

Thakur Family Foundation, Inc.
Investigative Reporting Grant Policy

Effective Date: September 17, 2018

Introduction

In order to advance its educational and charitable mission, Thakur Family Foundation, Inc. (the “**Foundation**”) provides grants to individuals to focus on investigative reporting in the following areas: (1) public health, and (2) social empowerment through right to information. Grants may be limited to reporting in certain countries or geographic regions. Grant recipients will be awarded a grant that includes a stipend and certain reasonable project-related expenses. The purpose of the grant is for recipients to produce a publishable investigative report in one of the two focus areas that could be published in furtherance of the education of the public.

The Foundation will post information related to its investigative reporting grant program on social media (e.g. Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn) and through the Foundation's website (www.thakur-foundation.org).

Eligibility and Application

The investigative reporting grant program is open to all individuals who meet the eligibility criteria, except that all “disqualified persons” as defined by Section 4946(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended (the “**Code**”) are ineligible to receive a grant. Grantees are to be selected on an objective and nondiscriminatory basis.

The following individuals are eligible to receive a grant:

1. Independent news reporters,
2. Students of journalism, and
3. Academic researchers in the area of Public Health or Social Empowerment through Right to Information.

To apply for a grant, a grant applicant must submit a grant proposal which includes a detailed description of the investigative reporting project to be undertaken, projected outcomes, the nature of the activities to be undertaken as part of the project (e.g. travel, data collection, verification of facts, etc.), and information on the background and qualifications of the applicant. Specific application instructions will be posted with the scholarship information. Grant proposals are accepted on a rolling basis or as otherwise determined by the Foundation’s board of directors (the “**Board**”).

Selection and Award

The Board may appoint a grant advisory committee (the “**Committee**”) for investigative reporting grants that is composed of individuals in the field of journalism, public health,

social empowerment through right to information, or other relevant field. The Committee will review grant proposals and will make recommendations of qualified grant recipients to the Board. Throughout the scope of the project, the Committee will also mentor and guide the recipients. Every member of the Committee must adhere to the relevant policies of the Foundation as they may be adopted and amended from time to time, including without limitation the Foundation's conflict of interest policy. Alternatively, the Board may review the grant proposals without a grant advisory committee.

The Board is ultimately responsible for awarding grants and the makes the final decision with respect to grant recipients. The Board determines the number of grants to be awarded annually primarily based on the number of qualified applications received, available funding, and the amount of required distributions under the relevant sections of the Code and the Treasury Regulations thereunder.

Grant recipients will be awarded a stipend, to be set by the Board, and reimbursement for reasonable, documented expenses related to the investigative reporting project pursuant to an expense reimbursement policy of the Foundation. The grants will generally be awarded for a period of six (6) months unless the Board otherwise determines that a longer period is necessary or that an extension is warranted given the scope of the investigative reporting project. Grant funds will be provided directly to the recipient.

Documentation and Oversight

Prior to receiving a grant, the selected grant recipient will be required to sign an agreement acknowledging that he or she must (i) produce an investigative report of publishable quality in accordance with the grant proposal and within the time frame set forth in the grant; (ii) submit reports to the Foundation regarding the project on the timeline set forth by the Foundation; and (iii) abide by the terms of the Foundation's expense reimbursement policy.

Grant recipients will be required to submit a report mid-way through during the grant period which describes the progress of the project. Grant recipients must also submit a report at the completion of the project which describes outcomes and goals achieved. Reports must be submitted at least annually. A copy of the investigative reporting project must also be submitted to the Foundation. It is expected to be of the quality of a publishable report which the grant recipient could seek to get published at an accredited media outlet of their choice (news outlets, trade publications, scientific journals, etc.).

If the Foundation determines that any grant funds were not used for the purpose of the grant, it will investigate and, if appropriate, may withhold payment of future grant funds to the recipient, take commercially reasonable steps to recover the funds, and take further steps to assure with reasonable certainty that future improper applications of funds will not occur.

For ten (10) years after the recipient either successfully completes the project, or ceases to pursue the project, the Foundation will maintain detailed records of all information relative to each grant, including the submitted application package, all communications with the recipient, and records of all subsequent actions.