

## Grant Criteria

### 2018 Grant Program

The following criteria are applied to each proposal received by the Foundation, and are used to guide the grant decisions of the Distribution Committee.

#### **Change** – How will the project contribute to change?

- Will the project achieve an observable change in the community, or in the people served?
  - Is the degree of change compelling?
- How, for whom, and to what extent will the community benefit be realized?
- How will it be known that the project is successful?
- How will progress and success be measured and reported?

**Community Benefit and Value** - Projects that demonstrate a benefit to people in the community are valued over those that predominantly benefit the applicant organization. It is important to articulate how support of the project will connect to improvements in the community.

- Does the project provide a clear and measureable benefit to the community?
  - What is the program's value to the population served, and to the greater community?
  - Is the project clear on its target population and impact?

**Achieving and Sustaining Success** – **A project that cannot be sustained is usually a poor investment. There are a number of factors that contribute to achieving and sustaining success.**

- Is there a workable plan of action to guide the implementation of the project to results?
- How risky is the project in terms of its track record and the barriers to success?
  - Is the potential outcome of the project worth the risk?
- Does the project have community support?
- Does the project have diverse and consistent funding streams?
- Can the project be sustained financially?
- Can the project be sustained programmatically?

**Return on Investment** – What is the value of the project results in relation to the financial investment of implementation? Is it cost-effective to support the project?

- What is the measureable benefit of the project relative to the expense?
- Do the benefits justify the expense?
- Will the project realize efficiencies over time that make it a sound investment?
- Will there be savings or added revenues in other program areas?
- What have been the experiences of similar projects, and their results?
- What is the cost of the project relative to the cost of not successfully undertaking the project?
- Are there other investments that would realize a higher Return on Investment?

**Leadership** Project success usually hinges on leadership; the people who play key roles in making the project work. This is especially true when projects seek breakthrough changes.

- Is there a skilled and passionate champion for the project?
- Are the leaders and key people trained, effective, and committed?
- Is the support of the board/volunteers evident, strong, and likely to be important?