

# Call for Proposals

IEEE Tech4Good Projects: Funding for teams of IEEE members around the world to leverage the IEEE network and expertise to solve global challenges and foster technology for social impact.

**Submission Deadline: 15 March 2026**



[ieeet.org/get-involved/funding-opportunities/tech4good/](https://ieeet.org/get-involved/funding-opportunities/tech4good/)



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# Overview

IEEE is the world's largest technical professional organization dedicated to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity. The IEEE Humanitarian Technologies Board (HTB) inspires and empowers IEEE volunteers around the world carrying out and supporting impactful humanitarian technology activities at the local level.

HTB's Tech4Good program is offering a call for proposals to support **projects that leverage the IEEE network and expertise to solve a local challenge and implement technology for social impact.**

## Where to Start

If you are interested in submitting a project proposal, you are strongly encouraged to read this entire Call for Proposals document for helpful advice on how to prepare a strong proposal. It will be worth your time! Included here is information about restrictions on what is eligible for funding, as well as careful consideration and planning needed before you begin your application.

In general, only 15 - 20% of project proposals submitted to Tech4Good are selected for funding. The best thing you can do to boost your chance of approval is to invest the time to connect with a local community to learn about a challenge they are facing and find a partner organization (NGO, school, university, government entity, health clinic, etc.) you can work with to develop a solution that applies technology to that challenge.

Use the [Tech4Good Project & Community Engagement Principles](#) to make sure your project is community-centered!

## What's New in 2026

If you have implemented a Tech4Good project in the past, or have submitted a proposal, there have been some changes this year to the process and focus of our open call for proposals. Take the time to read through these sections to learn more about them:

- Eligibility Quiz
- Simplified Letter of Intent form
- IEEE Learning Network module completion
- Broader scope of what is eligible for funding - see the Technology Impact Areas
- AI Guidelines for preparing your proposal and deploying your project
- Working with paid contractors to complement your team's expertise
- A template for your letter of community support - *this is an important way to demonstrate an existing relationship with a local entity that represents your project's beneficiaries and details what their ongoing role will be.*

Don't forget to use the [Proposal Eligibility Checklist](#) to make sure your proposal is ready before you submit!

## Technology Impact Areas

There is a broad range of challenges in the local communities where IEEE members live worldwide. Remember, the starting point for a project should always be what the community has shared as a need, rather than a particular technology that needs to find a use.

Select one of the following **Technology Impact Areas** represented by a UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).

- Smart agricultural technology ([SDG 2: Zero Hunger](#))
- Technology to facilitate and promote education ([SDG 4: Quality Education](#))
- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WaSH) technology ([SDG 6: Clean Water & Sanitation](#))
- Clean Energy and Sustainable Power ([SDG 7: Affordable & Clean Energy](#))
- Technological upgrading and innovation to achieve higher economic productivity ([SDG 8: Decent Work & Economic Growth](#))
- Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Digital Connectivity ([SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure](#))
- Technological solutions to reduce waste ([SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production](#))
- Technology to strengthen resilience to climate-related natural disasters ([SDG 13 - Climate Action](#))
- Technological solutions to reduce marine pollution and the sustainable use of marine resources ([SDG 14 - Life Below Water](#))
- Technology to reduce the degradation of natural habitats ([SDG 15 - Life on Land](#))

## Funding Specifications

### Amount of funding

Project grants will be between US\$2,500 and US\$10,000 per project.

### Term of funding

Project implementation plans may be up to six months following the project start date.

### Proposal Requirements - What to Include

- Clearly explain how the project will implement [IEEE-relevant](#) technology for social impact in your community.

- Demonstrate a connection to your local IEEE organizational unit (OU) and engage IEEE members **currently living** in the country where the project would take place.
- Include information on why your team has the relevant technical and other expertise to execute the project.
- Describe how the local community is actively involved in determining a solution to a challenge they are facing.
- Include a thorough sustainability plan to show who will be managing the deployed solution after the six months term of funding.
- Clearly articulate the impact of the project and how it will be measured.
- **Let us know if you have submitted a similar proposal for funding elsewhere.**

## Proposals Not Considered - What to Avoid

- No evident relationship to a challenge faced by a specific community
- No clear evidence that the community will be involved with the project.
- No implementation of [IEEE-relevant](#) technology.
- Focus on starting or continuing research
- Focus on generating income or starting a commercial enterprise.
- Focus on STEM education without implementation of a solution.
- No plan for impact measurement.
- Focus on immediate disaster relief. *All projects related to disaster preparedness or recovery should focus on medium- and longer-term needs.*
- Developing medical devices or medical device prototypes.

## Letter of Support

Your team is required to collaborate with at least one local entity that represents the community of individuals that will directly benefit from the proposed solution. This entity must submit a letter of support that acknowledges their awareness of the project, outlines their involvement, and states that they will be responsible for the solution after its deployment.

If you would like, you can use our [letter of support template](#) to make sure you include the necessary information from your community partner.

## ILN Course Completion

All primary and co-applicants are required to complete all five IEEE Humanitarian Technology modules on the IEEE Learning Network. Certificates of completion will be required for your application to be evaluated.

Give yourself some time to complete the courses before you start writing your proposal, and think about how you can integrate what you learned.

## AI Guidelines for preparing your proposal and deploying your project

IEEE is committed to full compliance with applicable laws related to the use of artificial intelligence, as well as adhering to ethical standards such as fairness, accountability, and transparency. The use of AI at IEEE should never compromise IEEE's core values or introduce undue risk to the organization. Rather, the use of AI at IEEE should be focused on improving business efficiencies and enhancing IEEE's ability to fulfill its mission.

AI tools may be used to prepare your project proposal, as long as the project idea is your own (co-developed with a community entity) and you tell us what you used and where. We recommend using AI-generated content as a starting point, not the finished product.

Depending on the type of project you would like to implement, you may want to make use of AI tools in project deployment. All uses of AI systems must be lawful, ethical, transparent, and necessary. If you will be inputting personal information into any AI system, you need to ensure you have obtained informed consent from the individual(s) whose personal information will be inputted.

Remember, inputting IEEE trade secrets, IEEE confidential information, non-public IEEE information, or personal data about any individual into an open-model AI system is strictly prohibited.

## Eligibility to Apply & Eligibility Quiz

- **The primary applicant must be an IEEE Professional Member or higher in good standing. Student members may be co-applicants and team members.** All member numbers are checked during the intake process. If the primary applicant is an IEEE Student or Grad Student, or if the membership is in arrears, the proposal will not be evaluated.
- **Each team may submit only one proposal.**
- Project teams that received Tech4Good funding for a project in the past may only apply if the project has been successfully completed and all reporting requirements fulfilled.
- **An IEEE Section must act as the fiscal agent for project funding, and applicants should discuss the process with the OU Treasurer prior to proposal submission. Tech4Good does not transfer funds to a Society Chapter, Student Branch, or individuals. All administrative fees charged by the IEEE Section must be accounted for in your project budget.** IEEE financial requirements for funding disbursements will apply. Please see [IEEE FOM](#) 2.E - IEEE Unit Reporting (Including, but not limited to, Societies, Technical Councils, Geographic Units, and Conferences) for more details.
- **An eligibility quiz has been added to the application process** to help you understand if your project is a good fit for Tech4Good project funding.

### Any proposal which:

- is incomplete or does not meet basic eligibility requirements**
- does not align with the funding specifications**

- iii. is submitted by a team with more than one proposal
- iv. requests less than US\$2,500 or more than US\$10,000
- v. has applicants with an ongoing or incomplete project funded by Tech4Good
- vi. does not include a completed Tech4Good Projects Budget (using the [template](#))

will *not* be evaluated.

## Budget Considerations

Tech4Good Projects prioritizes *direct project costs*, including equipment, materials, supplies, and travel. Travel expenses must comply with [IEEE Travel and Expense Reimbursement Guidelines](#). Given that projects are local in nature, travel and associated costs such as accommodation and meals should be less than 20% of the total requested funds.

Ineligible project costs include:

- Reimbursement of volunteer salaries. **Any request for salary reimbursement or payment for work must be carefully justified, clearly explained, and be a *minor part of the overall budget*.**
- Honorariums
- Indirect costs, including but not limited to overhead expenses, competition or contest prizes, Facilities & Administrative (F&A) costs, and tuition.

Please discuss in advance with the IEEE OU that will be your fiscal intermediary (generally the local Section) if there are any **Section administration fees** that would be applied to a transfer of funds from Tech4Good. These fees may be included in the project budget, but the OU will be asked to confirm them.

Applicants are encouraged to **download** the [Tech4Good Projects Budget template](#) ahead of time, as this is a requirement to include with the online application.

## Submission Details

**You must submit your Letter of Intent using the [Online Funding Opportunities Portal](#) from 30 January - 15 March.** Due to the extensive evaluation process and large number of proposals expected, you should try to avoid submitting your proposal right before the deadline.

If your proposal meets the eligibility criteria and is determined to be a strong candidate for funding, you will be invited to submit a full proposal for the further evaluation of your proposed solution.

## Evaluation Criteria

This is how proposals will be evaluated:

- Benefits to the local community are well articulated and show measurable impact targets.
- Project scope is defined and meets technological and impact requirements.
- Team composition demonstrates the strength of team and members' technical capacity.
- Potential risks have been assessed and the team has prepared a feasible mitigation plan.
- Involvement of local organizations and stakeholders ensures the long-term sustainability of the technological implementation.
- Alignment with IEEE's mission of advancing technology for the benefit of humanity.

## Timeframe to Use Funds, Assessment, & Reporting

- Funds must be spent within six (6) months from the approved project start date.
  - Extensions may be submitted when unforeseen challenges prevent the carrying out of a project's original work plan.
- A brief progress report must be submitted every month after the project's approved start date.
- A final report with a final accounting of expenses and impact assessment information must be submitted within 60 days of the project's completion.
  - Please refer to the [Tech4Good Project Assessment Guide](#) for information on how applicants will be asked to describe their project's Primary and Secondary Impact Assessment.
- Reports on longer-term outcomes and impact of the project may be requested for up to three (3) years after the conclusion of the project's grant period.

## Legal, Compliance, and Risk

Humanitarian technology and sustainable development projects, due to their real world nature, may involve a certain amount of risk. It is imperative that potential risks are acknowledged and mitigated wherever possible. IEEE has taken steps to mitigate several of these risks. While not a comprehensive list of risks or mitigation strategies, please review the following carefully:

- Projects MUST comply with all national/federal, state/provincial, and local laws, guidelines, safety codes, and restrictions.
- IEEE is subject to the full range of U.S. economic sanctions and export control laws and as such IEEE may not be able to provide certain services to certain designated countries or entities or

individuals from those countries or entities. Because U.S. economic sanctions and export controls are subject to frequent change, please review the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control's [sanctions list](#) if you have a question about whether or not your country can receive funding. A more detailed description of OFAC, economic sanctions, and embargoes applicable to IEEE can be found on [ieee.org](#).

- All projects that involve children must follow [IEEE Guidelines for Working with Children](#). Any project funding will be contingent on policy compliance.
- In the event the project collects, uses, processes, or otherwise involves the personal data of any individual, the grantee agrees that they shall, to the maximum extent possible, respect the privacy of those individuals. Grantee will comply with all applicable data privacy laws or regulations.
- Tech4Good funds may not be used for a) tests of medical equipment on people/animals or b) mass production and/or deployment of devices that require but have not yet undergone the appropriate regulation, such as government approvals. Medical device manufacturing and deployment are highly regulated fields and may require partnership with and approval by relevant national/federal, state, and/or local authorities.
- All projects considered for funding will be shared with the IEEE Office of Risk and Insurance Management Services (ORIMS), and potential project leaders will be vetted by the IEEE Legal & Compliance Department for their review prior to final decision.
- Projects must avoid any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest. Project teams must abide by the [IEEE Principles of Business Conduct](#). For more information on what should be disclosed and how to avoid conflicts of interest, see the [IEEE Bylaws I-300.2](#).
- Projects selected must agree to the IEEE Humanitarian Technologies [Intellectual Property Policy](#) as a condition of funding.
- Legal agreements between IEEE and external entities must be vetted by IEEE Legal *prior to* signing.
- Tech4Good does not disburse funds to individuals or external organizations. All funds flow through a local IEEE OU - the local Section. Any funds that are not used according to the approved budget must be returned.
- Please note that, depending on the nature of a project, additional review may be required at any stage of the project.

## Questions

Write to [tech4good@ieee.org](mailto:tech4good@ieee.org) with any questions about your idea or the submission process.