



MIT IDEAS Competition

Innovation ▪ Development ▪ Enterprise ▪ Action ▪ Service

Development Grants

Development grant requests can only be submitted in conjunction with IDEAS initial proposals.

Proposals and grant requests can be submitted on the 15th of each month from October through March. The IDEAS staff will review all proposals and grant requests and will meet with teams for a proposals review session and grant response within two weeks of submission.

Development grants are intended to help you research and prepare for your final IDEAS entry. You should carefully research prices and ask for the amount that you need to move forward with your project. We will consider your request whether it's \$30 or \$1000, but you should be ready with alternative plans in case we are unable to support the whole amount requested.

If you receive a development grant, we require that you submit either an IDEAS final application or a report on your project (following the guidelines at the end of this document).

Teams that are awarded development grants before February will have three months in which to spend their grants, starting from the time of submitting their initial proposal and grant request. Any unspent development grant funds will then revert back to the IDEAS Competition. After the three month period, teams are eligible to submit new development grant requests (as long as they are accompanied by revised initial proposals). Teams that are awarded development grants from February through March will have until the IDEAS judging session on April 30th 2007 in which to spend their grants.

So, the earlier you submit your initial proposal, the more feedback and development grants you will be eligible for!

You can use the funds for the following sorts of expenses:

- purchasing materials for prototypes
- traveling to meet with community partners
- renting equipment
- purchasing safety equipment

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or e-mail ideas-admin@mit.edu*

- photocopying
- long distance phone calls
- In some cases you may be able to use the funds to hire a professional to do short-term work that is beyond your team's capacity. However, we prefer you to recruit new team members to undertake this work if possible.

You cannot use funds to pay team members or for project implementation. If you have questions about what development grants can and can't cover, contact Alison Hynd at ideas-admin@mit.edu

The development grant application **MUST** include:

- an explanation about what you plan to accomplish with the funds and how that will improve your final entry to IDEAS
- a general timeline that indicates when the funds will be used (development grants must be used before the IDEAS final entry deadline)
- an itemized budget breakdown showing what is needed, the purpose of each item, and a cost estimate, including shipping
- the total amount requested

Reporting

We hope that a development grant will help you to create an impressive project, and that you will enter the IDEAS Competition on April 18.

If you receive a development grant but do not enter the Competition (for whatever reason), we require that you submit a brief report on your project and how you used your development grant.

- Team name
- List of team members with e-mail for each member
- Description of project (~500 words):
 - What problem or challenge were you trying to address?
 - What community were you trying to serve?
 - What was innovative about your approach?
- Discussion:
 - What progress have you made since the grant was awarded?
 - Why are you not pursuing the project through the IDEAS Competition?
 - Do you have any plans for continuing with the project?
 - What resources or support would you need to take your project forward at this time? Is there some way we can help?
- Development Grant report:
 - Amount of Development Grant awarded
 - Amount of Development Grant spent

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- Itemized list of Development Grant expenses (including item, price, and reason for purchase)
- Tell us how useful you felt the development grant was to your team. Was it enough? Did you have enough time to make good use of it? Do you think your request was fairly judged?
- What other IDEAS resources did you take advantage of?
- Are there other resources or support mechanisms we could have provided that would have been useful to your team?

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