



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is Parkinson Voice Project offering these grants?

Parkinson Voice Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to helping those with Parkinson's regain and maintain their speaking abilities. Our vision is that people with Parkinson's around the world will have access to quality speech treatment in order to maintain their speaking abilities and minimize swallowing difficulties that can lead to feeding tubes and life-threatening aspiration-induced pneumonia.

In order to achieve this goal, we recognize that we need to support speech-language pathologists. Since insurance reimbursement for speech pathology services is low, it can be challenging for speech-language pathologists to secure funding from their employers for specialized training and therapy supplies. By awarding these grants, we are providing speech-language pathologists with the knowledge and tools they need to help the Parkinson's population.

Who can apply for a grant?

Any speech therapy clinic that is committed to providing both SPEAK OUT!® & The LOUD Crowd® (and can meet the requirements listed in the grant application) is invited to apply for a grant.

Can speech therapy clinics outside of the United States apply for a grant?

Yes. Parkinson Voice Project will award up to five grants to speech therapy clinics located outside of the United States. It is important that international clinics are aware that SPEAK OUT!® & LOUD Crowd® training is only available in English and that certain therapy materials are geared towards American culture. Therefore, international clinics should apply for the training and therapy materials that would be of benefit to their particular clinic. Unfortunately, Parkinson Voice Project is not able to provide funding (cash) to the international clinics this year.

Can a university supervisor teach the SPEAK OUT!® & LOUD Crowd® protocol to their students?

Yes; however, all graduate students of any grant site will be given free access to our online SPEAK OUT!® & LOUD Crowd® training course. Therefore, we encourage clinical supervisors to have their students complete this training. Our online course includes valuable lessons by Dr. Daniel R. Boone, as well as training that will assist the students in developing their clinical skills beyond evaluating and treating the Parkinson's population. Providing free training to graduate students is the feature of our grant program for which we might be most proud. Graduate school is the time to learn about various disorders and treatments, and we want students to have the opportunity to learn about Parkinson's.

Can 2018 grant recipients apply for another grant?

Absolutely! In fact, we encourage former grant recipients to reapply. Please make sure that you complete the correct application. Most 2018 grant recipients will fall within the **Phase III** category for the 2019 grant cycle. Please note that in order for a previous grant recipient to be considered for a 2019 grant, the clinic must submit their "[2018 Grant Report Form](#)." This form can be submitted with your 2019 grant application. 2018 grant recipients will not be considered for another grant without the submission of the Grant Report Form.

Why should 2018 grant recipients apply for a 2019 Grant? What are the benefits?

Parkinson Voice Project encourages past grant recipients to reapply for continued support to help sustain the progress made over the past year. Some new additions to the grant opportunities include a new LOUD Crowd® Workbook (new content) that will be available in English and Spanish, as well as increased funding (up to \$2,500) for clinics that are conducting more than one LOUD Crowd® group each week. In addition, clinics may also apply for additional therapy supplies. For example, if a grant site received 12 LOUD Crowd® Workbooks last year, but now needs more workbooks because their groups have grown, the clinic can apply for additional workbooks.

If an SLP recently completed SPEAK OUT!® & LOUD Crowd® training but has not had an opportunity to treat any Parkinson's patients using the protocol yet, which application should be submitted?

The **Phase I** application should be completed by any clinic that has not treated any Parkinson's patients using the SPEAK OUT!® protocol yet.

Why is Parkinson Voice Project requiring that the SLPs' administrator review and sign the application?

Although speech-language pathologists are compassionate and eager to provide SPEAK OUT!® and The LOUD Crowd®, without administration's support, the program may not be sustainable. Generous donors have supplied the funding to provide these grants, and we want to use their money wisely. If administration is not supportive, then our organization may be providing training and therapy supplies to a clinic that may not follow through with implementing the program. It is important that the clinic's administration is committed to helping those with Parkinson's preserve their speech and swallowing. Please note that no electronic signatures will be accepted on the grant application.

Can the Administrator and the Primary SLP be the same person (e.g. the Primary SLP is the owner of a private practice)?

Yes. If an SLP owns a private practice and also treats patients, then the Administrator and the Primary SLP can be the same person. Be sure to sign both sections of the application (Administrator and Primary SLP). **HOWEVER**, please note that in order to be eligible for a grant, every clinic must have **a minimum of three speech-language pathologists on staff** who can be trained in SPEAK OUT!® & The LOUD Crowd®. These speech-language pathologists do not need to be providing treatment full-time; however, they should be able to cover for the Primary SLP who may be out sick or on vacation. In addition, if one SLP decides to change jobs, there needs to be a back-up so that the program will continue. Again, Parkinson Voice Project is very mindful of how we use our donors' generous gifts. We want to ensure that if a clinic is awarded a grant, the program will be implemented and has an opportunity to flourish.

Why must Phase I grant recipients attend the three-day, *Lead With Intent Symposium June 19-21, 2019*?

Parkinson Voice Project is a one-of-a-kind speech therapy clinic that doesn't exist anywhere else in the world. Our donors who have provided the funding for these grants were adamant that at least one representative from every grant site visit Parkinson Voice Project in person. It is difficult to describe the impact that SPEAK OUT!® & The LOUD Crowd® has on the lives of those with Parkinson's and their families. *Seeing is believing...*

Grant recipients will have the opportunity to personally meet many LOUD Crowd® members and work with them in hands-on practice sessions. In addition, Parkinson Voice Project is building a network of compassionate speech-language pathologists who are dedicated to helping the Parkinson's population preserve their speech and swallowing. It's a challenging venture. The opportunity to get together to learn, brainstorm, and enhance our professional and clinical skills

will provide inspiration and guidance as we all forge ahead to battle Parkinson's and serve as advocates to this patient population.

Are all SPEAK OUT!® Providers offering their therapy services using a donation-based Pay It Forward system?

Most SPEAK OUT!® Providers are billing Medicare and insurance for SPEAK OUT!® and providing The LOUD Crowd® as a community service at their clinics.

Are there any certifications or renewal fees associated with SPEAK OUT!® or The LOUD Crowd®?

No. There are no certification or renewal fees; however, every speech-language pathologist who completes SPEAK OUT!® & LOUD Crowd® training is required to sign Parkinson Voice Project's "Trademark License Agreement" annually in order for their patients to continue receiving free SPEAK OUT!® Workbooks and to maintain use of the SPEAK OUT!® & LOUD Crowd® name and therapy supplies.

Note: SPEAK OUT!® & LOUD Crowd® training is not considered a "certification." Dr. Boone felt very strongly that we should recognize the ASHA certification only. For our program, speech-language pathologists are simply being trained in our program and learning the techniques that we have developed.