

The Able Trust Grants Program

The Able Trust began operations in 1990, and the very next year funded \$35,771 in grants. Today, The Able Trust's annual grant awards average \$1.5 million. Together with the Foundation's programs, these grants create employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities across the state of Florida.

The Able Trust makes grants to nonprofit 501(c) 3 organizations providing employment-related programs to Floridians with disabilities. All disabilities, ages, and ethnicities are served through The Able Trust Grant Program.



Types of Grants

Fast Fact

The Able Trust has provided employment support to thousands of Floridians with disabilities, while awarding more than \$41 million to grantees in all 67 counties across the state, enabling hundreds of Floridians with disabilities to enter the workforce each year.

Strategic Employment Placement Grants

This is the primary grant program of The Able Trust, and such proposals address the employment gains of Floridians with disabilities, with an eye toward strategically engaging both employers and potential employees to create employment opportunities. Awards in this category range up to \$250,000, and cover a two- or three-year grant period. The annual deadline to apply is November 5.

General Support for Employment Placement Programs

This offers general support for employment programs in a given grant year. Funded programs result in employment gains for individuals, and could encompass equipment and/or staffing needs of an applicant organization. Awards in this category range up to \$65,000 for a one-year period. There are two deadlines to apply each year, April 5 and July 5.

Information on how to apply and guidelines are found on The Able Trust's website.

Success Starts with Employment



Melisa is a registered nurse at Halifax Health Medical Center in its Intensive Surgical Care Unit in Daytona Beach, Florida. She participated in The Able Trust High School High Tech (HSHT) program for all four years of her high school experience, crediting the HSHT program with the motivation and inspiration to seek the career of her dreams. Growing up with a hearing and learning disability, Melisa knew her opportunity to accomplish success and independence would be better served by the support of others. She found that support in the HSHT program.

Melisa graduated *Magna Cum Laude* with a Bachelor's degree in Nursing from the University of Central Florida College of Nursing in Daytona Beach in 2017, after earning her Associate of Arts Degree in Health Science at Santa Fe College. She completed clinical rotations at Halifax Health and Florida Hospital while pursuing her RN degree. In 2018, Melisa was named Neuroscience Floor Rookie of the Year for her outstanding work at Halifax Health Medical Center.

"The Able Trust High School High Tech program played a major role in my life and helped me become the person I am today," Melisa says. "I know my internships were invaluable in helping me achieve my career goals, and I thank The Able Trust for all that they did to help me succeed."

Fast Fact

86% of Florida High School High Tech students, a grant funded program of The Able Trust, entered postsecondary education, continuing education or employment, compared to 56% of other graduates with disabilities in Florida.

Renzo is an alum of the 2009 Able Trust Youth Leadership Forum and has been part of The Able Trust Alumni Association since 2015. Renzo was challenged by his learning disability but programs supported by The Able Trust helped him to work hard and overcome them. Renzo graduated *Magna Cum Laude* with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Florida Atlantic University.



He volunteers with the homeless at The Broward Outreach Center and has done video content editing with PolicyWork's WINTAC. He also works as an administrative assistant with the Miami Rescue Mission/Broward Outreach Center. Renzo is bilingual, speaking English and Spanish, which he uses to assist in translations and helping those who speak little or no English. Renzo believes it is important to be a volunteer in life and especially at The Able Trust's programs.

"The more you help participants and others with their needs and expectations, the more likely you will become highly recognized as a good example for others to follow," stated Renzo. "My participation helped give me the confidence to set my sights high and opened all those doors for me. The Able Trust has changed my life and the lives of thousands of Florida teens with disabilities."



Daysi was able to gain her very first job with the assistance of the MacDonald Training Center. Recently relocated to Florida from Puerto Rico, she needed a trilingual certified sign language interpreter to communicate and to assist her in gaining job readiness skills. Daysi indicated that she wanted to pursue a position in housekeeping so the staff at the MacDonald Training Center began to work with her to help her achieve this goal. Staff members helped her complete applications, develop her resume and assist her in practicing her interview skills. Her diligence paid off; she was offered her current position during her first interview. Daysi was ecstatic to overcome these challenges and secure her first job.

The MacDonald Training Center continues to develop employment opportunities for their participants, including the growing sectors of health care and medical-based facilities. Without the grant funding from The Able Trust, the MacDonald Training Center would not have been able to hire the highly-trained professionals the program needed to support individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Guidelines for how to apply for each opportunity can be found on The Able Trust website at abletrust.org or by calling 850.244.4493.