



**MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC AMERICA FOUNDATION**  
**Extends Concept Paper Deadline to June 15**

*Grants to focus on empowering youth and veterans with disabilities*

WASHINGTON, DC, May 13, 2015. **Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation** is accepting concept papers for its annual National Grant program related to its national [M>PWR Initiative](#). The submission deadline is **June 15, 2015** for projects beginning on or after January 1, 2016.

The Foundation is interested in supporting innovative, model projects with a national scope, or featuring a strong national replication and dissemination plan, focused on its vision of empowering youth and young veterans with disabilities to live productive lives. Projects should focus on preparing youth and veterans with disabilities to successfully transition to competitive, inclusive employment outcomes, particularly in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields. The Foundation may award grants of up to a three year duration related to one or more of the following focus areas:

- **Ability Awareness:** Raising awareness of potential employers by demonstrating the capabilities of people with disabilities in order to recruit and accommodate individuals with disabilities in the workplace.
- **Leadership Development:** Developing the leadership and self-advocacy skills of young people and/or veterans with disabilities so they are better empowered to acquire and attain employment, particularly in STEM fields.
- **Employment Preparation:** Preparing young people and/or veterans with disabilities to enter employment in STEM fields (including vocational and higher ed. preparation).

National Grants are not intended to develop “special” programs that cater to people with disabilities; rather projects should be designed to support innovative approaches to fully include young people with disabilities in “mainstream” employment preparation and job-seeking activities alongside their peers without disabilities. Funds should not be used to support operations of a local organization or simply to replicate a proven model, but should be used to test, develop, and disseminate innovative approaches that lead to improved, sustained employment outcomes that can be disseminated and replicated nationally. Projects might include new, innovative web-based toolkits, training videos, “how to” manuals, checklists, or other products to inform students, veterans, teachers, employers, and/or caregivers. Products should be used to disseminate and replicate the project beyond the life of the grant.

National Grant recipients will be encouraged to work together to promote cross-project learning, and participate in any external evaluation processes funded by the Foundation. Priority will be given to projects that leverage funding from other sources, and serve young people and/or veterans with disabilities near Mitsubishi Electric [company locations](#) and/or involve Mitsubishi Electric employee volunteers. The Foundation enjoys supporting collaborative projects and will consider funding two or more organizations working on the same project or a portion of a project that is part of a larger effort. Qualified nonprofit organizations are encouraged to see the Foundation's complete [priorities and guidelines](#), take the eligibility quiz, and apply online by June 15th. Organizations submitting the most competitive concept papers will be invited to submit a full proposal by July 15th. Visit [www.meaf.org](http://www.meaf.org) to learn more.

***Changes for the Better...for children and youth with disabilities***

1560 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1150, Arlington, VA 22209 ♦ Phone: (703) 276-8240 ♦ Website: [www.meaf.org](http://www.meaf.org)