

SCWO CoLab | Programme Brief

An Invitation to SCWO Member Organisations

What is SCWO CoLab?

SCWO CoLab is an annual collaborative ideation programme that brings SCWO Member Organisations together to translate research findings into community-led solutions.

SCWO's research helps us better understand the issues affecting women in Singapore and identify where more can be done. SCWO CoLab takes the next step — bringing our Member Organisations together to turn those insights into ideas for action.

Through a facilitated collaborative process, participating organisations will explore challenges identified through the research, exchange perspectives and develop practical, community-led solutions that can be taken forward.

How SCWO CoLab Works



2026 Research | Women's Workforce Re-entry: Challenges, Barriers & Opportunities

There are women in Singapore who exit the workforce due to caregiving responsibilities and lack of support — and face significant barriers when attempting to return. The research, *Women's Workforce Re-entry: Challenges, Barriers & Opportunities*, examines women's experiences across the return-to-work journey — from leaving employment and taking a career break, to considering a return, preparing and searching for work, re-entering and remaining in employment.

[Read the research report](#)

SCWO CoLab 2026/27 Challenge

Creating Better Pathways for Women Returning to Work

Building on SCWO's 2026 research into women's return-to-work journeys, SCWO CoLab's inaugural *2026/27 Challenge: Creating Better Pathways for Women Returning to Work* invites SCWO Member Organisations to develop solutions that respond to the needs and gaps identified through the research.

Member organisations are encouraged to develop practical, actionable initiatives tailored to the needs of women looking to return to the workforce. Ideas can range from skill-building programmes and peer support networks to employer engagement campaigns and community outreach efforts — grounded in real experiences and designed to create meaningful change.

As part of SCWO CoLab, successful applicants can take part in the Singapore Government Partnerships Office's Citizens' Circle to further develop their ideas and collaborate with other partners. Promising community-led ideas may subsequently explore support through the SG Partnerships Fund (SGPF), subject to prevailing eligibility and assessment criteria. This creates opportunities for these ideas to move from research and ideation towards implementation through citizen-government partnerships.

Who Can Apply

1. SCWO Member Organisations
 2. Organisations partnering with SCWO Member Organisations (application to be submitted by Member Organisations only)
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What Your Organisation Can Expect

Participating organisations can look forward to:

Idea Refinement Workshop

- Facilitated co-design session to develop your idea
- Get information, feedback, and mentorship to further develop and refine your ideas for action.
- Guidance from advisors on impact, feasibility, and operations
- Peer exchange/collaborations with other women's organisations
- A takeaway proposal that is SGPF submission-ready
- SCWO will advise on whether the SGPF Seed or Sprout tier is more suitable for the proposal

Submission-ready Proposal

- Participating organisations will be equipped with a takeaway proposal that is SGPF-submission ready
- The takeaway proposal will include details such as:
 - 1) How the initiative would work
 - 2) The potential impact of the initiative – KPIs and Impact Measurement
 - 3) What the initiative would need – e.g. manpower, funds, logistics etc
 - 4) Potential for scalability
 - 5) Roles of each partner (if any)
 - 6) Target commencement and end dates
 - 7) Timeline of initiative from launch to operations
 - 8) Estimated implementation cost
 - 9) Familiarity with SGPF submission criteria

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- 10) Ability to complete the SGPF budget template
 - 11) Awareness of completion criteria to qualify for final disbursement
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Key Dates

18 September 2026	Call for submissions opens at SAGE 2026
18 November 2026	Call for submissions closes
18 November 2026 – 18 January 2027	Joint assessment and shortlisting
End January 2027	Shortlisted organisations informed
February 2027 (tentative)	Idea refinement workshop

About the Application Process

SCWO Member Organisations can submit proposals via the link below, together with the required information outlined below. Proposal will be screened for eligibility and assessed on relevance to the theme, feasibility, and potential impact.

Submissions **must** include:

- Group member details (name, contact number, email, role/contribution) — as an Excel sheet
- Collaborator details, if any (name, organisation, designation, contact number, email, role/contribution) — as an Excel sheet
- Project deliverables and partners involved, including timeline — as a Word or Excel document
- CVs of key personnel
- Completed Budget Template
- Project write-up or additional details, e.g. activity content, programme outline

[Submit Your Idea](#)

You do not need a fully polished proposal at this stage — SCWO CoLab is designed to help you develop and strengthen your idea.

Assessment Criteria

Proposals for SCWO CoLab will be assessed by SCWO on the following:

1. Relevance to the *2026/27 Challenge: Creating Better Pathways for Women Returning to Work*

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2. Feasibility – clarity of implementation plan, timeline and budget
3. Potential impact – how many women will be reached, and what outcome is expected
4. Partnership – whether the project involves collaboration with other organisations or community partners
5. Originality – whether the project addresses a genuine gap and does not duplicate existing initiatives

Complete applications will be given priority over incomplete applications.

About the Idea Refinement Workshop

Date: February 2027 (tentative)

Venue: To be confirmed

Duration: 3 hours

Each organisation can send up to two individuals. Refreshments will be provided.

Indicative Agenda

Welcome and Context Setting	Session introduction and brief presentation on the research findings
Icebreakers and connection	Participant introductions: – Share ideas, interests and opportunities for collaboration
Co-design and idea development	Facilitated/Guided session to co-design and develop ideas
SGPF walkthrough	Practical guidance on the SGPF submission process

About the SG Partnerships Fund (SGPF)

The SGPF is a new \$50 million fund that helps Singaporeans, ground-ups and Singapore-registered organisations turn their ideas for citizen-led projects into reality to make a bigger difference in their community. The fund offers three tiers of funding to support your project: kickstart a pilot (Seed Tier), grow and amplify their impact across multiple communities (Sprout Tier), or for Singapore-registered organisations to deliver large-scale sector-wide impact (Scale Tier).

Click [here](#) to find out more on the SGPF.