

Terms and Conditions

FRIDA Program

2025 Edition

1. Background

FRIDA is a program by the Internet Addresses Registry for Latin America (LACNIC) that supports Latin American and Caribbean projects, initiatives, and solutions that contribute to the consolidation of a global, open, stable, and secure Internet.

FRIDA was created in 2004 with the support of two Canadian government entities: the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA) and the International Development Research Center (IDRC). Since its creation, this program has received contributions from LACNIC, the IDRC, the Internet Society, the Swedish Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and Seed Alliance. FRIDA is currently developed, coordinated, and funded exclusively by LACNIC.

Projects, initiatives, and solutions are selected through annual, open public calls for applications coordinated by LACNIC under the guidance of an external selection committee composed of regional experts in the categories and thematic axes defined for each call.

2. Purpose

The main purpose of the FRIDA program is to support projects, initiatives or solutions that contribute to the consolidation of a global, open, stable, and secure Internet. Two formats are available:

Grants

FRIDA Grants provide non-reimbursable funds and technical support to projects, initiatives, or solutions with a maximum duration of 12 months.

Awards

FRIDA Awards offer economic recognition and highlight projects, initiatives, or solutions with proven, concrete impact, whether they are ongoing or already completed. Projects that have not yet started are not eligible under this modality and are instead encouraged to apply to the program through the Grants modality.



3. Beneficiaries

For both formats (**Grants** or **Awards**), applicants must be based in and conduct their activities in Latin America and the Caribbean, specifically in territories that are part of the [LACNIC coverage area](#). Proposals should also focus on these territories. In all cases, the following groups may apply to the FRIDA Program:

- Operators, IXPs, NOGs, or other actors in the technical community
- Universities, research centers, or working groups/experts
- Associations, cooperatives, and other civil society organizations
- Public and/or government agencies
- Private entities and/or companies

Applicants based outside of the LACNIC service region may also apply, exclusively as partners of a lead/proponent institution based in one of the territories within LACNIC coverage area, provided that the project focuses on one or more of these territories. This does not preclude the project from also encompassing other contexts.

4. Non-reimbursable financial support and technical assistance

Grants

Projects, initiatives, or solutions selected under the Grants format may each request **financial support up to USD 20.000** to be executed over a period of 12 (twelve) months starting from the date of signature of the grant agreement.

In addition to financial support, the FRIDA Program follows the execution of the project, requiring progress reports as detailed in the grant agreement. Furthermore, it provides technical oversight and opportunities for the dissemination, promotion of its results and the knowledge generated.

Awards

Projects, initiatives, or solutions selected under the Awards format must be ongoing or completed with concrete evidence of results and/or impact. They will be eligible for a distinction and recognition from LACNIC consisting of a **financial support of USD 5.000**,





as well as opportunities for dissemination, cooperation and contact with other actors of the technical and/or research community.

5. Categories and thematic axes

Listed below are the categories, subcategories, and thematic axes:

I. Internet Stability and Security

Purpose:

The Internet is under permanent construction. Ensuring Internet stability and security is essential to strengthen user trust and foster Internet growth in Latin America and the Caribbean.

This line of funding focuses on four key themes or thematic axes and a subcategory related to the use and application of Blockchain technology for Internet stability and security.

Themes:



1. Network Architecture and Operation Monitoring

Measurement, management, optimization, automation and/or innovation in network architecture and operation related to one or more of the following priority topics:

- BGP
- DNS
- Protocols
- Performance

2. Traffic Engineering and Interconnection

Monitoring, measurement, management, control, modeling, optimization and/or innovation in one or more of the priority topics and related to the specific areas below:

- IXPs
- CDNs
- BGP
- QoS

3. Cryptography, Security and Resilience

Contribution to Internet security and resilience, the prevention of, and response to, attacks, incidents and anomalies in Internet infrastructure, and the generation of innovative approaches and solutions with a special emphasis on the priority issues detailed below:

- DNS (approaches such as DNSSEC or others)
- Routing Security
- RPKI and/or Extensions
- Route Origin Validation
- IoT
- DDoS
- Malware

4. Future Development of the Internet



This line of work and research seeks to contribute to the future development of the Internet in the LAC region. Its approach is broad and places special emphasis on addressing the regional challenges posed by the priority topics detailed below:

- IPv6
- High performance computing
- Other innovative topics related to the line

Subcategory: Use and Application of Blockchain Technology for Internet Stability and Security

Purpose:

Projects presented in this category should focus on the use and application of Blockchain technology in relation to one of the four main thematic axes included in the **Internet Stability and Security** category and/or in relation to one or more specific subtopics.

In this subcategory, applicants may present research projects, case studies, and/or proofs of concept and/or prototypes designed to achieve practical goals and specific original results related to the use and application of Blockchain technology for Internet Stability and Security.

Since this is a recent area of study and practical application, projects should seek to obtain results that will contribute to practical and concrete solutions and/or to generate knowledge that may be useful to expand and promote the topic in our region.

II. Internet Access and Connectivity

Purpose:

With this category, FRIDA seeks to support projects, initiatives, or solutions to promote connectivity, quality of access, and the strengthening of regional Internet service providers. The category focuses on three themes:

Themes:

1. Internet Connectivity

The goal of this theme is to provide funding for projects, initiatives, or solutions that seek to provide Internet connectivity to currently unconnected populations across Latin America and the Caribbean, rural areas and/or urban areas with poor Internet coverage.

This thematic axis focuses both on alternative access models through intranets, community-managed networks, and/or the installation of small and medium-sized ISPs, as well as on the development of affordable connectivity technologies (such as routers, tablets, processors, and others) and/or free software that will simplify the deployment of networks and reduce cost barriers to connection.

2. Internet Access for a Quality Service

The purpose of this theme is to support projects, initiatives, or solutions that focus on providing a quality service, either by increasing the quality of existing connectivity in terms of connection speed, coverage, network capacity, or based on the measurement and assessment of community access needs, as well as other related initiatives.

3. Strategies for Strengthening ISPs

With this thematic axis, FRIDA seeks to fund projects, initiatives, or solutions that focus on the challenges faced daily by regional internet service providers operating in a specific department or state, often in areas with access issues, via wireless technology and/or last-mile fiber optics, which serve an average of 2,000 mostly residential subscribers, and in many cases become leaders within their local communities due to their proximity and identification with their clients.

Proposals under this theme may focus on purchasing and/or equipment, developing business strategies and/or internal training, improving interconnection, or meeting other needs to help promote the development of ISPs across Latin America and the Caribbean.

III. Open and Free Internet

Purpose:

This category seeks to support projects, initiatives, or solutions that address the



current challenges faced by Latin America and the Caribbean in relation to the Internet and human rights, as well as digital inclusion at the regional level.

Themes:

1. The Internet and Human Rights

The goal of this theme is to support projects, initiatives, or solutions that focus on the protection, promotion, and/or solution of challenges or needs related to human rights in areas such as freedom of expression, the right to privacy and data protection, human rights and the digital environment, the role of emerging technologies, and their impact on the Internet and human rights.

2. Digital Inclusion

With this theme, FRIDA seeks to support projects, initiatives, or solutions that address digital inclusion with a multidimensional approach, providing responses to challenges or needs related to the digital divide in terms of the digital skills and competences required by the future of education and employment, the barriers preventing access to the Internet, the affordability gap (cost of access and devices), as well as gender gaps.

IV. Artificial Intelligence applied to the Internet and Networks

Within the framework of the program's 20-year anniversary, an additional thematic category was incorporated, associated with topics defined jointly with the community during the LACNIC 41 event.

Projects related to the use and application of Artificial Intelligence and machine learning to the Internet and networks, in technical areas such as traffic management, security, resilience, Internet operations and/or the demand generated by recent advances in Generative Artificial Intelligence or LLM (*Large Language Model*), may be submitted to this category.

Projects are also expected to identify and incorporate an ethical dimension in their study and development.

Research projects, case studies and/or development of proof-of-concepts and/or prototypes that seek to achieve practical objectives and specific original results may be submitted.



6. FRIDA platform and form application process

Before applying, it is important for applicants to identify the thematic area and type of support (grant, award) for which they will apply. Once these two aspects have been defined, applications must be submitted by completing an online application form, which will be available on the opening day, from 5:00 PM (UTC-3).

All projects must be submitted through [FRIDA's Application Platform](https://programafrida.net/en/frida-application-platform)

To do so, the following steps must be followed:

1. Access and register on the platform

<https://programafrida.net/en/frida-application-platform>

Those interested parties who already have a user on the FRIDA application platform must reset their password.

2. Start the initial application from the opening day and time of the call.
3. Select the thematic category and axis associated with the project (the subcategory if applicable).
4. Identify the type of support that corresponds (grant or award).
5. Complete the indicated fields related to the project.

7. Application, evaluation and selection process

The process of application, evaluation and selection of proposals under the FRIDA program (for both grants and awards) consists of 2 stages:

Stage 1: Submission of a simplified application based on which the proposals that best meet the general requirements and criteria will be shortlisted. The pre-selected proposals will be communicated through the specific InfoFrida list, published on the program's website and social networks. They will be invited to apply for the complete project through a specific communication on the date indicated at the end of these terms and conditions.

Stage 2: The pre-selected proposals that apply for the complete project will be technically evaluated. The final results will be communicated through the specific InfoFrida list, published on the program's website and social networks. Likewise, a specific and individual communication will be made to the selected projects on the date indicated at the end of these terms and conditions.



In both stages of the process, proposals will be assessed based on the criteria listed below.

8. Requirements and evaluation criteria for shortlisting and selection

General requirements

1. The proposal must be in line with the mission and goal of the FRIDA Program
2. The proposal must be submitted by a member of one of the beneficiary categories
3. The beneficiaries (proposing/responsible organization) must be based in Latin America and the Caribbean, specifically in the territories that are part of the LACNIC service region, which will also be the focus of the proposal and where the proposed activities will be conducted.

Notwithstanding the above, institutions located in territories outside LACNIC's area of coverage may apply as partner organizations, provided that the responsible organization meets the requirements described in point 3 and that the project is mainly oriented towards addressing the challenges and needs of territories within LACNIC's area of coverage in Latin America and the Caribbean.

4. Proposal and relation with the objectives of one of the categories and thematic axes or subcategory (in the case of Stability and Security).
5. The proposal must meet the specific requirements defined for each category in terms of duration, funding, and open and free development and access.

Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation phase consists of determining whether the proposals meet the criteria above. Both during stage 1 (shortlisting) and stage 2 (final selection), proposals will be evaluated based on their relation to the criteria detailed below.

Primary Criteria:

1. RELEVANCE AND APPLICABILITY

- Regional needs and challenges
- Knowledge and advances in the selected thematic category/axis
- Consistency between objectives, methodology, proposed activities, and budget
- Ability of the technical team and the proposing institution

2. EXPECTED OR ACHIEVED RESULTS AND IMPACT

Proposals will be scored considering the following specific criteria. However, not every proposal is expected to include and/or respond to all of them.

- Geographic area/population benefited by the project and/or coverage achieved
- Technical developments (hardware/software/prototypes or others) and/or material results at a technological level
- Strengthening/improvement of services provided
- Development of knowledge at a practical and/or academic level (guides, methodologies, papers, academic publications and/or presentations at conferences) among others.

3. CONTINUITY, SUSTAINABILITY, AND REPLICABILITY

- Potential for the project's continuity
- Potential for the use/application of the results in other contexts/geographic areas or populations other than the regional target
- Alliances with other institutions that may be generated/identified and/or developed.

Secondary Criteria

Proposals related to the following criteria will be positively valued:

1. Proposals that are innovative in terms of their methodological approach, proposed solution, and/or expected results
2. Proposals that include the gender perspective (proposals that address issues related to gender equality in the Internet ecosystem)
3. Relationship with the 2030 Agenda and the sustainable development goals.



9. Results, products and/or developments

All developments proposed to be carried out with the support of FRIDA, as well as the results of the research shall be made available to the technical and research community or other interested parties under open source, free hardware or open licenses as appropriate for each case and on the platform or support that the proposing organization(s) deem most relevant.

In the case of the final results, these will be submitted through a final report requested at the time of the conclusion of the research.

The above will not prevent the research team from submitting applications and/or proposals for publications in peer-reviewed journals that are not open access. The responsible institution(s) that are beneficiaries of the program shall inform LACNIC-FRIDA of the proposals made under the aforementioned modalities, and/or of those that are under evaluation and/or embargo. Likewise, they shall be solely responsible for complying with the conditions stipulated in said publications. LACNIC-FRIDA shall not be responsible for the fulfillment or non-fulfillment thereof.

10. Intellectual Property Rights

It is a condition for the selected projects that the responsible organization(s) shall develop all intellectual property rights in relation to works, reports and in general any task generating intellectual property rights under the Project with the Funds received from LACNIC - FRIDA (the Work). Furthermore, no such rights may be assigned, nor may the Ownership of the Works or any other license be granted, without the prior written consent of LACNIC.

11. Dissemination and Disclosure

The proposing institutions grant broad consent to LACNIC - FRIDA (and Partners, if applicable) to reproduce, publish, copy, adapt, perform, communicate, display or exhibit in or for the public, alter or otherwise change for other uses the Works resulting from the Project (or a substantial part or adaptation thereof) for purposes of promotion, dissemination, disclosure and reporting -always respecting the corresponding copyrights and intellectual property rights-. Likewise, they undertake to obtain the aforementioned consent from their employees and subcontractors, if applicable.

Likewise, in all cases, the logos and trademarks of LACNIC-FRIDA or its Partners, if applicable, shall be included in any Work or material generated within the framework of a



project subsidized or awarded by LACNIC-FRIDA. Apart from the above, the Recipient may only use LACNIC, FRIDA or its Partners' trademark, name, acronym or emblem/logo with the prior specific written authorization of LACNIC-FRIDA or its Partners.

12. Administrative, financial and technical capacity

The institutions selected under the grant modality shall sign an agreement with LACNIC stipulating the terms, conditions and reciprocal obligations of the parties. Those institutions selected under the award modality must sign a letter of acceptance of the terms and conditions of the award together with the requested documents.

In both cases, the selected institutions and/or research groups that partner with an institution to participate in this call for proposals must have the administrative, financial and legal capacity to carry out the necessary procedures within a maximum period of two months in order to receive the LACNIC - FRIDA funds, administer them according to the terms and conditions stipulated in the agreement to be signed and/or the letter of acceptance, and execute the project within the stipulated timeframe.

It is recommended that the institutions inform themselves sufficiently in advance and act with due diligence to ensure that the internal conditions in their respective institutions, as well as in their country of origin, allow them to receive non-reimbursable financial assistance for the execution of research, development assistance, innovation and/or other projects.

13. Ethical Issues Associated with Research

The proposals submitted under the "Grants" or "Awards" modality, which are currently in progress, must first of all respect the applicable legislation (both the regulations of the place where LACNIC - Uruguay's headquarters are located), as well as those of the states in which its headquarters are located and/or where its activities will be developed.

The LACNIC-FRIDA call for proposals expects that the selected projects also respect the disciplinary norms, fundamental rights and values, protection, respect and autonomy of the users or potential users of an implementation, development, research or innovation project.

LACNIC-FRIDA's beneficiary institutions must undertake to ensure respect for the fundamental rights included in international conventions, such as: human dignity and autonomy, democracy, equality, the rule of law, legislation, human rights, as well as the balance between development and environmental and ecological preservation.



They must also declare potential conflicts of interest and maintain the following standards:

1. Integrity in research: plagiarism, falsification of information, data, among others, will not be tolerated. Copyright and authorship of the results obtained must always be respected in accordance with current regulations. Likewise, all project funders must be clearly indicated.
2. The veracity of the research, results and/or data generated: Due to the rapid evolution of tools that allow the dissemination and modification of parts or partial data of a project, we suggest that the selected institutions pay particular attention to disinformation, use of deep fakes and/or publication of partial information of their work.
3. Clearly identify and take reasonable steps to address the use and challenges created by recent developments in Artificial Intelligence (generative), Machine Learning or Autonomous Systems. In the proposal they will have a specific field where they will be able to address these aspects, with particular attention to avoid or mitigate Bias(es), mitigate and address the collection and use of data (whether personal or not).
4. Evaluate and take the necessary measures to ensure the security of the information collected, avoid data breaches, among others.

14. Important Dates

Important dates can be found below:

- Call for applications opens: Friday, 30 May 2025
- Deadline for submitting project summaries: Sunday, 29 June 2025 at 23:59 (UTC-3)
- Announcement of shortlisted projects: Friday, 1 August 2025
- Submission of detailed proposals for shortlisted projects: From Monday, 4 August to Friday, 22 August 2025 at 23:59 (UTC-3)
- Announcement of results: Wednesday, 1 October 2025

It is recommended that you carefully read the terms and conditions and the frequently asked questions available on the web site programafrida.net before applying under the LACNIC- FRIDA program. If you have any doubts, we invite you to send your questions to: frida@lacnic.net

