

Social Innovation Fund 2012 Competition Overview

Social Innovation Fund (SIF) grants are awarded to grant-making intermediary organizations to fund community-based nonprofits with evidence of strong results. By fostering private and public collaborations that identify, evaluate, and expand these nonprofits, the SIF increases access to effective programs that enable people and communities in need to overcome their most pressing challenges in the areas of economic opportunity, health, and youth development.

The SIF uses an operating and program model that is distinguished by four key characteristics:

- Reliance on outstanding existing grantmaking "intermediaries" to select high-impact community organizations rather than building new government infrastructure.
- A requirement that each federal dollar granted be matched 1-to-1 by the grantees and again by their subgrantees with money from private and other non-federal sources, thereby increasing the return on taxpayer dollars and strengthening local support.
- Emphasis on rigorous evaluations of program results not only to improve accountability but also to build a stronger marketplace of organizations with evidence of impact.
- Effective leverage of the grant program to share knowledge and insights with the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors.

