

DIGITAL RESILIENCY GRANTS

CIVICUS CRISIS RESPONSE FUND AND DIGITAL DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Interested in applying for a Crisis Response Fund (CRF) and Digital Democracy Initiative (DDI) digital resiliency grant? Find answers to specific questions about the application process, grant implementation requirements, reporting requirements and how the grant funding is disbursed.

- What do the CRF-DDI digital resiliency grants cover?

The grants support resiliency responses or activities that proactively avoid and mitigate imminent civic space restrictions, struggles, threats and barriers and/or “help civil society continue to do work” s more inclusive democracy. These responses could be focused on helping mitigate digital threats, threats to digital civic rights, threats to civic engagement and inclusive democracy in the digital space, and broader civic space threats that could be countered or mitigated by using digital technology and building digital resilience. The grants do not provide funding for advocacy activities or projects not related to imminent civic space threats or emergencies requiring a rapid response.



- How much money is offered?

These grants provide up to USD 10,000 (ten thousand United States dollars) for one organisation submitting a funding application alone and up to USD 20,000 (twenty thousand United States dollars) for joint applications between two or more organisations.

- Who funds the CRF-DDI digital resiliency grants?

The CRF-DDI digital resiliency grants are co-funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the European Union as part of the [Digital Democracy Initiative](#).

- Can I cover personnel and core costs like rent with funding from the CRF-DDI digital resiliency grants?

Yes, personnel and core costs, such as rent, ordinary internet access and other overheads, can be covered at a proportion commensurate with the activities undertaken in the grant. Given that the grants prioritise an emergency and urgent response, most of the funds (60%) requested must cover project activities for implementation. Subsequently, up to 30% of the budget can be dedicated to personnel and up to 10% to other overhead costs.

- Is there a deadline to submit applications?

No. We receive and review applications throughout the year.

- Can informal/non-registered civil society groups apply?

Yes, the grants are accessible to formal/registered and informal/non-registered civil society organisations and groups.

- Can my group or organisation apply from anywhere in the world?

Applicants for the CRF-DDI digital resiliency grants must be based in a global south country currently receiving Official Development Assistance from the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee ([click here to check the list of countries](#)). Priority is given to applicants from countries where civic space is rated "obstructed" or "repressed", according to the CIVICUS Monitor. Review the CIVICUS Monitor ratings: <https://monitor.civicus.org/>

Disclosure: The CRF-DDI digital resiliency grants are open to funding responses in countries where civic space is rated "closed" when there is sufficiently demonstrable evidence that actors in these contexts can receive and utilise the resources towards achieving project goals and objectives, meaning that sending funding to these countries must be possible and implementing the grant must be doable.

- Can international non-profit organisations working in the Global South apply?

No. The grants support local civil society organisations, groups or social movements. By local civil society, we mean diverse civil society actors (individuals, organisations, human rights defenders, grassroots groups, etc.) established and operating in their own country, led by and primarily accountable to the local constituents they serve or represent.

- Do you only accept funding applications in English?

We currently accept funding applications in English, French and Spanish. *Please note that while we receive applications in these three languages, we can only process contracts and receive narrative and financial reports in English. This means that successful applicants who are awarded a grant must sign official contracts in English and submit their reports in English.

- How long does it take to know if my funding application is approved?

If the application abides by the protocols listed and the partner verification process is not hindered, partners can expect a 4–6-week turnaround processing their application, contracting and initial disbursement of funds.

- How is the funding disbursed to successful applicants?

The CRF-DDI digital resiliency grants are issued through a tranche system. In general, partners receive a first tranche payment of 40% of the grant upon signing the sub-partnership agreement. After submitting interim progress reports (narrative and financial) and meeting agreed deliverables, a 30% payment is disbursed. The remaining 30% is paid after submitting the final narrative and financial reports.

- What reports are required during the implementation of the grant?

During the project's implementation, partners must submit monthly narrative and financial updates and join monthly check-in calls. Additionally, they must submit one or two interim financial reports (depending on the length of the grant). Reports should include implementation status to date, highlights, opportunities, policy and practice changes, successes or challenges and financial records. Relevant report templates will be provided. Final narrative and financial reports are also required.

- What happens if I need to change the budget during the implementation of the grant?

In the event of unforeseen circumstances, partners can make budget reallocations across each budget line. The total changes must not exceed 10% of the overall budget. If the required changes are beyond 10%, partners must submit an amended budget to the CRF-DDI officer for approval. Partners are not authorised to spend more than the approved budget in the contract.

- What happens if unforeseen circumstances delay the implementation of the grant?

As soon as partners become aware of any delays, they must inform the CRF-DDI officer and explain how the project activities will be affected. If partners need a project extension, they must request it at least one month before the project end-date registered in the contract. The CRF-DDI team will then decide case-by-case if a no-cost extension is approved.

- What do I do if my organisation or consortium faces additional threats while implementing the grant?

As soon as partners encounter additional threats while implementing the project, they must write to ddiresiliencygrants@civicus.org, detailing the threats and additional resources and support needed. Our team will explore if it is possible to provide support, for example, by referring the cases to CRF partners like the Emergency Assistance Programme at the Lifeline Consortium held by Frontline Defenders and Freedom House.

- What reports and when must be presented following the completion of the grant?

Partners must submit final narrative and financial reports after the completion of the project or as indicated in the contract. Additionally, an impact report is due three months following the completion of the project. Failure to submit these reports will be noted and influence all future partnerships with CIVICUS.

- What supporting documents are required for the financial and narrative reports?

a. For financial reports: partners must submit the financial report completed in the provided template, all receipts, invoices and payments in English (or translated into English), and proof of the exchange rate used for payments.

a. For narrative reporting: partners must submit the narrative report completed in the provided template, all reports created during the project and all multimedia and news articles related to the project activities.

- How long after submitting final reports is the final tranche paid out?

Partners can expect the final tranche payment around 14-20 working days following the approval of final reports.

- Can I apply for additional funding following the completion of my grant?

You can re-apply two years after receiving a grant. The CRF-DDI digital resiliency grants are designed to support as many organisations at risk as possible. For this reason, partners are not encouraged to consider these grants as a source of long-term resourcing. We encourage partners to explore other funds that provide longer-term funding and support. If possible, we might suggest other funds that could provide additional support to applicants.

MORE INFORMATION



For any other questions related to funding applications, please email ddiresiliencygrants@civicus.org



Visit the main webpage of the Crisis Response Fund to explore other funding opportunities:
<https://www.civicus.org/index.php/what-we-do/defend/crisis-response-fund>



Learn more about the Digital Democracy Initiative:
web.civicus.org/DDI

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