

Microgrant Q&A

Can I submit an application in a different language?

At this time, we are only accepting applications in English. We hope to expand our capability to work with different languages soon. If language is a barrier for you, we recommend working with partners and friends who can help you fill out the application and who can be a point of contact between you and the microgrant committee.

I have never participated in IDDS. Can I still apply for an IDIN microgrant?

IDDS participants have priority for microgrant funding. Applications from non-IDDS participants will be considered only after the applicant describes how he/she is engaging with an IDIN project. If you are an IDDS community member, please reach out to the IDIN microgrants committee at: idin.microgrants@mit.edu to find out what local resources are available for you.

Is my idea a good fit?

Check your proposal against the eligibility criteria, located on page one of the microgrant application form. If you are still not sure, you may send a one paragraph summary of your project to the IDIN microgrants committee at: idin.microgrants@mit.edu We will review it and provide you with feedback.

I am part of a team that is working on the same project. Who can apply?

The person who is taking leadership on the project activities should be the one applying for the microgrant. If selected, the responsibility for carrying out the project will rest only on him/her. If numerous former IDDS team members are still working on the same project, but separately (as individuals from different locations) they are all eligible to apply. In this case, each proposal will be assessed as a separate project and scored on an individual basis.

Do projects with ‘training’ components fit in the existing microgrant framework?

We support innovators that engage in co-creation. If your project has a training component, it is eligible for funding under the current microgrant framework. A strong application in this category will clearly articulate the outcomes of the training, and will be able to lay out a clear strategy for continuity and project sustainability.

I don't have a bank account. Can I still apply?

Yes, you are still encouraged to apply for a microgrant. We will work with you to find a solution.

Can I submit more than one microgrant proposal?

In the past, IDDS alumni who worked on multiple projects have achieved weaker results than those who worked on a single project. As a result we strongly encourage you to focus your resources and efforts. While you are welcome to submit multiple grant proposals, IDIN will only fund one project per applicant. When making a decision, the microgrant review committee will assess the strength of each of your proposals and select the best one.

I have already received an IDIN microgrant. Can I apply for another one?

Yes, you can receive a maximum of three IDIN microgrants for the same project. You are eligible to re-apply only after you complete all the reporting for the previous round of funding. If you are still partway through one microgrant cycle, you may not apply until that cycle is finished. The committee will use your current application and your performance on previous rounds to assess if you should be funded again.

Can IDIN provide me with guidance and feedback on a draft application?

The microgrant committee is unable to provide guidance and feedback on drafts; however, you are encouraged to send personal emails to IDIN Network members to ask for their feedback if they have time. Be strategic! Please do not send your application to the whole mailing list for feedback.

I don't have a partner institution or a community partner. Can I still apply?

Established partnerships are preferred, but not required. If you have not yet reached out to potential partners, please tell us your plans for doing so. We believe that partnerships can help with a number of areas with resources and expertise that may not be your strengths. Strong applicants will be able to demonstrate they can develop and maintain critical partnerships for their projects.

Can I use microgrant funding to pay for my project travel costs?

International travel is not eligible to be funded. However, in-country travel can represent up to 20% of total budgeted activities. Travel expenses should be on reasonably priced means of transportation (i.e. standard economy fares - not premium services).

What are the criteria for selection?

IDIN gives priority to well-crafted proposals for innovative, scalable projects that address basic social and environmental needs. When selecting recipients, IDIN seeks to fund across different sectors and locations. We look at the following:

- *The applicant (20%)*: What is your motivation and commitment to the project? Do you have the skills and experience to implement what you propose?
- *The project (20%)*: Is your project innovative? Is it addressing a real need? Will the proposed idea have social impact?
- *The context (20%)*: Does you have strong partnerships and support? Are you connected to the target community?
- *The sustainability model (20%)*: Is there a potential for scale and sustainability? Is there a market or a clear dissemination model?
- *The workplan and budget (20%)*: Is your timeline realistic and feasible? Is there a clear implementation strategy?

What is the review process for IDIN microgrants?

Submitted proposals are reviewed by a panel of individual reviewers, usually 4-6 per application. The review panel is comprised primarily of past IDDS organizers, IDIN Consortium members, and guest experts. In some cases, the microgrant committee may ask to interview the

applicant for additional information and/or clarifications.

How long does it take to receive money after submitting an application?

We will notify you on the status of your proposal within 30 days of the submission deadline. On average it takes around 2-3 months to actually receive the funding after you submitted an application. You should plan your microgrant activities accordingly.

What feedback can I expect if my proposal is not selected?

If your proposal is not selected, you will receive an email notification from the microgrants committee within 30 days of submitting your proposal. If you are interested in getting feedback on why your proposal was not selected, please let us know and we will provide you with a summary of reviewer feedback. Occasionally, if your proposal shows potential, we will invite you to resubmit it in a future round after certain concerns or questions are addressed.