

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2011 PUBLIC POLICY GRANT PROGRAM

The American Art Therapy Association's Public Policy Grant Program [formerly the Legislative Grant Program] provides funding from the annual budget of the Governmental Affairs Committee to Chapters involved in state legislative and/or regulatory advocacy.

OVERVIEW

Purpose. The Governmental Affairs Committee will consider proposals for policy and advocacy activities designed to achieve either of the following goals:

1. *Establishing professional licensure* for art therapists and/or creative arts therapists in the state, including but not limited to activities contributing to the (a) development and promotion of legislation that establishes licensure for professional art therapists; (b) incorporation of art therapy into proposed legislation currently being considered by the state legislature; and (c) amendment of existing state licensure laws and regulations to include and/or strengthen licensure of art therapists and/or creative arts therapists.
2. *Ensuring protection of, and continued inclusion in, existing state licensing statutes and regulations* covering art therapists and/or creative arts therapists.

Amount. The grants will be in the amount of \$50 - \$1,000. The exact amount awarded will be based on Chapter needs and significance of the Chapter's policy and advocacy goals.

Grant Period. The proposed public policy grant activities must be carried out during the 2011 calendar year.

APPLICATIONS

Approved Applicants. The Governmental Affairs Committee will only accept applications submitted by individuals who are members of the American Art Therapy Association and the relevant state Chapter. Applications submitted by individual art therapists who are not Association members or who are not associated with a Chapter will not be considered.

Proposal Format. Grant proposals should be double-spaced and no more than five (5) pages.

Proposal Content. Proposals must fully answer the following two questions:

1. **What are the Chapter's *specific public policy goals*?** Information provided should include, but is not limited to, the following:

- The specific goal(s).
- Whether the goals involve only art therapists or are being pursued in conjunction with other professions and, if so, a list of those professions.
- Whether or not the goals are being pursued jointly with other professional organizations and, if so, a list of those organizations.
- The chapter's proposed overall budget for policy, advocacy, and/or legislative activities in the coming year.
- Information on whether art therapists in your Chapter have been involved with any previous related legislative or advocacy activities and, if so, the outcomes.
- Documentation that supports the above information.

2. **For what *specific activities* would the Chapter use the grant money?** Information provided should include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Projected costs for any legislative activities including, but not limited to travel expenses, supplies, copying, administrative expenses, and phone calls.
- A list of expenses related to your Chapter's policy, advocacy, and/or legislative activities in the previous calendar year.
- Projected income and/or in-kind support that you expect to help offset the costs of your policy and advocacy work.

Submission. Applicants should submit their grant proposals and any supporting documentation electronically to Julie Clark, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, at jclark@arttherapy.org.

SELECTION PROCESS

Criteria. Decisions to award Public Policy Grants will be based on the clarity of the answers and supporting documentation, a demonstrated understanding of legislative goals and issues, innovation and creativity, and a specific delineation of how the money will be used.

Grants Jury. The Chair of the Governmental Affairs Committee and the individuals s/he appoints to the Association's Public Policy Grants Jury will review all of the grant proposals. Based on its review, the Grants Jury will make recommendations as to who should receive the Public Policy Grants.

Board Approval. The Grants Jury's decision and any supporting materials will be given to the GAC Board Liaison who will bring the decision to the Board of Directors for review, final approval, and subsequent awarding of the grant(s).

AWARDS

Award Announcement. The recipient(s) of the 2011 Public Policy Grants will be announced in November 2010 at the Association's Annual Conference.

FUNDS

Disbursement. Based on the amount of the grant and other relevant circumstances, the Grants Jury may choose to distribute a Public Policy Grant by making two payments to the Chapter, one-half of the funds initially and one-half after the interim report has been submitted and approved.

Separation of Funds. Chapters that receive Public Policy Grants must put the funds in an account that is separately identifiable from their Chapter treasury.¹

Extension Requests. If the advocacy activities are not completed by December 31, 2011, and the funds not completely expended, the Chapter may submit a written request asking for an extension of an additional 180 days to use the funds and submit the final report.

Return of Unused Funds. If the funds are not used by December 31, 2011, and the Chapter does not request an extension, the funds must be returned to the Government Affairs Committee by March 15, 2011.

REPORTING

Interim and Final Reports. Chapter recipients must submit two reports to the GAC Chair and Association's Director of Public Policy:

1. An interim report, due halfway through the grant period, outlining how the grant monies have been used up to that point and any challenges that have arisen in meeting the proposed goals, and
2. A final report summarizing the efforts and outcomes of the public policy activities.

¹ The Chapter can choose any name for the account, such as *Arts Therapy Advocacy Committee* or *Art Therapy Public Policy Committee*. It is important that the funds not be placed in a Political Action Committee (PAC) fund, as PACs can be used to support candidates or political parties. *Public Policy Grants MUST NOT be used for specific donations to political candidates or political parties.*