ACCESS

2016 TABLE HOTSPOT RESOURCE:
HOW TO MAKE OUR GRANTS PROGRAM MORE ACCESSIBLE TO SMALL AND EMERGING GRANTSEEKERS

Access issues affect a variety of grants program applicants – including those in small or remote communities, multicultural groups, small groups, and those without ready access to technology.

> "Look at why some groups aren't applying, and then think about what you can do to get them involved."

> "Consider 'grants readiness' training to bring smaller groups up to speed and give them greater ability to apply."

> "Don't take people's access to IT for granted."

TOP TAKEAWAYS

Small, remote and regional communities

These communities are more likely than city-based groups to have problems with online access, such as limited services or slow downloads. Grantmakers can:

- Send information by SMS or text rather than being entirely reliant on the web. (But check first that the intended recipients have mobile coverage.)
- Lengthen deadlines, and open applications earlier.
- Encourage the use of libraries.
- Use local networks and peak groups to deliver grants information. Harness the local council (if applicable) or MPs to promote the program.
- Consider taking verbal applications over the phone.
- Remove rounds – institute a rolling program.

Small groups not applying

Grantmakers can:

- Change guidelines to target small groups – those with small staff numbers, or turnover or income under a certain amount.
- Actively seek out these groups and communicate with them.
- Offer unincorporated groups "up to" a limit – for example, $1000.
- Encourage auspice agreements; match-make if necessary.
- Publish a draft PDF application form online in advance so smaller groups know what to expect when applying (and can plan accordingly).

Multicultural groups not applying

It is important grantmakers not assume that merely translating their forms will do the job. Some people are illiterate even in their own native languages.

Grantmakers can:

- Target young people with good skills in written and spoken English.
- Channel communications through Migrant Resource Centres and other relevant multicultural bodies.
- Consider accepting verbal applications.