

Meet the New Jersey Grantmakers

July 22, 2009

Profile Form

ORGANIZATION/FOUNDATION NAME:



PANELIST NAME & TITLE:

Elaine E. Katz, MS, CCC-SLP, *Vice President of Grant Programs and Special Initiatives*

ADDRESS:

300 Executive Drive, Suite 150, West Orange, NJ 07052

www.kesslerfoundation.org

INTERESTS:

(e.g., **Fields of interest, areas funded, types of support, geographic region, exclusions, etc.**)

Kessler Foundation focuses on increasing employment opportunities for people with disabilities through the Program Center's "Transition to Work" initiative, which includes our **Signature** and **Community Employment** Grants programs. Both programs focus on increasing employment and career advancement for individuals with mobility and/or physical disabilities (65% of target population).

Signature Employment Grants are large collaborative projects that have multiple funding sources and serve a large geographic area. Most of our projects are located in New Jersey. A letter of inquiry must be submitted to the Foundation in order to be considered for this grant during our open call for proposals. The Foundation will subsequently invite selected organizations to submit a full application. An organization can apply for up to two years of funding, with maximum project funding at \$500,000.

Community Employment Grants support community-based projects, programs, capacity building, operations, pilot initiatives, and creative solutions that focus on job placement for New Jersey citizens with disabilities. Grants are for one year and range from \$25,000 - \$50,000. Grants may be for project or operating support.

Our Special Initiative Grant program is an invitation only program for organizations that operate within the broad spectrum of rehabilitation and physical disabilities in New Jersey. These may include: 1) education and training for people with physical disabilities, their families, healthcare professionals and the public in areas such as medical rehabilitation and disability prevention, 2) community programs and services related to improving the lives of people with physical

disabilities, such as arts, recreation, social services, health, transportation, assistive device acquisition, and home/automotive adaptations, and 3) projects, programs, pilot initiatives, and creative solutions that work toward improving the employment and career advancement of New Jersey citizens with disabilities. Grants are for one year and range from \$5,000 - \$20,000.

CONTRIBUTIONS/SERVICE SUMMARY:

(e.g., 2008 disbursements, average grant size, summary of technical assistance etc.)

Since our program began 4 years ago, we have disbursed close to \$12 million to support employment programs for people with disabilities. In 2008, we funded \$3,220,000 in related projects. Our projected budget for 2009 is \$2,620,000, which may be subject to change. Past grantees are listed on our website at www.kesslerfoundation.org.

We host a Grantee Sharing event in the fall, which is a morning program, bringing together a group of about 10 grantees and Kessler Foundation board members to share their grant findings on completed projects in a small setting. Every spring, Kessler sponsors a Grantee Symposium, which is a learning opportunity for representatives from all of our grantee agencies to meet and listen to noted speakers and leaders in the field of disabilities in a seminar or workshop format.

Kessler Foundation prides itself on being accessible to grantees, and provides troubleshooting for grant projects, technical assistance, resources and other connections on behalf of grantees.

OTHER:

Kessler Foundation prefers to discuss grant projects in advance, if an organization has questions about meeting grant guidelines or criteria. Please send us an inquiry at the above email address.

PANELIST BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Elaine E. Katz, MS, CCC-SLP, is the Vice President of Grant Programs and Special Initiatives at the Kessler Foundation. She is responsible for planning, implementing and monitoring a comprehensive grantmaking program for the Foundation. Elaine has over 25 years of consulting and experience working with non-profit organizations in areas of board development, fundraising, marketing, and business development. She currently serves on the board of directors of the Disability Funders Network where she is Vice Chair, JESPY House, and on the program committee of the Council of NJ Grantmakers. Elaine is also an appointed member of the Disabilities Issues Committee of the NJ State Employment and Training Commission (SETC) and the Union County New Jersey Human Services Advisory Council. Elaine holds a Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech Pathology from the American-Speech-Hearing Association. She received her masters degree in Speech Pathology from Adelphi University and bachelors degree from Boston University in Speech Pathology and Audiology.