

## What is the purpose of the Social Innovation Fund (SIF)?

Housed at the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the Social Innovation Fund will help solve some of our nation's most difficult social challenges. The Social Innovation Fund (SIF) will work with the grantmaking community to fund promising nonprofits that have demonstrated outcomes. It will provide nonprofits with growth funding and other support to scale and spread their impact.

## How will the SIF work?

- The Social Innovation Fund was authorized by the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, signed by President Obama in April 2009. The Act lays out a broad funding framework, shown at right.
- Most of the SIF funds will be awarded to existing intermediary grantmaking institutions through a competitive, peer-reviewed process. These grantmaking institutions will then award subgrants to community nonprofit organizations. Up to 10% of the SIF may go directly to the community nonprofits. Up to 5% of the SIF may be used for research and evaluation.
- Funding flow and matching funds (in cash):
  - CNCS will make financial grants between \$1 million and \$10 million to approved grantmaking institutions. Grantmaking institutions must match grants from SIF \$1 for \$1 in cash.
  - Grant-making institutions make subgrants to nonprofit community organizations. Subgrants must be between 3 and 5 years in duration and must be at least \$100,000. Nonprofit community organizations must match grants from grantmaking institution \$1 for \$1 in cash.
  - End result: **\$3 in funding for every \$1 in government spending**



## What will SIF fund?

- Via intermediary grantmaking institutions, support will be given to nonprofit organizations focusing on a specific geographic region or on a key issue in a specific region. CNCS is currently evaluating different options for selection criteria.

## Why work through intermediary organizations?

- Grantmakers know the nonprofit community and possess the skills necessary to find the most promising approaches and help develop them.
- SIF can further leverage federal dollars by inspiring the grantmaking community to focus on growing promising organizations and matching federal dollars with significant private investment.

## How do I apply for funds?

- It is anticipated that a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the SIF will be posted in Fall 2009. The due date for applications will be Winter 2009/2010, and funding will be awarded in Spring 2010.
- Funding is contingent upon congressional approval of the FY 2010 budget. FY 2010 begins on October 1, 2009. In the event of a continuing resolution for the 2010 budget, CNCS will still hold a competition in Winter 2009/2010 but will not award funds until Congress passes a budget that indicates funding for the SIF.