



AWS Foundation Accessible Communities Fund

Guiding Principles

- Individuals with Disabilities deserve a **choice driven life** (self-determination). Preferences, opinions, priorities, and accommodations are best defined by the individual rather than for the individual.
- **Inclusion and Integration** are better than segregation when possible. The more inclusive and integrated an environment, activity, or program, the more it will benefit everyone.
- Opportunities are presented with a focus on **encouraging potential** rather than identification of limitations.
- Social settings that include **family and friends** are preferred. Age related peer groups and potential for new friends is ideal.
- ADA standards are the law and the minimum. Exceeding through the principles of **Universal Design** is desirable.
- Opportunities that enhance and support education and employment potential will contribute to **greater independence** for the individual.
- No one has all the answers. **Collaboration** increases the potential for greater opportunities.

These principles will guide and support grantmaking decisions through this fund.