

2019 Investigative Reporting in Public Health Grants Call for Applications and Guidelines

Applications are invited for nine (9) grants for investigative reporting in public health in India. Applications are due latest by May 24, 2019 and must be submitted online at www.thakur-foundation.org (the online system will begin accepting applications on April 20, 2019). This document contains the description of the grant, eligibility guidelines and application information.

General:

Thakur Family Foundation is a Corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Connecticut, United States of America. One of its core activities is encouraging scholarship and promoting activities defined as scientific and educational within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, more specifically focusing on the promotion of Public Health.

The Investigative Reporting Grants in Public Health are designed to support writers, print and broadcast journalists, documentary filmmakers and other individuals with an interest in investigative reporting in the area of public health to engage, inform, create a debate to inform policy making and its implementation.

Grants are for a duration of six months; the recipients are expected to undertake reporting activities full time during the term of the assignment. Assignments begin July 1, 2019 and run through December 31, 2019 with an expected publication of the work product from the grant in January 2020.

The grant pays INR 70,000 per month for the duration of the assignment plus an additional INR 80,000 toward travel assignment related expenses for a total of INR 500,000

For additional information about the Foundation and its activities, visit our [website](#).

Part I: Guidelines

Project Focus:

We will consider investigative proposals that fall within the broad remit of health care delivery, universal access to health care including maternal, child and mental health, health care reform and financing, public sanitation, and regulatory oversight of drug supply and intellectual property issues.

We do not have a defined list of topics or issues that we will consider. Instead, we expect applicants to make a case for projects that have the potential to contribute something valuable to the debate on public health.

We expect to fund three (3) grants for reporting in English and three (3) grants for reporting in regional languages.

We expect the grants to be flexible and open to give investigative reporting an opportunity to build on previously reported work; to explore new and creative ways of educating the intended audience on challenges in public health and to offer new insights and perspectives to shape policy.

Types of media:

We will consider a wide range of media projects including, but not limited to: print and broadcast journalism, short documentaries, digital media and projects that use a mix of platforms and mediums. The key consideration in selection is whether a project is likely to engage and inform, spur debate and conversation leading to policy formulation.

Eligibility:

Applicants are expected to be working as full-time writers, print or broadcast journalists, documentary filmmakers with well-established record of publication, exhibition, and dissemination in local, regional and national media market. We will consider relaxing this requirement should we determine that a particular proposal meets a critical reporting need and is of a high standard.

Education:

All applicants must have a college degree or its equivalent.

Time Commitment:

There are two categories of grants, one for full time work over a period of 6 months, and the second for part time work spread over a six month period as half-time commitment or a focused 3 month commitment beginning July 1, 2019. Grants are designed to allow those currently employed as journalists with media organizations to work either full time or part time on grant related activities and the monetary grant award is appropriately proportioned.

Deliverables:

The applicants are expected to write/produce approximately a 15,000 word long-form investigative piece or a series equivalent of the same number of words or a 25 minute documentary or series of videos equivalent of a 25 minute documentary to be published in a reputable media outlet of their choice on the subject/topic of the grant.

The deliverable must aim to reach its intended audience during the term of the grant, i.e., we will not support projects that involve only research, planning or other activities that simply “lay the groundwork”. The recipients must acknowledge the support of the Foundation when they publish their work at a media outlet of their choice.

The Foundation will exercise no editorial control over the deliverable from this assignment.

Preconditions:

As a part of the grant proposal, applicants are expected to provide a commitment from an established media house indicating its willingness to publish/broadcast/telecast the work product of this assignment within 30 days of the end of the assignment. Applications without this commitment/undertaking will not be considered.

Application and selection process:

The application process has three stages. Stage 1 is the submission of a proposal to the Foundation. Stage 2 is the screening and selection of applications for award. Stage 3 is the notification of the award to the recipient and commencement of the project.

Applications are accepted only via the Foundation's website through the Grants page. The timelines for submission and notification of award are available in Part II of this document.

A jury of seasoned professionals drawn from public health, journalism, the judiciary and the bureaucracy will review the applications and make the awards. Members of the jury and their respective background are available on our [website](#). Applicants may be asked to refine their proposals post review should the jury consider it appropriate.

Once selected, grant recipients may be invited to attend an orientation/briefing to understand and familiarize themselves with the requirements of this assignment.

Compensation:

- 25% of the grant (INR 105,000 for full time assignment; INR 52,500 for part time assignment) will be disbursed at the beginning of the assignment
- An additional 25% (INR 105,000 for full time assignment; INR 52,500 for part time assignment) will be disbursed halfway through the assignment upon establishing that the project is on track to meet its timelines and objectives
- The remainder 50% (INR 210,000 for full time assignment; INR 105,000 for part time assignment) will be disbursed once the product of the assignment is published
- In addition, INR 50,000 for full time assignment or INR 25,000 for part time assignment will be disbursed at the beginning of the assignment toward assignment related expenses. The applicant is expected to provide documentary evidence of expenses incurred and claim up to an additional INR 30,000 for full time assignment, INR 15,000 for part time assignment at the end of the assignment for project related expenses incurred for the duration of the assignment

If a recipient chooses to work full time for 3 months on grant related activities, the grant award will be a total of INR 210,000 + INR 40,000 in reimbursable expenses and the terms of disbursement over the grant duration will be mutually agreed.

All recipients of these grants are responsible for payment of taxes as appropriate. The Foundation will deduct no taxes and bears no responsibility toward paying taxes on behalf of the recipients.



Legal & Contractual:

The selected awardees shall execute a contract between themselves and the Foundation for this assignment.

Grant making policies governing these investigative grants for Public Health are available for review on the Foundation's [website](#).

Part II: Application

To apply, submit a completed application along with all the supporting documentation to our online system (www.thakur-foundation.org) latest by May 15, 2019 11:59 PM IST. The on-line system will begin accepting applications on April 20, 2019.

Applications are accepted only via the foundation’s website. Applicants must complete their applications for grants on the prescribed form. This form becomes available once applicants register on the Foundation’s website.

Once registered, applicants will be able to submit a brief proposal (no more than five pages, single spaced), a resume or bio (no more than two pages, single spaced that includes a list of most recent published work), and a work sample.

The proposal should, at a minimum, answer the following questions:

- What does your project intend to investigate, in which part of the country will you do your field research, and why is the issue addressed important?
- What are the audiences you hope to reach; how will you reach them, and what do you expect or hope will result from their engagement with you and your work?
- Why are you the right person to take on this work?

Key 2019 Grant Milestones:

Proposals invited:	April 1, 2019
Begin Accepting Applications:	April 20, 2019
Submission Deadline:	May 15, 2019
Awards Notification:	June 15, 2019
Assignments Commencement:	July 1, 2019
Assignments Completion:	December 31, 2019
Publication of work product:	January 31, 2020