



Justitiedepartementet

Division for Democratic Issues, Human Rights, National Minorities, Non-Governmental Organisations and Sports

Title: Ordinance (2005:1089) on Government Grants for Women's Organisations

Issued: 8 December 2005

Enters into force: 1 January 2006

The purposes of the government grant

Section 1 The purpose of the government grant is to support women's self-organisation in groups of their own. The grant is intended to promote women's participation in the democratic process and the life of the community. The grant is also to enable women to look after their rights and pursue their demands.

General provisions

Section 2 In this Ordinance, a "women's organisation" means:

1. a non-profit association in which female members are in a majority and whose purpose is to strengthen women's position in society,
2. a non-profit association whose members are primarily non-profit associations as referred to in (1), and whose purpose is to strengthen women's position in society, or
3. a group of women within a non-profit association, working to strengthen women's position in society.

Section 3 A "member of a women's organisation" as specified in Sections 2(1) and 2(2) means a person who is able under the organisation's statutes to influence decisions on its activities and focus, and who has actively taken a position on membership by paying a membership fee or applying for membership during the year preceding the grant year. To count as a member, as referred to in Section 2(1), he

or she must also reach the age of 15 before or during the year in which the grant application is made.

For a women's organisation as specified in Section 2(3), the non-profit association is required to keep a register of the women who have actively chosen to become members of this group. These women are also required to be members of the non-profit association and to reach the age of 15 before or during the year in which the grant application is made. Membership of an association is defined in the same way as in the first paragraph.

Types of grant

Section 4 Government grants for women's organisations may be made as

1. organisation grants,
2. start-up grants, and
3. activity grants.

Conditions

Section 5 Grants are made subject to the availability of funds.

Section 6 Organisation grants may be made to a non-profit association for activities fulfilling the purposes referred to in Section 1. These activities are to be run by a women's organisation that

1. is democratically organised and that conducts activities that do not conflict with democratic ideas,
2. has a national organisation with regular activities in at least five counties or activities of nationwide interest, and
3. has conducted activities in Sweden for at least three years before the grant application.

"Nationwide interest" means that activities conducted by a women's organisation are of general interest to society as a whole and not only locally.

Exemptions from the requirement of the first paragraph (3) may be permitted if a women's organisation as referred to in Section 2(3) has been reorganised into a non-profit association and has conducted activities and been granted organisation support for these activities for three years before the grant application.

Section 7 Start-up grants may be made to a non-profit association for activities fulfilling the purposes referred to in Section 1. Activities are to be conducted in Sweden by a women's organisation that fulfils the terms

of Section 6, first paragraph (1) and (2) and that has adopted a development plan.

A start-up grant may be made for a maximum of three years.

A start-up grant may not be made if an organisation grant has been awarded for the same activities.

Section 8 Activity grants may be made to a non-profit association or foundation for activities fulfilling the purposes referred to in Section 1.

A grant to a non-profit association requires that the activities are conducted by a women's organisation that is democratically organised. Activities may be conducted jointly with one or several parties or networks. A grant to a foundation requires that the activities are conducted by a foundation that does not come under central or local government, and whose main purpose is to strengthen women's position in society.

The activities must consist of actions aimed at involving women in a specific purpose that is of nationwide interest, or at international exchanges between women. The activities must not conflict with democratic ideas. The actions must be of a temporary nature and distinct from the regular activities of the non-profit association or foundation.

Section 9 Grants may not be made for activities conducted or to be conducted by political parties or their women's organisations. In this Ordinance, "political parties" means parties represented in the Riksdag and association or groups of voters that intend to take part in a general election under a specific name.

Applications

Section 10 Questions concerning grants under this Ordinance will be considered by the Committee for the allocation of government grants to women's organisations and gender equality projects (Ju 2005:15).

Section 11 An application for an organisation or start-up grant must have been received no later than 1 October of the year preceding the grant year, or the later date decided upon by the Committee.

Section 12 A grant application must be made in writing on the form provided by the Committee.

The application must certify that the information submitted in the application is correct and that the application does not concern grants for activities referred to in Section 9.

The application must be personally signed by an authorised representative of the non-profit association or foundation applying for a grant. An application for a grant for activities that are conducted or are

to be conducted by a group such as that referred to in Section 2(3) must also have the written approval of at least two women members of the group.

Section13 An application for an organisation grant must also contain

1. the rules of the applicant association,
2. documents showing the person(s) who are entitled to represent the association,
3. an annual report or account of activities conducted during the association's previous year of activity by the women's organisation referred to in the application,
4. information on the number of individual members, the number of member association, or for such women's organisations as are specified in Section 2(3), the number of women in the women's organisation referred to in the application,
5. information about the proportion of women in the association or member organisations, with regard to the women's organisation referred to in the application, and
6. information about whether the applicant has applied for or been awarded another government organisation grant, and if so, the amount involved.

The reliability of the information on the number of individual members, the number of member organisations or the number of women in the group, and about the proportion of women, must be certified by the association's auditor. If the application involves a grant totalling at least five price base amounts as defined by the National Insurance Act (1962:381), the auditor must be an authorised or approved accountant.

Section14 An application for a start-up grant must also contain

1. the rules of the applicant association,
2. documents showing the person(s) who are entitled to represent the association,
3. a development plan for the activities of the women's organisation referred to in the application, and
4. information about the proportion of women in the association or member organisations, with regard to the women's organisation referred to in the application.

The reliability of the information about the proportion of women in the association or member organisations must be certified by the association's auditor, and if the application involves a grant totalling at least five base amounts as defined by the National Insurance Act (1962:381), by an authorised or approved accountant as of the second grant year.

Section 15 An application for an activity grant must also contain

1. the rules of the applicant association or foundation,
2. documents showing the person(s) who are entitled to represent the association or the board,
3. information where the activities of a women's organisation are concerned, about the proportion of women in the association or member organisations, regarding the women's organisation referred to in the application, and
4. information about the actions and their purpose or the international exchange intended by these actions.

The reliability of the information on the proportion of women in the association or member organisations is to be certified by the association's auditor.

Section 16 Applicants are obliged to submit to the Committee additional documents and information requested by the Committee for consideration of the application.

Section 17 If a person applying for a grant under this Ordinance does not submit the documents and information required under Sections 12-16, the applicant must be given an opportunity to complete the application within a certain time.

Decisions

Section 18 Decisions on grants are to refer to a specific grant year. A grant year for organisation and start-up grants is a calendar year. A grant year for activity support is a twelve-month period.

The Committee takes decisions on organisation and start-up grants only once during a calendar year, and on activity grants on a maximum of three occasions during a calendar year, on the dates decided upon by the Committee.

Section 19 When assessing the size of an organisation grant, the Committee is to take account of the number of members, or, with regard to such women's organisations as are referred to in Section 2(3), the number of women in the group, and the extent of the activities. Account must also be taken of whether the women's organisation receives other government organisation grants for its activities.

When assessing the number of members or women and the extent of activities, account must be taken of conditions on the last day of the applicant association's most recent year of activities.

Section 20 A decision on a grant must state the purpose for which the grant has been made.

Funds granted in support of activities carried out by such a group as is referred to in Section 2(3) must be kept distinct from the recipient association's other funds.

Conditions may be attached to a decision on a grant.

Accounting

Section 21 An association that has received an organisation or start-up grant is obliged to submit to the Committee a financial report of the funds disbursed and an account of what these funds have been used for, no later than 1 April the year after the support granted has been disbursed. An association or foundation receiving an activity grant under the provisions of this Ordinance is obliged to submit a final report to the Committee no later than one month after completion of actions. This report must be submitted on a special form provided by the Committee. The report is to contain financial accounts and a report of how the funds have been used.

An association or foundation receiving a start-up or activity grant must also submit to the Committee a report of the results achieved and their relation to the purpose for which the grant was approved, within the same time-frame specified in the first paragraph.

The auditor of the association or foundation and, if the grant received totals at least five price base amounts as defined by the National Insurance Act (1962:381), an authorised or approved accountant, is to certify that the report is reliable and the accounts correct, and that the applicable provisions and conditions etc. have been complied with.

Section 22 An association or foundation receiving a grant under the provisions of this Ordinance is also obliged, at the request of the Committee, to submit to the Committee supporting information needed to scrutinise the accounts.

Section 23 Every year, the Committee is required to present an overall financial report to the Government no later than 1 June. This report must also include the names of the associations and foundations receiving grants, the amounts given and the purpose of the grants. As of the beginning of the Committee's second year of activities, the report is also required to include a summary of how the grants have been used. The financial report is to be scrutinised by an authorised or approved accountant.

At the same time, as of 2007, the Committee is also required to present the Government with an assessment of the effects of the government grant in relation to its purposes, every other year.

Disbursement

Section 24 Organisation or start-up support granted is to be paid to the non-profit association granted support twice during the grant year, with half of the approved grant on each occasion. For organisation or start-up grants of up to and including five price base amounts as defined by the National Insurance Act (1962:381), only one payment is to be made.

An approved activity grant is to be paid on one occasion during the grant year to the association or foundation awarded support.

Repayment

Section 25 The Committee may decide to demand full or partial repayment of a grant

1. if the recipient of the grant, by submitting incorrect information or in another way, has caused the grant to be made incorrectly or for too high an amount, or if for other reasons the grant has been made incorrectly or for too high an amount and the recipient should have realised this,
2. if the grant is not used for the purpose for which it was granted,
3. if the association or foundation does not submit the documents and supporting information referred to in Sections 21 and 22, or
4. if the conditions attached to the decision are not complied with.

Appeals

Section 26 Decisions pursuant to this Ordinance may not be appealed against.

Transitional provisions

1. This Ordinance shall enter into force on 1 January 2006, when the Ordinance on Government Grants to Women's Organisations' Core Activities (1982:865) shall cease to apply.

2. Applications for organisation and start-up grants for grant year 2006 are to have been received by the Committee no later than 1 March 2006 or by the later date decided upon by the Committee.

3. Applications under the superseded Ordinance received by the Government Offices before 1 January 2006 that have not yet been decided upon are to be processed under the new Ordinance. Thus, an application for a basic or flexible grant under the superseded Ordinance is to be processed as an application for an organisation, start-up or activity grant under the new Ordinance. Applications from women's organisations belonging to the parties in the Riksdag are not, however, to be processed under the new Ordinance.