

## Social Innovator Accelerator Application Questions

At the Social Innovation Forum (SIF), we want our programs to be reflective of and responsive to the Eastern Massachusetts community. We strive to shift power and resources by moving away from traditional—and inequitable—funding practices. With 92% of foundation CEOs being white\*, inequities in funding have kept resources with those that have historically been in power. Meanwhile, only 10% of foundation grantmaking in the US goes to communities of color\*\*. We are increasingly shifting our work to address this imbalance by using our role as an intermediary to direct resources to organizations led by those who are representative of the communities they serve. In order to hold ourselves accountable to this goal and to measure our effectiveness, we need to collect information about the demographics of the leadership of the organizations that participate in our programs and their constituents. Throughout this application, we will be asking demographic questions which will only be used for internal purposes and not evaluated on. You may check “prefer not to answer” to any of these questions.

\*<https://www.d5coalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/D5-SOTW-2016-Final-web-pages.pdf>

\*\*[https://racialequity.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/1126\\_PRE\\_Infographic\\_final.pdf](https://racialequity.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/1126_PRE_Infographic_final.pdf)

### Organization Information

Applicant Program or Organization Name\*

Standalone organization or program within an organization?

Select one option

Standalone organization

Program within an organization

What is the name of your parent organization?

Is your organization a chapter or affiliate of a national organization?

Select one option

Yes

No

#### Basic Criteria\*

If you do not meet these basic criteria, we advise you not to apply for the Accelerator program this year.

- Registered 501c3 or use a fiscal agent
- At least 1.5 paid staff (not including volunteers, board members, or consultants)
- Budget between \$100,000 - \$2 MM
- At least 75% programming in Eastern MA
- Operating for at least 3 years (since June 2022)

#### Social Issue Track\*

Track criteria can be found [here](#).

Select one (Dropdown)

Have you applied to the Social Innovator Accelerator before?\*

Select one option

Yes

No

Is your organization BIPOC led?\*

SIF is committed to uplifting small to midsize community-led organizations, especially those that are BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) led. This question is for internal purposes only and will not be shared publicly with application evaluators.

Select one option

Yes

No

Prefer not to answer

Application Author

First Name\*

Last Name\*

Title\*

Email Address\*

Organization Address\*

Date Organization/Program Founded\*

Please upload your organization's 501c3 or fiscal agent documentation\*

[file upload]

Website\*

Facebook

Instagram

Social Media - feel free to share links to any other platforms where you share information and news

Organization Contact Information

Director/CEO

First Name\*

Last Name\*

Title\*

Work Phone\*

Cell Phone

Email Address\*

When did the Director/CEO start working with the organization?

Do you have a secondary contact?\*

The secondary contact should be someone that might be involved with the SIF process should your organization be selected, e.g. the program director, development director, etc.

Select one option

No

Yes

First Name\*

Last Name\*

Title\*

Work Phone\*

Cell Phone

Email Address\*

When did the secondary contact start working with the organization?

### **Lead Innovator**

The Lead Innovator should be the leader of the program or organization and will be expected to attend all Social Innovation Forum sessions and present on behalf of their organization at the Social Innovator Showcase.

1. Who is your organization's lead innovator?\*

Select one option

Director/CEO

Secondary Contact

Other

First Name\*

Last Name\*

Title\*

Work Phone\*

Cell Phone

Email Address\*

2. When did the Lead Innovator start working with the applicant organization/program?\*
3. When did the Lead Innovator assume their current title?\*
4. What was the Lead Innovator's previous place of employment and position? (100 word maximum, no minimum word count)\*
5. Does the lead Innovator identify as BIPOC?\*
- SIF is committed to uplifting small to mid-sized community-led organizations, especially those BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) led. This question is for internal purposes only and will not be shared publicly with evaluators.
  - Yes
  - No
  - Prefer not to answer
6. In their own words, please have the Lead Innovator explain what brought them to this work. (300 word maximum, no minimum word count)\*

## **Program Model**

1. Please describe what the applicant organization/program does:
  - a. A short description of each program (400 word maximum, no minimum word count)\*
  - b. How do you use an innovative approach that advances positive social change in your community? How do you see your work aligning with the bullets listed in the track criteria? (300 word maximum, no minimum word count)\* Please refer to the [track criteria](#) on our website.
  - c. Dropdown - How would you describe the majority of your work: direct service, intermediary, advocacy, other (text box)\*
  - d. Please describe the applicant organization/program's target population, including demographic information such as socioeconomic status, race,

ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, language, etc. (200 word maximum, no minimum word count)\*

- e. What is the cadence/frequency of your programs? (how often do program participants engage in/with programs, how frequently do you organize convenings, etc.) (200 word maximum, no minimum word count)\*
- f. How many sites do you have and where are they located? (200 word maximum, no minimum word count)\*
- g. What is unique about your approach compared to other nonprofits working to achieve similar outcomes? (300 word maximum, no minimum word count)\*
- h. Is there anything else that you would like to share to help us gain a better understanding of what the applicant organization/program does and what you're trying to accomplish? (200 word maximum, no minimum word count)

## **Data Collection**

1. Please list three to five metrics (for 2024 - 2026) that the leadership team is using to measure outputs of the applicant organization/program. If you are applying for a program of an organization, please list the program's outputs.

Outputs measure "how much." Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Number of hours of service provided
- Number of partners
- Number of campaigns
- Number of initiatives

We ask that you share the total number of program participants you serve. This is helpful for our reporting. For example, "Program Participants = 250 (150 students & 100 families)." If you do not track this number, you can insert "N/A"

	2024	2025	2026 (P)
Metric/Output #1: Program Participants*			
Metric/Output #2			
Metric/Output #3			
Metric/Output #4			
Metric/Output #5			

2. What does success look like for the applicant organization/program? How do you track success and how do you know you are moving toward it? *This question comes from the Philanthropy MA Common App.* (400 word maximum, no minimum word count)\*
3. Please provide examples of the applicant organization/program's outcomes if applicable.

Outcomes measure change that occurs due to your program. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Percentage of participants employed upon program completion
- Percentage of participants demonstrating improved conflict resolution skills
- Percentage of participants who graduate from high school

Outcome data may be shared via survey numbers, focus group notes, testimonials, etc. (400 word maximum, no minimum word count)\*

Optional outcome attachments

## Goals

Please describe the applicant organization/program's priority goals for the next 2-3 years. (300 word maximum, no minimum word count)\*

### Financial and Staffing Information

Please provide the following information for the applicant organization/program. If you are applying for a program of an organization, please list the program's financial and staffing information.

Please provide us with information for fiscal years 2023 through 2026(Projected). If your 2025 fiscal year is not complete, please estimate this information.

Fiscal Year	Revenue*	Expenses*	Paid Full-time staff*	Paid Part-time staff*	Board Members*
2023					
2024					
2025					
2026 (P)					

What is your fiscal year end?\*

How many current (FY25) staff and board members identify as BIPOC?\*

SIF is committed to uplifting small to midsize community-led organizations, especially those BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) led. This question is for internal purposes only and will not be shared publicly with application evaluators. Please enter a number (not a percentage). If you do not track this data or prefer not to answer, type "N/A" or "prefer not to answer":

FY25 - Paid Full-time staff who identify as BIPOC:

FY25 - Paid Part-time staff who identify as BIPOC:



FY25 - Board Members who identify as BIPOC:

Optional Comments (300 word minimum, no maximum word count)

### **Leadership and Team**

1. How does the applicant organization/program involve the members of the community served in decision-making and leadership? (300 word maximum, no minimum word count)\*
2. How are the staff and board of the organization accountable to and reflective of the community it serves? (300 word maximum, no minimum word count)\*
3. Describe what goals, if any, the applicant organization/program has developed around Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). How do you track progress toward these goals? *This question comes from the Philanthropy MA Common App.* (300 word maximum, no minimum word count)\*

### **Collaboration**

1. Is the applicant organization/program working with other organizations, coalitions, and/or networks to advance your mission? If so, please share three examples of these collaborations and the nature of the partnerships. (Please list up to 3 examples) (100 word maximum per example, no minimum word count)\*

### **Fundraising**

1. What is the applicant organization/program's current breakdown of revenue sources?

For the most recent, complete fiscal year, please estimate the percentage of the applicant organization/program's total revenue that comes from the following sources. (Total % must equal 100)

Foundation Grants (non-Corporate)	
Corporate Grants	
Individual Donations	
Government Grants/Contracts	
Earned Income (e.g., program and service fees, ticket sales, membership dues)	
Investments/Interest	
In-kind Donations	
Support from Parent Organization	
Other	

2. What are the applicant organization/program's fundraising goals over the next year? Which members of the team support these goals? (300 word maximum, no minimum word count)\*

### **Capacity Building Support**

1. Why do you think this year is the best time for the applicant organization/program to participate in the SIF's capacity-building program? (*How do you think the program can help your organization achieve its goals?*) (300 word maximum, no minimum word count)\*

*Please refer to the Benefits to Social Innovators section on the [SIF website](#) for more information about what SIF can offer your organization/program.*

2. Do you have plans to engage with any external coaches or consultants or to begin or work on a strategic plan from January-May of 2026? If yes, describe the nature and timing of the engagement. Due to the time-intensive nature of the first 6

months of the Accelerator and the forward planning that occurs during this time, we find it helpful to understand what other engagements you anticipate during that time. (300 word maximum, no minimum word count)\*

### **Conclusion**

### **Audited Financial Statements\***

Please upload applicant organization/program's audited financial statements.

For programs and organizations that do not conduct their own financial audit, please upload a profit and loss statement or balance sheet.

### **Strategic Plan (Optional)**

Applicant organization/program's most recent business/strategic plan.

### **Additional Document Upload (Optional)**

Additional existing document applicant organization/program would like to share with SIF.

**I certify that the Lead Innovator and/or another member of the senior leadership team is/are:\***

- I certify that the Lead Innovator and/or another member of the senior leadership team is/are:
- Aware that if selected as a finalist, one or two members of the senior leadership team, including the Lead Innovator, will engage in a Site Visit in October/November 2025 to be considered for the program
- Able to attend a day-long orientation session in early December 2025 (date TBD)
- Committed to participating in an intensive one-on-one consulting engagement from January-May 2026 plus some prep work in December 2025
- Open to coaching and new ideas to support the growth of the program/organization.
- Able to present a memorized five minute presentation at the Social Innovator Showcase in May 2026 (tentative date - May 14)

You must agree to this [Statement of Agreement](#) in order to be considered for the 2026 Social Innovator Accelerator. Select "I agree," and sign below before submitting your application.

- I agree
- Digital signature