

Open Call for Submissions

Circular Innovation Grant Program

The **Ida C. and Morris Falk Foundation (ICM)** is a US-based 501c3 organization with activities in Vietnam to support innovation for waste and pollution reduction with a circularity approach within the Consumer Packaged Goods, Fashion and Food System sectors.

Our program is focused on **Upstream & Circular Innovation** where a venture-building model, coupled with research and youth community engagement converge, in order to find new and innovative solutions to address the general waste and pollution problem in Vietnam and ASEAN. We approach waste and pollution reduction through 3 main pillars inspired by the innovation lifecycle:

1. Knowledge Hub - building knowledge to ideate and design
2. Circularity Ecosystem - building capacity to organize and deploy
3. Venture Lab - building solutions that provide long-term sustainability and impact

In 2022, the **ICM Circular Innovation Grant Program (CIG)** was launched with an open call for all innovative organizations working within the above-mentioned sectors to submit proposals and solutions towards waste and pollution prevention within their communities (preference given to activities based in Vietnam).

Areas of Focus

Through the CIG, we expect to **uncover new, local-centric initiatives to mitigate waste and pollution production in Vietnam and within the ASEAN region.**

We support solutions preventing and reducing the amount of waste from ever entering the system through innovative methods, coupled with community capacity building data-driven research on upstream, circular transition - read more about the concept of Upstream Innovation [here](#).

Our grant program focuses on 3 types of projects based on our strategic approach:

1. *Venture Lab*: we support solutions from circular innovators and entrepreneurs developing upstream solutions that are in their pre-launch (product development and validation) and early launch stages (feasibility, pilot) with proven traction or initial market interest within Vietnam or ASEAN.
2. *Circularity Ecosystem*: we support organizations that build circular innovation capacity for their members and communities through holistic programs (ie., clear post-program growth support). Potential proposals could include university discovery challenges, pre-incubation programs, linkage programs, technical capacity building, development of circularity-based affinity groups and circular community-based project implementation.

3. *Knowledge Hub*: we support the circular ecosystem through data-driven research projects focused on means and methods to drive a circular transition, ranging from, amongst others, new materials development, market recommendations and data collection.

We assess grants based on their future sustainability, scalability, local context alignment and growth viability. Proposals which include clear Theories of Change that link to both social and environmental impact, such as measured KPI's and a realistic growth strategy, will be highly considered as part of our screening process.

Excluded areas of interest for the grant review process include:

- *Post-consumer waste* management solutions (including upcycling and recycling) and research projects;
- General research projects with *undefined economic/ business outcomes and/or limited link to waste reduction at the source*;
- Entrepreneurial support projects *lacking proven track records and concrete scaling plans*, with limited link to waste reduction at the source;
- *Stand-alone awareness & educational campaigns* including (but not limited to) clean-up events, social media or on-site promotion, hackathons or similar competitions with no further scaling or solution implementation plan.

All proposals related to excluded areas of interest will be discarded from our review process.

Grant Amount & Sample Projects

Maximum US\$5,000. Some examples of our previous projects can be found [HERE](#).

Some examples of eligible projects:

- Research and development of new materials made from local agri-waste sources
- Research on upstream business models for various sectors
- Test and pilot of new local-centric business models in Refill/Reuse
- Set-up of university-based FabLabs/maker spaces for impact solutions
- Prototype support for university-based innovators (students, researchers, faculty, etc.)
- Development of university-affiliated incubation and acceleration programs for circular solutions development

Grantee Eligibility

The CIG Open Call is open to the following categories of registered organizations:

- Non-profit organizations (including think tanks, research organizations, etc.)
- Non-profit universities
- Social enterprises and entrepreneurs
- Other organized groups with applicable fiscal status to receive grants

All organizations must be registered in their country of origin.

Grant Application process

1. Screening questionnaire submission

Applicants are expected to submit their answers through our screening questionnaire ([HERE](#)) by *Sep 30, 2022*. Our team will inform you whether your application meets our internal guidelines and schedule an introductory call.

2. Concept note submission

Pre-selected candidates will have 2 rounds of concept note writing assistance with the ICM team until *November 30, 2022* before submitting their final concept note for grant award review.

3. Concept note review

The ICM's grant review rounds are quarterly-based with a grant award review for the third open call planned for *early February 2023*.

Results will be communicated individually to applicants. Approval of all proposals is provided at the discretion of the ICM Falk Foundation.

For all grant and partnership queries, please contact us at contact@icmfalkfoundation.org.