

Social Innovation Fund

The Social Innovation Fund (SIF), an initiative enacted under the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, is a new way of doing business for the federal government that stands to yield greater impact on urgent national challenges. The SIF will target millions in public-private funds to expand effective community solutions to social challenges in the areas of: economic opportunity, healthy futures, and youth development and school support.

On July 22, 2010 the Corporation for National and Community Service awarded nearly \$50 million in SIF grants to 11 organizations. The grantees have strong track records of identifying and growing high-performing nonprofit organizations and represent the diversity of the social sector. Over the next six months, the SIF grantees will conduct open competitions across the U.S. to find the most promising nonprofit organizations.

Below is a description of the 11 inaugural SIF grantees and the work they will support.

“The bottom line is clear: Solutions to America's challenges are being developed every day at the grass roots and government shouldn't be supplanting those efforts, it should be supporting those efforts.”

– President Barack Obama

“By focusing on high-impact, results-oriented non-profits, we will ensure that government dollars are spent in a way that is effective, accountable and worthy of public trust.”

– First Lady Michelle Obama

Economic Opportunity

- **Jobs for the Future, Inc.** (\$7.7 million; 2 year grant) and the National Fund for Workforce Solutions (NFWS) will expand their targeted training and technical assistance to at least 23,000 low-income individuals over three years while also addressing the critical skill needs of more than 1,000 employers. The funds will dramatically increase economic opportunities for disadvantaged workers and job seekers through investments in regional workforce collaboratives that partner with employers to identify jobs and career pathways in high-growth industries.
- **Local Initiatives Support Corporation** (\$4.2 million; 1 year grant) will grow Financial Opportunity Centers - a workforce development and asset-building model that boosts earnings, reduces expenses and coaches low-income families on how to make better financial decisions - to five new cities and 7,500 total participants. The Centers are a core component of the organization's strategy to build sustainable communities.
- **Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City** (\$5.7 million; 1 year grant) and the NYC Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO) will replicate five effective anti-poverty programs originally piloted by CEO in eight urban areas. By advancing the education, employment and financial savings of low-income adults and families, the programs will

combat poverty across a diverse cross-section of America.

- **REDF** (\$3 million; 2 year grant) will create job opportunities for thousands of Californians with multiple barriers to employment - including dislocated youth, individuals who have been homeless or incarcerated, and those with severe mental illness - in sustainable nonprofit social enterprises in low-income communities throughout the state. The project includes testing to determine the potential of these enterprises as scalable employment vehicles.

Healthy Futures

- **Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky** (\$2 million; 2 year grant) will improve access to needed health services, reduce health risks and disparities, and promote health equity in 6-10 low-income communities in Kentucky. Subgrantees will focus on testing innovative strategies to increase physical activity, improve nutrition, curb smoking and other unhealthy habits, and, increase access to health services in underserved communities. *Competitively pre-selected subgrantee: Barren River District Health Department (\$250,000).*
- **Missouri Foundation for Health** (\$2 million; 2 year grant) will invest in 10-20 targeted low-income communities across the state to reduce risk factors and the prevalence of two preventable causes of chronic disease and

death: tobacco use and obesity. The project draws on an integrated community change model blending two transformative models of prevention on obesity and tobacco control.

- **National AIDS Fund** (\$3.6 million; 1 year grant) will support innovative strategies that increase access to care and improve health outcomes for at least 3,500 low-income individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The project will employ rigorous evaluation, informing the implementation of the White House National HIV/AIDS Strategy and offering lessons that reduce barriers to care for a broad range of people living with HIV/AIDS and other chronic diseases.

Youth Development and School Support

- **New Profit Inc.** (\$5 million; 1 year grant) will collaborate with five to six innovative youth-focused nonprofit organizations with existing evidence to yield significant improvements in helping young people navigate the increasingly complex path from high school to college and productive employment. The project will expand the reach of these nonprofits to improve the lives of nearly 8,000 young people in low-income communities throughout the country. *Competitively pre-selected subgrantees: College Summit (\$2 million); iMentor (\$750,000); Year Up (\$2 million).*

- **The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation** (\$10 million; 1 year grant) will combine large grants, strategic business planning, rigorous evaluation and capital aggregation to increase the scale and impact of up to 10 youth development organizations in communities of need across the U.S. The subgrantees will focus on improving economically disadvantaged young people's educational skills and workforce readiness as well as helping them to avoid high-risk behavior.
- **Venture Philanthropy Partners** (\$4 million; 2 year grant) will create a powerful network of effective nonprofit organizations in the Washington D.C. National Capital Region supporting an integrated approach to addressing the education and employment needs of low-income and vulnerable youth ages 14-24. *Competitively pre-selected subgrantees: College Summit National Capital Region (\$372,000); KIPP DC (\$656,000); Latin American Youth Center (\$500,000); Year Up National Capital Region (\$207,000).*

Multi-Issue

- **United Way of Greater Cincinnati** (\$2 million; 2 year grant) the Strive Partnership and other funders, will address the needs of low-income children and youth from "cradle to career" in the Greater Cincinnati-area through investments in early education, mentoring and literacy programs, college access, career pathways and other innovations.

EMBRACING INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

- The SIF is a new way of doing business that encourages true collaboration between government and nonprofits, business and philanthropies in order to achieve real and lasting impact on urgent national challenges.
- The grant portfolio includes \$74 million in secured match funds, which combined with federal resources means \$123 million will be directed toward projects that train the

unemployed, increase access to health services for the underserved and prepare youth for academic and economic success.

- The SIF leverages a 3:1 private-public match, sets a higher standard for evidence and impact, empowers communities to identify and grow solutions, and creates incentives for grant making organizations to target funding in a new way.

ABOUT THE GRANT PROCESS

The Corporation implemented a rigorous application review process over a three-month period. Over 60 external experts provided input across three stages of the review, assessing applications against the full set of criteria published in the Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA). The applications were evaluated based on their program design, organizational capacity and budget.

For more information, visit the Corporation for National and Community Service's Social Innovation Fund website at www.NationalService.gov/Innovation

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