2021 Paul G. Hearne Emerging Leader Award Application Tips

Overall Application

- View the Paul G. Hearne Emerging Leader Award page on AAPD’s website to find more information on eligibility, application guidelines and procedures, selection process, awardee requirements, and past awardees.
- Application deadline: Wednesday, October 25, 2020 at 5:00pm Eastern Time.
- Before you apply, review the entire document to make sure you have all the information you need.
- Before you apply, review AAPD’s mission statement. Find ways to connect your project to the mission statement through your goals, activities, or people who are involved in your project.
- When you’re applying it is recommended that you complete the essay questions in a separate word processing program and then copy and paste them into the online form to prevent loss of information and require rewriting your application.
- If possible, submit your application early in case there are any issues. AAPD will not accept late applications. Please email programs@aapd.com if you have any access or technology issues.

Application

Below are some suggestions to strengthen your application. All of these suggestions may not be applicable to every applicant or every project. You are not required to include every bullet point in your application, nor will it negatively impact your application.

Section 1: Applicant information

- Emerging leader is not necessarily tied to age, education status, employment, or specific experience or involvement in the disability community. It is up to you if you self-identify as an emerging leader.
- You will not be required to disclose your specific disability; however, your application for this award will signify that you consider yourself a person with a disability.

Section 2: Project Information

- Do not assume all reviewers have the same knowledge regarding every topic within the disability community. Provide any historical context, research, or information that will ensure all reviewers will have the same understanding of your project and/or issue you are addressing with your project.
- Share specific details if you have them. Some examples include:
  - If you are looking for AAPD to facilitate a specific connection or AAPD staff to support your project, let us know.
  - If you already have ideas about what potential collaborations would look like, list their names, describe their roles in your project, and how often you will interact with them.
- The Hearne Award funding is split in two buckets: $7,500 for your project and $2,500 for you and your outstanding contributions to the disability community. We are only interested in understanding how you will use $7,500 for your project. You can use the $2,500 in any way you wish.
• Please note the word-count maximum for each essay question. If there is a higher word-count maximum, it means we will review that essay question more closely than the others. However, you do not need to meet the maximum word-count limit for your application to be considered a strong application.

Section 3: Resume
• It is helpful to list activities or experiences that directly relate to activities or experiences you will implement in your project.

Section 4: Letters of Support
• We strongly recommend you identify your letter of supports early on in the application cycle to ensure they will complete their letters in time.
• Your letters should be from people who can describe your leadership style, have an understanding why you are choosing to lead and implement your project, and speak to why you have the skills and qualities to lead the project.
• Review the list of AAPD Board and staff in advance to ensure there is no conflict of interest for your letters of support.

If you have any questions, please email AAPD’s Programs Manager, Christine Liao, at programs@aapd.com.