

**INDIVIDUAL REVIEWER WORKSHEET**  
**2014 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.

**1. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Assess the extent to which the applicant:

- Clearly identifies the target community or geographies that they will serve and the target issue(s) on which their programming will focus.
- Makes a persuasive case that they have identified an issue of critical national and/or local importance using statistical information for the need related to the issue area(s) identified in the target geographical area(s) listed.
- Demonstrates that solutions currently being implemented to address the selected issue or geography have not been proven to be effective, are not achieving outcomes at scale, or are too slow to respond.
- Makes a compelling case for their specific ability to successfully support the focus, goals, and approach they propose, including their track record and resources.
- Provides a clear, logical theory of change that outlines their investment approach and proposed outcomes.
- Clearly identifies specific measurable outcomes that will be achieved through their proposed program.
- Identifies the value-added activities, including technical assistance or other services that will be offered to subgrantees to support their success in achieving these outcomes.

**In addition:**

For applicants with a pre-identified intervention, assess the extent to which the applicant:

- Describes a strategy that is a “transformative,” and “innovative approach”.
- Demonstrates that their targeted innovations have the potential for greater scale.

For applicants without a pre-identified intervention, assess the extent to which the applicant:

- Demonstrates, based on current reviews of the landscape, that there are adequate models with at least preliminary levels of evidence available with the potential to be “transformative” “innovative approach(es)”.

**Strengths:**

**Weaknesses:**

\_ Excellent (10)

\_ Good (8)

\_ Fair (6)

\_ Inadequate (4)

**2. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES: SUBGRANTEE SELECTION**

Assess the extent to which the applicant:

- Provides a clear profile of the type of subgrantee organization they hope to fund.
- Provides a clear and comprehensive plan for carrying out a competitive subgrantee selection process, including the estimated number or range of subgrant awards that will be made; the estimated range of subgrant amounts; the criteria that will be used to determine prospective subgrantees’ fit with the applicant’s theory of change and/or successfully contribute to its outcome measures; and a general timeline or timeframe outlining when stages of the selection process would be completed. Note: the selection process must be completed within six to eight months of grant award.
- Present a selection process that has a high likelihood of successfully identifying subgrantees that are high-performing as defined in the Operating Model section of this Notice, and are positioned to conduct evaluations.

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**In addition:**

For applicants with a pre-identified intervention, assess the extent to which the applicant:

- Makes a persuasive case for how it will select subgrantees that are well-suited to implement the pre-defined intervention.

For applicants without a pre-identified intervention, assess the extent to which the applicant:

- Provides a clear articulation of how they will assess applicants for readiness and capacity to implement a rigorous evaluation plan that would achieve moderate or strong levels of evidence over a three to five year period
- Provides 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 proposes a means of allocating grant awards so that larger sums are given to those subgrantees with higher levels of evidence to support the growth of their program impact.

**Strengths:**

**Weaknesses:**

_ Excellent (5)	_ Good (4)	_ Fair (3)	_ Inadequate (2)
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**3. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES: PROPOSAL TO IDENTIFY INNOVATIVE, MORE EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS**

Assess the extent to which the applicant:

- Describes why the issue is a problem of national or local importance and why the existing solutions are not sufficient, or the gap in the research on effectiveness in tackling the issue or need.

**In addition:**

For applicants with a pre-identified intervention, assess the extent to which the applicant:

- Makes a persuasive case that the solutions it has identified (or will target) are innovative and potentially transformative.

For applicants without a pre-identified intervention, assess the extent to which the applicant:

- Describes how it will attract and select solutions that are innovative and potentially transformative.

**Strengths:**

**Weaknesses:**

_ Excellent (5)	_ Good (4)	_ Fair (3)	_ Inadequate (2)
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**4. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES: PROPOSAL FOR GROWING SUBGRANTEE IMPACT**

Assess the extent to which the applicant:

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

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- Describes their plans to help subgrantees plan for strategic and effective growth that results in long-term sustainability for the expanded program long beyond the 3-5 year SIF grant period, including specific thoughts on the types of capital that will sustain growth.

**Strengths:**

**Weaknesses:**

\_ Excellent (10)

\_ Good (8)

\_ Fair (6)

\_ Inadequate (4)

**5. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY:**

**History of Competitive Subgranting**

Assess the extent to which the applicant:

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

**Experience Growing Program Impact**

Assess the extent to which the applicant:

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

**Strengths:**

**Weaknesses:**

\_ Excellent (10)

\_ Good (8)

\_ Fair (6)

\_ Inadequate (4)

**6. Ability to Provide Program Support and Oversight**

Assess the extent to which the applicant:

- Describes compelling examples of setting and implementing goals with its current and past grantees.
- Presents 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.
- Presents a compelling plan to provide assistance or support to build subgrantee capacity as needed.
- Describes 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).
- Describes a plan for developing subgrantee performance measurement systems and using these to improve subgrantee performance.
- Describes experience monitoring subgrantees for compliance against programmatic requirements.
- Describes a sufficient plan to monitor new Social Innovation Fund grantees.
- Proposes an approach to hold both subgrantees and themselves accountable for meeting program goals.

**Ability to Provide Financial Support and Oversight**

Assess the extent to which the applicant:

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- Provides 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.
- Describes a staffing plan that engages staff members with sufficient capacity and experience to be effective and compliant.
- Describes sufficient plans for ensuring compliance with federal guidelines at the intermediary and subgrantee level.
- (If the applicant is new to federal funding) Provides adequate evidence that they have the means and plan to acquire necessary capacity to ensure compliance.
- Demonstrates a strong capacity to raise additional dollars, beyond intermediary match, to provide to subgrantees, if needed, and a serious commitment to share the fundraising burden of their subgrantees.

**Strategy for Sustainability**

Assess the extent to which the applicant:

- Demonstrates a commitment to continue the investment priorities articulated in this application beyond the life of the grant.
- Describes a successful strategy for ensuring subgrantees are positioned to continue evaluation and sustain program growth beyond the grant lifecycle.

**Strengths:**

**Weaknesses:**

\_ Excellent (15)

\_ Good (12)

\_ Fair (9)

\_ Inadequate (6)

**7. COST EFFECTIVENESS AND BUDGET ADEQUACY:**

**Budget Justification**

Assess the extent to which the applicant:

- Proposes a reasonable and justifiable budget that will support the capacity necessary to achieve desired outputs and outcomes.
- Presents a budget adequate to successfully support program activities, especially in regard to evaluation, supporting subgrantee program growth, and running a successful subgrantee selection process.
- Demonstrates how the program has or will obtain diverse non-federal resources for program implementation and sustainability.
- (If applicable) Makes a compelling case for higher program costs due to an intention to make subgrants in areas that are significantly philanthropically underserved.
- (If applicable) Explains why, if awarded, they could not meet match requirements unless they apply for and are granted a match reduction (up to 50 percent). Also describes how the community they are serving is significantly philanthropically underserved as described previously in this Notice. CNCS expects to grant match waivers only in extraordinary circumstances.

**Description of Match Sources and Capacity**

Assess the extent to which the applicant:

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

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Strengths:

Weaknesses:

\_ Excellent (15)

\_ Good (12)

\_ Fair (9)

\_ Inadequate (6)

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, 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: