



## **Children and Youth Fund Grantmaking Criteria**

### **Guiding Questions for Small Groups**

Below are examples of the types of questions to be considered when determining the grant making criteria. In your designated groups, explore the various questions outlined in each section below. Please provide time and space for each member of the group to gain clarity and express their diverse perspectives. The facilitators (or a volunteer from each group) will take notes and track areas of agreement, identified priorities, additional questions/criteria developed from the group discussion, and any other relevant information or major takeaways that will assist in drafting the grant making criteria.

Please note that 40 minutes have been allocated for this exercise. Please structure the conversations appropriately to complete each section. An additional 15 minutes has been allocated for each group to report out for full group discussion.

#### **I. Organization Structure**

- Does the organization need to be a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization or can they be a for-profit or individual to receive funding?
- Does the organization need to be an organization in which their primary services are youth-focused?
- Does the organization have to be a local organization or could it represent Baltimore, Maryland or be a national organization?
- Has the organization received funding from the City of Baltimore before and does it matter how many or how much funding the organization receives from the city?
- Does it matter what the demographic and social economic make-up of the board, leadership and staff of the organization?
- Does it matter if the organization has staff and whether the staff all paid, all volunteers, or a mixture?

#### **II. Organization Capability**

- Can the organization have one program or a multitude of programs that serve young people?
- Should the organization have a program focus that focuses on either early childhood, elementary, teens, young adults, families or all of these areas?
- Can the organization serve a block, neighborhood, census tract or multiple areas of Baltimore?
- Is the organization's financial health a factor and should the organization have an audit and/or have a strong cash-flow or balance sheet? Should they have fund-diversity in funding types (earned income, foundations, individual donors, etc.)?
- Does the organization have to be youth-focused in their programming or have a history of serving young people?
- Is the funding for general operating or for program-specific funding, or both?

#### **III. Project Questions**

- If the Youth Fund will be used for program funding, does the organization need to know the exact population that the funding will be used for?
- Does the organization need to know the exact impacts that the programs will need to reach? Does the organization need to know how the programs will be administered to obtain Youth Fund dollars?
- Does the organization need to know the exact location where the programming will take place and the exact timeline for how the services will be delivered?
- Does the organization need to know the exact impact or difference the programs will make in their communities and know exactly how their programs have been successful in meeting the needs of young people?
- Can the Youth Fund be used for once-off projects or a pilot or seed project to test a new approach that might then be taken to scale?

#### **IV. Budget**

- Do organizations need to know the total cost of the project? Is there a specific limit of how much the Youth Fund can be of the total project or organizational budget?
- Is it important to know if there are other funders or funding strategies being used to fund the total program and who/what those areas might be?
- Is it important to know whether the project will continue past the funding period – and if so, where does the applicant hope to obtain future funding outside of the Youth Fund?
- Can the Youth Fund assist early-stage organizations and programs or does the effort need to have a history and budget position to be considered for the Youth Fund?
- Does the organization or program need to have realistic timetable, plan and overall budget to be considered for the Youth Fund?

#### **V. Context**

- Does it matter who else does this work in their field or community or can multiple organizations or programs serving the exact same community not matter for Youth Fund consideration.
- Does the organization need to show that there is a specific need for the program and services they are aiming to deliver. Should this be substantiated by research?