

# MCIS Language Advocacy Microgrants 2025

## Call For Nominations For The MCIS Language Advocacy Microgrants 2025

We are pleased to announce the call for nominations for the 2025 MCIS Language Advocacy Microgrants.

### What are the MCIS Language Advocacy Microgrants?

Since 2024, MCIS has awarded three Language Advocacy Microgrants to support projects that advance linguistic equity and justice in Canada. Eligible initiatives may include arts-based advocacy for minority language education, digital language accessibility projects, campaigns promoting language rights as human rights, defense of minority language access, research on language access and well-being, studies about language access and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), language revitalization efforts, promotion of multilingual education in mother tongues, to name a few. Review the past winners of the MCIS Language Advocacy Microgrants to see what kinds of projects are eligible. [Follow the embedded link to access detailed information on each project.](#)

### The Microgrants are:

- \$10,000 for the winning project
- \$5,000 each for two runners-up
- Membership in the Language Access Coalition of Canada
- Invitation to serve on the Advisory Board (for selected applicants)

### The grants will be judged based on the following five criteria:

#### 1. Language advocacy:

- Effectiveness: How the proposed project addresses advocacy elements such as strategy and campaign clarity (clear articulation of advocacy strategies, well-defined campaign objectives), goals and action planning (SMART goals, detailed action plans with timelines, clear benchmarks for success), coalition building (systematic approach to identifying partners, growth strategy and roles), funding (structured processes for identifying and maintaining relationships, sustainability), and community and media engagement (innovation, strategy, sustainability of public interest and support).
- Equitability: How the proposed language advocacy initiative connects to the idea of “equitable language justice”.

#### 2. Community impact:

- Improved access to essential services: How the proposed initiative demonstrates enhanced access to child welfare, counseling, education, employment, healthcare, housing, legal assistance, civic engagement, law enforcement and/or other social services.

- Well-being of language communities: How specific impacts on well-being and quality of life are created with this initiative inclusive of the number of people expected to benefit from the initiative and the range of anticipated improvements.
3. Innovation: How the proposed initiative will innovate in the field of language advocacy.
  4. Scalability: How easily this initiative could scale – what is the potential for community growth, adaptability to other regions and strategies for sharing findings nationwide?
  5. Feasibility. How viable the initiative implementation plan is and how appropriate strategic partners are in the execution of the proposal.

The judges, consisting of MCIS Staff and Board members, previous Microgrants winners, language advocacy and policy professionals, will evaluate submissions based on these criteria to identify projects with strongest potential.

## Who can receive the MCIS Language Advocacy Microgrants Award?

The award is intended for individuals, groups or entities such as grassroots organizations, coalitions, academia groups, nonprofits, community agencies and other members of civil society. Applicants must have a history of actively working to promote, preserve, or protect language access as a human right. Ineligible individuals and organizations may partner with eligible applicants to participate.

## How to apply?

Applications must be submitted by March 31, 2025, through our online portal [here](#).

All supporting documentation, including project timelines, budgets, and partner commitments should be included. Winners will be announced at the annual MCIS Language Impact May 2025.

For questions, contact [grants@mcis.on.ca](mailto:grants@mcis.on.ca)

For more information consult the MCIS Language Advocacy Grant Terms of Reference ([link below](#)).

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# MCIS Language Advocacy Microgrants Policy Statement

MCIS Language Solutions is committed to a grants approval process that is accountable, easy to understand, fair, transparent, reflective of community needs and values.

## 1. GRANTING PRINCIPLES

1. **Social Purpose-Driven Decision-Making:** MCIS champions clear communication as a fundamental human right. We support language advocacy initiatives that support language equity, cultural diversity, and community development across Canada. This commitment guides our selection of language services, technology solutions, and event planning resources.
2. **Ethics and Integrity:** MCIS upholds strict ethical standards to ensure fair practices and prevent conflicts of interest. All participants must declare relationships and recuse themselves from related decisions. As UN Global Compact members, we only partner with suppliers who meet our labor and environmental standards.
3. **Transparency and Accountability:** MCIS maintains procurement transparency through:
  - a. Clear communication of decisions to stakeholders;
  - b. Documented selection criteria and procedures open and transparent to the public;
  - c. Well-defined roles and responsibilities;
  - d. Regular audits;
  - e. Appropriate public disclosure.
4. **Stakeholder Inclusivity and Engagement:** MCIS consults stakeholders - including community members, language experts, funders, clients, beneficiaries and volunteers - on decisions that affect them, ensuring all choices support our mission to protect peoples' right to be informed, heard and understood.
5. **MCIS Core Values:** All partnerships must align with MCIS' core values: making a difference, collaboration, compassion, integrity, innovation, and social justice.
6. **Economy:** All grantees take into consideration economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Funds are managed sustainably to achieve results and ensure transparency.

## 2. ELIGIBILITY

1. Restricted to individuals, or a representative of a non-profit/grassroots community-based organizations, individuals, and corporations. Applicants must actively work to promote, preserve, or protect language access as a human right. Ineligible organizations may partner with eligible applicants to participate.
2. Internet access is required to submit applications and participate online.
3. We prohibit all forms of unlawful discrimination in hiring, employment, programs, and services, including but not limited to discrimination based on gender, orientation, religion, language.
4. Microgrants proposals must specify project details and completion timelines. Eligible proposals may not receive funding.
5. Microgrants funds must be used solely for approved project purposes, not personal expenses.

The microgrants will not be valid where legally prohibited. MCIS may verify eligibility and resolve any disputes at its discretion. By participating, you agree to these rules both as an individual and on behalf of your organization. You confirm that you are acting within your professional role and that your organization has approved your participation, including the possibility of receiving the microgrant. You also confirm that your participation complies with your organization's policies.

### **3. MCIS**

Multilingual Community Interpreter Services (MCIS Language Solutions) is a non-profit social enterprise incorporated under the Laws of Canada whose principal place of business is at 789 Don Mills Road, #1010, Toronto, Ontario.

### **4. APPLICATION PERIOD**

The application period begins at 8:00 a.m. EST February 22 until 12:00 noon on March 31, 2025 ("Application Period").

### **5. HOW TO ENTER**

Submit your application on [mcislanguages.com](https://mcislanguages.com) via the [microgrant 2025 page](#) between February 22 and March 31, 2025, by noon. Ensure your application includes the following:

1. Personal or organizational information
2. Project proposal
3. Implementation plan

All applications must comply with the requirements listed below (7).

### **6. APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

One application per organization is permitted, except when serving as a fiscal sponsor. Applications must be submitted: within the specified time period, in full, with all sections clearly completed, without modifications to the original form and with accurate information. The submitter must have organizational authorization and use their official work email address. Verification of authority may be required.

### **7. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

- Content must be respectful and appropriate. Offensive, threatening, discriminatory, or language harmful to any individual or group must be avoided. All submissions should align with the positive, inclusive spirit and purpose of the Microgrants program.
- The application must comply with all applicable laws and regulations.
- No third-party ads, brands, or sponsorships allowed: entries containing these will be disqualified.
- All work must be original, with no previously published or borrowed content.
- Users may not post content that violates rights to privacy, publicity, or intellectual property.
- Documents are accepted in English or French only.

## 8. JUDGING

Three finalists, chosen by the MCIS Selection Committee (“Advisors”) constituting of Board members, employees, and outside experts, will evaluate each Application based on the following criteria (“Criteria”):

- (a) Language Advocacy: 1. Effectiveness: How the proposed project addresses advocacy elements such as strategy and campaign clarity (clear articulation of advocacy strategies, well-defined campaign objectives), goals and action planning (SMART goals, detailed action plans with timelines, clear benchmarks for success), coalition building (systematic approach to identifying partners, growth strategy and roles), funding (structured processes for identifying and maintaining relationships, sustainability), and community and media engagement (innovation, strategy, sustainability of public interest and support), and 2. Equitability: How the proposed language advocacy initiative connects to the idea of “equitable language justice”?
- (b) Community impact: 1. Improved access to essential services: How the proposed initiative demonstrates enhanced access to child welfare, counseling, education, employment, healthcare, housing, legal assistance, civic engagement, law enforcement and/or other social services, and 2. Well-being of language communities: How specific impacts on well-being and quality of life are created with this initiative inclusive of the number of people expected to benefit from the initiative and the range of anticipated improvements.
- (c) Innovation: How the proposed initiative will innovate in the field of language advocacy.
- (d) Scalability: How easily this initiative could scale – what is the potential for community growth, adaptability to other regions and strategies for sharing findings nationwide?
- (e) Feasibility. How viable the initiative implementation plan is and how appropriate strategic partners are in the execution of the proposal?

## 9. AWARD

The top three scoring applications will be named Finalists. If a Finalist is disqualified, the next highest-scoring application will replace them.

Winners will receive:

- First place - \$10,000 grant funding.
- Second and third place, \$5,000 grant funding each.

## 10. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

All materials submitted to the Site or MCIS (“Submissions”), including photos, videos, comments, text, feedback, ideas, and suggestions, will remain the exclusive property of the Applicant, who retains all intellectual property and moral rights.

Award Recipients provide MCIS and its partners with a worldwide, non-exclusive, royalty-free, perpetual, and irrevocable license to use their Submission. This includes the rights to reproduce, modify, publish, translate, distribute, display the content, and create derivative works. MCIS may utilize the Submission for various purposes, including marketing, without the need to give notice, attribution, or compensation. MCIS holds the discretion not to use the Submission.

All materials submitted to the Challenge Site, MCIS, or its affiliates will be considered public and non-proprietary. MCIS is under no obligation to maintain the confidentiality of submissions. Award recipients

are required to sign a microgrant agreement stipulating that all intellectual property created with award funds must be made publicly available and free to use.

## **11. PRIVACY**

By registering, applicants consent to MCIS using their personal information (name, address, phone number, and email) to administer the Challenge, verify identity and contact details for award recipients, and process award distribution. Applicants may access, update, or delete their personal data by contacting MCIS at [grants@mcis.on.ca](mailto:grants@mcis.on.ca). Note: Applications missing required personal information will be disqualified.

## **12. PUBLICITY**

By accepting a Microgrant, Winners agree that MCIS and its agencies may use their name and likeness in promotional materials to identify them as Microgrant Recipients without additional payment, except where it is prohibited by law. Winners' information may be transferred internationally, including to countries with different privacy laws than their home country.

## **13. WARRANTY AND INDEMNITY**

Applicants confirm that their submissions are original work created by them or their organization. The organization must own all rights to the submitted application and have authority to enter it in the Challenge.

Applications must not:

1. Violate any third-party rights, including intellectual property, trademark, patent, trade secret, privacy, or confidentiality rights
2. Contain confidential or proprietary information
3. Violate any local, state, or federal laws.

## **14. ELIMINATION**

Organizations that provide false information will be disqualified. This includes misrepresenting: identity, contact information, rights ownership and compliance with rules.

## **15. FINALISTS AND WINNERS**

The Finalists will be announced on the Microgrants Site on or about May 15th, 2025, and the Winner will be announced during the week of May 25th, 2025.