

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 project will serve the larger community / target group
- How aligned it is with the identified priority areas
 - Upstream support for low-income families
 - Support for persons with mental health conditions
 - Emerging needs and gaps
- How well the interventions lead to the intended outcomes
- How the project will be sustainable beyond the funding period
- How the team's experience is in serving the target group

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

We encourage you to discuss with your NCSS counterparts who are managing existing initiatives funded by TBSSF or ComChest.

3. There are multiple grant calls for the 4ST Partnership Fund. Can my agency apply for more than one grant call?

Your agency may apply for support during the various grant calls. 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. When are the exact grant call dates?

For 2024:

1st Grant Call: 1 – 30 April 2024

2nd Grant Call: 1 – 31 October 2024

5. Can my agency submit multiple applications in the same grant call?

Yes. However, we strongly encourage agencies to focus their resources on one application per grant call.

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

Under the emerging needs and gaps, NCSS is open to funding proposals that address emerging needs, supported by relevant data.

For proposals in the following areas, we recommend you first engage the key stakeholders overseeing the relevant sub-sectors/target groups:

- Disability → SG Enable
- Eldercare → Agency for Integrated Care
- Capability Building → NCSS Community Capability Trust
- ComLink families → MSF Social Service Offices

Additionally, 4STPF does not fund projects that are primarily focused on areas related to health, active ageing, capability-building / research, and application / product development.

7. 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.

8. When can I expect to know the outcome of my application assessment?

The estimated application assessment period is between 3 to 4 months. Do note that applications that are more complex will require more time to evaluate.

9. 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. Agencies are welcome to discuss with NCSS/TMT on their programme sustainability plans and other areas of support.

10. Is working with an agency to provide a venue/space for my programme sufficient to fulfil the collaboration criteria?

Collaboration requires active engagement and partnership with agencies beyond providing a venue/space. Applicants should consider other ways to work together with agencies to achieve their shared goals.

11. If I work with a vendor to provide a service for my service users, does this constitute collaboration?

Collaboration with vendors can be a way to introduce new skills and perspectives into providing a service. However, the fund seeks to promote collaborations that go beyond a transactional approach. Consider how the vendor's expertise can complement your own to create a service that is co-designed and co-delivered, rather than just procured.

12. If I have not confirmed my collaborators yet but have some in mind, can I still apply first?

Applicants should have already approached and secured their partners before applying for the Fund.

Funding Support from 4ST Partnership Fund

13. 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 and 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. The budget proposed should be in line with the programme's funding period commencement date – April/July (for October Grant Calls) and October/January (for April Grant Calls).

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

NCSS will inform your agency on the 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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).

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

For successful applicants, the first tranche of funding will be disbursed within 1 month from the time the grant agreement form is signed, or 1 month before the commencement date of the programme (whichever is later).

19. 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**20. 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) 2) Half-yearly output reports 3) Report on proof-of-concept from prototype testing and learnings / insights (For identified Seed applications)	1) Programme's Annual Audited Statement of Accounts (including fund utilisation to date) 2) Half-yearly performance reports 3) Annual report on compliance with the NCSS Service Standards 4) Impact report on completion of programme/project after funding period ends 5) Evaluation Research Report (for selected Grow applications) 6) Complete Organisational Health Framework for Social Services (OHFSS) (for selected Grow applications)

Others**21. 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.