Applicant Eligibility Guide

As a US-based 501(c)(3) public charity, Mozilla Foundation supports projects that advance our mission through grantmaking to a variety of entity types worldwide. This guide outlines our general eligibility requirements for project-based grants. Please review eligibility requirements carefully prior to submitting a grant application.

Eligible Applicants

We accept applications from:

- US-based 501(c)(3) nonprofits
- Non-US nonprofits with legal status equivalent to 501(c)(3), ideally with an [equivalency determination certificate](#)

While the grant applicant must be a 501(c)3 organization or global equivalent, we encourage partnerships and collaborations between nonprofits and startups, consultants, and other technology experts.

For-profit social enterprises will be considered on a case-by-case basis for mission alignment.

Basic Requirements

All applicants must:

- Be able to legally receive funds from a US organization (via check, ACH, or wire transfer)
- Be able to legally enter into a grant agreement with Mozilla Foundation
- Have a bank account that accepts USD payments OR accept responsibility for exchange rates and bank fees
- Not be located in or majority-owned by entities in OFAC-sanctioned countries, and not be a named sanctioned individual or entity

Project Requirements

Funded projects must:

- **Serve a charitable or public benefit purpose** according to US law – your work should advance education, research, public welfare, environmental protection, human rights, or similar charitable goals. Grant funds must support projects that produce public outputs such as open-source code, documentation, educational resources, or community-serving tools.
- **Produce public resources** – While projects may involve individual participants or for-profit entities, the primary beneficiaries must be the broader public rather than private individuals or companies. Projects with commercial potential are welcome and

encouraged, as long as they create substantial public benefit through the creation of open toolkits, research, and other educational assets that benefit the public

- **Align with open practices** – Projects must embrace openness, transparency, and community stewardship as methodology. Grant-funded outputs should be openly licensed and shared publicly to benefit the broader community
- **Meet any program-specific requirements** – Projects must meet any additional eligibility guidelines outlined in the program's call for proposals
- **Be independently conducted** – Projects directly supervised by Mozilla or primarily benefiting Mozilla should be structured as contracts, not grants.
- **Limit equipment and asset purchases** – Grant funds generally cannot be used to purchase equipment or other valuable assets that will remain in private hands at the conclusion of the grant project. If your project requires specialized equipment, please discuss this with us during the application process.

Mozilla-Affiliated Applicants

Additional criteria apply if you have existing connections with Mozilla Foundation:

- Current Mozilla Fellows may not receive other grants during their fellowship but may apply for funding that begins after the fellowship concludes.
- Previous grantees must have completed all spending and reporting requirements before applying for new funding.
- We cannot fund individuals with immediate family members employed by Mozilla Foundation or organizations whose leadership/shareholders are currently employed by or contracted with Mozilla Foundation.

Important Notes

As a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, the Mozilla Foundation is absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating or intervening in any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for elective public office, or taking any other actions which may favor one candidate over another.

Additionally we cannot fund projects that:

- Intentionally engage in illegal activities (even for advocacy purposes)
- Primarily benefit private individuals rather than the public
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- Discriminate based on protected characteristics

We cannot provide tax advice to applicants. Note that non-US applicants may be subject to US tax withholding on activities conducted in the US.

Due Diligence

We approach due diligence as a collaborative process to set projects up for success. Rather than viewing verification as bureaucratic gatekeeping, we work with applicants to understand context, identify potential challenges early, and ensure appropriate support structures are in place. We may request documentation such as references, financial statements, or organizational records, and we're committed to making this process as transparent and proportionate as possible.