

Social Innovation Fund

The Social Innovation Fund, a key White House initiative and program of the Corporation for National and Community Service, transforms lives and communities by using limited federal investment as a catalyst to grow community-based nonprofits with evidence of strong results. Throughout the U.S., effective solutions to many of our major problems have been developed and are already achieving strong results. The Social Innovation Fund was founded on the fundamental idea that we can make enormous progress toward overcoming significant challenges by finding and growing the most promising of these solutions.

By fostering private and public collaborations, the Social Innovation Fund harnesses the expertise of experienced grantmaking intermediaries to identify, evaluate and expand effective nonprofits. Private and other nonfederal funding partners also contribute significantly to the success of the program through matching funds, which help to build a sustainable financial base for the long-term impact of nonprofits.

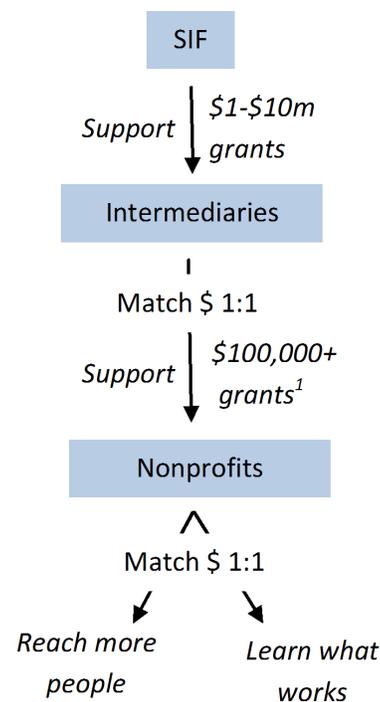
As the Social Innovation Fund and its network of intermediaries grow effective nonprofit programs, more individuals and communities in need gain access to the solutions that enable them to overcome their most pressing challenges in the areas of economic opportunity, healthy futures, and youth development.

How does it work?

The SIF makes grant awards of between \$1 million and \$10 million per year for up to five years to grantmaking intermediaries, selected through a rigorous, open competition. Intermediaries match their federal grants dollar-for-dollar and with those combined funds they then:

- host open, evidence-based competitions to select nonprofits implementing innovative program models;
- invest in expanding the capabilities and impact of the nonprofits they select; and
- support those nonprofits through rigorous evaluation of their programs.

Selected nonprofits receive awards of at least \$100,000 per year for up to five years and must also secure dollar-for-dollar matching funds, increasing their potential for impact and demonstrating support for their work. Nonprofits use the resources to expand programs that get real, transformative results to reach more people, and participate in rigorous evaluations to build understanding of what works to solve serious community challenges.



¹ Intermediary grantmakers must commit at least 80% of their federal dollars to grants for nonprofits. The remaining amount may be retained by the intermediary grantmaker for approved purposes (evaluation, capacity building, technical assistance).

Social Innovation Fund by the Numbers

- The Social Innovation Fund has awarded **\$177.6 million** in grants to intermediaries since 2010.
- This funding yielded **\$423 million** in private and other nonfederal commitments.
- The Social Innovation Fund selected **20** grantmaking intermediaries between 2010-2012.
- Intermediaries have so far selected **221** innovative nonprofits working in **37** states and the District of Columbia.
- Grantees are conducting **86** interventions and assessing results through highly rigorous evaluation models, including randomized trials and quasi-experimental designs.

Examples of Social Innovation Fund Programs

Intermediary	Total Federal Investment	Nonprofit Spotlight
REDF	\$6 Million	The Center for Employment Opportunities (New York, NY), assists recently-released offenders eager to build productive lives in securing immediate transitional jobs, and provides skills training, coaching and job placement support—a combination proven to reduce the chances of their return to prison. With their subgrant they are replicating their New York-based program in Oakland, San Diego and San Bernardino, California.
Corporation for Supportive Housing	\$3.45 Million	AIDS CT or ACT (Hartford, CT), is transitioning more chronically homeless, frequent users of emergency care into permanent housing and ensuring they receive vital health services that improve their quality of life and save the state thousands of dollars per person each year.
Edna McConnell Clark Foundation	\$30 Million	The Children’s Institute (Los Angeles, CA) helps very troubled youth, typically involved in the foster care or juvenile justice system, improve their life prospects and avoid violence. Their programs reduce gang involvement, raise academic performance, and improve school attendance.

The Social Innovation Fund is planning to release a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in early February, with applications due early April. For more information or if you are interested in applying, please visit NationalService.gov/Innovation or email innovation@cns.gov.