

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When does the program start?

ScaleX will launch on 13/01/2022.

2. How does my accelerator sign up for the program?

Interested accelerators can complete the [IFC ScaleX Sign-Up Form](#). IFC will contact eligible accelerators via e-mail with a request for additional information.

3. Who is eligible for the IFC ScaleX Program?

Eligible organizations in the IFC ScaleX program must be accelerators that support startups operating in at least one of the [IFC member countries](#). These accelerators must:

- Have supported a women-led startup(s) headquartered in, or operating in, an emerging market to raise equity in the past. (The startup's funding round must have already closed at the time of application.)
- Have completed at least one prior cycle of a structured acceleration program
- Meet IFC ScaleX's definition of accelerator as outlined in question #6 below
- Be formally registered as a legal entity
- Not support any companies with operations in industries included on the [IFC Exclusion List](#).

4. What are the next steps necessary for my accelerator to be considered for a IFC ScaleX award?

Award eligibility is determined on a case-by-case basis after an accelerator submits the additional information at IFC's request. Qualifying accelerators must adequately demonstrate support granted to women-led start-up(s) operating in emerging markets to fundraise. Accelerators can anticipate this process to take 3-6 months in total.

5. How do you define a woman-led startup?

IFC ScaleX defines a "woman-led startup" as an early-stage company with a woman founder, co-founder, or woman in C-level leadership position. (C-level leadership position refers to executive-level positions within a company.)

6. What is an accelerator?

An accelerator is a business program that supports early-stage growth-driven companies through financing, education, mentorship, office space and supply chain resources. Accelerators enroll startups for a fixed period of time and as part of a cohort of companies. Their goal is to help startup companies scale by helping them define and build their initial products, identify promising customer segments, and secure resources, including capital and employees. Companies that offer individual business coaching and/or consulting do not qualify as an accelerator for IFC ScaleX.

7. What are the award amounts?

Award amounts will vary from \$5,000 USD to \$25,000 USD per qualifying accelerator and will correspond to the size of investment the women-led startup has raised. IFC retains the right to change the award amount thresholds by its own discretion.

8. How often will applications be reviewed?

The IFC will review applications on a quarterly basis.

9. Can my accelerator apply for multiple awards?

Yes, qualifying accelerators for IFC ScaleX can apply for multiple awards. Evaluation of each award request is at the discretion of the IFC and accelerators may be subject to award caps. Accelerators are encouraged to apply for awards based on the women-led startups including those that have raised the highest equity capital raised post acceleration.

10. What is the award eligibility period?

Qualifying accelerators for IFC ScaleX may request a reward at any time from 13/01/2022 to 13/11/2023.

11. My accelerator supports women entrepreneurs but none of them have successfully raised equity yet. Would my accelerator be eligible?

No. However, IFC ScaleX will run until 13/11/2023. We encourage accelerators to actively pursue efforts that help women-led early-stage startups gain access to investment opportunities and then apply once those startups have successfully raised equity.

12. My accelerator made an initial equity investment in the women-led startup as part of the accelerator program. The startup has not yet raised additional capital. Would my accelerator be eligible?

No. The women-led startup must raise additional external capital post-acceleration, from another organization besides your accelerator, in order to qualify your accelerator for IFC ScaleX.

13. What is my organization's guarantee of receiving an award I requested?

No award guarantees are available for any qualifying organizations. All awards will be determined on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of IFC.

14. We were selected as a qualifying accelerator and have submitted round two of the application. What are the next steps?

After qualifying accelerators have submitted their applications, IFC will notify accelerators who have been selected for a ScaleX award via e-mail.

15. What is the outcome IFC expects from the funding?

The objective of the IFC ScaleX program is to incentivize accelerators to actively pursue efforts that help women-led early-stage startups gain access to Private Equity and Venture Capital investment opportunities. IFC intends for the awards to be utilized by accelerators to further increase female founders' access to capital funds – and to decrease the gender gap and investment bias.

16. When does the program end?

IFC ScaleX will is currently scheduled to end on 13/11/2023. Any extensions to the program end date will be communicated via the website.