

# TEAM BELONG AWARD APPLICATION: RELIGIOUS SCHOOL/FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

## APPLICATION INFORMATION FOR TEAM BELONG AWARDS FROM PATHWAYS.ORG

This revised and updated information provides definitions of terms and includes useful tips for completing and submitting your application. Please read before you begin your application.

TEAM Belong is an interfaith program of Pathways.org. TEAM Belong stands for That Every Ability May Belong. TEAM Belong provides interfaith educational materials, events, and cash grants to assist worshipping communities to welcome members of all abilities as active participants. TEAM Belong works to break the unintended cycle of exclusion in worshipping communities, religious schools and faith formation programs so that people of all abilities are offered the same respect and opportunity to participate. Disability differences are welcomed and accommodated so that individuals of all abilities feel a sense of welcome and belonging.

TEAM Belong promotes accessible, welcoming, faith communities and religious schools/faith formation programs through:

1. Our website featuring interfaith educational materials and videos,
2. The annual TEAM Belong month in August to raise awareness to the need to educate religious leaders and congregants about how to welcome individuals of all abilities to worship, fellowship, ministries, education and leadership roles,
3. The *Different Gifts, Same Spirit* lesson plans that teach children how to welcome children of all abilities into their classrooms (available on our website or from [Loyola Press](#)),
4. Promoting the establishment of TEAM Belong teams in faith communities to keep access and inclusion in the forefront and to coordinate efforts to ensure their faith community is accessible and welcoming to individuals of all abilities,
5. The annual TEAM Belong and Junior (for children) TEAM Belong Awards grant up to \$1,000 to support access and inclusion projects that make it possible for individuals of all abilities to participate in their worshipping community, religious school or faith formation program.

### **TWO DIVISIONS FOR TEAM Belong AWARDS**

The two divisions for TEAM Belong Awards are:

- Junior TEAM Belong Awards for children and youth ages 5-18,
- TEAM Belong Awards for adult applicants.

Applicants for the Junior TEAM Belong Awards are children or youth ages 5-18. Parents and teachers may facilitate Junior TEAM Belong Award applications. Junior TEAM Belong applicants may submit original artwork, a video or an essay with electronic photos that describes how the congregation or religious school/faith formation program welcomes individuals of all abilities and how their project will those access and/or inclusion efforts. Parents and teachers are encouraged to use the [Different Gifts, Same Spirit](#) series of lesson plans for elementary, junior high or high school levels to prepare students to create artwork, a video or an essay with photos.

Applicants for TEAM Belong Awards are adults. All TEAM Belong Award applicants must submit a video or an essay with electronic photos that describes how the congregation or religious school/faith formation program currently welcomes individuals of all abilities and how their project will expand those access and/or inclusion efforts.

Examples of a winning video and an essay are posted on the Awards Page on our website.

**APPLICATION INFORMATION**  
**FOR TEAM BELONG AWARDS FROM PATHWAYS.ORG**  
**(CONTINUED)**

**TWO RECIPIENT CATEGORIES FOR TEAM BELONG AWARDS**

Awards are granted to:

- houses of faith,
- religious schools/faith formation programs

to help fund specific access and inclusion projects that welcome individuals of all abilities and their families.

**APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

All applications, videos and essays must use “people first language.” This means applicants must use words with care to promote dignity and respect and to focus on people first rather than on disabilities. For example, rather than saying, “a wheelchair bound man,” say “a man who uses a wheelchair.” Rather than saying “an epileptic,” say “a man with epilepsy.”

Do not use the word “handicapped.” Instead use “accessible parking,” “accessible seating area,” “accessible washroom.”

Applications that do not use “people first language” or that use the term “handicapped” will not be considered.

Each individual seen in the video or electronic photos must complete the *Consent to Use Likeness Form* on page 7 of this packet. Completed and signed *Consent to Use Likeness* forms must be submitted with your application. Videos may be selected by Pathways.org for posting on our website via YouTube. Your electronic photos may be requested for use in press releases or promotional materials.

Applications for TEAM Belong Awards and Junior TEAM Belong Awards must be approved by the pastor, rabbi, Imam, school principal or religious education director with their signature.

Projects must be well planned and promote a sense of welcome and belonging for people of all abilities.

Projects should be completed within one year of receiving the grant.

The Application Checklist must be completed and submitted with all required materials. Incomplete applications will NOT be considered for grants.

Organizations receiving a grant may submit another grant request the following year or years provided the new project expands their access or inclusion efforts and provided the Grant Use Report for the previous project has been completed and submitted.

Grants are not made outside the U.S. or for debt reduction, tuition assistance, individual personal assistants or printing costs.

TEAM Belong and Junior TEAM Belong Award winners are required to submit a completed Grant Use Report and a follow-up video or essay with attached electronic photos of the completed project indicating how their grant money was used. Follow-up videos may be selected by Pathways.org for posting on our website via YouTube.

Annual deadline for applications is October 1<sup>st</sup>. Applications may be submitted electronically. All requested materials must be included. Email to friends@Pathways.org. If unable to email, mail hard copies to Pathways.org, 355 E. Erie Street, 10th Floor, Chicago, IL 60611.

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

### TEAM BELONG AWARD: RELIGIOUS SCHOOL/FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

*This list is to be checked off as steps are completed and returned with the grant application. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.*

#### YOUR TEAM BELONG AWARD APPLICATION FOR A PROJECT IN YOUR SCHOOL/ FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM MUST INCLUDE:

- A Completed Application Form** (See pages 4 to 7.)

- Narrative: A Video**

In a short video show how your school or faith formation program welcomes and includes individuals of all abilities. Include information on your specific, planned access project and how it expands inclusion and participation by individuals of all abilities. (A winning video is posted on our website.)

**OR**

- Narrative: An Essay with Attached Electronic Photos**

In a short essay with a series of electronic photos, show how your school or faith formation program welcomes and includes individuals of all abilities. Include information on your specific access project and how it expands inclusion and participation by individuals of all abilities. (A winning essay is posted on our website.)

- A Completed Photo Release For Each Individual Pictured In Your Video or Electronic Photos** (Use the form on p. 7 for each individual.)

- The Use of People First Language**

**Videos and essays must use “people first language”.** Words should be chosen with care to promote dignity and respect and to focus on the person first rather than his or her disability. For example, rather than saying “an epileptic,” say “a child with epilepsy.” Rather than saying, “a wheelchair bound man,” say “a man who uses a wheelchair.” Do not use the word “handicapped.” Instead say “**accessible parking**”, “**accessible seating area**”, and “**accessible washroom.**” For more information on “people first language” visit our website.

**TEAM BELONG AWARD APPLICATION:**  
**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL/FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM**

**School or Faith Formation Program's Information**

School or Faith Formation Program's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Denomination \_\_\_\_\_

School or Faith Formation Program Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Principal/Director \_\_\_\_\_

Principal/Director's email address \_\_\_\_\_

School or Faith Formation Program Website \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of students \_\_\_\_\_ Date Founded \_\_\_\_\_

Have you received a previous TEAM Belong Award grant? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, year: \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant's Information**

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's email \_\_\_\_\_

**Certification Statement**

I have reviewed and I certify that the information provided in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Principal/Director \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

**TEAM BELONG AWARD APPLICATION:**  
**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL/FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM (CONTINUED)**

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**Request for Funding**

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Total Cost of Project: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dollar amount requested (up to \$1,000): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

When do you anticipate starting the project: \_\_\_\_\_

Completion date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Project:

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**Name of Vendors, Suppliers or Construction Company:**

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**Cost Breakdown:** *Attach photos and descriptions of items such as grab bars etc.*

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**TEAM BELONG AWARD APPLICATION:**  
**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL/FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM (CONTINUED)**

**Access Features Provided**

Check the access features your school or faith formation program provides so that all may participate:

Accessible, clearly marked:

- entrances
- parking spaces
- washrooms
- drop off area
- automatic doors
- ramps
- elevator

Accessible:

- offices
- classrooms
- 36 inch wide doorways
- curb cuts
- sign language interpreters

**Accommodations Provided**

Check the accommodations your school or faith formation program provides so that all may participate:

- "All children are welcome and accommodations are provided" policy is embraced and publicized.
- Special education teachers are on staff.
- Ongoing training in inclusive education is provided to all staff.
- assistive technology is used to support students.
- age appropriate adaptations are provided.
- teachers support peer social relationships.
- instruction is differentiated according to the student's needs.
- families and staff work together as a team to plan and evaluate educational strategies
- people first language is used in communications

Disability etiquette training completed for:  teachers and staff  students

**Submission**

Email your video or essay with photos, a completed application form and photo releases for individuals in your photos or video to [friends@Pathways.org](mailto:friends@Pathways.org). If unable to email, mail hard copies to Pathways.org, 355 E. Erie Street, 10th Floor, Chicago, IL 60611. **Deadline for applications is October 1.** Incomplete applications will not be considered. TEAM Belong Award winners must submit a completed Grant Use Report and a video or essay with photos of the completed project showing how the grant was used.

*You must submit a "Consent to Use Likeness" form for each individual pictured in your photos or video.*

## PATHWAYS FOUNDATION CONSENT TO USE LIKENESS & RELEASE

I, \_\_\_\_\_, grant to Pathways Foundation, an Illinois not for profit corporation, and its affiliates Pathways Center, Pathways Awareness, TEAM Belong, Pathways.org (collectively, "Pathways") a non-exclusive, worldwide right to use my likeness, which includes my photograph(s), picture (s), portrait(s), video in all forms and media, including, but not limited to, Pathways' print materials, websites, articles and videos, and in all manners, including composite or distorted representations, without limitation as to frequency or duration, for promotional and/or educational purposes.

**I grant Pathways the unrestricted, perpetual, worldwide, royalty-free right to:**

- (1) Reproduce, copy, modify, create derivatives in whole or in part, or otherwise use my likeness or any part thereof in combination with or as a composite of other matter, including, but not limited to, text, data, images, photographs, illustrations, animation and graphics, video or audio segments of any nature, in any media or embodiment, now known or hereafter to become known, including, but not limited to, all formats of computer readable electronic magnetic, digital, laser or optical-based media, Internet or World Wide Web (the "Works"), and
- (2) Use and permit to be used my likeness, whether in original or modified form, in connection with the Works as Pathways may choose, and
- (3) Display, perform, exhibit, distribute, transmit or broadcast the Works by any means now known or hereafter to become known.

**I waive all rights and release Pathways from, and agree not to sue or bring any proceeding against any parties for, any claim or cause of action, whether now known or unknown, for defamation, invasion of right to privacy, publicity or personality or any similar matter, or based upon or relating to the use and exploitation of my likeness.**

The terms of this Consent and Release begin on the date hereof and remain in effect unless revoked by me in writing. I understand that any such revocation may affect only future Works and will not apply to uses of my likeness that have already been publicly released. This Consent and Release will be binding upon the undersigned and his/her heirs, legal representatives, successors, and assigns. The terms of this Consent and Release will only be changed in writing. I waive any right that I may otherwise have to inspect or approve the Works containing my likeness.

**I have read this Consent and Release and am fully familiar with its content.**

I warrant and represent that I am of legal age and that I am free to enter this Consent and Release.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date signed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: If under the age of 18, a parent or legal guardian must execute the following:**

I approve and agree to the foregoing. My child/ward is \_\_\_\_\_ years of age. Child's DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date signed \_\_\_\_\_

Print Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted on behalf of Pathways: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_