Ford Foundation

International Intellectual Property Initiative

Funding Priorities

The aim of the Ford Foundation's International Intellectual Property Initiative (IIPI) is to contribute to the development of more balanced global Intellectual Property (IP) regime. By this, we mean a regime that takes into account the interests of individuals and society as well as the private sector and the public interest, and that reaffirms the importance of the commons and the public domain. In addition, IIPI considers that an IP regime should, from a right's perspective, recognize innovation, access to knowledge and creative activities as important sources of development for all countries and societies in the world.

Preference in this initiative will be given to proposals that support the potential for dialogue among different sectors and players; build institutional capacity, particularly in the global South; strengthen the voice of excluded groups and communities; and encourage pluralistic and participatory governance and decision-making processes.

In its first phase, the initiative will focus on the following thematic grant making priorities:

1. Traditional Knowledge (TK) with the objectives of enabling indigenous, tribal and traditional communities to deepen their understanding about the intersection of IP and TK, including IP's potential impact on social processes, and increasing the number of traditional communities able to advocate effectively for their interests in national, regional and international policy arenas.

2. Access to Medicine with the objectives of improving analytical capacity to understand the economic relationship of IPRs to innovation, medical research and development, and medicines pricing and distribution; and enabling developing countries to explore flexibilities within the TRIPs Agreement as well as supporting other South-South and/or regional collaborations that enhance innovative ways to promote R&D and access to medicines in the global south.

3. Access to Knowledge and Educational materials with the objectives of fostering critical analysis regarding the impact of copyright law; deepening understanding among authors, academic institutions, students and the general public regarding their interests in access to knowledge and academic publications; and promoting Open Educational Resources models.

HOW TO APPLY:

One can apply by sending a letter of inquiry, short concept note (2 pages) or proposal (up to 15 pages) and budget as described below:

(1) Letter of Inquiry listing

- Name of your organization (and acronym if commonly used);
- Organization's address (and courier address if different);
- Main expertise the organization (e.g. research, advocacy, capacity building, etc.);
- Name of the project;
- Web address, if any;
- Amount requested.

(2) Concept note or proposal, including

- A brief statement (two or three sentences) of the purpose and nature of the proposed work;
- The significance of the issue addressed by the project and how it relates to one or another of the above-stated initiative grant-making priorities;
- How the project is related to IIPI initiative goals and principles;
- How the issue relates to your organization, and why your organization is qualified to undertake the project;
- The policy-making forums or goals to which the work is related;
- The type of alliances and/or participatory networks in which your institution is involved;
- How is the project related to FF IP initiative goals;
- Geographic area or country where the work will take place;
- Beneficiaries of your proposed project (information about those who will be helped and are interested in the work, and how you will communicate with them);
- Brief summary of proposed activities, deliverables, and outcomes/impacts over what period of time;
- Dissemination/communications strategy for project deliverables and outcomes;
- Amount of funding requested from FF and total cost (estimates are acceptable).

(3) Budget request in excel spreadsheet format

The proposal should be sent by email to the initiative coordinators Ana Toni (a.toni@fordfounda.org) and Suzanne Siskel (s.siskel@fordfound.org) and with a cc to Carolina Rossini (c.rossini_c@fordfound.org).