

## Access Grants through the Innovation & Technology Fund for Better Living in Hong Kong

Learn how organisations can access grants to develop technology-driven projects through the Innovation & Technology Fund for Better Living



In Hong Kong's vibrant ecosystem of innovation and technology, the Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living (FBL) provides important support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) looking to make a tangible impact on the daily lives of the community. This government-backed funding scheme provides a unique opportunity for organisations to access grants and develop technology-driven projects that enhance the convenience, comfort, and safety of people's everyday lives.

The FBL has funded numerous projects that have made a tangible difference in the lives of Hong Kong residents, showcasing the scheme's transformative potential and how organisations can create innovative solutions to address real-world challenges.

### *Eligibility and Project Requirements*

To be eligible for FBL funding, applicants must meet specific criteria:

Eligible Applicants for the FBL shall be –

- Subvented non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Public bodies
- Professional bodies
- Trade associations
- Social service organizations exempted from tax

Applications from parties other than the above categories may only be considered in warranted cases. Ineligible applicants may however partner with the eligible Applicants in the capacity of a joint Applicant. Individuals and private companies are not accepted as the lead Applicant.

Project Requirements include:

- Benefit the public at large or specific community groups (e.g., elderly, disabled individuals)
- Involve innovative application of technologies with a concrete development plan
- Be non-profit during the funded period (total funding must not exceed eligible project costs)
- Deliver the project within 12 months and operate it for at least two consecutive years after rollout (except for one-off projects)
- Deliverables can include mobile apps, products, services, software, and other innovative forms
- At least 50% of the total project cost incurred within Hong Kong

The FBL has a clear and well-defined set of requirements, ensuring that the funded projects have the potential to make a meaningful impact on the lives of Hong Kong residents. The project themes can cover a wide range of areas, including daily living, education, environment, health, safety, and transportation, among others.

#### *Funding and Application Process*

The FBL offers substantial financial support, with approved projects receiving grants of up to HK\$5 million or 90% of the total eligible costs, whichever is lower. This funding empowers organisations to bring their innovative ideas to life and contribute to the city's technological advancement.

The application process is open on an ongoing basis, with applications submitted through the Administrative System of the ITC-FBL (ASITC-FBL). Applicants must meet the specified cut-off dates to be considered for the next evaluation cycle. Applications are assessed by the FBL Assessment Panel based on criteria such as public benefits, innovation, feasibility, financial considerations, and the applicant's capabilities.

#### *Project Implementation and Intellectual Property Rights*

Successful applicants enter a Fund Agreement with the Hong Kong government, outlining the terms and conditions. The FBL Secretariat provides guidance and support throughout the project lifecycle. While the government retains certain rights, the FBL encourages applicants to retain intellectual property rights, subject to specific conditions.

One of the key advantages for organisations in accessing the FBL grants is the opportunity to collaborate with a diverse range of organizations, including NGOs, public bodies, and professional associations. This collaborative approach not only strengthens the project's impact but also allows organisations to leverage the expertise and networks of these partner organizations. The FBL represents Hong Kong's commitment to technological excellence and societal well-being. By empowering organisations to develop practical solutions that enhance daily living, the FBL plays a pivotal role in driving positive change and positioning Hong Kong as a global leader in leveraging technology for social good. For more details, please refer to the "Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living Application Guide" published by the Innovation and Technology Commission.

For inquiries about how JML can assist with you in accessing grants to develop technology-driven projects through the Innovation & Technology Fund for Better Living, please scan the QR code below for quick access to know more about our services:



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