

**Investigative Grants in Public Health**  
**Call for Applications to Study Regulatory Approval Process for AYUSH Products**

Applications are invited for two (2) grants for investigative reporting in public health in India. Applications are due latest by August 15, 2020 and must be submitted online at [www.thakur-foundation.org](http://www.thakur-foundation.org). This document contains the description of the grant, eligibility guidelines and application information.

**General:**

Thakur Family Foundation is a Corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Connecticut, United States of America. One of its core activities is encouraging scholarship and promoting activities defined as scientific and educational within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, more specifically focusing on the promotion of Public Health.

The Investigative Reporting Grants in Public Health are designed to support writers, print and broadcast journalists, documentary filmmakers and other individuals with an interest in investigative reporting in the area of public health to engage, inform, create a debate to inform policy making and its implementation.

Grants are for a duration of four months; the recipients are expected to undertake reporting activities full time during the term of the assignment. Assignments begin September 1, 2020 and run through December 31, 2020 with an expected publication of the work product from the grant in January 2020.

The grant pays INR 250,000 for the duration of the assignment; INR 50,000 per month in compensation and up to INR 50,000 in substantiated reporting expenses.

For additional information about the Foundation and its activities, visit our [website](http://www.thakur-foundation.org).

## **Part I: Guidelines**

### **Project Focus:**

The focus of these investigative grants is to answer the following question:

How are Ayurvedic products developed, tested, approved by regulatory authorities, marketed and manufactured under the current regulatory structure?

### **Eligibility:**

Applicants are expected to be working as full-time writers, print or broadcast journalists, documentary filmmakers with well-established record of publication, exhibition, and dissemination in local, regional and national media market. We will consider relaxing this requirement should we determine that a particular proposal meets a critical reporting need and is of a high standard.

### **Education:**

All applicants must have a college degree or its equivalent and publications in reputable newspapers or magazine or digital news portals.

### **Time Commitment:**

The grants are for a duration of 4 months beginning September 1, 2020. The assignment must be the applicant's only full time work during the course of the grant period.

### **Deliverables:**

The applicants are expected to write/produce approximately a 15,000 word long-form investigative piece or a series equivalent of the same number of words or a 25 minute documentary or series of videos equivalent of a 25 minute documentary to be published in a reputable media outlet of their choice on the subject/topic of the grant.

The deliverable must aim to reach its intended audience during the term of the grant, i.e., we will not support projects that involve only research, planning or other activities that simply "lay the groundwork". The recipients must acknowledge the support of the Foundation when they publish their work at a media outlet of their choice.

The Foundation will exercise no editorial control over the deliverable from this assignment.

### Preconditions:

As a part of the grant proposal, applicants are expected to provide a commitment from an established media house indicating its willingness to publish/broadcast/telecast the work product of this assignment within 30 days of the end of the assignment. Applications without this commitment/undertaking will not be considered.

### Application and selection process:

The application process has three stages. Stage 1 is the submission of a proposal to the Foundation. Stage 2 is the screening and selection of applications for award. Stage 3 is the notification of the award to the recipient and commencement of the project.

Applications are accepted only via the Foundation's website through the Grants page. The timelines for submission and notification of award are available in Part II of this document.

A jury of seasoned professionals drawn from public health, journalism, the judiciary and the bureaucracy will review the applications and make the awards. Members of the jury and their respective background are available on our [website](#). Applicants may be asked to refine their proposals post review should the jury consider it appropriate.

Once selected, grant recipients may be invited to attend an orientation/briefing to understand and familiarize themselves with the requirements of this assignment.

### Compensation:

- 25% of the grant will be disbursed at the beginning of the assignment
- An additional 25% will be disbursed halfway through the assignment upon establishing that the project is on track to meet its timelines and objectives
- The remainder 50% will be disbursed once the product of the assignment is published

All recipients of these grants are responsible for payment of taxes as appropriate. The Foundation will deduct no taxes and bears no responsibility toward paying taxes on behalf of the recipients.

### Legal & Contractual:

The selected awardees shall execute a contract between themselves and the Foundation for this assignment.

Grant making policies governing these investigative grants for Public Health are available for review on the Foundation's website. (<https://www.thakur-foundation.org/grant-making-policies.php>).

## **Part II: Application**

To apply, submit a completed application along with all the supporting documentation to our online system ([www.thakur-foundation.org](http://www.thakur-foundation.org)) latest by August 15, 2020 11:59 PM IST.

Applications are accepted only via the foundation's website. Applicants must complete their applications for grants on the prescribed form. This form becomes available once applicants register on the Foundation's website.

Once registered, applicants will be able to submit a brief proposal (no more than five pages, single spaced), a resume or bio (no more than two pages, single spaced that includes a list of most recent published work), and a work sample.