Call for Proposals

Purpose

The Fig Tree Charitable Foundation is dedicated to providing opportunities to disadvantaged populations around the world by providing funds for international organizations delivering development programs in the field. The FTF is committed to supporting projects that demonstrate the best potential return on every dollar raised, as measured by the net positive impact on the lives of end users. FTF has established an endowment fund to provide support to approved ventures by and between participating development agencies.

Mission

By working in partnership with our Roundtable participants, in the most fiscally prudent fashion possible, we strive to create opportunities through the thoughtful investment in development projects which provide long-term improvements in the quality of life for the end user.

Guidelines

Funding Criteria

Funding decisions for projects will include consideration of some or all of the following criteria:

- Projects are in alignment with the FTF development principles (outlined below)

- Projects provide measurable value to the recipient community, while minimizing unintended negative consequences

- Projects lever off of existing projects or roundtable participants core competencies and deliver tangible results within specified timelines

- Projects strive towards long term outcomes beyond the scope and tenure of FTF's involvement to build capacity and infrastructure

- Projects demonstrate grassroots driven initiatives with demonstrated local ownership

- Projects are innovative and could be scaled up or repeated in the community

- Projects demonstrate collaboration between Roundtable participants

Additional Funding Information

- Minimum funding request is $500. The Board of Directors will determine funding amounts based on alignment with the development principles and number of Roundtable organizations involved.

- Funding is limited to CRA registered organizations that are FTF Roundtable members in good standing.

Development Principles

Sustainability

FTF maintains the principle that projects that create economic or social opportunities in the host community are ideal. Capacity building, educational opportunities and business development are all potential elements of project sustainability.

Does the project pass the "walk away test"? Will the project survive after the initial agency steps back and will the benefits last after the duration of project implementation?

Does the project have the potential to be scaled up or repeated within the community with little or no additional outside assistance?

Effectiveness

All projects must have an outcome that makes a tangible difference to the people and communities they are attempting to affect. These outcomes should be objectively observable and of greatest value to the community themselves, for it is their necessity that must be the mother of their invention not the other way round.

FTF strives to be cost effective in its own operations and activities and expects that recipients of its funds follow similar practices.

Sometimes there are unforeseeable or unintended consequences to a project that can undermine the cost effectiveness of the development assistance in general. FTF believes that all possible impacts, both

positive and negative, should be identified and mitigation strategies developed when necessary to ensure the best possible impact and effective utilization of resources. Negative impacts could include inflation, market distortion, conflict, interpersonal distrust, unfair distribution of benefits and environmental degradation.

One way to prevent unintended negative impacts is to avoid issuing "hand outs" as they often create dependency and can be construed as unfair. They can also be under-utilized making the investment less cost effective overall.

When planning development projects, it is important to identify the outputs and intended outcomes of the project and design effective means of verification and indicators that will effectively measure the project's impact. Quantifiable indicators are ideal but qualitative indicators can also be used for reporting purposes.

Collaborative

FTF believes that meaningful collaboration with the community is essential to effective development projects. Needs should be well known or assessed. Appropriate planning should also be put in place to ensure that the outcomes of the project are meeting the needs of the community and there is sufficient ownership of the outcomes and the process involved.

How has the need been expressed by the community? Who is taking the lead on the project and who is driving the initiative? How were the stakeholders determined and consulted?

One of the successes of the FTF is the establishment of the Roundtable. Because partnerships between organizations can lead to more effective development projects when partner's unique skills are combined, FTF looks favourably on projects that demonstrate collaboration between members of the FTF roundtable. It is hoped that innovative solutions can be found for development dilemmas.

Transparency

We should share fully of our methods, failures and successes. It is only through the sharing of this knowledge that we can truly be accountable and that others, as well as ourselves, can better learn those lessons necessary for success.
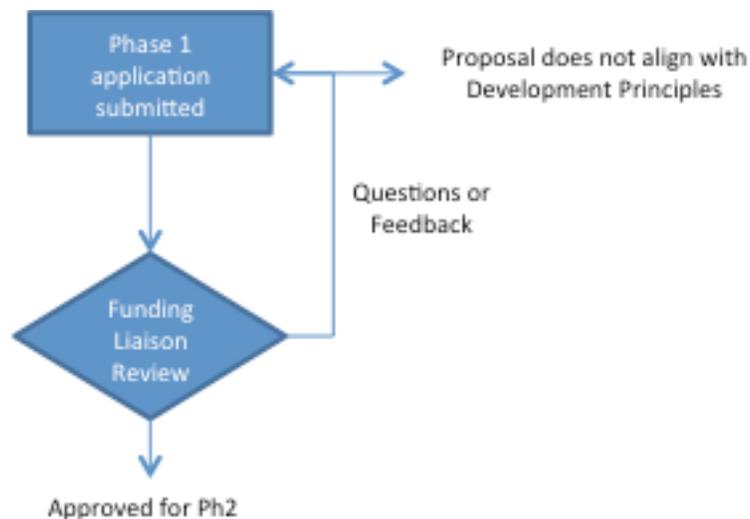
Transparency in financial accounting and bookkeeping, cost and vendor analysis and innovative solutions to cost challenges are favourable.
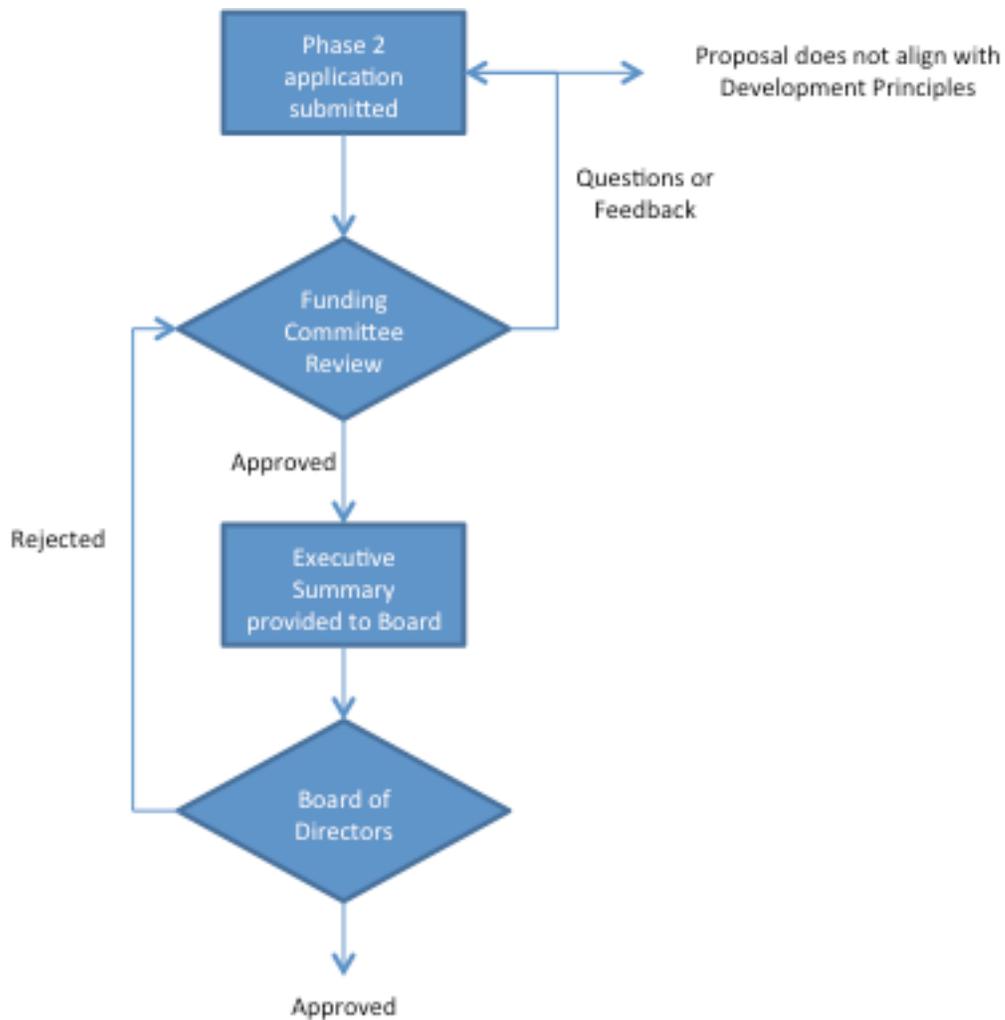
The Process

FTF has designed the funding criteria and process to provide certainty that funds designated will be used as stated and in alignment with the above-mentioned development principles.

FTF has designed the criteria clearly and concisely to maintain the integrity of the funding process and transparency. As such, FTF is utilizing a four phased process, outlined below. All questions or funding requests should be sent to the members' Liaison as well as to the FTF's Project Group, at ftf.projects@figtreefoundation.com. The Funding/Project Liaison will be available to help Roundtable organizations pursuing funding both through the project development stage as well as the formal application process.

Phase 1

Phase 1 application submitted

Proposal does not align with Development Principles

Questions or Feedback

Funding Liaison Review

Approved for Ph2

Phase 2

Phase 2 application submitted → Proposal does not align with Development Principles

Questions or Feedback

Funding Committee Review

Approved

Rejected

Executive Summary provided to Board

Board of Directors

Approved

Phase 3

- Funding provided by FTF to organization or lead partner as required

- Project implemented by organizations

Phase 4

- Reporting to FTF based on stated deliverables and indicators with effective monitoring and evaluation

Appendix A – Phase 1 Project Proposal – Introduction of Concept

The purpose of this document is to allow organizations the opportunity to discuss their project proposals with FTF's Funding Liaison. The brief description below provides the Funding Liaison a basic outline of the Project.

Project Title:

Project Duration and Timeline:

Organization's Legal Name:

Organization's Charitable Registration Number:

Contact Person (phone number and email):

Please answer the questions below, keeping responses under 100 words each.

1. Why is this project needed, and how was this need expressed to you?

2. What is the intended objective(s) of the project and how will it be achieved? Who are the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the project?

3. Does your project align with FTF's development principles listed above? Please provide a brief description on how your project will satisfy the 4 principles.

4. What is the amount requested? What percentage of the total project budget does this amount represent?

5. How do you plan to monitor the impacts of your project on the beneficiaries and relative to its objectives? What indicators would you use to track the performance of your project and what actions would you consider to ensure that it achieves its objectives.