

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT GRANTS

GRANT EVALUATION RUBRIC



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
OF
ELKHART COUNTY

Mission: IMPROVE the Quality of Life in Elkhart County by Inspiring Generosity

Note: Projects that support the following will be given priority: Early childhood development and education; Career Awareness, Exploration & Employability Skills; Internships & Apprenticeships; Vibrant Downtowns, Parks, Connected Network of Trails.

CRITERIA	INSUFFICIENT 0-5 POINTS	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT 6-10 POINTS	ADEQUATE 11-15 POINTS	EXEMPLARY 16-20 POINTS
COMMUNITY NEED	Project addresses symptom(s) not the root cause of problem. Project impacts a small number of people.	Project does address an underlying root cause; is likely to have at least a short term impact. Limited number of people impacted.	Project does address root cause. Impacts a significant number of people or under resourced population.	Project presents a strong case for effectively addressing the root cause of a problem, with long term impact. Impacts a very significant number of people or under resourced population.
GOALS and IMPACT	The project does not define success, or does not have a way to measure progress. Not innovative.	Project partially defines success, or has weak ways to measure progress, or is not innovative.	Project defines success and some measures of progress, little evidence of innovation.	Project clearly defines success, has clear measures of progress in place, or is an innovative approach.
PARTNERS - PARTICIPANTS and COMMUNITY	Organization is not aware of other organizations doing related work. Little evidence of seeking community or participant input.	Organization is open to building collaborative partnerships with others doing related work. Has sought community input. Little to no participant input.	Collaborative partnerships with other organizations are being built. Some evidence of community and participant input.	Organization has demonstrated high quality, meaningful relationships with partner organizations. Organization seeks input from participants for designing, planning, and evaluating programs.
FINANCIAL SUPPORT	Project has neither financial support from their board nor outside sources.	Project has some limited outside support; ongoing sustainability is not secured.	Project includes some support from board members and the organization could secure additional funding if needed. Limited plans for financial sustainability.	Project has other committed funders; has the potential to inspire philanthropy. Board members and donors support project. Reasonable plan in place for ongoing funding if necessary.
ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY	Organization in developing stage. Proposed project is not clearly aligned with mission or supported by strategic plan and oversight.	Organization has some history of success. Project is aligned with their mission. Limited evidence of strategic leadership.	Organization has limited history but demonstrates commitment and progress toward high performance. A strategic plan guides the organization.	Organization has a proven record of success and demonstrates capacity to complete project successfully. The board regularly review the strategic plan.