

Funds for Free Knowledge

Wikimedia Foundation Grantmaking

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Wikimania 2012

Why grant?

- **Foster innovation outside the Foundation office: funds can bridge the gap between a good idea and a success**
 - By the community (incl. Chapters)
 - By outside partners
- **Support Wikimedia entities in working toward movement goals**
- **Support Wikimedia entities in building their capacity**

Wikimedia Grants Overview

- WMF has been offering grants since 2009
- Open to chapters (till 2011), now to **any individual or organization**, whether or not formally affiliated with Wikimedia or its projects
- Simple, **public** application, on the Meta-wiki

Wikimedia Grants Overview

- Open, public discussion
 - Community input and help via Grant Advisory Committee (GAC), advising both sides
 - sometimes frustrating
 - Infinitely better than just "No."
- Open, public decisions about proposals

An interlude in numbers

Percentage of grant proposals approved?

An interlude in numbers

94.5%

(52 approved in 2011-12 out of 55 proposals)

An interlude in numbers

How much money was
granted in 2011-12?

An interlude in numbers

\$971,517

Out of a \$1,052,772 requested,
i.e. 92% funded.

An interlude in numbers

- The **largest** grant awarded in FY 2011-12 was in the amount of USD 286,021.00 or EUR 218,485.00 to WMSE.
- The **largest non-annual** grant awarded in FY 2011-12 was in the amount of USD 40,000 or EUR 30,555.00 (WikiConference India)
- The **smallest non-annual** grant awarded in FY 2011-12 was in the amount of USD 255 or EUR 195 (CMDA IT Expo).
- Most non-annual grants awarded were in the **range** of USD 2,000.00 – USD 10,000.00 or EUR 1,500 – EUR 8,000.

Wikimedia Grants Overview

- Open, public reporting about executed grants
- Soon: systematic collection of learnings from grant-funded activities and grant reports.

What grants fund (low-fun version)

- General outreach events
- GLAM events
- Community workshops
- Research
- Reimbursements for Wikimedian content contributions (local travel; photo hunts; contest prizes)
- Fees, legal expenses, printing, misc.

>>> volunteer empowerment <<<

What grants do not fund (anymore)

Paid staff

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Participation Support

- Fund travel/accommodation for **community** members to **participate** in **non-Wikimedia** events to further the mission.
- Similar process: public requests and reports. Less discussion and quicker decisions.
- 13 requests funded in 2011-12; 2 not funded
86.7% approved
- Co-funded by WMF and WMDE
- **[[m:Participation:Support]]**

Some tips (before approval)

- Talk to your community
- Remember your proposal doesn't need to be perfect right away. (It's a wiki!)
- Be open to refinements of your proposal, or to requests to better align it with movement priorities, in terms of cost for benefit
- Monitor the talk page, interact with the GAC and with WMF



Some tips (after approval)

- Develop (but don't post) the grant report as things happen. You'll thank yourself later.
- Keep all receipts; number or categorize them for later
- Celebrate successes in public; Also share the difficulties. You'll thank yourself later.
- If you need to spend differently than the approved budget – it happens; talk to WMF
- Look for serendipity and side benefits

Q&A

Thank you!

[[m:Grants:Index]]

<http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Grants:Index>

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Wikimedia Foundation