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## **MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC AMERICA FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$1.4 MILLION IN NEW GRANTS**

### *Focused on Empowering Youth with Disabilities for Today's Workforce*

**WASHINGTON, DC, April 7, 2022** — Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation (MEAF) announced today \$1.4 million in new grant impact investment to empower youth with disabilities to lead productive lives through increased employment. The Foundation is also matching Mitsubishi Electric employee donations for Ukrainian humanitarian relief and voluntary efforts in the U.S.

“For the past decade, MEAF has invested its philanthropic dollars in innovative pilot projects that show promise in improving disability employment outcomes,” says Kevin R. Webb, Sr. Director of MEAF. “This year’s grants are focused on renewing projects that have proven effective in building a pipeline of talent and working collaboratively between grantees to scale-up programs. We are also investing in new initiatives specifically designed to empower young women with disabilities, address mental health issues facing America’s veterans, and support humanitarian relief in Ukraine.”

The \$1.4 million in new grant investments will be distributed to 15 organizations over the next two years.

#### **Recently Approved Grants**

- [\*\*Blue Star Recyclers-e-Stewards® ADVANCE+ Workforce Inclusion Program\*\*](#), \$75,000
- [\*\*Disability EmpowHer Network-EmpowHer Camp Mentoring Program\*\*](#), \$83,500 over two years
- [\*\*Dreams for Schools-Increasing Access to STEAM Education for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth\*\*](#), \$126,000 over two years
- [\*\*Easterseals serving Greater Cincinnati-Easterseals Hospitality Services Training\*\*](#), \$200,000 over two years
- [\*\*Exceptional Minds-Academy and Studio\*\*](#), \$10,000
- [\*\*Friends of Butler Tech Foundation-Bringing Project LIFE™ to Rural Communities and CelebrateEDU Microenterprise Program\*\*](#), \$200,000 over two years
- [\*\*GiGi's Playhouse-GiGi's Ambassadors\*\*](#), \$60,000 over two years
- [\*\*Growing Together Aquaponics-Job and Leadership Skills Training\*\*](#), \$10,000
- [\*\*Hives for Heroes-Young Veterans Outreach and Inclusion Project\*\*](#), \$100,000

- [Life'sWork of Western PA](#)-*Youth Transition Services and Jobs in Rural America*, \$125,000 over two years
- [Islands of Brilliance](#)-*Digital Academy Work Experience Program*, \$10,000
- [Perkins School for the Blind](#)-*Bringing Career Launch @ Perkins to Scale*, \$150,000 over two years
- [Racing for Heroes](#)-*Young Veteran Jobs in the Automotive Industry*, \$59,900 over two years
- [TACT](#)-*Career Track Trades Program*, \$10,000
- [The Uniquely Abled Project](#)-*Scaling Up: Creating Inclusive Employment Opportunities in Manufacturing for Youth with Disabilities*, \$200,000 over two years

### **Continuing Projects**

In addition, continuing, multiyear projects will receive \$430,600 in 2022 funds.

- [Aspiritech Nfp](#)-*Aspiritech Remote Employment Academy*, \$29,500 (second year of a \$100,000/two-year grant)
- [Banner Health Foundation](#)-*Project SEARCH*, \$50,000 (second year of a \$100,000/two-year grant)
- [Conservation Legacy](#)-*Empowering Youth with Disabilities in the Outdoor Economy*, \$98,000 (second year of a \$193,900/two-year grant)
- [GiGi's Playhouse](#)-*GiGi's Learning Management System*, \$30,000 (third year of a \$120,000/three-year grant)
- [Els for Autism Foundation](#)-*Work Experience Program*, \$50,000 (second year of a \$100,000/two-year grant)
- [NSITE](#)-*CISCO Networking Academy*, \$48,100 (second year of a \$95,700 /two-year grant)
- [Partners for Youth with Disabilities](#)-*Career Readiness Replication*, \$75,000 (second year of a \$150,000/two-year grant)
- [Science Buddies](#)-*STEM Career Discovery for Students with Disabilities*, \$50,000 (second year of a \$125,000/two-year grant)

Work also continues with the following MEAF-funded grant projects that were extended due to COVID-19.

- [American Association of People with Disabilities](#)-*AAPD Alumni Network*
- [Bridges from School to Work](#)-*NextGen of Enhanced Employment Strategies Project*
- [Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center](#)-*Innovations for Project SEARCH*

***empowering youth with disabilities to lead productive lives***

- [\*\*Inclusive Communities at the Westchester Institute for Human Development- \*My Disability Roadmap Project\*\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs-\*Inclusive Manufacturing Camps\*\*\*](#)
- [\*\*University of Hawai'i Foundation-Center on Disability Studies-\*Turn the Tables: Career Fairs\*\*\*](#)

The Foundation has also committed to supporting Ukrainian humanitarian relief efforts by matching up to \$100,000 of Mitsubishi Electric employee donations in 2022 to [Direct Relief](#), [Save The Children](#), and [World Central Kitchen](#). Since launching the matching program on March 4<sup>th</sup>, Mitsubishi Electric employees have donated \$25,000, which the foundation matched for a total of \$50,000 in donations to date. In addition, MEAF plans to match an additional \$350,000 in donations made by employees in 2022 to help build inclusive and sustainable communities in the United States.

The Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation, based in the Washington, D.C. area, was established in 1991 by Mitsubishi Electric Corporation and the Mitsubishi Electric U.S. companies, which produce, sell and distribute a wide range of consumer, industrial, commercial and professional electronics products. The Foundation has contributed more than \$21.5 million to organizations that are empowering young people with disabilities to lead more inclusive and productive lives. To learn more, visit [www.MEAF.org](http://www.MEAF.org).

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