

Small Grants Program



About the Program

The Program provides grants to civil society organizations through participating World Bank Country Offices and is guided by the Small Grants Program Secretariat and Steering Committee in Washington, D.C.

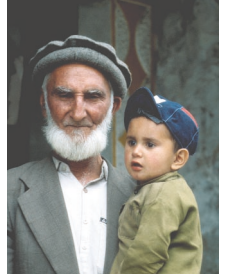
The Small Grants Program focuses on civic engagement for the empowerment of marginalized and vulnerable groups. The purpose of the Small Grants program is to support the empowerment of citizens to have greater ownership of development processes, thereby making these processes more inclusive, equitable and contributing to broad country ownership of development policies as envisioned in the Comprehensive Development Framework principles.

Crucial ingredients for empowerment of vulnerable groups include: access to information, access to organizational links outside the local domain, capacity to influence the public arena and to negotiate with local and national authorities, the existence of trustful national and local institutions, and the presence of enabling policy and legal frameworks for civic engagement. Civil society organizations perform a valuable role in engaging their fellow citizens in the fight against poverty and exclusion. Thus, the intended beneficiaries of the Small Grants Program are civil society organizations engaged in initiatives aiming at empowering groups and individuals that have been marginalized and excluded from the public realm.





To Apply for Funding



Contact the World Bank Country Offices where your activities are located. For contact information see

www.worldbank.org/smallgrantsprogram

Albania	Macedonia
Angola	Madagascar
Argentina	Mauritania
Armenia	Mexico
Azerbaijan	Moldova
Bangladesh	Mongolia
Belarus	Morocco
Bosnia	Mozambique
Brazil	Niger
Bulgaria	Nigeria
Burkina Faso	Paraguay
Burundi	Peru
Cambodia	Philippines
Chad	Poland
Chile	Romania
China	Russian
Colombia	Federation
Congo	Rwanda
Croatia	Senegal
Dominican	Slovak Republic
Republic	Tajikistan
Ecuador	Thailand
Ethiopia	Togo
Georgia	Turkey
Ghana	Turkmenistan
Guinea-Bissau	Ukraine
Hungary	Uruguay
India	Uzbekistan
Indonesia	Venezuela
Kazakhstan	Viet Nam
Kenya	West Bank Gaza
Kyrgyzstan	Yemen
Laos	Yugoslavia
Latvia	Zambia
Lebanon	Zimbabwe
Lithuania	



Civic Engagement Can...

- Promote public consensus and local ownership for reforms and for national poverty reduction and development strategies by creating knowledge-sharing networks, building common ground for understanding, encouraging public-private cooperation, and sometimes even diffusing tensions;
- Give voice to the concerns of primary and secondary stakeholders, particularly poor and marginalized populations, and help ensure that their views are factored into policy and program decisions;
- Strengthen and leverage impact of development programs by providing local knowledge, identifying potential risks, targeting assistance, and expanding reach, particularly at the community level;
- Bring innovative ideas and solutions to development challenges at both the local and global levels;
- Provide professional expertise and enhance capacity for effective service delivery, especially in environments with weak public sector capacity or in post-conflict situations; and
- Improve public transparency and accountability of development activities, contributing to the enabling environment for good governance.



How to Apply for a Grant?



The Small Grants Program is administered by participating World Bank Country Offices. Not all Country Offices participate in the Small Grants Program. Country Offices may have specific focus tailored to the country context of civic engagement. Guidelines and application forms are available from

participating World Bank Country Offices each January of each year. The Small Grants Program makes decisions only once a year, usually by May of the same year. Applicant organizations should apply at least four to six months in advance of the date that the grant activity starts. Applicants are advised to read the criteria and the application form carefully before submitting an application. Requests and proposals should not be sent to World Bank headquarters in Washington, D.C.



Who Can Apply?

Civil society organizations based in a developing country and working on development issues can apply.

Civil society organizations must be in good standing and have a record of achievement in the community and record of financial probity.

Priority will be given to organizations not supported by the Small Grants Program in previous years (organizations are not eligible for more than three grants from the Small Grants Program within a five-year period).

The World Bank Small Grants Program is able to fund only a very small percentage of the requests it receives. The demand for grants greatly exceeds the availability of funds.

What Kind of Activities are Supported?

The Small Grants Program supports activities related to civic engagement for the empowerment of marginalized and vulnerable groups. Civic Engagement is the process through which civil society organizations actively engage in relationships and actions with the state and other development actors to address issues of public concern.

Activities should promote dialogue and dissemination of information and enhance partnerships with key players in support of the development process. Key players could include government agencies, civil society organizations, multilateral and bilateral agencies, foundations, and private sector companies or organizations.

Activities may include, but are not limited to, workshops and seminars, costs for publications or audio-visual materials, or other innovative networking efforts that small organizations generally find difficult to fund through their regular program budgets. The activity should be completed within one year of the date the grant is awarded.

Small Grants cannot fund: Research programs, formal academic training programs, operational projects, ongoing institutional core support (such as equipment), scholarships, fellowships, study programs, individuals applying on their own behalf, or nonlegal entities. Proposed activities should not compete with or substitute for regular World Bank instruments; the activity should be consistent with the Bank's Country Assistance Strategy in any given country.

What Size of Grants are Awarded?

Most grants are in the range of \$3,000 to \$7,000 with a maximum of \$15,000. The Small Grants Program rarely funds more than half of the proposed budget for an activity, and therefore prefers that its grants help leverage additional contributions from other sources. Applicant organizations are asked to describe how a grant from the World Bank might help them to raise matching funds from other donors.



Examples of Activities

Dialogue for Development. The Small Grants Program grantees have promoted dialogues between local authorities and citizens, specifically targeting those who are marginalized, such as refugees, displaced persons, and returnees. The grants have enabled cooperation between NGOs and political parties for a greater involvement of civil society organizations in creating policies for the development of local and regional communities. The dialogue among the sectors (government, private sector, and independent sector) is expected to become an important driving force for overall democratization and an open discussion on key economic and social policy issues. It also contributes to promoting a culture of tolerance and nonviolent communications, particularly in poor communities.

Several Small Grants Program grantees' activities have focused on marginalized groups of people. NGOs have organized workshops to educate other civil society groups and produced accessible materials that have facilitated constructive dialogues among multi-stakeholder groups. In some cases, activities have built on an understanding of gender issues in the context of poverty reduction and have led to the participation of women in national decision making processes related to poverty reduction strategy processes. Activities help to bridge gaps between rural and urban interests; men and women; and young and elderly to share information and experiences about development processes.





Small Grants Program



The World Bank

Social Development Department

1818 H Street, NW

Washington, D.C. 20433

www.worldbank.org/smallgrantsprogram

www.worldbank.org/participation

pce@worldbank.org