

## The Mayor's Fund SIF Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What are the goals of the Mayor's Fund SIF award?

- The Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City ("The Mayor's Fund" or MF) was awarded a Social Innovation Fund (SIF) grant by the Corporation for National and Community Service in July 2010 to provide a unique opportunity to develop and replicate innovative anti-poverty programs in 8 selected cities across the country. In addition to improving the lives of the low-income individuals and families served by these programs, this project aims to build a broad and compelling evidence base about programs that can effectively create economic opportunity in a variety of environments. To this end, the Mayor's Fund has partnered with the New York City Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO) and MDRC to secure this grant from the Social Innovation Fund (SIF) to expand 5 promising economic opportunity program models, and demonstrate their effectiveness in diverse urban settings and populations with rigorous evaluation.

### 2. Who can apply for SIF Funding and become a SIF subgrantee?

- Eligible applicants for CEO SIF subgrants include: 1) organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and exempt from taxation under section 501(a); and 2) any entity or organization described in sections 170(c)(1) or (2) of the Internal Revenue Code. Section 170(c) organizations include most charitable organizations, state or local governments and other political subdivisions, public schools, certain other educational institutions, Native American tribes, and certain faith-based organizations.
- Subgrantees must have the capacity to manage the requirements of federal and other funding, and disburse the funds to other organizations or participants, as required by each program model.
- In some cases, subgrantees will need to serve targeted neighborhoods in a city.
- For-profit organizations cannot apply as a subgrantee.

### 3. What programs are being funded in my city?

	NYC	Newark	Memphis	Savannah	Northeast Ohio	Tulsa	San Antonio	Kansas City, MO
<b>Family Rewards</b>	X		X					
<b>Work Advance</b>	X				X	X		
<b>Jobs Plus</b>	X					X	X	
<b>\$aveUSA</b>	X	X		X		X	X	
<b>Young Adults Internship Program</b>	X	X						X

- 4. Can prospective subgrantees include a partnership of organizations?**
- Yes, respondents can propose a subgrantee partnership that is led by one lead organization with primary fiduciary responsibility, and involves other organizations that will provide services that are considered part of the scope of work.
  - All partner organizations that are expected to receive a share of the federal grant must be named in the subgrantee's proposal.
  - Each partner is required to be an eligible organization or entity (as defined in the first bullet under Question 2 above); must have a well-defined role in providing services necessitated by the program model's scope of work (e.g., providing training or case management); and will need to provide information on its capacity as well as a detailed description of its program implementation role and budget in response to the RFP.
  - For-profit organizations can provide goods or services to a subgrantee as a vendor. Subgrantees must follow relevant state, local government or Mayor's Fund requirements regarding selecting and procuring vendors.
- 5. What is the level of funding available to each of the subgrantees and for each program?**
- The dollar value of subgrants from the CEO SIF will vary across sites and across programs. The scale of the projects and budgets will vary considerably from \$200,000 to \$2.6 million per year, including federal SIF funds and matching funds.
  - Information on funding amounts for specific programs in selected cities will be available in each program's RFP.
- 6. What will be the length of the CEO SIF subgrant?**
- It is anticipated that the term of the award from each RFP will be five years. However, funding for the project is contingent on federal availability, private matching funds being secured, and reviews of the performance of each subgrantee.
- 7. How many subgrants does MF anticipate funding through the SIF?**
- The CEO SIF expects to fund a total of 16 programs in 8 cities. Some programs in some cities may have multiple sites and providers.
- 8. Will applicants have a role in raising funds for this project?**
- Yes, the lead organization and its partners (if applicable) will be expected to assist the Mayor's Fund and the Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO) in raising the local match required by SIF.
- 9. Are applicants required to submit a letter of intent in order to respond to the RFP?**
- No. Letters of Intent have been requested and will help MF and CEO to determine the number of potential bids, but if an applicant does not submit a letter of intent, it can still respond to the RFP, which will be publicly available on the MF and CEO's websites.
- 10. Can organizations apply to RFPs for more than one program model?**

- Yes, but the applicant must respond separately and completely to the RFP for each program that it would implement; all requirements will apply to each separate RFP.
- Organizations will be asked if they are applying for any other SIF programs or other major initiatives.

**11. Where can I find more information available about program model requirements?**

- Each separate program model RFP, when released, will include more detailed descriptions about program components, staffing levels, and other programmatic and research-related requirements.
- RFPs will also specify the format in which the proposed program implementation plan and budget should be presented.
- Program design and evaluation information may also be posted on CEO's website ([www.nyc.gov/ceo](http://www.nyc.gov/ceo)) in advance of RFP releases.

**12. What type of research will be conducted?**

- An essential element of the CEO SIF is a rigorous evaluation of the program models' implementation and effectiveness led by MDRC, a non-profit education and social policy research organization. In most, but not all, program models and sites, subgrantees will be required to participate in a randomized control trial, whereby eligible individuals or families are randomly assigned to either a program group that is offered the SIF program model being tested, or a control group that is not eligible for SIF services but remains eligible for other services in the community.
- Randomized control trials allow us to be very confident that any impact we may observe in the outcomes of the two groups is because of the SIF services, not because of differences in individual or family backgrounds, motivation, or some other factors that might affect their behavior. In a time of scarce resources, these types of studies allow us to rigorously test our programs, ensuring that the programs developed have the greatest value-added possible.
- MDRC and the SIF team have extensive experience in implementing random assignment designs in real world programs and will work closely with each of the subgrantees to minimize the burden on program operations. Research plans will be approved by an Institutional Review Board, the aim of which is protect the rights and welfare of individuals participating in research activities.
- In order to create the control group, program operators will need to recruit more potential applicants to their program than the number they have resources to serve as part of the SIF program model, and will need to have a data system that captures ongoing and readily available performance data for the SIF program.

**13. How do I apply?**

- Potential subgrantees should visit [www.nyc.gov/ceo](http://www.nyc.gov/ceo) regularly for the release of RFPs, responses to questions, and any addenda. It is the obligation of potential applicants to visit this site regularly for updates.
- The MF will release a separate RFP for each of the five program models. Each RFP will solicit information on the applicants' capacity to begin implementing the program model at scale within a short timeframe.
- The Mayor's Fund is currently accepting **optional** Letters of Intent from eligible providers. Please send the Letter of Intent to: Mayor's Fund to Advance New York

City/SIF, 253 Broadway, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10007. This letter may also be sent to [sif@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:sif@cityhall.nyc.gov). The letter is not required, but submission of letters will help the Mayor's Fund to plan, and will ensure that respondents are notified about the release of the relevant RFPs.

**14. Will my proposal be made public?**

- All information submitted in this procurement process may be made public if directed by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) or required by law. This may include the names of organizations that submitted proposals, contact information, summaries of proposals and budgets, reviewer ratings and comments, and other information.

**15. What is the expected timetable for the selection of subgrantees for each program model?**

- This pre-solicitation notice is provided to help prospective applicants prepare for the RFP. Other than submission of the optional Letter of Intent, the next step in the process will be the release of each RFP.
- Each program model will have its own timetable. The key anticipated dates will be provided in the RFP, including: deadline for submission of written questions and answers, proposal due date, and the anticipated start date.
- It is expected that the RFPs for each of the program models will be released in a staggered manner in late September and October 2010. Due dates for responses to RFPs are expected to be 4-6 weeks from the release of each RFP.
- It is anticipated that SIF awards will be made to selected subgrantees by the end of January 2011.

**16. Who will review proposals?**

- All RFP submissions will be reviewed by a selection committee consisting of representatives of the following groups: MF/CEO, MDRC, local representatives, and a national/subject matter expert.

**17. What are the criteria for reviewing SIF subgrantee applications?**

- Each RFP contains a section describing the scoring criteria that will be used and the number of points awarded, such as proposed approach and organizational capacity.

**18. How can I find out more?**

- Program-specific information can be found at [www.nyc.gov/ceo](http://www.nyc.gov/ceo) including more information on program goals, descriptions of the key components of each model, target population(s), locations, research design, and other requirements and guidance.

**19. I have questions. Who can I ask?**

- MF and CEO will accept questions on each RFP until two weeks before the due date for proposals for that RFP. Questions can be submitted until that date to [SIF@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:SIF@cityhall.nyc.gov). When submitting your email, indicate the program for which you are applying (e.g. Jobs-Plus) in the subject line. Please include your name and contact information in the body of the email. All serious questions will receive a public response. Names will not be posted in the public responses.