FY 15 Notice of Funding Availability Fact Sheet

SIF Classic

What Is The Social Innovation Fund (SIF)?

The Social Innovation Fund (SIF), a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), combines public and private resources to grow the impact of innovative, community-based solutions that have compelling evidence of improving the lives of people in low-income communities throughout the United States. The SIF invests in three priority areas: economic opportunity, healthy futures, and youth development. The SIF makes grants to experienced grantmaking institutions that are well-positioned within communities to identify the most promising programs and guide them towards greater impact and stronger evidence of success. In addition to funding, Social Innovation Fund recipients receive significant technical assistance to support implementation of their innovative programs.

Who Can Apply?

This competition is open to existing grantmaking institutions (organizations that provide grants to nonprofits as an essential means of fulfilling their mission) or eligible partnerships (between grantmakers, a State Commission on National and Community Service, or a chief executive officer of a unit of general local government where the partner organizations will share responsibilities under the award). Affiliated Network organizations that are existing grantmaking institutions are also eligible to apply if they are willing to grant SIF dollars through competitions that are open beyond their exclusive networks. Current SIF Classic recipients may apply for new interventions; however, previous funding from CNCS or another federal agency is not a requisite to apply.

What Are We Looking For?

The SIF seeks recipients who will run open competitions to select, fund, support, and evaluate community-based nonprofit organizations that are growing promising, innovative approaches to overcoming challenges facing local communities in the areas of youth development (preparing youth for success in school, active citizenship, productive work, and healthy and safe lives), economic opportunity (increasing economic opportunities for economically disadvantaged individuals) and healthy futures (promoting healthy lifestyles and reducing the risk factors that can lead to illness).

What Are The Funding Amounts?

The SIF will award up to $51 million in grants during the 2015 fiscal year, with up to $11 million going towards the continuation of existing recipients. Each selected recipient will be awarded between $1 million and $10 million and will match every federal dollar of the grant award. At least 80 percent of awarded federal funds must be invested in subrecipient programs.

Why Should You Apply For A Social Innovation Fund Grant?

We all know that progress on our social challenges has been too slow and limited resources have been spent on approaches that do not work. We need innovation that will help achieve faster, longer lasting progress, as opposed to marginal or incremental progress on our social problems. We must help effective organizations grow their impact and

transform more lives by investing in cost-effective, evidence-based approaches that lead to better results for the public good. The SIF is designed to help funders who share these beliefs by significantly increasing resources and attention to this important work, and supporting evaluation and expansion efforts through government funding and a robust network of peers. SIF recipients are a part of the leading edge of high-performing, impact-oriented grantmakers that are serious about disrupting the status quo and accelerating solutions that work.

How Do You Apply?

STEP 1 – GET FAMILIAR:
Prospective applicants must read the 2015 SIF Classic Notice of Funding Availability to familiarize their self with our priorities and expectations. On the SIF NOFA webpage, you can also find materials from the previous competitions that may help you better understand the SIF and our work. Prospective applicants are also encouraged to read the application resources on the NOFA webpage at http://nationalservice.gov/SIF.
STEP 2 – NOTICE OF INTENT:
Please visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CNCSIntentToApply2015SIFApplications to submit your Notice of Intent. Be prepared to submit the following information: the name of the applicant organization and its address; the name, email address, and phone number for the primary contact person; and the Issue Area(s) the anticipated application will address. Please be sure that the primary contact is authorized to correspond on behalf of the organization.
STEP 3 – PREPARE AND APPLY:
Prepare your responses and submit applications electronically via eGrants, CNCS' web-based application system: https://nts.cns.gov/espan/main/login.jsp. Give yourself plenty of time. Successful applicants will be in July 2015.

When Do You Need To Apply?

The Notice of Intent deadline is February 20, 2015 and the Application deadline is March 17, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Where Do You Go For More Information And Assistance?

For further information or for a printed copy of related material, call (202) 606-3223 or email SIFApplication@cns.gov. The TTY number is (800) 833-3722.

CNCS will host technical assistance calls and/or workshops to answer questions about the funding opportunity and eGrants. The schedule of calls and call-in information will be posted on CNCS's website at

Where Can I Find Sample Messaging to Share With My Network?

The Social Innovation Fund has provided an Outreach Toolkit for organizations to use that includes sample newsletter text, sample tweets, links to useful websites, and the webinar schedule. You can use the kit to promote the SIF competition to your affiliates via your organization's newsletter or eblast, encourage qualified members of your network to apply, tweet about the competition, consider posting the funding opportunity on your organization's website during the duration of the competition, and/or encourage your network to participate in the SIF NOFA Webinars. The toolkit can be found on the SIF NOFA webpage at http://nationalservice.gov/SIF.