Grants:
What if I need financial support?

Woubzena Jifar
Program Officer, Rapid Grants

WIKIMEDIA
FOUNDATION

Do you have ideas that will help you strengthen your community?

We're here to work with you.

Grantmaking Programs

PROJECT GRANTS
(Rapid & Biannual)

Funding online and offline projects. New experiments and proven ideas. For individuals, groups and organizations.

CONFERENCE SUPPORT

Funding large national, regional, and movement-wide conferences.

ANNUAL PLAN GRANTS

Funding programs, operating expenses, and staff/contractors for organizations and groups.

Conference & APG Grant changes

CONFERENCE GRANTS

- Regional conferences: Iberoconf, CEE, WikiArabia, WikiIndaba
- Thematic conferences: Education, Gender and ICT in Africa, Wikidata
- National conferences for emerging communities up to 10,000 USD

Program Officer: Open

APG GRANTS

- No new applicants to APG
- Current APG grantees can renew their grants at the same budget level*

Program Officers: Delphine Menard, Winifred Olliff

* Changes in effect July 1, 2018

Project Grants

RAPID GRANTS

- Individuals, groups, orgs
- Meet-ups, editathons, photo walks, contests, and more!
- Up to 2,000 USD
- 500 USD minimum*
- Apply 1st-15th of every month*
- 2 weeks for a decision

Program Officer: Woubzena Jifar

PROJECT GRANTS

- Individuals, groups, orgs
- Experiments or common projects
- Up to 100,000 USD*
- 2-3 months for a decision
- One round in 2018/2019*
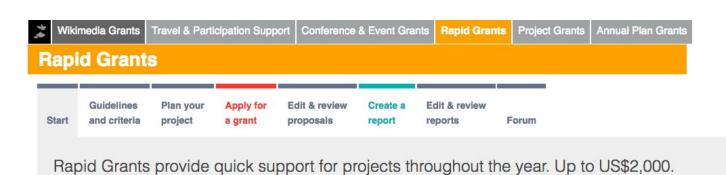 Open call: November 1-30, 2018

Program Officer: Marti Johnson

* Changes in effect July 1, 2018

WikiProject X

Rapid Grants

Rapid Grants provide quick support for projects throughout the year. Up to US$2,000.

The **Rapid Grants** program funds Wikimedia community members – individuals, groups, or organizations contributing to Wikimedia projects such as Wikipedia or Commons – to organize projects throughout the year up to US$2,000. Projects can include experiments or standard needs that don't need broad review to get started.

Applications are reviewed on a weekly basis by WMF staff. Rapid grants are meant to be simpler grants that can be reviewed in a short amount of time with limited back-and-forth with the grant applicant. There will be opportunities for revising your proposal, but we hope to make decisions quickly, within two weeks.

Examples of common requests:

- Food for your monthly community meet-up
- Expenses for a series of small edit-a-thons
- Reimbursement of bus tickets for a photo walk
- Prizes for an online writing contest

Proposals should support the achievement of Wikimedia's mission. All requests up to US$2,000 will be considered.

What makes a good grant request?

PROPOSAL

- Clear goals
- Concrete outcomes
- A good team
- Community engagement and support!

REPORT

- What did you do?
- Why does it matter?
- What did you learn?
- Beyond the numbers, what are the stories you're excited to share?

Who is the Community Resources team?

- Grants Director
- Grants Program Officers
- Grants Administrator
- Community Organizer
- Emerging Communities Support
- Conference Coordinator
- Grants Impact Strategist

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What support do we give?

- Help develop ideas and projects
- Mentor grantees and program leaders
- Facilitate grants committees
- Support capacity building for emerging communities
- Support networking and resource sharing

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Join a grants committee.

Volunteers help us make grant decisions.

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1. Define clear goals

Do not mix up goals and activities

~~Goal: organise a photo contest about butterflies.~~

Goal: increase photo coverage of butterflies on Commons

Goal: increase participation of butterfly photographers on Commons

2. Plan collaboratively

If you are applying for an affiliate/group,
ask for input from members/community

Translate proposal into your community's language
if it is not English
Let others help you set priorities or suggest improvements

A person in charge of the grant:
not the only person to ever read it

3. Explain your activities

Do not make others guess

Outsiders will read your grant application

If you are doing something for a while and it is very clear,
it might not be for others

Let someone from outside your community
to check your application before submission

4. Clarify local context

Things in your country may be different than elsewhere
It is normal, just clarify it

You need more money or efforts to reach a goal?
Explain what is that particular challenge

You excel at something and want to do more of it?
Fine, just briefly explain it

5. Discuss who does what
Don't decide it at the last minute

Check who will be interested in organising each activity

Someone has to keep track of expenses and write a report

Not enough volunteers for some activity?
Are you confident you will be able to find them later?
Perhaps you can make someone travel for it?
If too specific skills or too time-consuming, consider hiring

6. If you need staff, explain role

It should be clear why and what for you need staff

Titles do not matter much:
a Project Coordinator and an Executive Manager
can actually do the same thing

What matters is:
- what their tasks will be
- who they will interact with

7. Choose SMART targets

Targets are crucial to track your progress

SMART targets work much better:
Specific: is it clear what is this target about?
Measurable: can we find out if we succeeded?
Achievable: can we do it or it is just a dream?
Relevant: is the target linked to our main goal?
Timely: when can we check our progress on it?

8. Evaluate risks

Things can go wrong.
It is normal, but you can prevent some problems

Easiest: six-account limit (6 new accounts per IP per day)
Can easily spoil your workshop, easy to prevent (get rights)

More complex: Internet outage at the workshop venue
Hard to prevent, plan B is not easy
You can add an 'unforeseen' line to your budget for this

9. Show real community support

Do not make it a popularity contest

Community support matters but it's not a vote
Do not create an account for your cat to get one more vote

Less support is better if it comes from relevant people
Most relevant people: your target community(-ies)
Show honest support of this community if you can

10. Share successes and failures

Reporting once your grant ends is very important

Both you and others learn from successes and failures

What is a failure for you can be a success for others
Your failure can prevent someone else from failing

Your success can inspire others

How do I plan a project? (20 min)

Let's start with a pilot!

Take 5 minutes to look over the worksheet in front of you and then find a group of 3 - 4 to work through the five steps in your worksheet.

Connect with us!

General information: meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Grants:Start

Rapid grants: meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Grants:Project/Rapid

Project grants: meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Grants:Project

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