

INDIVIDUAL REVIEWER WORKSHEET
2012 SOCIAL INNOVATION FUND GRANT COMPETITION
PROGRAM REVIEW

Legal Applicant: _____ Application ID: _____
 Reviewer Name: _____

Assess the extent to which the applicant addresses each of the elements of the application. Select a Rating for each element; provide comments for each Rating. All comments should address the significant strengths and weaknesses identified in your assessment that justify your Rating.

Goals and Objectives

To what extent did the applicant:

- Clearly identify the target community or geographies that they will serve and the target issue(s) their programming will focus on?
- Make a persuasive case using statistical information for the need related to the issue area(s) identified in the target geographical area(s) listed?
- Clearly identify specific measurable outcomes that will be achieved through their proposed program?
- Make a compelling case for their ability to successfully support the focus, goals, and approach they propose?
- Provide a clear, logical theory of change that outlines their investment approach and proposed outcomes?
- Identify the value-added activities, including technical assistance or other services, that will be offered to subgrantees to support their success in achieving these outcomes?

Comments:

_ Excellent (10)

_ Good (8)

_ Acceptable (6)

_ Not Acceptable (4)

Description of Activities: Subgrantee Selection

To what extent did the applicant:

- Provide a clear profile of the type of subgrantee organization they hope to fund?
- Provide a clear and comprehensive plan for carrying out a competitive subgrantee selection process?
- Present a selection process that has a high likelihood of successfully identifying subgrantees that meet the Social Innovation Fund's requirements of having at least preliminary evidence of effectiveness, and are positioned to conduct evaluations that would achieve moderate or strong levels of evidence over a three to five year period?
- Provide a clear articulation of how they will assess applicants for readiness and capacity to implement program growth as a part of their participation in the Social Innovation Fund?
- Adequately propose a means of allocating grant awards so that larger sums are given to those subgrantees with higher levels of evidence of effectiveness to support the growth of their program impact?

Comments:

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_ Excellent (10)	_ Good (8)	_ Acceptable (6)	_ Not Acceptable (4)
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Description of Activities: Proposal for Growing Subgrantee Impact
 To what extent did the applicant:

- Articulate their theory or approach to growing effective subgrantee program models in alignment with their overall theory of change?
- Provide an appropriate list of characteristics the applicant will use to assess subgrantee capacity for growth?
- Include a description of how evidence of effectiveness will be used to determine when or how a program is well-situated for growth?
- Describe their means of supporting subgrantee growth through technical assistance or other resources?

Comments:

_ Excellent (10)	_ Good (8)	_ Acceptable (6)	_ Not Acceptable (4)
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Organizational Capacity:
History of Competitive Subgranting
 To what extent does the applicant:

- Have demonstrated experience selecting and awarding competitive grants to nonprofits?
- Demonstrate capacity to undertake the subgrant selection process outlined in their application?

Experience Growing Program Impact
 To what extent does the applicant:

- Describe adequate examples of past efforts supporting grantee program growth through replication or expansion?
- Describe adequate resources to support successful subgrantee growth as proposed?
- Propose how best practices will be captured and shared, preferably based on successful past efforts?

Comments:

_ Excellent (10)	_ Good (8)	_ Acceptable (6)	_ Not Acceptable (4)
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Organizational Capacity:

Ability to Provide Program Support and Oversight

To what extent does the applicant:

- Describe compelling examples of setting and implementing goals with grantees?
- Present a qualified roster of staff members that have the experience and capacity to effectively implement the proposed program? This includes the involvement of management, board members, etc.
- Present a compelling plan to provide assistance or support to build subgrantee capacity as needed?
- Describe experience operating and overseeing programs comparable to the ones proposed in the identified priority issue area(s) of activity, including specific examples of prior accomplishments and outcomes in these area(s)?
- Describe a plan for developing subgrantee performance measurement systems and using these to improve subgrantee performance?
- Describe experience monitoring subgrantees for compliance against programmatic requirements?
- Describe a sufficient plan for subgrantee monitoring?
- Propose an approach to hold both subgrantees and themselves accountable for meeting program goals?

Ability to Provide Financial Support and Oversight

To what extent does the applicant:

- Provide a compelling case that they have the experience and staff capacity to successfully manage the proposed Social Innovation Fund grant program at both the intermediary and subgrantee level from a fiscal perspective?
- Describe a staffing plan that engages staff members with sufficient capacity and experience to be effective and compliant?
- Describe sufficient plans for ensuring compliance with federal guidelines at the intermediary and subgrantee level?
- If the applicant is new to federal funding, do they provide adequate evidence that they have the means and plan to acquire necessary capacity to ensure compliance?

Strategy for Sustainability

To what extent does the applicant:

- Provide a compelling statement of commitment to continue the Social Innovation Fund's investment priorities beyond the life of the grant?
- Describe a successful strategy for ensuring subgrantees are positioned to continue evaluation and sustain program growth beyond the grant lifecycle?

Comments:

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_ Excellent (15)	_ Good (12)	_ Acceptable (9)	_ Not Acceptable (6)
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Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy:

Budget Justification

To what extent does the applicant:

- Propose a reasonable and justifiable budget that will support the capacity necessary to achieve desired outputs and outcomes?
- Present a budget adequate to successfully support program activities, especially in regard to evaluation, supporting subgrantee program growth, and running a successful subgrantee selection process?
- If applicable, provide a compelling case for proposing higher program costs due to an intention to make subgrants in areas that are significantly philanthropically underserved?

Description of Match Sources and Capacity

To what extent does the applicant:

- Present a compelling plan for securing the total match commitment for their Social Innovation Fund program?
- Describe adequate plans or efforts to assist subgrantees to secure their required match?

Comments:

_ Excellent (15)	_ Good (12)	_ Acceptable (9)	_ Not Acceptable (6)
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Total Score: __ of 70

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

After the panel discussion and finalizing your assessment: provide a summary of your review that captures the strengths and weaknesses of the application that had the greatest impact on your assessment. This summary, which will be provided to the applicant in the Feedback Summary Report and may be posted on CNCS' website, must be supported by your ratings and comments in the previous sections.

Applicant Feedback Summary Comments:

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Description of Activities: Proposal for Evaluation

To what extent did the applicant:

- Describe anticipated program models that will be evaluated? Do these models have the potential to achieve at least moderate levels of evidence of effectiveness during their Social Innovation Fund grant period of three to five years?
- Explain how they will assess needs for and provide technical assistance to subgrantees as they design, implement, and monitor evaluations of their program models?
- If addressed, describe how they will work with an evaluation partner and what activities this partner will do to support the Social Innovation Fund portfolio?
- Describe an appropriate and detailed budget to support the cost of reasonable evaluation activities that will meet Social Innovation Fund evaluation requirements?

Comments:

_ Excellent (15)

_ Good (12)

_ Acceptable (9)

_ Not Acceptable (6)

Organizational Capacity: Evaluation Experience

To what extent does the applicant:

- Demonstrate experience in managing and supporting evaluations of program models they have funded in the past?
- Demonstrate the capacity to apply evidence/evaluation results to decision-making and investment strategies?
- Have experience influencing and supporting its grantees to use evidence to improve program performance?
- Demonstrate their staff's capacity (or contracted capacity) to ensure successful evaluation of their subgrantees' program models?

Comments:

_ Excellent (15)

_ Good (12)

_ Acceptable (9)

_ Not Acceptable (6)

Total Score: __ of 30

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