

A vehicle for directing high-impact gifts to local grassroots nonprofit organizations

Donors often have a myriad of choices in allocating their resources. With 42,432 nonprofits in Massachusetts alone,¹ identifying and connecting with these organizations takes time, effort, and expertise, which many donors don't have.

For over 20 years, the Social Innovation Forum (SIF) has been identifying, evaluating, and supporting small- to mid-sized nonprofits (budgets under \$2M) in Eastern Massachusetts through our Social Innovator Accelerator program. Organizations in our portfolio work across a range of diverse social issues, but share a broad social justice focus. The leaders of these nonprofits are proximate to the communities they serve and deeply understand what their communities need.

About the Social Innovation Forum

Founded in 2003, SIF connects funders and volunteers with on-the-ground leaders of nonprofit organizations to build productive relationships focused on growing social impact. SIF offers programs to build capacity in the nonprofit sector, including the flagship Social Innovator Accelerator, an Alumni and Nonprofit Network, Funder Learning, and a nationally focused peer learning program, CORE. To date, SIF has directed over \$59 million in cash and in-kind services to more than 120 social impact organizations.

About the Fund

In March of 2023, the Social Innovator Fund was launched to help individuals optimally move resources to the organizations in our network. An anonymous donor provided a five-year gift to support SIF's broader work and seed money for the fund. This anchor gift ensures the fund starts with \$200K yearly and gets 100% of all donations. We aim to build the fund and ensure that Social Innovators, small, local organizations, get maximized unrestricted funding for building and expanding their work. The fund will be equally divided among our eight Social Innovators yearly (Note: A small amount [up to \$40K] will go to the Accelerator finalists). In 2023 the fund distributed \$45,750 to each Innovator in addition to \$10,000 that each group got through their track partners, increasing their unrestricted SIF support by over 400%.

¹ <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/states/MA>



The Social Innovator Fund



By giving to SIF's Social Innovator Fund, it allows us to give money to a broad range of community-based impact organizations, all at one time. SIF's process saves both time and money and ensures grant funds get to local organizations, in the most efficient way, by leveraging proximate experts and leaders in a range of social issue areas"

- ANCHOR DONOR



Benefits of gifting to the Social Innovator Fund

- ✓ All donations to SIF are tax deductible.
- ✓ SIF handles disbursement, eliminating the need for multiple checks.
- ✓ Disbursement will be quick, evenly split among the Innovator cohort at year-end.
- ✓ SIF does the work. We identify hundreds of local nonprofit organizations yearly, review 50-100 applications, and select eight organizations to participate in the Accelerator program. After the 2-year engagement, Innovators join our alumni nonprofit network and receive support for future growth and evolution.
- ✓ Donors will receive an annual summary of fund financials and an update on the Accelerator organizations.



The Social Innovation Forum is a 501(c)(3) organization, EIN 47-3923576. All donations are tax deductible. No goods or services will be provided in exchange for the donation.

100% Payout Annually

Unlike Donor Advised Funds (DAFs), with yearly annual payout variances, the Social Innovator Fund helps donors move money quickly to organizations that need it most. The fund is distributed at year-end among the year's eight cohort organizations and then reset for the next year's cohort. This optimal disbursement advances on-the-ground community work.

Our Proximity to the Grassroots Organizations

Your gift to the Innovator Fund will strengthen the work of local grassroots organizations led by leaders proximate to the communities they serve – the very organizations historically overlooked by traditional philanthropy. Since many donors do not have deep networks with these high-impact organizations, SIF's role as an intermediary allows donors to easily identify and gift the organizations.

2024 Social Innovators

- Beat the Odds (BTO) Boston
- Boston Food Forest Coalition
- Family Independence, Inc.
- Just A Start Financial Empowerment Collaborative
- Kids in Tech, Inc.
- Latinx Community Center for Empowerment
- Massachusetts Women of Color Network (MAWOCN)
- Top Notch Scholars, Inc.

Long-Term Partnership and Continued Investment

SIF continuously supports its Social Innovators. Upon the completion of the 24-month Accelerator Program, the participating organizations transition to SIF's Alumni/Nonprofit Network, gaining access to ongoing training, coaching, and capacity building. Thus, your investment is bolstered by SIF's long-term commitment to supporting our portfolio organizations as they grow and deepen their work.

How to make gift to the Social Innovator Fund

SIF will accept gifts to the 2024 Social Innovator Fund through December 31, 2024. The minimum gift is \$500.

Gifts can be made online at socialinnovationforum.org/innovator-fund or by check, electronic transfer, via your donor advised fund (DAF), or stock transfer. Mailing address: **2 Oliver Street, Suite 802, Boston, MA 02109.**

Contact Information

For more information about the Social Innovator Fund, please contact **Tanya Inwald, Director of Programs**, at tinwald@socialinnovationforum.org.