

[Application acceptance has closed]

Activity Grant

General Guideline

For Fiscal Year 2024



Contents

Objectives	2
Overview	3
1. Fields eligible for support	3
A. Social activities based on the spirit of religious principles	3
B. Grass-roots activities deployed in a local community	3
2. Issues of particular interest to the NPF this year (FY2024).....	4
3. Method of determination.....	5
4. Grant amount.....	5
5. Supporting period.....	5
6. Requirement for successful applicant (Report submitting)	5
7. Procedure in general	5
8. Schedule.....	5
Contact :.....	5
Appendix:.....	6

Objectives

Peace is the desire of all humankind.

Many people in many nations are working unstintingly to bring it about. In spite of this, enormous problems still exist. How best to handle them is the task facing us today.

The causes of obstructions to peace are manifold, ranging from those involving the individual, the family, the local community, and the nation through problems involving nature and the environment. It is no overstatement to say, however, that the way human beings themselves live is the root of these problems. In times like these, a religion that teaches peace and tolerance has an important role to play.

Based on these considerations, the Niwano Peace Foundation promotes interreligious understanding and cooperation. It also strives to strengthen cooperation among people actively making continuing efforts, in a religious spirit, to achieve a peaceful society.

The Foundation does not support any specific religious group. Respecting the uniqueness of all religions and embracing the spirit of tolerance, it aims to build a world of peace and coexistence. The Foundation makes grants in order to actively encourage activities undertaken in the spirit of religious principles grounded and conducted in such a way as to invite broad social participation.

*This program has been conducted by the sponsorship of the Rissho kosei-kai Donate-a-Meal Fund for Peace Since 2005.

Overview

1. Fields eligible for support

Grant will be provided for activities as described in items A or B below;

A. Social activities based on the spirit of religious principles

Social activities based on the spirit of religious principals are defined as those undertaken for individual and community welfare and peace, both physical and spiritual, based on the spirit of religious principles that emerge from reverence for God, Buddha, or other universal spiritual reality.

In particular, these include peace-making activities related to education, volunteer work, development cooperation, environmental protection, human rights or the social problems of aging societies done in the spirit of religious principles which transcend religious boundaries.

B. Grass-roots activities deployed in a local community

Activities to vitalize local communities through interdisciplinary workshops and meetings with particular emphasis on collaboration by groups and individuals from diverse organizations and religious groups.

It is expected that local communities will come up with some new values with an independent mind.

Examples would be workshops and outreach programs to inspire people to think about how people living in faraway countries are related to their own lives, or to encourage development of local activities in which people "think globally, and act locally."

※ Project/Activity eligible for support

- a. Practical activities, short-term or long-term, directly related to peace building.
- b. Activities which stimulate activities not only in one's own field but as well in other fields and can be creative and pioneering models for realization of peace.

NPF also pay attention to the following points;

- Activity should be specific and target serious issues in society.
- Activity that approaches the problem using innovative and effective methods.
- Outcome of the activity has sustainability and has a broad impact, and those functions are built in as a system in the activity.

※ Project/Activity ineligible for support

- a. Activities undertaken for the benefit of a specific religious group.
- b. Activities based on or for the advancement of a specific political ideology.
- c. Activities for profit.
- d. Activities the purpose of which is holding conferences only as such.
- e. Projects for which the applicant's primary intention is to publish the results of activities. (This does not apply to past grant recipients.)
- f. Grants are not scholarships as such, and are not to be used as financial support for Study abroad.

2. Issues of particular interest to the NPF this year (FY2024)

This year, the NPF is particularly interested in activities that address the following issues while meeting the "areas of focus" listed above.

- Poverty
- Migrants, Refugees and Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs)
- Gender disparity
- Initiatives by religious organizations and believers to address social issues (including the use of religious facilities)
- Effective use of technology

Of the total number of projects to be granted, approximately half will be the projects which addressing these issues.

However, the projects to be granted are not limited to activities that address these issues.

※ Important notice: Strategy for this year (FY2024)

1. Strategy for this year (2024):

Priority of the Activity Grant for this year (FY2024) will be given to projects related to poverty in Japan.

The Niwano Peace Foundation recognizes that the problem of poverty in Japan is rapidly and severely worsening.

Considering this serious situation, the Niwano Peace Foundation will give priority to support projects related to poverty in Japan implement by organizations of Japanese nationality.

※ This strategy is not mean that the target is limited to Japanese national in Japan only. Other nationalities in Japan are also eligible.

※ This is a priority but not a concrete and permanent policy of the Activity Grant of the NPF.

※ Despite this year's strategy, the grant does not fundamentally limit the applicant's nationality, location of activity, grant target, or issue.

2. Current status of difficulty to be selected as a counterpart:

Recent years, only extremely limited number of applicants has been becoming counterparts despite hundreds of applicants.

Recent years, NPF have been receiving vastly large number of applications from around the world and is extremely excessing our supporting capability. Unfortunately, the number of actual counterparts which NPF can select is merely limited. In fact, the probability of being adopted and becoming a counterpart is less than 5%.

(In detail, please refer to "Appendix: Data on Applications and Approval for recent years" added on the bottom of this guideline).

Although NPF regret our limited capacity for not being able to responds the expectations of many applicants, we would like to ask you anew to make a prudent consideration whether you actually apply to the Activity Grant of our foundation or not, reflecting the aforementioned situation.

3. Method of determination

Among applications, few successful applicants will be selected by the Screening Committee, specifically sets up for this activity grant scheme. Selection meeting will be held once in a year.

4. Grant amount

The grant amount which one applicant can apply will be up to 1,000,000 Japanese Yen.
(For foreign applicant, the grant amount which one can apply will be up to some USD equivalent to 1,000,000 Japanese Yen)

After screening and determination by Screening Committee, actual amount to be provided can be sometime reduced than original amount in applying.

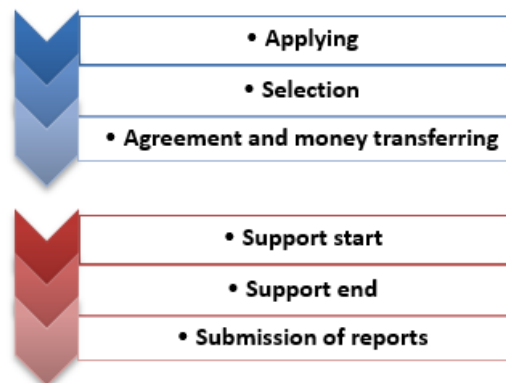
5. Supporting period

Providing grant is for one year, from 1st April to 31st March in every year.
Extensional or renewal support may not be operated. However, one can apply the same activity for next fiscal year if submit application anew.

6. Requirement for successful applicant (Report submitting)

Successful applicant will be required to submit a narrative report and financial report about granted activity, after finished supporting period.

7. Procedure in general



8. Schedule

Schedules of important dates are as follows;

Starts application receiving at NPF	2024,	October 28
Deadline application receiving at NPF	2024,	November 28 (not later than Japan time 28th (23:59))
Selection and determination	2025,	End of January
Agreement and money transferring	2025,	End of March
Activity starts by support	2025,	April 1
Support end	2026,	March 31
Report submitting (Deadline)	2026,	April 30

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Appendix:

Data on Applications and Approval for recent years (Includes area wise views)

Fiscal Year	FY 2020		FY 2021		FY 2022	
Area	Application received	Approved	Application received	Approved	Application received	Approved
Africa	118	4	106	4	235	3
North America	9	0	5	0	9	0
Latin America	9	2	22	0	16	2
Europe	8	1	13	4	15	0
Asia	72	3	57	3	77	7
Oceania	1	0	0	0	4	0
Total	217	10	203	11	356	12
The probability an application could be approved	4.6%		5.4%		3.4%	

The number of projects that the Activity Grant Program can provide as its support is approximately 10 projects per year. The reason of this number is that the total budget for this grant program in the NPF is approximately 10 million Japanese yen, and that 10 million Japanese yen is allocated with a maximum of 1 million yen per project.