

LIFTED Grant Initiative

Sperax understands the immense power of blockchain technology and commits to welcoming all to assist in our mission of mass blockchain adoption. We are excited to announce Sperax LIFTED, a grant initiative designed to provide women with access to capital and mentorship in the blockchain ecosystem.

There's A Gender Divide in Blockchain

The blockchain ecosystem faces a significant gender divide that hinders the industry from reaching its fullest potential. Many jobs in the space incorporate both finance and technology, two historically male-dominated fields. This has resulted in women representing only 10-30% of the blockchain industry.

Introducing the LIFTED Grant

As the price of Bitcoin recently exceeded record highs, the crypto and blockchain industries are once again attracting significant attention from Wall Street and mainstream media. We believe this is the perfect opportunity to launch a grant designed to support the talent and perspective of women in blockchain.

Who Will be LIFTED

The LIFTED grant will continually work to enhance the opportunities for women in the blockchain space. Each calendar quarter will have a new application round and objective, with each of the four phases focusing on different project themes. We are looking to support driven and curious women who have a desire to create (what or how you create - that is up to you!). Whether you're a researcher, developer, designer, or academic - all initiatives led by and featuring women are welcome to apply.

LIFTED Criteria

To be considered, applicants must submit a strategic proposal that outlines what they will establish or create with the grant they are awarded. This can be a development project, research initiative, business proposal, animation and more.

Phase Topics

The Sperax LIFTED Grant Initiative will be divided into four phases. While the overall program will focus on supporting the talented women that work in blockchain, each quarter will see new topics that the grants will facilitate, creating more opportunities for exciting projects to be realised. Applicants are welcomed to apply for multiple phases.

***Phases are currently broad by design to welcome tailoring from co-host*

Phase I: Decentralized Finance

- Applications accepted February 8 - March 19, 2021

- Partners:  Polyient Games  Harmony 

Phase II: Blockchain Economics

- Applications accepted April 10 - May 31, 2021

- Partners: 

Phase III: Blockchain at University

- Applications accepted July 19 - September 1, 2021

- Partners: 

Phase IV: Interoperability

- Applications accepted October 11 - November 22, 2021

- Partners:

Grant Value

Each phase will include a grant contribution of 5000 - 15000 USDT from Sperax and co-sponsors. We are seeking strategic partners to join us in empowering women in blockchain by sponsoring to match contributions for phases II, III, and IV.

Get LIFTED by Sperax!

- **Applicants:** Applications for Phase I open February 8, 2020 on sperax.io/lifted.
- **Partners:** If you are passionate about promoting a more diverse blockchain industry, reach out to katherine@sperax.io or alec@sperax.io or refer to the next page for partner tiers, benefits and time commitments.

Phase I Important Dates

Step 1: Apply between February 8 and March 19, 2021

Step 2: Interview with Sperax team within the week of March 22

Step 3: If selected, receive notification of the award by March 26

Step 4: This begins the process of refining the project, if needed, with the Sperax team and identifying project funding milestones

Step 5: Time for the project and fun to begin! You will be advised and mentored by the Sperax team and partners during your time working on the project

Partnership Tiers

Free - Media Partnership

LIFTED is a new grant for your community! Share LIFTED through your community social networks!

\$500 Junior Partner

Previous benefits plus: Your company logo and description of your product/company on the grants page sperax.io/lifted, medium article and future media published.

\$2.5k General Partner

Previous benefits plus: Provide a judge, project is not tailored. Listed as an ecosystem partner on website homepage.

\$5k Co-Host Partner

Previous benefits plus: Tailoring of criteria and project. Protocol co-hosts can reserve the right to have the grant recipient launch the product on their platform. Educational workshop led by your project. One co-host per phase. Co-host partners are allowed to provide as many judges and advisors as desired.

- Sperax is especially interested in funding teams building proof of concepts or educational content focusing on stablecoin use-cases on **new generation** layer 1 blockchain protocols.

LIFTED Alumni Network

Benefits don't stop after you complete your milestones or phase. Women who participate in LIFTED are formally invited to [The Bigger Pie](#). This club is a thriving and active community whose members share their experience and learn from each other. Alongside Bigger Pie events, there is a programme of wider events sourced from our members, often with VIP access. Members in this group have the tools and connections to transform their existing business and to build new businesses right the first time, with diversity and inclusion at the very start.

- LIFTED Partner companies
- LIFTED Cohort
- LIFTED Alumni
- The Bigger Pie Community
- Sperax Team Members



General Partner and Co-Host Time Commitment

Phase I Judges

One 60-minute meeting to review application feedback from members of selection committee and vote on winner(s)

- **Week of March 22:** meet with Sperax and partners to review application feedback and identify winner(s).
 - Assessment form and submitted materials will be delivered to judges at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

Phase I Mentor/Advisor

Three 60-minute meetings between winning team, partners and Sperax.

Check-in dates to be identified via calendly link once participants are confirmed.

Meeting Dates

- **Week of April 5:** Finalization of Project Scope and Milestone Assignment
- **Early May:** Milestone Check-in 1
- **Early June:** Milestone Check-in 2

Any additional mentorship will be up to the partner's personal schedule and is not required.

Check-in dates to be identified via calendly once participants are confirmed.

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Phase II Judging

- **Week of June 1:** meet with Sperax and partners to review application feedback and identify winner(s)

Phase II Mentor

- **Early July:** Finalization of Project Scope and Milestone Assignment
- **Early August:** Milestone Check-in 1
- **Early September:** Milestone Check-in 2

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Phase III Judging

- **Week of September 1:** meet with Sperax and partners to review application feedback and identify winner(s)

Phase III Mentor

- **Early October:** Finalization of Project Scope and Milestone Assignment
- **Early November:** Milestone Check-in 1
- **Early December:** Milestone Check-in 2

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Phase III Judging

- **Week of December 6:** meet with Sperax and partners to review application feedback and identify winner(s)

Phase III Mentor

- **Early January:** Finalization of Project Scope and Milestone Assignment
- **Early February:** Milestone Check-in 1
- **Early March:** Milestone Check-in 2

Best Practices for a Stronger Application

Are you interested in applying for a grant? If so, here are some best practices that will help you create an all-star application:

- **Details, Details, Details** - The more detailed the application, the better. The Decision Committee is looking for relevant information about projects in their assessment process and the more supporting evidence of a project's viability, the better.
- **What about the money?** - We recommend mapping out how your funds will be allocated. Having a clear idea of what you will spend grant funds on is an important part of the assessment process.
- **Ask for help!** - Friends and folks not directly involved in the project are some of the best people to reach out to for help. Ask an outside party to look over your application. It never hurts to have a second pair of eyes spot broken links. Aside from broken links, make sure you double check your application for spelling mistakes, or any details that may need more clarity.
- **This is NOT a VC program** - Sperax LIFTED is a grants program, not a VC. We are not exactly looking to fund things solely to scale a business. We want to fund grassroots projects that benefit the Sperax community and overall DeFi ecosystem.

FAQ

Are all of the phases the same?

No, each phase is unique and has different applicant criteria and objectives.

Can I apply for grants from multiple phases?

You can only participate in one phase at a time. If you or your team has received money from phase one, your team must complete all milestones before applying for an additional phase.

What happens once my application is submitted?

Once your team has applied, you will receive a confirmation email. We will reach out to schedule an interview after your application is reviewed.

How many steps are there in the process?

There are three steps to evaluating applications. After applying, potential candidates will move through three evaluation stages: Sperax scoring, community poll and Sperax LIFTED Committee interview. Applicants will be notified if they have moved on from one round to the next, with the final decision being made after all of the candidates' Sperax LIFTED Committee interviews.

How long is the grants process once we apply?

The process is typically two weeks from application deadline to award.

We are a private business, can we apply?

Yes, private businesses are welcome to apply.

We are a team of individuals, not a business entity, can we still apply?

Yes.

Our team plans to launch a token sale, is it eligible for a grant?

Yes.

Can I edit my application after submission?

Typically, no. If you have submitted an application and would like to change or update any information, please email Alec@sperax.io or Katherine@sperax.io