

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

4ST Partnership Fund

Application and Assessment of Proposals

1. How will the organisations and proposals be evaluated?

Proposals will be evaluated on:

- How well they comprehend and identify service gaps;
- How innovative, collaborative and empowering their proposed solutions are;
- How well their programme will serve the larger community/ target group;
- How aligned it is with NCSS' service priority areas or other emerging needs
- How well the interventions lead to the intended outcomes
- How the project will be sustainable beyond the funding period
- How is the team's experience in serving the target group

2. My programme has been previously supported under Tote Board Social Service Fund (TBSSF)/ ComChest, may I still apply?

Agencies who have received or are receiving TBSSF/ ComChest funding for existing initiatives may only apply for the enhanced portions of the programme. These enhancements must not be currently receiving funding.

3. There are multiple application windows for the 4ST Partnership Fund. Can my agency apply for more than one window?

Your agency may apply for support during the various application windows. Please also note that the quantum of support provided per programme will be subject to the relevant funding caps for the different funding categories.

4. Can I apply for the funding if my proposal supports other key service priority areas that are not identified by NCSS?

NCSS is open to funding proposals that support emerging needs. These proposals will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

5. Does the 4ST Partnership Fund support individuals?

For Seed Applications: Individuals will need to collaborate with another individual/ Social Service Agency (SSA)/ Social Enterprise (SE)/ Ground-up group to submit an application for the 4ST Partnership Fund. Only one application is to be submitted by your appointed lead applicant (can be the individual for Seed applications), on behalf of the team.

For Grow Applications: Individuals can be one of the co-applicants of the programme. The lead applicant must be an NCSS member with IPC status.

6. Will the 4ST Partnership Fund support my agency in the long-term?

No, the 4ST Partnership Fund is meant for short term funding between 1-3 years. Agencies are encouraged to look for alternative sources of funding to sustain the programme in the longer run.

Funding Support from 4ST Partnership Fund

7. What can my agency use the funds for?

Funds can be used for expenses **directly related** to the running of the programme, such as internal manpower, material costs. Applicants will be required to propose a breakdown of budget required for their programme in the application stage, subject to approval by the grant panel.

8. How much funding will be provided to each Agency?

NCSS will inform your agency on funding amount upon successful application. This will be subject to the relevant funding caps for the different areas, as well as the discretion of the grant panel.

9. When will my agency receive funding?

NCSS will include information on the fund disbursement schedule when we notify agencies of successful applications. To enable us to expedite the processing of applications, please provide all the required details in the form.

The disbursements are also based on the submission of project milestone reports which will be communicated to agencies upon successful application.

10. How will the grant disbursement take place?

Disbursement of the grant will be credited directly to the lead applicant agency's bank account. The disbursement of funds between collaboration partners (if necessary) will be arranged separately between the lead agency and partners.

11. What is the duration for the use of the approved funds?

The approved funds must be utilised within the approved funding period (between 1 – 3 years).

12. What is the processing time for disbursement of funding?

For successful applicants, the first tranche of funding will be disbursed within 1-2 months from the time the application results are communicated to your team.

13. What is the disbursement structure like if my application is approved?

Seed Applications	2 tranches – 90% and 10% across the length of the approved funding period of 1 year.
Grow Applications	3 tranches – 50%, 30% and 20%, across the length of the approved funding period (between 1-3 years).

Do note that the disbursements are tied to the submission of relevant documents required under the 4ST Partnership Fund. Your agency is encouraged to submit all relevant documents on time. Incomplete submissions will result in delays in disbursements.

Deliverables from 4ST Partnership Fund

14. What kind of reports/ deliverables do I need to submit to NCSS if I successfully obtain the funding?

Seed	Grow
1) Programme's Annual Statement of Accounts (including fund utilisation to date)	1) Programme's Annual Audited Statement of Accounts (including fund utilisation to date)
2) Quarterly output reports	2) Quarterly performance reports
3) Report on proof of concept from prototype testing and learnings/ insights (For Identified Seed applications)	3) Annual report on compliance with NCSS Service Standards
	4) Impact report on completion of programme/ project after funding period ends
	5) Evaluation Research Report (for identified Grow applications)
	6) Complete Organizational Health Framework for Social Services (OHFSS) (for identified Grow applications)

Miscellaneous

15. How is The Majority Trust (TMT) involved in the 4ST Partnership Fund?

TMT will be co-administering the Fund with NCSS via a partnership arrangement. They will also be assisting with the assessment of proposals and other administrative details like fund disbursements and collection of reports.