



# The Social Innovator Fund

## High-impact giving that fuels local community-based nonprofits

For over 21 years, Social Innovation Forum (SIF) has been identifying, evaluating, and supporting small to midsize nonprofits (budgets under \$2M) in Eastern Massachusetts through our Accelerator program. Organizations in our portfolio, "Social Innovators" 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.

To date, SIF has directed over **\$66.4 million** in cash and in-kind services to more than **130+** social impact organizations.

### About the Fund

In March 2023, SIF launched the Social Innovator Fund to help individuals direct resources more effectively to the organizations in our network. An anonymous donor provided a five-year gift that ensures the fund starts with \$200K yearly and gets 100% of all donations. We aim to build the fund so that Innovators get maximized, unrestricted funding for building and expanding their work. Each year, the majority of the fund will be distributed equally among our Innovators, while a small portion (up to \$40,000) will support Accelerator finalists.

Together, we can create lasting change right where it's needed most.



In 2025 the fund distributed **\$43,461** to each Innovator in addition to **\$10,000** that each group got through their track partners, increasing their unrestricted SIF support by over **330%**.



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

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



## 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 six-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.



# 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 cohort organizations and then reset for the next year's cohort.

### Your gift can fuel the critical work of our seven local 2026 Social Innovators

- **Apprentice Learning**
- **Eastie Farm**
- **Boston Lesbian Urban Foundation, Inc.**
- **Gaining Ground**
- **Center for Social & Demographic Research on Aging, a program of UMass Boston**
- **Level Ground Mixed Martial Arts**
- **Merrimack Valley Project (MVP)**

### About Social Innovation Forum

Social Innovation Forum (SIF) accelerates positive social change by connecting small and mid-sized nonprofits throughout Eastern Massachusetts with the resources, networks, and knowledge they need to achieve greater impact. Founded in 2003 as a program of Root Cause, SIF incorporated as an independent nonprofit organization in 2015. Our flagship program is the Accelerator, which provides a cohort of the region's promising nonprofits with capacity building, coaching, and presentation training, along with the opportunity to present to a community of funders and skilled volunteers at an annual Showcase. 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 a gift to the Social Innovator Fund

SIF will accept gifts to the 2026 Social Innovator Fund through December 31, 2026. The minimum gift is \$500.

Gifts can be made online at [socialinnovationforum.org/innovator-fund](https://socialinnovationforum.org/innovator-fund) or by check, electronic transfer, via your donor advised fund (DAF), or stock transfer. Mailing address: **77 Franklin Street, 9th Floor, Boston, MA 02110.**

### Contact Information

For more information about the Social Innovator Fund, please contact **SIF's Development Team at [development@socialinnovationforum.org](mailto:development@socialinnovationforum.org).**

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.