

## President's Challenge 2025 Launches New Fellowships

**SINGAPORE, 28 MAY 2025** – President Tharman Shanmugaratnam launched the President's Challenge 2025 today during a visit to Netball Singapore – one of the organisations receiving funding this year for programmes to nurture talents, especially among the disadvantaged – under the refreshed President's Challenge.<sup>1</sup>

2 He also launched the new President's Challenge Fellowships – to develop new approaches in the social sector; support individuals bouncing back from major setbacks; and to recognise outstanding career achievements among ITE graduates.

3 The President's Challenge will be partnering with several philanthropic and impact partners in supporting the benefitting organisations and enabling the Fellowships. A new logo to reflect the refreshed President's Challenge, based on proposals from young design talent, was also unveiled.

### President's Challenge Fellowships

4 The Fellowships recognise and empower individuals along three tracks:

- **Civic Action:** Empowers seasoned social sector professionals, through full-time and part-time sabbaticals over 1-2 years, to deepen their expertise and develop new approaches for achieving social good.
- **Springboard:** Empowers individuals bouncing back from challenging circumstances, enabling them to embark on new career paths. It will support individuals who have faced major disadvantages or setbacks in life, and are determined to overcome them, by helping them embark on new pathways through education and skills or entrepreneurship training.
- **ITE Inspire:** Recognises individuals who have achieved remarkable career or entrepreneurial success following a technical education background, so as to motivate youth, the ITE community, and others in the community to develop

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<sup>1</sup> The President's Challenge, refreshed from 2025, aims to promote a culture of unity and respect for all. As announced last year, the refreshed President's Challenge seeks to:

- **Develop talents and abilities** in every field, especially among those facing disadvantage. This includes the **arts and sports** as fields for nurturing potential.
- Introduce **President's Challenge Fellowships**. These will include fellowships for seasoned professionals who aim to develop new approaches in the social sector, individuals who are bouncing back from major setbacks, and ITE alumni with outstanding and inspiring career achievements.
- Shift to a **more sustained funding** for beneficiary organisations, typically from three to five years, to help achieve better and more lasting **social impact**.
- Work with selected **Philanthropic Partners and Impact Partners** to leverage on their resources, networks and capabilities.

themselves to the fullest. Those chosen for this Fellowship will serve as role models and mentors for others walking a similar path.

5 Applications for the Civic Action and ITE Inspire tracks may be submitted from 3 June to 18 July via the President's Challenge website. Nominations for the Springboard track in the first year will be sought through agencies in the social and civic sectors.

6 The President's Challenge has established partnerships with **Quantedge Foundation, Temasek, Singapore Institute of Management, Institute of Technical Education and Singapore Business Federation Foundation**, to support the fellowships by leveraging their expertise, networks and capabilities.

### **Broadening Opportunities in the Arts and Sports**

7 The refreshed President's Challenge has extended its focus to include the arts and sports as fields for nurturing potential. The **National Arts Council (NAC)** and **Sport Singapore (SportSG)** have been appointed as Impact Partners in talent discovery, especially among those from less advantaged backgrounds, and to support their development.

8 Under its partnership with SportSG, the President's Challenge will:

- Support the **Enabling Sports Fund** – to expand **community-initiated disability sports** and support **early identification of talents** among young people with disabilities.
- **Enable a significant broadening of access to sports** for all, through SportSG's Academies & Clubs' offerings, and by supporting more inter-school sports competitions and carnivals.

9 The President's Challenge will also support **expansion of NAC's and SportSG's scholarships, to empower more individuals to develop their aspirations in the arts and sports.**

- NAC is expanding its Arts Scholarships aimed at nurturing the next generation of leading artists, who can help renew and shape Singapore's cultural identity, and grow its creative economy.
- SportSG's new spexEducation Undergraduate Scholarships will assure our TeamSG athletes of support for their academic studies and enable them to focus on achieving sporting excellence.

### **President's Challenge 2025 to Support 60 Programmes for Social Impact**

10 The refreshed President's Challenge, with its emphasis on **achieving social impact through the upliftment of capabilities**, has received significant interest. Its

grant call attracted applications from 272 programmes, more than twice the number for 2024<sup>2</sup>.

11 However, greater selectivity was required, to enable more **significant and sustained funding** of worthwhile programmes, with the aim of achieving **greater social impact**.

- President's Challenge 2025 will support 60 **programmes** (from 52 organisations)<sup>3</sup>. Despite the much larger number of applications, this is a smaller number of programmes than the 88 awarded in 2024, so as to make possible more significant and longer-term funding for beneficiaries.

12 These include a **higher tier of funding** of \$715,000 to \$1,250,000, spread over five years, for each of the **six selected programmes** as listed below, which have established track records and potential for significant social impact.

- **Life Community Services Society** (Life! Mentors)
- **Morning Star Community Services** (Carenights)
- **New Life Stories** (Family Strengthening Programme)
- **Riding for the Disabled Association of Singapore** (Equine Assisted Activities)
- **SHINE Children and Youth Services** (Youth Community Outreach Patrol – Scale up)
- **Yayasan Mendaki** (Women At Work Programme)

13 As an example, New Life Stories' *Family Strengthening* programme seeks to build resilience among children of incarcerated parents and their families, helping them achieve their potential. The programme mobilises the community to equip children with essential skills and competencies for positive development, while strengthening family bonds.

14 President's Challenge will also support **54 other programmes** with funding of \$105,000 to \$300,000 for each programme, spread over three years. These programmes too are aimed at uplifting individuals and achieving social impact. They are being piloted or have potential to move to their next stage of growth. The full list of these programmes is at Annex C. They include for example:

- Netball Singapore's *Netball Rising* programme – is a new initiative to nurture potential athletes aged 12 – 17 from underprivileged backgrounds. It provides regular coaching and competitive opportunities for the youths.
- Playeum's *Open Minds, Open Doors* programme creates inclusive play opportunities for children with disabilities and their families, in order to foster connection and build skills.

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<sup>2</sup> The President's Challenge received applications for 117 programmes in 2024.

<sup>3</sup> A few organisations will receive grants for more than one programme

15 To amplify the impact of donations, the \$250 million **SG Gives Matching Grant** announced at Budget 2025 will provide dollar-for-dollar matching by the Government for all donations to the President's Challenge. The Government will match donations at a higher rate of \$1.50 for every dollar donated for corporates committing to multi-year giving of at least \$250,000 annually, over three years from 2025 and 2027.

### **New Visual Identity selected from among entries by Young Talents**

16 To reflect the new identity of the President's Challenge, a logo competition was launched earlier this year, opened to students enrolled in our Polytechnics, Institutes of Technical Education and the University of the Arts Singapore. The competition drew 153 entries.

17 The winning design by **Xandrea Alfie Isa from Temasek Polytechnic** will be the new logo of the President's Challenge. It provides a simple but powerful emblem, evoking a community rising together, driven by heart and purpose. Along with Xandrea, four other students were also recognised for their outstanding designs.

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## **Annex A – President’s Challenge Fellowships**

**The Fellowships will feature three tracks to support individuals from different backgrounds:**

### **1. Civic Action**

<b>Aim</b>	<p>The track empowers social sector professionals to develop further expertise and new approaches for achieving the social good.</p> <p>Hosted by Singapore Management University’s (SMU) Lien Centre for Social Innovation and Singapore University of Social Sciences’ (SUSS) School of Social Work and Social Development, it offers 1- or 2-year sabbaticals for full-time or part-time fellows, respectively to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explore new approaches to achieving social impact, based on existing evidence or fresh research they undertake (including in collaboration with researchers).</li><li>• Pursue experimental projects aimed at advancing the civic good – either within their existing organisations or in new settings.</li><li>• Gain knowledge or experience in new areas, including in adjacent fields to social sector work, that could support them in leading future initiatives.</li></ul>
<b>Target Segment</b>	Singapore citizens, with minimum 5 years of work or active volunteering experience in social services or civic sector.
<b>Modality</b>	Fellows will have access to academic resources, mentorship, and networks. They will have time to ground their ideas in real-world contexts and build capabilities for broader adoption, as well as develop and pilot impactful civic initiatives.
<b>Supported by</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Quantedge Foundation</li><li>2) SMU</li><li>3) SUSS</li><li>4) President’s Challenge</li></ol>

## 2. Springboard

<b>Aim</b>	The track supports individuals who have faced challenges or setbacks in life and are motivated to bounce back and embark on new paths. It provides them with the opportunity to develop capabilities, pursue long-term employability, and grow new initiatives, thereby enabling them to <b>develop their fullest potential</b> .
<b>Target Segments</b>	Individuals who have overcome significant odds/disadvantaged situations and have shown potential to do well, including ( <i>list is non-exhaustive</i> ): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds;</li> <li>• Ex-offenders;</li> <li>• Women facing vulnerable circumstances;</li> <li>• Individuals overcoming setbacks in life, such as recovering from extended illness or major accidents, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Modality</b>	The selected fellows can choose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Option 1: Education and Upskilling for Employment</b> by selecting suitable learning and personal development programmes (not limited to Singapore Institute of Management's (SIM) academic programmes) to gain new qualifications and practical skills; and/or</li> <li>b) <b>Option 2: Education and Upskilling for Entrepreneurship</b> to kickstart initiatives to contribute meaningfully to the workforce and wider community.</li> </ul>
<b>Supported by</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) SIM</li> <li>2) Temasek</li> <li>3) President's Challenge</li> </ol>

### 3. ITE Inspire

<b>Aim</b>	The track recognises ITE alumni who are role models, having done well and achieved success in their careers, to inspire more to rise to all they can be.
<b>Target Segment</b>	Alumni from ITE and its predecessor institutions [which include Trade Schools, Vocational Institutes and the Vocational and Industrial Training Board (VITB)].
<b>Modality</b>	ITE will facilitate the shortlisting and selection of up to five awardees. As role models, awardees will commit to motivating and inspiring more to develop their fullest potential by organising programmes such as mentoring, learning journeys and industry visits locally and/or overseas, conduct workshops or fireside chats to uplift and benefit the ITE community.
<b>Supported by</b>	1) ITE 2) Singapore Business Federation Foundation

## **Annex B – President’s Challenge Impact Partnerships**

1	<p><b>The NAC Arts Scholarship (Degree)</b> for degree programmes and new <b>NAC Arts Scholarship (Diploma)</b> for diploma studies will broaden access to arts education and help to uplift young artistic talents including those from underprivileged backgrounds, enabling them to pursue an arts education, grow their career aspirations, and become future leaders in the arts sector.</p> <p>The new NAC Arts Scholarship (Diploma) will be made available for selected arts programmes offered by School of the Arts (SOTA), Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) and LASALLE College of the Arts.</p> <p>Information about NAC's scholarships can be found on NAC's website. More details on the next cycle of scholarship applications will be shared closer to date.</p>
2	<p><b>The Enabling Sports Fund</b> will support impactful community-initiated disability sports initiatives that encourage more persons with disabilities to discover their interest and potential in sports, as we build a more inclusive society through sport and identify sporting talents at an earlier age.</p> <p>More details on the fund and application process will be released when it is launched later this year.</p>
3	<p><b>SportSG</b> will expand its sports outreach through programmes offered by ActiveSG Academies &amp; Clubs (A&amp;Cs) and its partners under the Associate Partners Scheme (APS). In addition, SportSG will partner with schools to provide more competition opportunities, e.g. inter-school sports competitions and carnivals, for students to enjoy sport and build stronger communities.</p> <p>More information can be found on <a href="#">ActiveSG Academies &amp; Clubs</a> website.</p>
4	<p><b>The SpexEducation Undergraduate Scholarships</b> will enhance the employability of Team Singapore athletes and viability of a sporting career by supporting athletes who are keen to pursue undergraduate studies. There are two tracks under the programme – the Dual Career track, where athletes can continue their competitive sporting careers while pursuing their studies, and the New Career track, where athletes can pursue their studies after retiring from competitive sports.</p> <p>More information on the scholarship can be found on Singapore Sports School website.</p>



**Annex C – Organisations and Programmes Supported by President’s Challenge 2025**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Name of Organisations</b>	<b>Programmes</b>
1.	Abilities Beyond Limitations and Expectations Limited (ABLE)	Social Health Integration
		Community Reintegration
		Sustainable Employment
2.	Allkin Singapore Ltd	Club Infinity
3.	Ascending Hope Community Services Ltd*	Food For Hope
4.	Autism Association (Singapore), Eden Centre for Adults	Towards supported or independent living for autistic adults
5.	Beautiful Mind Charity	Employment Program: Pathway to Financial Independence
6.	Bizlink Centre Singapore Ltd	Work Therapy Programme
7.	Blessed Grace Social Services Limited	Bakery Rehabilitation Project
8.	Bowling Association for the Disabled	Enhancing Existing Para Bowling Competitions and Fun Bowl Programme
9.	Boys’ Town	Boys’ Town Sanctuary Care
10.	Centre For Seniors	Empowering seniors in purposeful longevity
11.	CHILDREN-AT-RISK EMPOWERMENT ASSOCIATION	Mentoring Programme
12.	Club Rainbow (Singapore)*	Care Connection – a Caregiver Support and Empowerment Program
13.	Credit Counselling Singapore*	Proposal for Administration of Debt Relief for Families on COMLINK Plus
14.	Down Syndrome Association (Singapore)	Community Support Network
15.	Equestrian Federation of Singapore	Youth Seeking New Opportunities

16.	Filos Community Services Ltd	Project P.E.E.R
17.	FootballPlus Ltd*	Champions Unlimited
18.	Good News Community Services	Good News Homeless Outreach Program - Bridging Forward
19.	HCSA Highpoint Halfway House	STEP UP Initiative
		HCSA Highpoint: Action In Motion Society (AIMS)
20.	<u>iC@RE HUB LTD</u>	iTAP - individual Transitional Accommodation Programme
21.	Impart Ltd.*	Common Ground
22.	Lakeside Family Services	The GRIT Academy (TGA)
23.	Lawn Bowls Association for the Disabled	Short Mat Bowls
24.	Life Community Services Society	Life! Mentors
25.	MINDSG LTD (Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore)	MINDS Caregivers Support Services
26.	Morning Star Community Services Ltd	Carenights
27.	National Gallery Singapore	Gallery Wonders
28.	Netball Singapore*	Netball Rising
29.	NeuGen Fund	Beyond the Walls: Family ReUNITE
30.	New Life Stories	Family Strengthening Programme
31.	NUHS Fund Limited	Nourish & Thrive: Empowering Communities for Health and Sustainability
32.	Persatuan Permudi Islam Singapura(PPIS)	Enhancement of Aftercare Services
		Therapeutic Interventions for Foster Families: Healing from Trauma and Building Resilience using Creative Arts
33.	Playeum Ltd	Open Minds Open Doors: Building Pathways to Inclusive Communities through Play
34.	Presbyterian Preschool Services Ltd.*	Educational Support Programme (ESP)
35.	Rainbow Centre Singapore	Friends for a Good Life - Developing a community of befrienders and advocates for persons with disabilities
		Good Life Boarding (GLB)

36.	Riding for the Disabled Association of Singapore	Equine Assisted Activities (EAA)
37.	RiverLife Community Services Ltd	BLESS Mums
38.	SCWO (Singapore Council of Women's Organisations)	Single Mothers Programme
39.	SHINE Children and Youth Services	Youth Community Outreach Patrol (COP) – Scale up
		Reading Odyssey
40.	SPD	EmpowerConnect: Inclusive Contact Centre Pathways for Persons with Disabilities
41.	St Andrew's Autism Centre	Dignity of Work Programme
42.	SUN-DAC	Seed of Hope (Urban Farming Programme)
43.	Tasek Academy and Social Services Ltd	Finding your feet: Tasek Football-cum-Mentoring for Character Development
		Youth Hub: Wraparound support for growth
44.	The Community Justice Centre Ltd	Access is empowerment – Empowering self represented persons through enhancing the ease of use of court processes and services
45.	The Helping Hand Halfway House	Support Healthy Living for Elderly Ex-Offenders
46.	The Salvation Army	Kids In Play (KIP)
47.	The TENG Company Ltd.*	TENG Gives Back
		In-School Programmes for Targeted Students (At-Risk Youths and Individuals with Special Needs)
48.	TOUCH Community Services Limited	ADAPT Programme
49.	Yayasan MENDAKI	Women At Work (W@W) Programme
50.	Yellow Ribbon Fund	YRF Skills Training Assistance to Re-start (STAR) Bursary Case Management Services
51.	Yeo Boon Khim Mind Science Centre	The Autism Social Emotional Resilience (ASER) Program for National Curriculum Students
52.	YMCA of Singapore	Vocational and Soft Skills Programme (VaSSP) 2.0

*Note: Organisations marked with an asterisk (\*) are new benefitting organisations under President's Challenge*

### **Annex D – New President's Challenge logo**

This logo, titled Guided by the Heart, is a thoughtfully designed symbol that visually embodies the values of unity, empowerment, and upliftment. At the heart of the design, the letters P and C are crafted into a continuous loop, representing the unbreakable cycle of unity and inclusivity. Together, the elements create a powerful and meaningful emblem that reflects a community rising together, driven by heart and purpose.

