Creativity Pioneers Fund 2025 Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL INFORMATION

Q: What is the goal of the Creativity Pioneers Fund?

A: The Creativity Pioneers Fund aims to create a platform for organizations that recognize creativity as a catalyst for positive social transformation. The grant recipients enter a global ecosystem where they can connect with peer organizations and access learning, mentoring, and networking opportunities. Participation in this platform can enable like-minded organizations to create a movement of Creativity for Social Change.

Q: How can I apply to the Creativity Pioneers Fund?

A: You can register, complete, and submit your application via the following online platform (applicationformcpf.org), which is available in four languages: English, Italian, French, Spanish. Look at the full application guidelines to see all the required steps.

Q: Is English proficiency required to be part of the Creativity Pioneers Fund?

A: English proficiency is not a requirement to apply for or participate in the Creativity Pioneers Fund (CPF). However, English is the primary language used for program communications, sessions, and training. To fully engage with the opportunities provided, we strongly recommend that at least one core team member be fluent in English to serve as your organization's main representative.

Q: Are there examples of organizations already supported in the past years?

A: Yes, you can see here the list of former Creativity Pioneers: https://creativitypioneersfund.org/dataviz

Q: What can I do if I face technical issues with the application submission?

A: Contact <u>info@creativitypioneersfund.org</u> for urgent technical questions. The deadline for the open call is April 7th (5:00 pm CET). We strongly recommend submitting your application early to allow time for resolving any potential issues. Once your application is successfully submitted, you will receive a confirmation email within 24 hours. If you do not receive it, please contact us.

Q: When will I know if I have been selected for the Creativity Pioneers Fund?

A: You will be notified by the end of July 2025 regarding your selection for the Creativity Pioneers Fund. If there are any delays in the selection process, we will

provide updates through our social media channels and newsletter. To stay informed, we recommend subscribing to our newsletter.

Q: What is the duration of the support?

A: The grant covers one year of programming. However, we work to create longterm relationships with all the Creativity Pioneers, as the grant is only the starting point of a longer journey. Once the organizations are selected to be part of the network, they can access further financial and non-financial opportunities.

Q: How many organizations will receive the grant this year?

A: The final number depends on the quantity and quality of the applications we will receive. In 2024 we supported 50 organizations.

Q: How much is geography a factor that influences the selection of the organization to support?

A: The Creativity Pioneers Fund is a global program. We try to balance the final group of selected organizations with a diverse geographical representation, but geography itself is not a key factor in the selection process.

Q: Can I apply again if I was not selected in a previous year?

A: Yes, you are welcome to apply again this year if your application has not been successful the previous time.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND ELIGIBILITY

Q: How will my application be assessed?

A: Applications will be reviewed by a Selection Committee with the Creativity Pioneers Fund's programme staff, representatives from the partner foundations, Creativity Pioneers from previous cohort and external jury members.

Q: Can I apply in a language other than English?

A: Yes, applications can be submitted in English, Italian, Spanish, or French. Submissions in other languages are not taken into consideration.

Q: I have a disability and need assistance with submitting my application. Do you accept applications in other formats?

A: We are committed to making the application process accessible to everyone. If you have a disability or require assistance, or if you prefer to submit your application in an alternative format, please contact us at <u>info@creativitypioneersfund.org</u>. We are happy to provide support and ensure the process is as inclusive as possible.

Q: Our organization doesn't work in the creative and cultural sectors. Can we still apply to the Fund?

A: The definition of creativity for us is inclusive. It goes beyond the idea of sectors and is more related to creative skills development. By creative skills, we mean those attributes - such as creative doing, critical thinking, change-making attitude, and lifelong learning - essential to tackle our most pressing social challenges. We are interested to understand how you center creativity as a mindset, an attitude that underlies all your organization's work.

Q: We do not work only with youth, but we engage multiple communities and target audiences. Can we still apply to the Fund?

A: Yes. We are interested in having a complete overview of your organization, so do not leave out essential parts of your work even though they are not explicitly related to the criteria of the Fund. If you serve multiple target audiences and work across different age groups, tell us more about your work and give us the whole picture.

Q: We have a project that we would like to support with the grant of the Creativity Pioneers Fund; how much should we tell about it in our application?

A: We recommend that you describe your organization in its entirety. However, if you want to talk about a specific program or project, you can always add a description to your application. We want to build a long-lasting relationship with the Creativity Pioneers, regardless of specific projects they might have planned for a particular time of the year.

Q: Can you explain more about what you are looking for regarding our track record? We are a relatively new organization.

A: We do not penalize organizations that have little track record. The Creativity Pioneers can be organizations born many years ago, as well as new and small organizations. If you have little experience as an organization, provide a clear plan about your work and how you intend to achieve your mission.

Q: Does the organization need a physical location, or can it be present online? Can it work across various countries?

A: It is not mandatory to have physical space. You can apply even if you operate online. It will help us to understand if there are any physical/digital spaces that bring together communities and facilitate the generation of impact. We welcome organizations that operate in multiple countries.

Q: If our organization is brand new and does not yet have beneficiaries, do we put zero, or do we put an estimated number of beneficiaries?

A: We recommend providing an estimated number of beneficiaries and explaining that it is not an actual number but a projection.

Q: We are a collective. How can we respond to your question regarding the founder of the organization?

A: We want to understand your leadership style, whether it is based on an individual or a collective. You are welcome to provide multiple biographies of your founders.

Q: Some Partners of the Creativity Pioneers Fund are also among our donors. Will this be a problem?

A: No, it will not be a problem.

Q: Our organizational budget heavily depends on the fundraising results and how many grants we win during the year. What should we indicate in the question related to our annual operating budget?

A: We ask you to give us a general overview of your annual budget, so please indicate an average number. If your budget presents huge differences and fluctuations from year to year, please explain to us why.

Q: Can I receive individual feedback on my application?

A: Due to the high number of applications, we cannot provide personalized feedback.

Q: Can I apply as an individual or informal collective?

A: No unfortunately, the Creativity Pioneers Fund is only open to legally registered non-profit organizations.

Q: What cannot be funded?

A: The Creativity Pioneers Fund does not fund individuals, for-profit entities, unregistered organizations, organizations affiliated with political parties or engaged in political campaigning, involved in religious or lobbying activities, and with legal or reputational concerns. Please refer to the guidelines for full eligibility details.

FORMAL REQUIREMENTS

Q: What is the valid certification document for the organization's registration?

A: Any official, legalized, and registered certification is valid, e.g., a ministerial document, registered statute, Register entry, etc. If the documents are not in English or Italian, please upload a translation of these (we accept also noncertified translation).

Q: Due to political reasons in our country, we could not register as a non-profit but as a limited liability company. Are we eligible for the Fund?

A: Unfortunately, no. As a foundation, we can only provide funding to non-profit organizations. However, if you are registered as a for-profit entity due to local

governmental restrictions on the third sector but operate substantially as a nonprofit, please email us. We are open to evaluating your specific situation on a caseby-case basis.

Q: Does the organization have to be registered at the moment of the application? Is it a problem if my organization is currently in the process of finalizing its registration?

A: We can only fund registered non-profit organizations. If you are in the process of registering, we will accept the application, but you will need to prove your registration no later than June 2025.

Q: If we receive the grant, is there any specific requirement or expectation on how to mention the Partners of the Creativity Pioneers Fund?

A: There is no specific formal request, but we would be glad if you mentioned the Creativity Pioneers Fund and its Partners in your communications. First and foremost, we work to amplify the stories of the Creativity Pioneers. If your organization is selected, we will ask you to share visual materials that we can use to create dedicated communication content and storytelling activities.

Q: Is the financial documentation mandatory?

A: No, financial documentation is not mandatory. While not mandatory, submitting financial statements from the previous year will help us better understand your organization's financial structure and needs.

Q: Does my organization need a registered bank account?

A: Yes. If your organization is selected, a registered bank account is required to process donations. As the program does not support individuals, donations cannot be made to personal bank accounts. Your organization must have a bank account capable of receiving donations in euros (from Italy) or US dollars. Important Note: If your organization faces political or regulatory restrictions preventing it from receiving donations from the EU or US, we encourage you to propose alternative solutions that align with our guidelines. Each case will be evaluated individually.

Q: How will my data be processed?

A: When you provide us with personal information, we take the necessary steps to ensure it is treated securely. Data collected through the application platform will be used to assess your application and may be shared with external reviewers. Additionally, it will be used for due diligence checks, anonymized statistical analysis, and program evaluation. For more details, you can read our full privacy policy <u>here</u>.

FUNDING AND REPORTING

Q: Are there any expenses we are not allowed to cover with the grant?

A: The grant cannot be used to fund illegal activities, political party activities or campaigning, religious activities, or personal expenses (e.g., loans, debt repayments, accommodation, or general living costs). For full details, please refer to the section related to eligible expenses of the program guidelines.

Q: What organizational costs can we cover with the grant?

A: The grant can be used to cover costs associated with staff, programming, consultancies, traveling expenses, etc. More information is provided in the guidelines.

Q: How will the Moleskine Foundation provide the funding? Will it be given to a specific program or the organization as a whole?

A: Since this is an unrestricted grant, we will not tell you how to use the funding. You are free to allocate the resources according to your priority and needs. We will donate the grant via bank transfer by December 2025. The Fund is intended to give help to the organization as a whole. You will not be asked about your program, but we do expect you to fill in your expectations and how you feel this amount can help facilitate your activities, and what you would like to get out of joining the Creativity for Social Change platform.

Q: When and what information shall we provide in the reporting?

A: We will ask you to send us a final report at the end of 2026. Please note that is report does not serve as restrictive financial reporting. It will include a qualitative part through which we can understand if and how being part of the Creativity Pioneers Fund has impacted your work and a budget section that will allow us to see what the grant has been used for.

> You didn't find an answer to your questions? Please contact: <u>info@creativitypioneersfund.org</u>

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