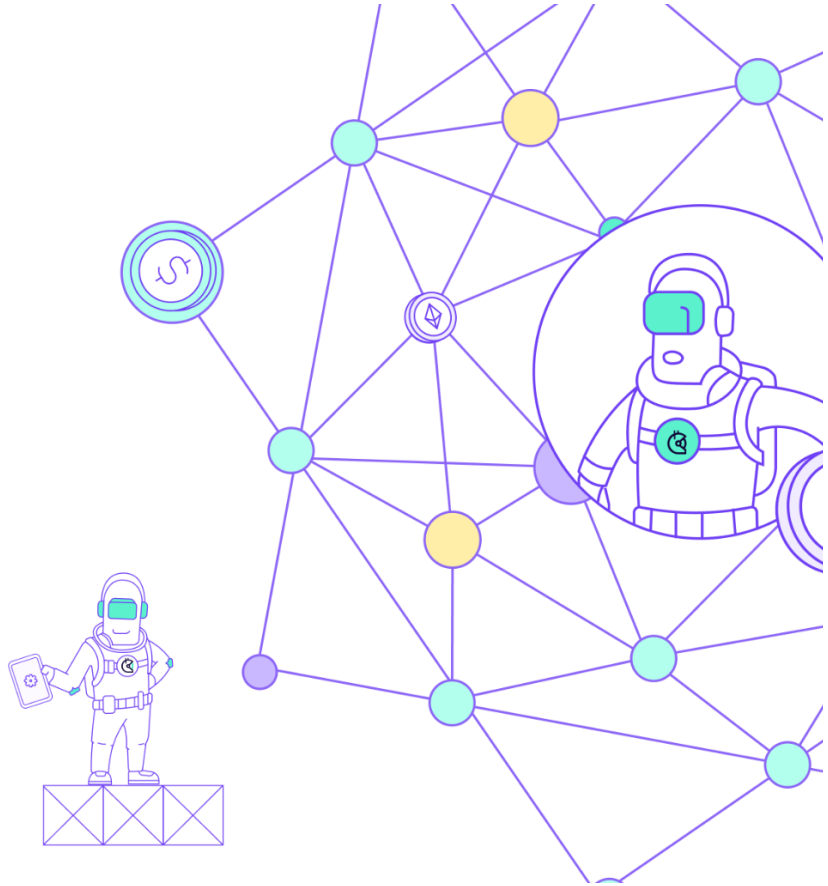# 5-POINT VOTING

Semi-decentralized eligibility criteria for Gitcoin Grants

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INTRODUCTION

Gitcoin Grants is a platform that facilitates the funding of open-source projects leveraging blockchain technology and quadratic funding. This means that developers all around the world could "take an existing project and secure funding that takes the project to the next level."

Being a community-led initiative, the barrier of entry is purposely lowered to accommodate different types of projects and diverse developer profiles. However, this leaves the matching pool exposed to Sybil attackers whose sole aim is to extract as many funds as possible from the matching pool.

Exploiters may employ various methods to game the system, by submitting dummy or fake grants hoping to pass through any available crack. But over the years, the Gitcoin community has been able to set filters and screen grants for eligibility but it constantly needs to stay on top to keep the initiative sustainable.

Therefore, in this brief article, I will think like an exploiter and propose eligibility criteria capable of stopping other exploiters in their tracks.

METHOD

The 5-Point voting method as I call it requires all grant applicants to vote on other grants on a scale of 1 - 5, with 1 indicating least eligible, and 5 indicating most eligible.

After the voting period ends, the average of every grant application is calculated and grants with an average greater than (>) 3 are automatically deemed eligible. Grants with an average score of less than 3 are filtered out and taken through manual review.

RATIONALE

The main bone of contention here is whether grant applicants be willing to vote since the whole process is contingent on them. First, I believe that if there is any group of people who can identify projects that are not eligible, the grant applicants are the most qualified. Also, it will be in the best interest of applicants to protect the matching pool by voting to keep ineligible grants out.

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FEASIBILITY

Looking at the data from the just-ended Grant Round 15, there were 1,504 grant applicants which provide a large enough sample size worth executing the voting round. The voting process could be implemented as a web application with a simple user interface displaying project info in a card-like manner in which voters could assess, make judgments, and cast their votes.

The averages will be calculated on the backend and the review team will take over at the end of the voting period to manually take a second look at grants that did not make the cut. To avoid filtering out false positives, the review team will look at grants that scored exactly 3 because that's where they're more likely to be.

LIMITATIONS

The 5-Point eligibility criteria come with two main disadvantages. The first is that it will be very hard for voters/graders to spot duplicates. Since voting is done on a rolling basis, I strongly doubt that graders will be able to easily spot duplicates. The second is false negatives. Grants that are not eligible might slip through the criteria without detection.

CONCLUSION

The 5-Point criteria, as proposed will be a great addition to grading grants eligibility in Gitcoin Grants. Grant applicants are better informed to grade and they also have it in their best interest to protect the matching pool.