



FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) for FY15 INNOVATE DC

If you have questions about the **INNOVATE DC** grant, call 202-724-5613 or contact:

- Derek Younger, Special Assistant at derek.younger2@dc.gov
or
- Moshe Adams, Director of Grants at moshe.adams@dc.gov

Do you have to be an arts and humanities organization to be the lead applicant?

No. You do not have to be an arts or humanities organization to be a lead applicant. However, a history of providing arts and humanities programs does greatly strengthen an application.

Can project activities start within the April 1-September 30 period and continue from October 1 and beyond?

No. All Innovate DC project activities and expenditures must be completed by September 30, 2015.

What is meant by a “strategic departure” from my standard practices?

Innovate DC is a new approach to grant making from the DCCA. The goal is to support creative, innovative and groundbreaking projects that are outside of an applicant’s “business as usual”. The DCCA is looking to encourage pioneering and inventive projects that use the arts and humanities to impact District residents.

Does Innovate DC require a match?

Innovate DC does require a match, however, that match is much more flexible than in years past. A match is any resources outside of the grant that go toward the execution of the project. For the first time, the DCCA is allowing applicants to determine the quality and quantity of that match. Normally, the DCCA requires a dollar for dollar match. Providing a cash match is allowable but it does not have to be dollar for dollar. ***In-kind contributions are allowable for Innovate DC!*** Some examples of in-kind resources are: donated services, cash, donated venue use, etc. The only restriction is that there must be other resources put toward the completion of the project outside of the grant award. *DCCA will not fund 100% of the project costs.*

Will projects outside the District of Columbia be considered?

Only projects presented in the District of Columbia will be considered, however collaborations are encouraged with individuals and entities inside or outside the District of Columbia. The lead applicant and the project must reside in the District.

My organization is located in Laurel, MD but we work almost exclusively in DC. Am I eligible to apply for Innovate DC?

No. In order to be a lead applicant, you must meet all of the eligibility requirements that are listed in the Innovate DC guidelines. The partners and collaborators that you choose are entirely up to you.

What are some types of organizations that my organization can collaborate with?

Applicants may collaborate or partner with organizations such as private corporations, government agencies, artists consortiums, financial institutions, research firms, political think tanks, etc.

Can I partner/program with DCPS or a charter school if my organization is an eligible lead applicant?

Yes.

Can I partner with organizations outside of the District of Columbia?

Yes, the Innovate DC grant allows partnerships with any organization, business or artist outside of DC. However, the lead applicant must meet all of the eligibility requirements that are listed in the Innovate DC guidelines. All types of partnerships and collaborations are encouraged.

Is adding 2 weeks of programming to our annual festival an eligible project for Innovate DC?

It is eligible but it is not a strong proposal. On its own, the project does not speak to a “visionary idea that is a strategic departure... from standard practices,” which is the most heavily weighted criteria for Innovate DC. Additionally, the Innovate DC grant is created to support initiatives that are original, in development, or have not yet been realized. Simply adding programming onto a preexisting project is not the strongest fit for Innovate DC.

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