The Miami Foundation
For A Greater Miami

Community Grants 2021 – Idea Stage Review Criteria and Metrics (January 25, 2021)

Idea Stage applications are intended to be brief. We asked applicants to share goals and an approach for either a program or mission building, what they seek to do and achieve, and how their proposed approach connects to the Community Grants program priorities. We did not ask for full details at this stage. Rather, we are looking for **the value and potential of the proposed goals and approach to make a difference** for people, communities, and the organization itself.

The **Criteria** below mirror the priorities in the program guidelines. The **Metrics** reflect how we will rate **the strength** of an application for its potential to address and further the priorities. For each criteria area, a scale of 1 to 3 will be used – with 1 being the weakest and 3 being the strongest, resulting in a maximum rating of 15.

In addition to rating applications individually, reviewers will also consider each one relative to others in the funding category, as well as the equity of geographic reach – and gaps – in the entire pool of applications. We do not expect the metrics to change fundamentally. However, we may need to adjust them to **ensure fairness and equity** based on issues we could not anticipate before applying the metrics in real time.

Advance Equity of Marginalized People and Communities

Will the proposed goals and approach benefit people, groups, and/or communities that are historically marginalized by addressing inequities and disparities? This would be reflected in the narrative response and for many – but not all – the Program Site Locations and DEI information about the organization.

1) **Weaker:** Will create limited or no benefit for marginalized people, groups, or communities and reflects limited or no focus on addressing inequities and disparities.
2) **Solid:** Will consistently benefit marginalized people, groups, or communities, and will address inequities and disparities based on generally serving diverse vulnerable populations.
3) **Powerful**: Will significantly focus on benefiting marginalized people, groups, or communities, and is mission-driven to address inequities and disparities; the nonprofit's leadership also reflects communities they work with.

Focus on Progress

Is the approach likely to result in change – growth or progress – through the opportunities it creates for people or communities to advance and thrive? Is the change guided by tangible indicators that are suited to the goals and the proposed approach?

1) **Weaker:** Reflects mainly the level of activity to be delivered, but there is very little attention to how the goals and approach result in growth or progress for people or communities.
2) **Solid**: Clearly speaks to resulting in growth or progress, and references indicators that could be measured but may not be fully developed yet; the focus for growth and progress is mainly on short-term benefits.
3) **Powerful:** Reflects significant attention to growth and progress for how the proposed approach could result in making people or communities better off in the short-term and increasingly prepared to advance and thrive in the long-term; includes defined indicators relevant to the approach.

Build Solutions

Does the request to support a program or mission-building goals identify underlying barriers or challenges that hold people or communities back from their highest potential or that continue an inequity? Does it address current situations and long-term success?

1) **Weaker:** Restates the need, but does not identify or address the underlying barriers or challenges or how the approach would address them. May reference national research but not local challenges.
2) **Solid:** Does identify underlying barriers and challenges, some uniquely local. Does reflect an approach that addresses them and creates immediate benefits, with less focus on equipping for the long-term.
3) **Powerful:** Identifies underlying barriers and challenges – particularly local ones – and reflects an approach that could help the organization solve them in the short-term and also equips people or communities with abilities for long-term success.

Collaborate with Community

Does the request reflect intentional engagement and use of community guidance or leadership of people impacted by the issues to inform or shape their approach toward solutions?

1) **Weaker:** Limited or no evidence of such engagement to guide the proposed approach or that engaging community for guidance or leadership is a consistent practice in the organization.

2) **Solid:** Request reflects that the organization does seek out and use feedback or guidance of people impacted by the issues to inform their approach, and they may do this as a consistent practice.

3) **Powerful:** The organization clearly seeks out and uses community guidance, and they do this as a matter of practice. This extends beyond feedback to actively shaping or leading their work.

Sustainability

Does the organization clearly connect the proposed use of funds to some key aspect of their work or operations that can advance excellence and support their capacity? The use may be directly connected to delivering activities or may be indirect. But, it is timely and significant to **achieving their community goals.**

1) **Weaker:** No or unclear connection between the use of funds and what they seek to do and achieve.

2) **Solid:** The request reflects a clear and reasonable connection between the use of funds and what they seek to do and achieve, even if it is not directly used to deliver activities.

3) **Powerful:** The request reflects investing in some unique aspect of the organization that could significantly improve capacity to be a stronger community resource, such as the scope or scale of their work.