

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT GRANTS

GRANT EVALUATION RUBRIC



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 (Grades 4 - 12); Internships & Apprenticeships (Grades 4 - 12); 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 |
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| 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. |
| PROJECT GOALS | 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 - COMMUNITY and PARTICIPANTS | 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. |
| STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT/LEVERAGE | 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. | Organization has a proven track record of success and demonstrates capacity to complete project successfully. |