Community Grants 2022 – Idea Stage Review Metrics

Through the Idea Stage, The Miami Foundation team and advisors evaluate each application for its potential and value for Miami residents, communities, and the applicant organization. Applications should describe the timely local need or opportunity they are addressing, followed by their goals and approach to pursue positive change during the grant period.

The criteria below mirrors the Community Grants program priorities that the Foundation looks for in strong applications. The priorities are defined in the program guidelines linked here. The metrics reflect how we will evaluate the strength of an application for its potential to address each priority. For each criteria area, a scale of 1 to 4 is used – 1 represents the weakest and 4 represents the strongest, resulting in a maximum rating of 20.

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. While the metrics will not change fundamentally, 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

Does the proposed work prioritize serving people or communities that are historically marginalized by addressing inequities and disparities? This will be reflected in the narrative and for many – but not all – the Program Site Locations and demographic information about the organization.

1) Weak: No benefit for people or communities facing marginalization. No focus on addressing inequities and disparities.
2) Growth: Some benefit for people or communities facing marginalization. Proposed work may or may not identify – and then address – underlying inequities and disparities.
3) Solid: Proposed work will consistently benefit people or communities facing marginalization. Proposed work identifies and addresses underlying inequities and disparities.
4) Powerful: Proposed work will significantly focus on benefiting people or communities facing marginalization. Organization and/or program is mission-driven to address inequities and disparities, often made possible by expertise or partnerships that reflect the communities they work with.

Focus on Progress

Is the proposed work and strategy likely to result in value – stability, growth, or progress – for people or communities? Is the proposed work guided by clear goals?

1) Weak: The proposed work does not have a clear strategy to provide value to people or communities. There is little information about the activities to be delivered and the resulting impact.
2) Growth: The proposed work focuses on the activities to be delivered, with a broad strategy to provide value to people or communities. There is little explanation of the resulting impact.
3) Solid: The proposed work has a guiding strategy to provide value to people or communities. The work has clear goals for activities and some explanation of the resulting impact.
4) Powerful: The proposed work has a proven, well-thought-out strategy to provide significant value to people or communities, defined by appropriately bold goals for both activities and resulting impact.
Build Solutions

Does the proposed work pursue long-lasting change for people and communities through proactive work on underlying problems or challenges? Does the proposed work respond to current local priorities? This will be reflected in Question #1, where applicants should identify current challenges impacting Greater Miami that will be addressed through the proposed work. Question #2 should explain the value created in response.

1) Weaker: The proposal does not identify an underlying challenge in Greater Miami that will be addressed through the proposed work.
2) Growth: The proposal identifies an underlying challenge, but it may not be a local priority. The proposed work will provide mainly short-term or one-time value.
3) Solid: The proposal identifies an underlying local challenge that is a community priority. The proposed work will provide short-term value to address this challenge and has some potential to pursue long-term, sustainable progress.
4) Powerful: The proposal clearly identifies an underlying local challenge and its significant priority in Greater Miami. The proposed work will provide short-term value to address this challenge while also pursuing long-term, sustainable progress for people and/or systemic change for communities.

Collaborate with Community

Does the proposed work invest in the leadership of local residents and/or seek out guidance from people impacted by the work?

1) Weaker: No evidence of community engagement or leadership to guide the proposed work.
2) Growth: The proposed work includes limited opportunities for feedback from community members and people impacted by the work.
3) Solid: The proposed work will regularly seek out feedback from community members and people impacted by the work as appropriate. The organization applies feedback to strengthen the proposed work. Community members have some opportunity to guide or lead the work.
4) Powerful: The proposed work will invest in community leadership and representation, in addition to regular feedback loops with community members and people impacted by the work as appropriate. Community members will actively guide or lead the work.

Sustainability

Are the proposed work and goals achievable for the organization during the grant period? Is the proposed work clearly connected to strengthening the organization’s mission or expertise?

1) Weaker: The proposed work does not appear to be achievable. There is no connection between the proposed work and the organization’s mission or goals.
2) Growth: The proposed work is potentially achievable. There is some connection between the proposed work and the organization’s mission or goals.
3) Solid: The proposed work is achievable, and there is a reasonable connection between the proposed work and the organization’s mission and goals. There may be some potential to expand the quality or reach of the work.
4) Powerful: The proposed work has a high potential to achieve success, and there is a clear connection between the proposed work and the organization’s mission and goals. The proposal will invest in some unique aspect of the organization that could significantly improve capacity to be a stronger community resource, such as the quality or reach of the work.