

**INDIVIDUAL REVIEWER WORKSHEET-PROGRAM**  
**2015 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.

**PROGRAM DESIGN**

**1. Rationale and Approach (10%)**

In determining the quality of an application, please assess the following criteria:

- The applicant’s approach as either a geographically- or issue-based Social Innovation Fund (as described in *Section A.1: Purpose of Social Innovation Fund Funding*), including the target community or geographies that they will serve and the Social Innovation Fund issue area(s) on which their programming will focus.
- Whether the applicant makes a persuasive case, using statistical information, that they have identified a critical social problem in the target geographical area(s).
- Whether the applicant demonstrates that solutions currently being implemented to address the selected social problem in the target geographical area(s) have not been proven to be effective, are not achieving outcomes at scale, or are too slow to respond.
- Whether the applicant presents a clear, logical theory of change that outlines their investment approach and the specific measurable outcomes that will be achieved through their proposed program. They should convey an intentional approach to solving community problems through their subrecipient investments and clearly explain:
  1. the types of organizations they will invest in and why; and
  2. the value-added activities, including technical assistance or other services, they will provide to their subrecipients in order to align them with the theory of change and achieve the desired outcomes.
- The applicant’s description of the programming strategy (A or B above) they plan to utilize and why it’s the most appropriate for you to achieve your goals
  - Strategy A:** The case they make that appropriate, evidence-based solutions exist to address the identified social problem in the target geography (ies).
  - Strategy B:** The case they make that the solution(s) they propose to implement is: innovative (as defined in *Section A.1: Purpose of Social Innovation Fund Funding*), appropriate for the social problem identified, aligned with their theory of change, and is likely to produce the desired outcomes.
- If the applicant is applying for renewed funding of a currently funded SIF project: whether the proposed activities will further increase knowledge about intervention.
- If the applicant is a current recipient of, or are under consideration for, other federal funding: how the proposed SIF project is distinct from, or will supplement rather than duplicate, other federally funded projects. They should specify the other federal funding sources.

**Strengths:**

**Weaknesses:**

\_ Excellent (10)

\_ Good (8)

\_ Fair (6)

\_ Inadequate (4)

**PROGRAM DESIGN**

**2. Proposal for Subrecipient Selection (15%)**

In determining the quality of an application, please assess the following criteria:

- The applicant’s profile of the type of subrecipient organization you hope to fund and how it aligns with the rationale and approach described above.
- Whether the applicant provides a clear and comprehensive plan for carrying out a competitive subrecipient selection

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process, that includes:

- the estimated number of subawards that will be made;
- the estimated range of subaward amounts;
- the criteria that will be used to determine prospective subrecipients' fit with their theory of change or successfully contribute to its outcome measures;
- a general timeline or timeframe outlining when stages of the selection process would be completed. Note: Depending on the strategy being utilized, the subrecipient selection and award process must be completed within **six to eight** months of the grant award.
- Whether the applicant presents a selection process that has a high likelihood of identifying high-performing subrecipients (as defined in *Section A.1: Purpose of Social Innovation Fund Funding*), with the capacity and ability to implement all aspects of a Social Innovation Fund grant.
- The applicant's capacity to successfully implement their proposed subaward selection process, including demonstrated experience selecting and awarding competitive grants to nonprofits.
  - Strategy A:* How they will attract and select solutions that are innovative as defined in (as defined in *Section A.1: Purpose of Social Innovation Fund Funding*).
  - Strategy B:* How they will select subrecipients who are well-suited to implement the pre-defined intervention.
- How the applicant will assess subrecipient applicants for readiness and capacity to implement program growth as a part of their participation in the Social Innovation Fund.
- How the applicant will allocate grant awards so that larger sums are given to those subrecipients with higher levels of evidence to support the growth of their program impact.

**Strengths:**

**Weaknesses:**

\_ Excellent (15)

\_ Good (12)

\_ Fair (9)

\_ Inadequate (6)

**PROGRAM DESIGN**

**3. Proposal for Growing Subrecipient Impact (15%)**

In determining the quality of the application, please assess the following criteria:

- The applicant's capacity to support subrecipient growth including relevant examples of successful past efforts to support growth through replication or expansion and a description of adequate resources to support successful subrecipient growth as proposed.
- The applicant's theory or approach to growing effective subrecipient program models in alignment with their overall theory of change.
- The characteristics the applicant will use to assess subrecipient capacity for growth and their description of how evidence of effectiveness will be used to determine when or how a program is well-situated for growth.
- How the applicant will support subrecipient growth through technical assistance, data systems or other resources and help subrecipients plan for strategic and effective growth that results in long-term sustainability for the expanded program beyond the three to five year SIF grant period.

**Strengths:**

**Weaknesses:**

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_ Excellent (15)	_ Good (12)	_ Fair (9)	_ Inadequate (6)
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**ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY (5%)**

**4. Organizational Background and Staff Capacity**

In determining the quality of an application, please assess the following criteria:

- Whether the applicant makes a compelling case for their ability to successfully support the approach and outcomes that they propose, including a description of their track record and resources.
- The applicant’s experience, accomplishments and outcomes operating and overseeing programs in the selected issue area(s) of activity.
- The applicant’s experience and capacity to collect and analyze data required for evaluation, continuous improvement, compliance and other purposes.
- The applicant’s current organizational budget, the percentage of the budget this grant would represent, and the implications for their organization.
- The experience, qualifications and capacity of staff and contractors to effectively implement the proposed program. They should discuss the involvement of management, board members, etc.
- The applicant’s ability to develop the necessary systems to maintain a grant program compliant with federal grant requirements, including a description of how they will ensure compliance with CNCS National Service Criminal History Check requirements. For reference, please see Section F.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements.
- The applicant’s commitment to long-term relationships with subrecipients, including how short- and long-term goals will be established.

**Strengths:**

**Weaknesses:**

_ Excellent (5)	_ Good (4)	_ Fair (3)	_ Inadequate (2)
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**ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY (5%)**

**5. Subrecipient Support, Monitoring and Oversight**

In determining the quality of an application, please assess the following criteria:

- The applicant’s prior experience setting and implementing goals with recipients.
- The applicant’s experience evaluating the performance of grant recipients for outcome-focused initiatives.
- The technical assistance and other services that they will provide to subrecipients to support their success in achieving your proposed outcomes.
- The applicant’s plan for building subrecipient capacity to develop compliant federal grants management systems.
- The applicant’s plan for building subrecipient capacity to achieve scaling, evaluation and other key program goals.
- The applicant’s plan for developing subrecipient performance measurement systems and their description of how they will use these to monitor and improve subrecipient performance.
- How the applicant will monitor subrecipients for compliance and for progress towards goals.

**Strengths:**

**Weaknesses:**

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_ Excellent (5)	_ Good (4)	_ Fair (3)	_ Inadequate(2)
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**ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY (5%)**

**6. Strategy for Sustainability**

In determining the quality of an application, please assess the following criteria:

- Has the applicant demonstrated commitment to continue the investment priorities articulated in this application beyond the life of the grant?
- Does the applicant have a strategy for ensuring that subrecipients are positioned to continue evaluation and sustain program growth beyond the grant lifecycle?

**Strengths:**

**Weaknesses:**

_ Excellent (5)	_ Good (4)	_ Fair (3)	_ Inadequate(2)
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**COST-EFFECTIVENESS AND BUDGET ADEQUACY (15%)**

In determining the quality of an application, please assess the following criteria:

**7. Budget Justification**

- Whether the budget you propose is reasonable and sufficient to successfully support program activities, including subrecipient selection, evaluation, program growth, and subrecipient support and oversight.
- Whether the budget is aligned with the application narrative and provides an adequate explanation for expenses.
- (If applicable) Whether the applicant makes a compelling case for higher program costs due to an intention to make subawards in areas that are significantly philanthropically underserved.

**Capacity to Raise Match**

- The applicant's prior experience achieving significant non-federal fundraising goals.
- The applicant's description of match already raised or committed.
- The applicant's plan for securing the total one-to-one non-federal cash match requirement.
- The applicant's capacity and plan for assisting subrecipients to secure their required match.

**Strengths:**

**Weaknesses:**

_ Excellent (15)	_ Good (12)	_ Fair (9)	_ Inadequate(6)
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**Total Score: \_\_ of 70**

**8. APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY COMMENTS**

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,

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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.

STRENGTHS:

WEAKNESSES: