

US Disability Rights Strategy

We want to live in a world where people with disabilities thrive as members of a powerful community and where disability is celebrated as an identity

To make that happen, Ford will contribute to US Disability rights in the following ways:

SHIFT THE NARRATIVE

Advancing a vision of disability as an identity to celebrate and a powerful community to advance equity.

EXPAND FUNDER COMMITMENTS

Increasing investments in disability-led organizations.

ADVANCE AN ECONOMIC JUSTICE AGENDA

Ensuring the inclusion of the disability community and its priorities in broader economic agendas by supporting advocacy organizations committed to the economic wellbeing of the disability community.

STRENGTHEN THE FIELD

Strengthening a field of vibrant disability rights and justice organizations that reflect the diversity of experience and identity of disability by:

- Influencing greater organizational inclusiveness
- Identifying priorities and advocacy agendas
- Providing support and capacity building
- Convening and fostering connections
- Increasing leadership capacity

Ford acknowledges there is significant work required to achieve justice for disabled communities. We believe we can be an influential and catalytic leader in these spaces.

IF WE...

THEN...

SO THAT...

ULTIMATELY

STRENGTHEN THE FIELD

- Convene and support disability rights and justice organizations to foster connections and identify common priorities and advocacy agendas;
- Strengthen organizations through institutional support and capacity building;
- Support BIPOC disabled leaders within disability rights and justice organizations by responding to leadership capacity needs; fostering networks; and providing professional development opportunities; and
- Influence greater inclusiveness of disability within social justice organizations.

A more coordinated disability rights field is led by stronger institutions that reflect the diversity of identity and experience of disabled people

Social justice movements increasingly incorporate disability rights and justice in their agendas, partner with disability rights and justice organizations, and hire disabled people, ensuring their inclusion.

A strong field of vibrant disability rights and justice organizations reflect the diversity of experience and identity of disability.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES THRIVE AS MEMBERS OF A POWERFUL COMMUNITY

ADVANCE AN ECONOMIC JUSTICE AGENDA

- Support advocacy organisations committed to the economic wellbeing of the disability community with a focus on:
- elimination of asset limits
 - elimination of subminimum wage
 - stronger supports around home and community-based care
 - disability inclusive labour and healthcare policies

Key policies and regulations have advanced at the national and select state level that provide critical economic supports to disabled people

The disability community and its priorities are always included in broader economic agendas.

SHIFT THE NARRATIVE

- Expand the profile of disability rights and justice work in the media
- Support strategic messaging around the intersections of disability and social justice and the power of the disability movement.
- Inform decision-making through research and data-collection that reflects disabled communities.

Disability comes to be seen by the public as a source of resilience and power, leading to decreased stigma and increased identification with disability

Disability is a celebrated identity and a powerful community to advance equity.

EXPAND FUNDER COMMITMENTS

- Shift the field of philanthropy into action by:
- Creating opportunities to bring other funders along with us
- Working collaboratively with philanthropy infrastructure groups

We will see increased funding commitments to supporting and integrating disability rights and justice into grantmaking portfolios and internal practices.

Investments in disability-led organizations increase greatly