

FAQs on Refinements to the Cultural Matching Fund (CMF)

Refinements to the Scheme

1. What are the key refinements to the CMF?

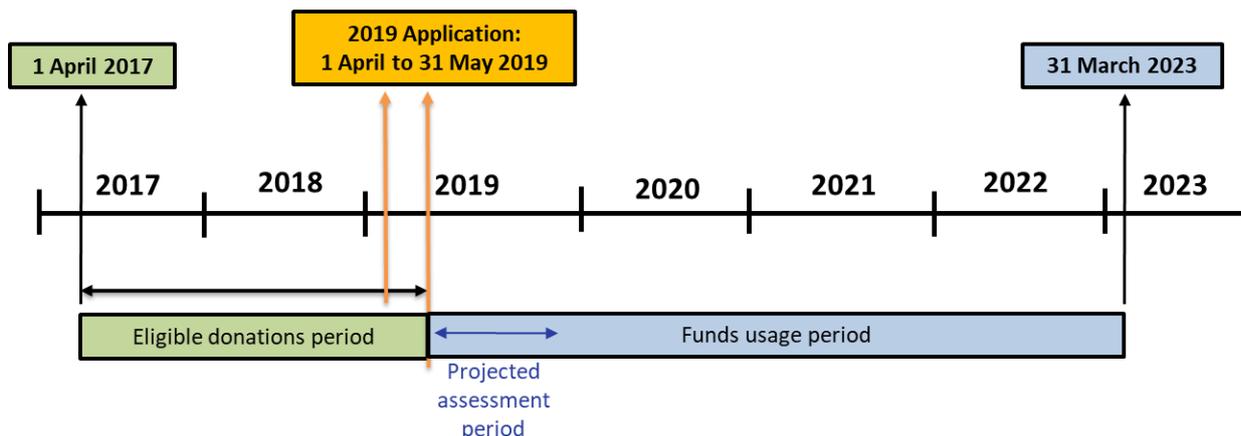
Key Refinements	No Change
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Above \$300,000 category: Applications will be assessed based on culture sector priorities, which include but not limited to building long-term sustainability in the culture sector.• Introduction of non-qualifying costs. Non-qualifying costs will apply for both first \$300,000 and above \$300,000 categories.• Application will be streamlined to once a year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First \$300,000 category• Funding guidelines will continue to apply regardless of quantum• Overhead operating costs such as salaries can still be supported by CMF

2. When will the changes take effect?

We will be implementing the changes from the next application cycle, which will take place in April 2018. We will extend the duration of each application window to 2 months to give applicants more time to prepare their applications.

3. What donations are eligible for matching in the next application cycle?

- Donations from the 2 previous financial years up to the close of the application window (1 April 2017 – 31 May 2019) will be eligible for matching.
- Eligibility for matching is also subjected to the following:
 - (i) Donations are received after the organisation has been registered as a charity;
 - (ii) Provision of certified statement of cash donations received;
 - (iii) No unrectified audit issues from past CMF Special Purpose Audits;
 - (iv) Donations are not from government agencies, including Statutory Boards, the Community Chest, the President's Challenge;
 - (v) Donations have not been matched by other government institutions (e.g. Care and Share Fund, Community Silver Trust, matching of donations to tertiary institutions);
 - (vi) Donations are not raised through activities that are deemed adverse to the culture sector and/or Singapore;
 - (vii) Donations are not earned income and sponsorship in nature.
- Expenditure can start retrospectively on 1 June 2019 if CMF application for the projects are approved.
- Approved CMF funds must be used by 31 March 2023.



4. Do the changes above apply to CMF deeds that have already been signed by my organisation?

The changes will not apply retrospectively to deeds already signed to-date (i.e. May 2014 to March 2017). They are only applicable to deeds signed from the 2018 application window onwards.

5. Will the audit requirements change?

All CMF recipients will be audited on the use of CMF grants once a year.

6. Will the milestone reporting requirements change?

For deeds signed between May 2014 and March 2017, milestone reports need to be submitted twice a year in April and October until funds are full expended.

For deeds signed from the 2018 application window onwards, milestone reports need to be submitted once a year in April. Please refer to the presentation slides on the CMF webpage for updates on the revised CMF’s application and operational details.

7. Does the \$15m lifetime cap still apply?

Instead of a lifetime cap, we will assess CMF applications according to culture sector priorities, to encourage organisations to fundraise and contribute to the development of Singapore’s culture sector.

One of the priorities that the CMF seeks to support is the development of diverse players in the cultural ecosystem, including smaller groups, as well as groups specialising in different art forms and interest areas.

Application to CMF

8. What projects would be prioritised when assessing according to culture sector priorities?

To enable Singapore to achieve the culture sector vision i.e. “through arts and heritage, we see a people fulfilled, communities engaged and a nation proud of our identity and culture”, CMF will prioritise support to projects that:

- (i) Are of high standards of **excellence** that are able to engage audiences and impactful in rejuvenating or transforming the cultural landscape in Singapore, or filling a critical gap in the arts and culture ecosystem in Singapore;
- (ii) **Engage** different segments in the Singapore society through arts and heritage, including the under-reached communities, and contributing to the development of new audiences beyond once-off attendances;
- (iii) Encourage **sustainability** in our arts and heritage scene such as instilling a sense of ownership among Singaporeans in our arts, history and traditions and building a pool of patrons and volunteers, or improving the capabilities of the organisation/sector in areas such as fundraising, innovation, corporate governance, research, business development etc.;
- (iv) Contribute to the building of a more caring and **cohesive** society by bridging communities, fostering inter-cultural understanding and bringing Singaporeans from different walks of life together to engage in arts and heritage; and
- (v) Promote a greater sense of shared **identity** and pride as Singaporeans, and deepen our understanding on the richness and diversity of our multicultural society.

9. Is using CMF grants for endowment funds in line with culture sector priorities?

Given the current fiscal environment, we would encourage recipients to put CMF grants to immediate use, rather than to have them in endowment funds.

10. Are there conditions on the use of the first \$300,000 of matching grants received?

Organisations can continue to use the first \$300,000 to cover the costs of their operations and programmes, according to what have been approved in their applications similar to the current approach. Funding guidelines will continue to apply. The CMF is not to be put to any use that may (i) discriminate against, insult, or create conflict or misunderstanding between persons or groups on the grounds of race or religion, (ii) advocate for causes considered objectionable by the general public, and (iii) undermine the government's authority or threaten Singapore's security or stability.

11. What are some examples of usage that CMF will not support (non-qualifying costs)?

- (i) Entertainment expenses
- (ii) Staff bonuses and welfare benefits (including overseas travel costs)
- (iii) Internal charges within an organisation
- (iv) Legal expenses
- (v) Debt/loan repayment
- (vi) Government fines and taxes

12. Do projects funded by NAC and NHB qualify for CMF grants usage?

Projects which are partially supported by funding from NAC and NHB can still qualify for the CMF, as long as these other sources of funding are declared when applying to the CMF.

13. Do donations raised and used for applying to other grants with matching or conditional components qualify for matching from CMF?

Donations that have been raised and used for applying to grants with conditional or matching components administered by other government bodies, such as NAC, NHB and Tote Board, will not qualify for matching from CMF.

14. Do CMF recipients have the flexibility to use the donations raised from the donors? Or do the uses have to be subjected to culture sector priorities?

Organisations may use the donations collected at their discretion, or in line with donors' preferences. The use of CMF grants above the first \$300,000, however, is subjected to culture sector priorities.

15. Who will evaluate applications according to culture sector priorities?

Applications will be evaluated by the CMF Board of Trustees with the support from CMF Secretariat, MCCY, NAC, and NHB.