers parent peer support.
- **Research Questions, Goals, or Objectives:** State study questions, aims, or hypotheses clearly and specifically.
- **Methodology and Project Approach:** Detail design, setting, recruitment, procedures, data sources, and human subjects/IRB protection plans.
- **Evaluation and Analysis Plan:** Identify measures and planned analyses (qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-methods).
- **Practical Relevance and Potential Impact:** Explain how the study informs peer support practice, programs, or policy.
- **Expected Outcomes, Deliverables, and Next Steps:** Describe anticipated findings, dissemination plans, and tools.
- **Feasibility:** Explain why the project is achievable within the budget and 12-month period.

## IV. Project Timeline / Work Plan (Maximum: 1 page)

Provide a month-by-month timeline (table, chart, or narrative) for the full 12-month project period. Include milestones such as approvals, recruitment, data collection, analysis, and final reporting.

## V. Budget and Budget Justification (Maximum: 1 page)

Provide an itemized budget table and matching justification. Clearly isolate salary requests (max \$2,000).

## VI. Faculty Support Letter (Maximum: 1 page)

A signed letter from the advisor confirming support, commenting on feasibility, and describing mentorship plans.

## VII. Curriculum Vitae or Resume (Maximum: 5 pages)

Highlight training, research experience, publications, and all current and pending support.

## PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will undergo standard administrative screening and will be competitively evaluated by a panel based on the following core elements:

- **Relevance:** Explicit focus on parent-to-parent or caregiver peer support for families of children with disabilities or special healthcare needs.
- **Significance:** Contribution to existing scholarship, real-world practice, policy, or program development.
- **Quality & Rigor:** Clarity and soundness of the project design, research questions, and analytic methodology.
- **Feasibility:** Clear likelihood that the scope of work can be fully completed within the 12-month period and budget.
- **Impact & Innovation:** Originality of the framework and potential to optimize outcomes for families, systems, or communities.
- **Student Leadership:** Demonstration that the doctoral student holds a primary leadership role in executing the study.
- **Inclusion & Equity:** Dedicated attention to diverse family experiences, inclusion, and underserved populations.

## AWARD EXPECTATIONS

Selected awardees are expected to fulfill the following milestones:

- Complete the project during the designated 12-month grant window.
- **IRB Compliance:** While IRB approval is not required at submission, funded projects involving human subjects must obtain appropriate institutional approval before data collection begins.
- Provide a brief mid-project progress update to P2P USA.
- Submit a comprehensive written final report and a plain-language summary suitable for families within one month of the project's end.
- Acknowledge support from Parent to Parent USA in recruitment efforts, presentations, posters, and publications. Share findings via a P2P USA hosted webinar or membership presentation.

## KEY PROGRAM TIMELINE

July 15, 2026                      Call for Proposals Released

December 4, 2026              **Application Deadline (5:00 PM EST)**

March 2027                      Notification of Awards

June 1 – Sept. 1, 2027        Project Start Window

12 Months from Start         Project End Date

1 Month from End              Final Report Due Date

**Ready to Apply?** Please submit your single compiled application PDF via our dedicated award page:

[www.p2pusa.org/research-award](http://www.p2pusa.org/research-award)

Questions about this opportunity? Email us at [info@p2p.org](mailto:info@p2p.org)