

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### President's Challenge

#### **(A) Eligibility**

**1. Can two organisations collaborate to apply for President's Challenge?**

Yes, organisations can collaborate to deliver the proposed project. However, there should only be one application form for the proposed project. The collaborating organisations should decide who is the applicant and how they will divide the funding. The applicant must have an IPC status. If the application is successful, President's Challenge Secretariat will liaise only with this applicant, which will receive the funding and be responsible for the requirements stipulated in the Terms and Conditions (refer to [link](#)).

**2. Is it mandatory to include arts and sports components in the proposed project?**

No, it is not mandatory to include arts and sports components in the proposed project.

**3. Is it mandatory for proposed projects to encompass both volunteerism and multiracialism/cross-cultural appreciation? Does this include corporate volunteerism?**

While it is not compulsory for the proposed projects to include volunteerism and/or multiracialism/cross-cultural appreciation elements, applicants are strongly encouraged to do so. Projects that promote volunteerism and/or multiracialism/cross-cultural appreciation through well-defined strategies will be assessed favorably.

For volunteerism, there should be well-defined roles and clear descriptions of how the use of volunteers will benefit service users, with specific examples provided. This includes corporate volunteerism.

**4. What are some examples of applicable projects?**

There are diverse approaches to uplifting the aspiration, abilities and potential of individuals who start with greater odds. Some examples include: 1) mentoring programmes for at-risk youths to build their socio-emotional competencies, leadership qualities and aspirations, which could include arts and sports components, 2) community development project that seek to foster positive and meaningful engagements of marginalised groups.

#### **(B) Application and assessment**

**5. How do I fill in the information for the following sections?**

**(i) Team's experience**

Please provide information (i.e. name, role, skills/qualifications, experience) of each team member who is implementing the proposed project. There is no need to submit detailed CVs of each team member.

**(ii) Theory of Change**

The Theory of Change must be detailed enough to encompass all critical elements that contribute to achieving the project's goals. It must show the causal links between an intervention and its intended outcomes, with each link ideally backed by

research/evidence. It must clearly articulate the change process brought about by interventions.

For reference, you may refer to the [NCSS Services Standards Playbook](#)- Chapter 3 on Adopting & Establishing the NCSS Service Standards on how to develop a Theory of Change.

Please attach the Theory of Change when you submit your application form (you may use your own template). If you are applying for more than one project, each project must have its own Theory of Change.

**(iii) Budget Sheet**

Please indicate the *total* projected income and operating expenditure required for the proposed project using the [Budget Form](#). If the application is successful, President's Challenge will fund operating expenditure that is not covered by other income sources and incurred during approved funding period. The amount of President's Challenge is capped at up to \$100k per annum for up to 3 years for each approved Category 1 project, and up to \$300k per annum for first three years and up to \$200k and \$150k for 4th and 5th year respectively for each Category 2 project. Successful applicants will be informed of the approved budget for each project.

**6. Which government agency or President's Challenge sector administrator should we seek endorsement from for Category 2 applications? Does the project need to have been funded by these agencies before?**

In identifying the endorsing agency, you should determine the policy owner of the issue/ problem that your project is addressing. You may also have worked closely with the endorsing agency on the proposed project. The project need not have been funded by the endorsing agency, government agency or President's Challenge before.

When you contact the endorsing agency, please do the following:

- a. Provide sufficient information to justify project need and demonstrate a proven track record of successful outcomes, preferably spanning at least three years (e.g. credible evidence to justify need for project, evaluation findings, survey/ testimonials from end users and/or key partners etc.) to enable the endorsing agency to assess; and
- b. Give sufficient time for the agency to assess the project and provide its [endorsement](#).

**7. What does the sustainability requirement under Category 2 entail?**

Sustainability refers to your plans for the programme after President's Challenge funding ends. This may include ceasing the programme with responsible transition of the service users or securing of alternative funding sources such as fundraising and revenue generation activities (e.g. fee charging).

**8. For the scalability requirement under Category 2, is there an expected timeframe to scale the project?**

No, there is no fixed timeframe for scaling and it need not take place within the funding period. To recap, a project's potential to scale is defined by the size of the issue/gap that the project is proposing to address.

**9. Do we need to propose unique outcome indicators to cater to the project design?**

The agency shall propose the intended output and outcomes for each proposed project. For Category 1 projects, this will refer to the total number of service users and number of volunteers (if applicable). For Category 2 projects, this will refer to the number of new cases, total cases and closed cases, as well as client output and outcome indicators. President's Challenge Secretariat/ Sector Administrators will review the proposed outcomes and discuss with the applicant if there is a need to revise. Any change to the proposed outcomes shall be mutually agreed between the applicant and President's Challenge Secretariat/ Sector Administrator.

**10. Can I put up a proposal for my project if I have yet to secure a permanent location for my project?**

Yes. Nonetheless, the proposal should demonstrate feasibility in executing the project, which includes the plans and timeline in securing the location to implement the project. All approved funding shall be utilised by the end of the funding period, with the intended outcomes achieved.

**11. How many proposals can I submit? Can I submit the same project for both Category 1 and Category 2 funding to increase my chances of approval?**

Each agency can submit a maximum of 3 project proposals in total across Categories 1 and 2. For each project, please select only one funding category that best fits your project and needs. For projects submitted under Category 2 and found unsuitable, President's Challenge Sector Administrators may assess the project under Category 1 instead if it meets the Category 1 criteria.

**12. Is reapplying for funding for the same project allowed under President's Challenge?**

Yes, you may reapply for funding for the same project that was previously submitted under President's Challenge. As there is a refresh of the President's Challenge from 2025, past President's Challenge supported projects (President's Challenge 2024 and earlier) will be considered as new applications in President's Challenge 2025. Nonetheless, moving forward, reapplications in for the same project will be deprioritised.

**(C)Funding**

**13. How do we secure a multi-year grant?**

In your application, you must clearly demonstrate the need for multi-year funding in the project design, including what is to be implemented and the intended outcomes each year, with corresponding estimated project income and expenditure. The President's Challenge Secretariat / Sector Administrator(s) will evaluate your application to determine if a multi-year grant is necessary.

**14. Does President's Challenge support capital expenditure?**

Capital expenditure can only be funded if it is a project-related cost which contributes directly to the outcomes of the proposed project i.e. achieve upliftment for service users.

You should not include the capital expenditure as a project-related cost if it is needed by your organisation even without the project-in-application (e.g. central functions, structural safety works etc.).

**15. Does President's Challenge support the impact evaluation of projects?**

The budget requested for impact evaluation will be assessed on a case-by-case basis (i.e. whether there is strong value to evaluate). The project budget should still focus primarily on project delivery costs.

**16. If my project is unable to fully utilise the approved funding for the year, can I carry forward the balance amount to the next year?**

Unless otherwise stated by President's Challenge Secretariat, you may carry forward unutilised funding to the following year so long as the expenditure is incurred within the approved funding period. There should be no change to the deliverables within the approved funding period. Any unutilised funding at the end of the approved funding period shall be returned to President's Challenge. No extension will be granted at the end of the funding period.

**(C) Reporting**

**17. If my agency manages to secure additional funding from other sources for the project during the funding period, do I need to inform President's Challenge Secretariat?**

If you receive funding from other sources for the approved project during the funding period, you must record this income in the annual Income and Expenditure statements. The amount of funding that you receive from President's Challenge will correspondingly be reduced, as President's Challenge only supports expenditure that is not covered by other funding sources. Any unutilised funding shall be returned to President's Challenge at the end of the funding period. This applies to projects approved under both Categories 1 and 2.

**18. Are audited Income & Expenditure statements required for reporting?**

For all Category 1 and 2 projects, you are required to submit the project's annual Income and Expenditure statements that are certified\* by the President/Chairman, Treasurer and Executive Director of the agency.

In addition, for Category 2 projects that receive an average of \$250,000 or more during the first three years of funding, an *additional annual audited* Income and Expenditure statements after the close of agency's Financial Year is required.

All President's Challenge fundings are to be classified as restricted funds in Income and Expenditure statements and used solely for the approved purpose(s) only.

*\*If your agency does not have the required signee(s) to certify the Income and Expenditure statements (e.g. your agency has a CEO instead of Executive Director), please inform President's Challenge Secretariat of the equivalent signee(s) when you submit the statements.*

## **(E) Administrative matters**

### **19. What do I need to include in my application? Do I need to email my application form in Word/PDF format to President's Challenge Secretariat?**

There is no need to email your application form to President's Challenge Secretariat.

All applications must be submitted via <https://go.gov.sg/pc2025grant> by 22 Nov 2024 with the following attached:

- ✓ **Budget Forms** (one budget form per project)
- ✓ **Acceptance of Terms and Conditions** Form
- ✓ **Letter of Endorsement** (for Category 2 projects only)
- ✓ Agency's **audited financial statements** from past 2 years
- ✓ **Other relevant documents** that explain why your project should receive funding e.g. Theory of Change, evaluation findings, data etc.

### **20. What if my CEO or Executive Director is not around to sign off the Acceptance of Terms and Conditions?**

If you foresee that your CEO or Executive Director may not be able to sign the Acceptance of Terms and Conditions form by the submission deadline of 22 Nov 2024, please arrange for him/her to officially delegate (in the form of a letter) to another personnel to sign on his/her behalf. This delegation letter is to be uploaded and submitted in the application form.

### **21. Can the submission deadline be extended?**

No, there will be no extension of deadline. Please submit your application by 22 Nov 2024.

### **22. When will the results of my application be released? Will unsuccessful applicants be informed?**

Application results will be released by around Q2 2025 (Apr-June 2025, indicative). All applicants can refer to President's Challenge website for the announcement of successful applicants.

### **23. Can I appeal the decision if my application is unsuccessful?**

All decisions made are final. No appeals will be considered.

**For any other enquiries, please email President's Challenge Secretariat at**

**[pc\\_enquiry@ncss.gov.sg](mailto:pc_enquiry@ncss.gov.sg)**