

TERMS OF REFERENCE: IPASA BASIC EDUCATION EARLY GRADES FUNDERS RESEARCH

Consultant Contract Specifications

The Independent Philanthropy Association of South Africa (IPASA) is looking to contract a Basic Education Research Consultant to conduct research on Basic Education funders, specifically funders who support early grade initiatives. The main objective of this research is to enable IPASA to gain an evidence-based understanding of the Basic Education funding sector in South Africa.

During the past three years, IPASA has implemented annual Basic Education initiatives that brought Basic Education Funders together to share experiences, learn from one another, research specific focus areas, and deliberate on ways to collaborate in priority focus areas. In addition, in 2022 IPASA conducted research on funders and implementors of After-School Programmes, and in 2021 and 2022 we conducted two ECD surveys to assess the ECD funding landscape.

IPASA has received a grant/funding to undertake similar research on Basic Education Funders (specifically those who fund early grade initiatives), with the purpose to:

1. Generate data that will assist funders to follow evidence-based funding approaches, which will assist them to enhance the focus and efficiency of their funding; and
2. Enable IPASA to enhance its convenings and discussions on opportunities for Basic Education funders to collaborate and to catalyse systemic change.

This research will take place in three phases:

Phase 1: Preparation:

This phase will include the development of a list of Basic Education Funders which will be compiled from IPASA's records, as well as those of other funders and partners in the sector. The consultant/consultancy will be responsible for expanding this list in terms of numbers and data. The research will include Basic Education funders who fund all phases, from Grade R to Senior Phase, but will focus mainly on early grades. During this phase the research methodology will be refined, and data collection instruments will be prepared. A mixed methods approach is proposed, which should include a desktop review, mapping, a survey of funders (from the BE funder list compiled) and the conducting of semi-structured interviews. While this research is primarily focused on funders, it will be beneficial to also include implementing partners/NPOs.

Phase 2: Data collection:

Primary data collection will take place through an online survey administered to the entire database, and through telephone/Zoom interviews with 20 selected funders, and other sector stakeholders - these could include NPOs who implement programmes in the Basic Education Sector, government officials,

academics, etc. The initial research findings will be shared with Basic Education Funders in a workshop to validate the findings and obtain additional inputs.

Phase 3: Finalisation of the report and knowledge resources:

The consultant(s) will be responsible for producing an edited final version of the research report that incorporates feedback from the validation workshop. in MS Word (South African or UK English). Layout and design of the report is not required. Upon completion of the research the consultant(s) will be required to prepare an updated Basic Education Funders List for publication on IPASA's website. During this phase, based on the findings of the research, and the data validation workshop, the consultant(s) will be responsible for the development of Guidelines for Basic Education Funders. These guidelines are aimed at promoting good funding practices in the Basic Education Sector. IPASA has developed similar guidelines for the ECD and After-School sector.

Deliverables

1. Basic Education Funders database prior to the start of data collection as well as an updated list of Basic Education Funders at the end of the project.
2. Data validation workshop.
3. A Basic Education Funders Research Report.
4. Basic Education Funders Guidelines.
5. Workshop to present the Basic Education Funders Guidelines and research recommendations.

Consultant requirements:

- Proven ability to conduct qualitative and quantitative research in the Basic Education sector. Experience with conducting geographical/thematic/network mapping will be a distinct advantage.
- Sound understanding of philanthropic funding, specifically in the education sector.
- Previous experience in working with education funders, and experience in working with early grade funders will be an advantage.
- Deep understanding of current challenges and issues in the South African education sector.
- Previous experience in development of toolkits and/or guidelines.

Consultant contract details:

This research will be implemented over a period of 14 weeks, starting on the 27th of March, and ending on the 30th of June. The budget ceiling for this contract is R192,000.

If interested, please submit the following to louise@ipa-sa.org.za:

- A 2-to-3-page proposal including a detailed quotation and two contactable references.
- Individual consultants are required to include a brief CV in their submission, and consultancies/companies should include CVs of all team members.
- Consultancies/companies are welcome to include a company profile in their submission.
- All applicants should include an example of a relevant previous research report in their application.

PLEASE NOTE: Deadline for submissions: COB, 17 March 2023.

ABOUT IPASA

Established in 2015, IPASA is a locally established, voluntary association of independent philanthropists, private foundations and other organisations associated with philanthropy in South Africa. IPASA's key purpose is to extend the reach and impact of philanthropy while representing and promoting the common interests, concerns, and objectives of its members. IPASA focuses on four key areas to achieve its mission mainly: to advance, promote and support independent philanthropy in South Africa; to be a voice for independent philanthropy in South Africa; to promote good practice in philanthropy; and to support collaboration in philanthropy.

To further its objectives, IPASA focuses on the following work:

- Creating a community of 'best practice' and greater awareness of grant-making ethics in philanthropy amongst its members.
- Providing opportunities for peer support and the sharing of complementary resources amongst its members
- Producing and disseminating resources, skills and knowledge around philanthropy in South Africa
- Promoting a more enabling fiscal and legal environment for philanthropy in South Africa
- Creating opportunities for collaboration, synergies and partnerships with different stakeholders concerned with independent philanthropy in South Africa

For more information visit: www.ipa-sa.org.za