



Frequently Asked Questions

Overview

What is Power to Grow?

Power to Grow: The Innovation Challenge is a search to discover and reward organizations that are empowering micro-enterprises in Central America.

If your organization is focused on increasing the capacity of Central American micro-enterprises to access regional and international markets, apply to Power to Grow by April 27th. Awardees will each receive a comprehensive support package, up to \$43,000 to promote their solution, and partnership with a current member of La Red de Innovación e Impacto. The award activities are expected to last for a year to 15 months, beginning in July/August, 2018. Working together, the awardee and La Red member will leverage shared experience and knowledge, benefit from cross-sector collaboration, and forge a coalition to empower micro-enterprises.

Who can participate in Power to Grow?

Power to Grow is open to organizations who are increasing capacity of micro-enterprises across Central America. As awardees will collaborate with current La Red member organizations, the core characteristics and qualifications will vary based on country of impact. Visit powertogrow.wec.org to view qualifications by country of impact.

How can I participate?

To apply to Power to Grow, visit powertogrow.wec.org.

A committee of experts will be reviewing all the applications. Know that during this process, the candidates may be contacted in order to ask for additional information that might be required for final evaluation and selection. Selected candidates will be officially announced in July.

Your proposed solution will be expected to begin by July/August, 2018 and last for a year to 15 months.

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Why should I participate?

Awardees will each receive a comprehensive support package, up to \$43,000 to promote their solution, and partnership with a current member of La Red de Innovación e Impacto. Working together, the awardee and La Red member will leverage shared experience and knowledge, benefit from cross-sector collaboration, and forge a coalition to empower micro-enterprises.

Awardees will also become members of [La Red de Innovación e Impacto](#). La Red, a project established by the U.S. Department of State in 2014, is a collection of 30 local solutions for innovative business development and sustainable economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean. To date, more than 2,230 MSMEs in Latin America have benefited from technical assistance, more than 1,800 people have been employed or promoted, and more than 1,240 farmers have improved their operations as a result of the work done by La Red.

Technical Details

How can I submit my application?

To submit your application to Power to Grow, visit powertogrow.wec.org.

Can I revise or change my application once it has been submitted?

No. Submitted applications are considered final.

Can I apply more than once?

Yes, you can apply for each country/partnership if you are operating in that country. Each application must be written to address the specific activities to that partnership in that country.

Qualifications

Can I apply if my company is located outside of Central America?

Power to Grow is open to organizations at a global level. Organizations are eligible as long as they are empowering micro-enterprises in at least one of the following countries:

- Belize
- Costa Rica

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- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Nicaragua
- Panama

What types of companies are considered for Power to Grow?

The organization must be a non-profit organization operating in one of the above mentioned countries. With access to, and the capacity to support, local micro-enterprises in the agricultural, agro-industrial, and/or textile industries. For a full list of qualifications visit powertogrow.wec.org.

If selected as a Power to Grow awardee, what am I required to do?

If selected as a finalist, you agree to:

- Fill out a Risk Self Assessment form
- Provide financial statements upon request
- Draft a [proposal](#), [budget](#), and [budget narrative](#) based on the U.S. government templates provided

If awarded, you agree to:

- Work with a current member of La Red de Innovacion e Impacto to implement a collaborative project
- Travel to Antigua, Guatemala in late July / early August for the Awarding Ceremony and Training. This can be included in your proposed budget.
- Acquire a DUNS number and register with the US Government contracting database if you have not done so already. This is a simple process done online that you can review [here](#).
- Submit quarterly reports to provide information on the progress of your project and financial reports that comport to the US government regulations.

Application Process

What is the deadline for application?

The application deadline is April 27, 2018 at 11:59:59 PM EST. Any applications received after this time will not be considered.

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What criteria should I meet to be a winner?

The criteria vary by country of impact. Qualification details can be found at powertogrow.wec.org.

How does the selection process work?

A committee of experts will be reviewing all the applications. Know that during this process, the candidates may be contacted in order to ask for additional information that might be required for final evaluation and selection.

Who has access to my idea once I submit?

The La Red and Power to grow teams and expert judges. We do not further distribute information without your authorization. Your team reserves all intellectual property rights.

Who can I contact if I am having problems with the website?

Please send an email to info@wec.org to report any issues with the website. If you share your telephone number, our team is able to follow up via phone. Please include your country code.

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