



NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SOUTH AFRICA'S CENTRE FOR THE BOOK

GUIDELINES FOR THE COMMUNITY PUBLISHING GRANT

BACKGROUND

- The Community Publishing Grant is awarded by the Centre for the Book to South African Writers to self-publish their works.
- The grant is made available annually and the results will be announced once all processes are completed
- The closing date is 30 April each year.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- The Community Publishing Grant aims to make it possible for individuals, community groups and community based organizations to publish books.
- The grant also aims to empower individuals and groups to develop the necessary skills and capacities to enable them to publish, which in turn means that interesting and worthwhile books, which would otherwise not be published will see the light of day.
- Underlying this grant is the belief in the beneficial and enriching influence of books in society, particularly of books that reflect a diversity of voices and experiences.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

- South African or permanent resident writers' /writers groups/wannabe small publishers.
- Manuscripts that are clearly works of nonfiction are not eligible.
- The manuscript must be an original work written in any of the official South African languages. However, writers are encouraged to write in indigenous languages.
- The manuscript should not be a re-issue or a re-working of a previously published book.
- The manuscript must be published in South Africa.
- The award is given to a manuscript that is recognizably South African in character.
- National Library of South Africa employees are eligible for the grant but will not receive preferential treatment.
- Only typed manuscripts shall be accepted.

WHAT WILL YOU GET?

- The Community Publishing Grant covers the following costs: editing, proofreading, illustrations, book lay out, cover design and printing.
- Printing covers 200 copies for poetry and 300 copies for other genres.
- Marketing and distribution (although these should be estimated in your marketing plan) are the author's responsibility.

WHAT KINDS OF MANUSCRIPTS ARE SUITABLE?

- The Community Publishing Grant is intended for books that are about reading for pleasure and NOT for books that could be construed as textbooks.
- Only the work of fiction such as novels, collections of stories, plays/drama, collections of poems, collections of works by groups of writers, essays, as well as children's books that are welcome.
- An anthology of poems should at least have not less than 40 poems to make a complete book. Writers are encouraged to collaborate.
- An anthology of short stories should have at least 15 short stories to make a complete book.

CONDITIONS AND PROCESSING OF THE GRANT

Once the call for applications has been announced:

1. Download from the National Library of South Africa (NLSA) website a valid application form or request a copy from the Community Publishing Project Coordinator.
2. Send to Centre for the Book a fully completed application form and the original manuscript.
(No emailed manuscripts and no late submission of applications will be accepted)
3. The Centre for the Book will send you a letter or email acknowledging the receipt of your application.
4. Once all internal processes are completed, all applicants will receive letters informing them about the decisions taken by the independent selection panel.
5. Approved applicants will receive and sign an agreement form which must be returned to the Centre for the Book.
6. The Centre for the Book monitors all the book production stages (editing, illustrations, page layout and cover design, proof reading and printing) for quality control and will work closely with the author, professional free lancers and registered companies that on NLSA database.
7. The printing company delivers books to the Centre for the Book which are delivered to the author's address.
8. The author must send one copy to all Legal Deposit Libraries in South Africa.

*For further information on the Community Publishing Grant, please contact:
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