Social Innovator Accelerator Applicant Guide

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS THROUGH JULY 20, 2020

The Social Innovation Forum believes that social innovation is critical to ensuring that our public and private resources are leveraged in the most effective ways to address social problems. Yet, it is often difficult for emerging innovations to receive the recognition and support they need to develop and spread their impact. The Social Innovation Forum provides a unique opportunity for innovative nonprofits to gain visibility, expand their networks, and build capacity.

For our 2020 – 2021 Social Innovator Accelerator, we will select one nonprofit Social Innovator for each of our six “social issue tracks.”

2020 – 2021 SOCIAL ISSUE TRACKS AND SPONSORING PARTNERS

Barr Foundation, the Boston Foundation, the Charlotte Foundation, and The Devonshire Foundation

Advancing Education and Career Opportunities for Immigrant Youth
Track Partner: Wellington Management Foundation

Anything Goes: Innovative, Effective, and Sustainable Approaches to Our Region’s Toughest Social Issues
Track Partner: Boston Open Impact

Combating Recidivism Through Comprehensive Re-entry Programs
Track Partner: Wagner Foundation

Dismantling Hate and Building Social Cohesion Within and Across Communities
Track Partner: The Beker Foundation

Promoting a Healthy Democracy Through Civic Engagement and Community Empowerment
Track Partner: Civic Engagement Funder Collaborative

Reinventing Remote Learning Opportunities During and Beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic
Track Partner: Liberty Mutual Insurance
BENEFITS TO SOCIAL INNOVATORS

Each Social Innovator receives access to cash and in-kind benefits valued at more than $150,000:

- Six months of consulting services focused on enhancing the organization’s ability to articulate the social problem it is addressing, its innovative approach, and its social impact. The consulting engagement culminates in the development of the following materials designed for funder/investor audiences:
  - Written investment prospectus
  - Five-minute pitch (with PowerPoint slides)
- Five months of executive coaching
- $10,000 cash upon completion of the consulting engagement
- Showcasing via numerous events, including a spring Showcase in May 2021 (exact date TBD) that annually attracts more than 350 business leaders, institutional funders, and individual philanthropists
- Networking and relationship-building support
- Graphic design services
- Presentation coaching
- Additional support from SIF’s in-kind partners (e.g., legal, graphic design, PR, technology)
- $2,500 capacity building grant in 2022

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The Social Innovator Accelerator is open to programs and organizations that:

- Are a registered 501(c)(3) or use a fiscal agent that is a 501(c)(3)
- Address a specific social need as described in at least one of our social issue tracks
- Are working in the greater Boston area, unless otherwise noted in the social track description
- Have been operating for at least one cycle (usually a year) and have a proven concept
- Have a minimum of 1.5 FTEs (full-time equivalents — counting full and part-time staff, not volunteers)
- Have an annual operating budget of $100,000−$2 million*, unless otherwise noted in the track description
- Are at an inflection point in their growth and development

*Note: Organizations with budgets greater than $2 million are welcome to submit an application for a specific program/initiative that has a total budget of less than that amount. In these cases, the entire application must refer to the program/initiative, not the parent organization, with the exception of the Anything Goes track.

HOW TO APPLY

To submit an application, follow these three steps:

1. Read through this Applicant Guide to determine whether or not your organization is a good “fit” for the Social Innovator Accelerator and for at least one of our social issue tracks.
2. Self-nominate or be nominated via our online nomination form. After nomination, the program or organization leader will receive an email with a link to the application and further instructions within one business day.
3. Complete the online application. First round applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until Monday, July 20, at 5:00 pm. Early submissions are strongly encouraged.

Starting the week of August 17, we will invite a select number of organizations to submit second round application materials. These second round materials will be due on Friday, September 11, 2020.
To learn more about our application process and what it means to be a Social Innovator, please attend one of our optional upcoming information session:

SOCIAL INNOVATOR INFORMATION SESSIONS
Tuesday, June 30, 10:00 – 11:30 am
Virtual Session on Zoom

Thursday, July 9, 2:00-3:30 pm
Virtual Session on Zoom

To RSVP and receive Zoom details, please email team@socialinnovationforum.org

Timeline and Commitments

SELECTION PROCESS
The selection process begins on Monday, July 20, upon receipt of the first round applications and ends the week of November 30, 2020 when we will call all of the finalists to let them know if they have been chosen to participate in this year’s program.

- **June**: The RFP is launched during the week of June 15. There are two information sessions, **Tuesday, June 30** and **Thursday, July 9**.

- **July**: First round applications are due on Monday, July 20. The Social Innovation Forum staff and track partners review first round applications to check that applicants meet our basic eligibility requirements and are a good “fit” for at least one of our social issue tracks.

- **August and September**: During the week of Monday, August 17, we will invite a select number of organizations to submit second round materials. Second round applications are due on **Friday, September 11**. In September, a diverse evaluation committee composed of 10 to 15 issue-area experts, including business professionals, foundation staff, academics, government officials, and others, will read and score the applications for each social issue track. The Social Innovation Forum will moderate a committee meeting and collect written comments from the evaluators for each track.

- **October and November**: For each social issue track, we will invite three to five organizations (finalists) to attend a half-day interview session with a panel of evaluators. These sessions will take place between **Thursday, October 15 and Wednesday, November 4**.

- **November**: In November, the Social Innovation Forum will conduct due diligence on the finalists that might include site visits (potentially virtual) and follow up with the applicants as needed. The 2021 Social Innovators will be notified of their selection the **week of November 30**.

- **December**: The new Innovators will then be publicly announced at an evening reception at the **beginning of December** (date TBD).
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR SOCIAL INNOVATORS

The 2020 – 2021 Social Innovator Accelerator calendar is outlined below for planning purposes (Dates and events are subject to change). Those invited to submit a second round application will receive a more detailed calendar in mid-August.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week of June 15, 2020</td>
<td>RFP released</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, June 30 &amp; Thursday, July 9</td>
<td>First round information sessions for applicants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, July 20, 2020</td>
<td>First round applications due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of Monday, August 17, 2020</td>
<td>Second round invitations issued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, September 11, 2020</td>
<td>Second round applications due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 15 – November 4, 2020</td>
<td>Finalist interviews (one half-day session per social issue track)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of November 30, 2020</td>
<td>Finalists are informed of their status</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early December 2020</td>
<td>2021 Social Innovators welcomed at an evening reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of December 7 or 14, 2020</td>
<td>2021 Social Innovators attend an orientation session</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2020 – May 2021</td>
<td>Working sessions with SIF consultants and in-kind partners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2021</td>
<td>Social Issue Talks (an issue-focused breakfast or lunch event for each Innovator)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2021</td>
<td>Panel Presentations (a one-hour practice run of the Showcase presentation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2021 (Exact Date TBD)</td>
<td>Annual Social Innovator Showcase</td>
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TIME COMMITMENT REQUIRED OF SOCIAL INNOVATORS

In order to take full advantage of the consulting, coaching, and other services that the Social Innovator Accelerator provides, Social Innovators should expect to commit on average six to eight hours per week for six months (December 2020 to May 2021). Starting in September 2021, Innovators will check in with the Social Innovation Forum staff once per quarter regarding performance measurement and will begin to work with their executive coaches. The Innovators will also have continued access to the Social Innovation Forum’s network and to our in-kind partners. From September 2021 to end of 2022, we ask that the Innovators set aside a few hours per month for the following activities: a one-time group closure meeting, preparation for the quarterly check-ins, and executive coaching sessions.

OTHER COMMITMENTS REQUIRED OF SOCIAL INNOVATORS

In choosing Social Innovators, we look for leaders who are committed to partnering with us and who will be active participants in all meetings and events. Media release and other commitments of the process are outlined in our [Statement of Agreement](#). In order to submit an application for the Social Innovator Accelerator, nonprofit leaders must accept the terms of this agreement.
2020 – 2021 Social Issue Tracks

ADVANCING EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
FOR IMMIGRANT YOUTH

Track Partner: Wellington Management Foundation

About the Social Issue
In the U.S., first and second-generation immigrant children represent a significant and growing portion of the population. This group faces unique challenges, but is often disconnected from social services and other supports. In 2018, 26% of children in the U.S. were living with at least one immigrant parent, up from 19% in 2000. Here in Massachusetts, we have seen the fifth highest absolute growth of children living with immigrant parents during that time frame. In fact, 2019 data shows that half of Bostonians and one third of Massachusetts residents are first generation immigrants (themselves foreign-born) or second generation immigrants (have at least one parent who is foreign-born). Although immigrant families represent a significant portion of the labor force, they experience lower rates of both private and public health insurance and higher rates of poverty than non-immigrants, with nearly half of all U.S. children of immigrants living in low-income families. Additionally, first and second-generation immigrant children must contend with unique stressors, including the loss of previously existing social supports, the need to learn a new language, and the challenges of navigating unfamiliar systems to access services. Immigrant families often experience trauma, such as from fleeing unsafe conditions in their home countries or being separated from family members during the immigration process. Children in these families face the increased challenge of coping with these traumas all while negotiating new roles in a new cultural context. Many schools and programs are ill-equipped to meet the needs of the immigrant families. They don’t offer family liaisons and other necessary social services, lack support of multicultural identities, don’t provide appropriate teacher training, and place too much focus on standardized testing. Ensuring positive educational and career trajectories for these young people requires increasing their access to high-quality trauma-informed and culturally affirming programming.

What We Are Looking For
On this track, strong applicants will be able to demonstrate some or all of these key characteristics:

- Provide trauma-informed and culturally affirming programming to first and second generation immigrant youth, up to age 26, through school-day, out-of-school, and/or summer programs.
- Promote academic success, social-emotional learning, and/or college and career exploration. Program practices may include: family engagement, project-based or experiential learning, civic engagement, job readiness, financial literacy, college preparation and completion support, engagement of Opportunity Youth (who are not engaged in school or work), and more.
- Organizations working in Gateway Cities are particularly encouraged to apply.

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1 https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/frequently-requested-statistics-immigrants-and-immigration-united-states
ANYTHING GOES: INNOVATIVE, EFFECTIVE, AND SUSTAINABLE APPROACHES TO OUR REGION’S TOUGHEST SOCIAL ISSUES

Track Partner: Boston Open Impact

About Anything Goes
Over its 17-year history, the Social Innovation Forum (SIF) has focused on a wide range of individual tracks targeting specific social issues. While this approach has allowed the Social Innovation Forum to build a diverse portfolio of over a hundred of Social Innovators, many innovative and effective organizations could not apply to the Social Innovation Forum because their work did not align with SIF’s social issue tracks in a given year.

The local nonprofit sector is constantly evolving as new organizations are established and existing organizations expand and improve their work. While there are countless models for social impact, today’s most effective organizations have several key characteristics in common, such as deliberate focus on their missions, ability to quickly and efficiently pivot and adjust to the new or changing conditions, commitment to financial sustainability, diligence about collecting and using performance data to improve their work, capacity to mobilize and inspire staff, volunteers, and supporters.

These best practices hold true across a wide range of organizations – and across different neighborhoods, social issues, and stages of organizational development. Over the last five years, Boston Open Impact has supported organizations focused on such social issues as opioid use disorder, immigration, youth development, mental health, and civic engagement. Members of the Boston Open Impact funders group continue to be interested in the aforementioned topics, but are also always open to learning about and supporting new and important social issue areas.

What We Are Looking For
On this track, strong applicants will be able to demonstrate some or all of these key characteristics:

- Improve conditions and expand opportunities for residents of greater Boston
- Aspire to achieve systems change and minimize the need for future intervention
- Strive to expand, replicate, or otherwise increase their social impact
- Focus on collecting and analyzing performance data to continuously improve their initiatives
- Include members of the target communities or population in the decision making processes

This track will only accept applications from standalone organizations with budgets under $2 million. Organizations with a fiscal sponsor will be considered. However, local branches of national programs are not eligible for this track.

Boston Open Impact
COMBATING RECIDIVISM THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE RE-ENTRY PROGRAMS

Track Partner: Wagner Foundation

About the Social Issue
The United States is home to 4.3% of the world’s population, yet has more than 20% of the world’s prison population. As a result, the U.S. leads the world in total imprisonments. Over the last fifty years, America’s prison population, which now stands at 2.3 million people, rose by 700% due, in part, to various “War on Drugs” laws that led to a substantial increase in the number of incarcerations, particularly among minority groups. In fact, people of color make up 37% of the U.S. population and 67% of the prison population today.

In Massachusetts, there are currently 8,325 men and women in prison. Although the incarceration rate is decreasing from previous years, nearly 32% of Massachusetts’ prisoners who are released return to prison within three years, indicating that the system continues to fall short.

In order to reduce recidivism, the incarcerated population needs better support and much greater access to programs that help with re-entry after prison. The Council for State Governments says, “Studies show that implementing evidence-based programs and practices can reduce re-offense rates by 10 to 20 percent.” Unfortunately, critical services such as training classes, counseling, and substance abuse treatment are not always available or accessible to those who need them. Additionally, creating a sense of belonging and self-esteem for those released from incarceration is critically important as they re-enter family and community life.

What We Are Looking For
On this track, strong applicants will be able to demonstrate some or all of these key characteristics:

- A model that addresses the hardships of re-entry and can demonstrate the ability to improve social, emotional, and economic health for individuals coming out of incarceration by placing wellbeing at the center and minimizing unnecessary tradeoffs.
- Provide support, training, and a sense of belonging for former inmates.
- Work in collaboration with those impacted by recidivism.
- Support criminal justice reform and other systemic changes that lead to all individuals realizing their full potential.
- Strive to raise awareness that will reduce stigma of former inmates and breakdown systematic barriers impressed upon them.
- Offer support in expanding economic opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals through job training, employment placement, mentorship, etc.
- Organizations or programs that work both within and outside jail and prison settings are welcome to apply.

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6 https://www.census.gov/popclock/
7 https://www.aclu.org/prison-crisis
8 https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2020.html
9 https://www.aclu.org/issues/smart-justice?redirect=node/26297
10 https://www.drugpolicy.org/resource/drug-war-mass-incarceration-and-race-englishspanish
11 https://www.sentencingproject.org/criminal-justice-facts/
12 https://www.mass.gov/service-details/quick-statistics
DISMANTLING HATE AND BUILDING SOCIAL COHESION WITHIN AND ACROSS COMMUNITIES

Track Partner: The Beker Foundation

About the Social Issue

Recent worldwide protests against systemic racism have brought the issues of race, privilege, bias, and injustice to the forefront of everyone’s minds. Angela Davis wrote, “In a racist society, it is not enough to be non-racist, we must be antiracist.” This important shift in mindset is beginning to permeate our collective consciousness and is leading both individuals and institutions to deepen their engagement in actively working to end discriminatory policies and behaviors.

Boston’s history of structural racial disparities has caused and continues to cause real and lasting damage. Boston has been among the most racially segregated US metro cities;\(^ {15}\) and research has suggested that segregation promotes poverty, which leads to worse educational outcomes. According to “The Color of Wealth in Boston” report conducted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Duke University, and the New School in 2015 the median net worth for non-immigrant, Black households in the greater Boston region was $8.\(^ {16}\) In addition, educational opportunity gaps remain a barrier in Boston, where the enrollment of Black students in Greater Boston’s universities was less than 7% in 2015, 4% less than the national average for Black enrollment.\(^ {17}\) In 2018, a report found that while Black and Latino students make up 75% of the Boston Public School population, they are severely underrepresented in the city’s exam schools.\(^ {18}\)

While structural changes are necessary to end racial discrimination, individual biases, unconscious or otherwise, are also barriers to equity and cohesive communities. These too must be actively dismantled.\(^ {19}\) For this track, the Social Innovation Forum seeks organizations or programs that work to bridge divides in greater Boston, promote tolerance, understanding, and acceptance, and whose work could lead to strong partnerships both within and across communities to address discrimination.

What We Are Looking For

On this track, strong applicants will be able to demonstrate some or all of these key characteristics:

- Approach this work in a thoughtful, intentional, and intersectional way
- Work to actively challenge bias, stereotyping, and all forms of discrimination in greater Boston
- Promote education and interaction between people of different backgrounds, ages, and communities
- Exhibit a history of collaboration with other organizations
- Focus on disintegration of constructed barriers in communities

\(^ {15}\) https://247wallst.com/special-report/2015/08/19/americas-most-segregated-cities/
\(^ {17}\) https://apps.bostonglobe.com/spotlight/boston-racism-image-reality/series/colleges/?p1=Spotlight_Race_TopNav
\(^ {19}\) https://www.wbur.org/cognoscenti/2019/01/04/hate-crimes-racism-laurel-sampson-ivan-espinoza-madrigal
PROMOTING A HEALTHY DEMOCRACY THROUGH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Track Partner: Civic Engagement Funder Collaborative

About the Social Issue
Civic engagement is at the heart of a vibrant and healthy democracy. The benefits of civic engagement are felt on both the individual and community levels. Individuals who are more civically engaged develop a sense of purpose, expand their social networks, and build social capital. When people develop and use the knowledge and skills of civic engagement to make effective change, they improve conditions that lead to greater wellbeing on the community level. Civic engagement initiatives can support these positive outcomes by building the social capital and skills of community leaders, promoting civic knowledge about access to public institutions, and increasing trust in government and civil society.

While civic engagement is a powerful method of making social change, underrepresentation, lack of resources, and distrust of government are among factors that lead to unequal opportunity to participate in civic activities. The lack of foundational knowledge of how public institutions work poses another significant barrier to civic engagement. A 2015 survey of Massachusetts district superintendents found that 59.5% rated the level of civic learning in their districts as “insufficient” and 65% reported offering only “few/limited” or “occasional” opportunities for civic learning. Voting patterns in Massachusetts reflect unequal participation in civic life, with many communities leaving their power on the table. For example, people of color account for 19% of all eligible voters but only cast 10% of all ballots in the 2018 general election.

What We Are Looking For
On this track, strong applicants will be able to demonstrate some or all of these key characteristics:
- Build a foundation for civic engagement through education on local issues and government, promotion of media literacy, and effective strategies of engagement with public institutions.
- Increase confidence in the value of civic engagement, including awareness that community members matter and can effect change.
- Provide training, tools, and leadership opportunities for effective civic engagement to bring about positive change in their communities.
- Advance racial and economic equity by empowering communities of color and low-income communities.
- Pursue strategies that promote trust within communities, engaging a variety of community members, and employ a multigenerational approach.
- Develop strategies that are replicable in a variety of community settings.

22. https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57c6d8b729687fd6e90b28db/t/5e68032c9d7e163ed9f9a9e09ead9f/1583874862472/Reflecting+Democracy+Report.pdf
23. https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57c6d8b729687fd6e90b28db/t/5e68032c9d7e163ed9f9a9e09ead9f/1583874862472/Reflecting+Democracy+Report.pdf
About the Social Issue
The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically altered the realities of day-to-day life. With limited and restricted opportunities for in-person interaction, much of the world has seen an increased reliance on technology and remote connection. Schools transitioned from in-person classrooms to remote learning environments within short time spans in early 2020, leaving educators and students scrambling to adapt to the new settings. The pandemic has also reinforced the inequities of our society, both for school districts and families. Many schools have not had the resources to quickly and effectively transition to online platforms, provide appropriate training for the educators, and ensure that students and families had access to educational materials. In addition, the COVID-19 outbreak has had a similarly significant impact on the after school and other youth serving programs that were left with no students to serve in person and no physical spaces to operate out of. Organizations providing workforce development programs have had to pivot as well due to the pandemic in order to continue to provide learning opportunities to employees directly related to their work, productive, and engagement in a way that meets remote expectations.

There is much uncertainty about the future, but investing in a modern, more flexible way of learning and connecting can ease that uncertainty. For this track, the Social Innovation Forum seeks organizations with education-oriented missions working to provide and improve remote learning opportunities for either in-school or out-of-school programs, along with those focused on workforce development.

What We Are Looking For
On this track, strong applicants will be able to demonstrate some or all of these key characteristics:

- Provide online learning opportunities along a continuum that range from early education to career training to students and young adults through the age of 24
- Exhibit adaptability in technology and curriculum
- Ensure equitable access to education for all students
- Provide training and assistance to other organizations that offer remote learning
- To be eligible for this track, organizations should be based in Boston and/or serve a population that is at least 75% Boston residents
Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS THE SOCIAL INNOVATION FORUM?
The Social Innovation Forum (SIF) brings together nonprofits, philanthropy, government, and business to support the spread of emerging social innovations in greater Boston. SIF creates positive social change in greater Boston by:

- Engaging and informing funders and investors so they can direct resources most effectively
- Educating and supporting leaders of nonprofit organizations so they can deliver the most effective solutions to social issues
- Making connections and building relationships across diverse communities so people can help each other generate significant social change

The Social Innovator Accelerator provides a unique opportunity for innovative nonprofit organizations to gain visibility, expand their networks, and build capacity. Each year, we partner with leading local funders to identify and support a small cohort of Social Innovators. Our search and selection process lasts six months and involves two rounds of written applications, in-person interviews, and other forms of due diligence. This process brings together a range of stakeholders, including SIF staff, track partners, and an evaluation committee made up of more than 90 business, government, and foundation leaders.

Our unique approach, working with both funders and practitioners, creates a “Social Impact Marketplace” that is informed, connected, and engaged in the pursuit of positive social change and measurable results. Thus, our direct work is leveraged to create broader impact throughout the community.

WHAT ARE THE SOCIAL INNOVATOR ACCELERATOR’S RESULTS?
To date, the Social Innovation Forum has directed more than $40 million in cash and in-kind services to help more than 100 social impact organizations accelerate their growth and amplify their impact. A total of 1,366 individuals are a part of SIF’s community of funders, mentors, and supporters who support these innovative, effective approaches to address important social issues. On average, our nonprofit Social Innovators more than double their revenue four years after engaging with SIF and experience average annual revenue growth that is 10x the Massachusetts nonprofit average.

HOW DO YOU DEFINE SOCIAL INNOVATION?
Although much debate surrounds the precise definition of social innovation, at its core, the term encapsulates a drive toward progress in the way society addresses social issues. As we define it at the Social Innovation Forum, social innovation is the process of finding, testing, and honing potentially transformative approaches to solving persistent social problems.

The Social Innovation Forum believes that social innovation often starts with an individual idea, but it takes a vast community of stakeholders to spread the ideas that are demonstrating results. Nonprofits, foundations, businesses, and government agencies are most successful in creating lasting social impact when they work together to advance social innovations through the stages of early development, proliferation, proven outcomes, and widespread impact.
MUST AN ORGANIZATION BE RECOMMENDED BY A MEMBER OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE IN ORDER TO APPLY?

No, not at all! Organizations are welcome to nominate themselves via our online nomination form. However, please read through the track descriptions and eligibility requirements closely before doing so. Also, note that the online nomination form is not a first round application. We make no distinction between applicants that self-nominate and applicants that are nominated by others.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO APPLY AS A PROGRAM OR INITIATIVE WITHIN AN ORGANIZATION?

Yes. Any program or initiative with an operating budget between $100,000 and $2 million* may apply. In these cases, the program director as well as a representative from the parent organization must be committed to participating in Social Innovation Forum meetings and events. In addition, the entire application must refer to the program, not the parent organization (budget numbers, performance metrics, etc.). * The Anything Goes track will only accept applications from standalone organizations with budgets under $2 million. Organizations with a fiscal sponsor will be considered. However, local branches of national programs are not eligible for this track.

IF APPLYING TO MORE THAN ONE SOCIAL ISSUE TRACK, MUST AN ORGANIZATION SUBMIT MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION?

In general, yes. Each track has its own set of evaluators who are experts on that particular social issue. While a fair amount of information may be copied and pasted from one application to the next, we ask that multiple-track applicants tailor their answers to some of the more thoughtful, paragraph-response questions to demonstrate their “fit” with each of those tracks. Our evaluators like to see that applicants have thought about how their organizations address specific social issues and what makes them innovators in those spaces.

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THOSE WHO APPLIED DURING A PREVIOUS CYCLE OF THE SOCIAL INNOVATION FORUM AND WERE NOT SELECTED?

The application itself changes from year to year. In order for us to have consistent information across applicants, all applicants for this year’s cycle must complete a 2020 – 2021 application. However, it is often possible to copy and paste responses from a previous application into corresponding sections of the current year’s application. To assist you, we are happy to provide copies of your past application(s) upon request.

WHAT IS THE SOCIAL INNOVATOR SHOWCASE?

The Social Innovator Showcase is focused on highlighting the Social Innovators to potential investors, as well as sparking conversations on the best approaches to developing and spreading innovation. More than 350 business, government, and philanthropic leaders from greater Boston attend the event, in addition to the nonprofit leaders presenting their work. The Social Innovator Showcase will be held in May 2021 (exact date TBD).
WHO SUPPORTS THE SOCIAL INNOVATION FORUM?

Social Innovation Forum Lead Sponsors
- Barr Foundation
- The Boston Foundation
- The Charlotte Foundation
- The Devonshire Foundation

2021 Social Issue Track Partners
- The Beker Foundation
- Boston Open Impact
  - Larry and Beth Greenberg
  - Dan and Elizabeth Jick
  - Andy and Suzanne Offit
  - Amy Rand
  - Steve and Ellen Segal
- Civic Engagement Funder Collaborative
  - 1434 Foundation
  - Ed Orazem
  - Jampart Charitable Trust
  - Pine Lodge Charitable Fund
  - Stifler Family Foundation
- Liberty Mutual Insurance
- Wagner Foundation
- Wellington Management Foundation

2020 Social Issue Track Partners
- Boston Open Impact
  - Larry and Beth Greenberg
  - Dan and Elizabeth Jick
  - Andy and Suzanne Offit
  - Amy Rand
  - Steve and Ellen Segal
- Edith M. Ashley Fund at the Boston Foundation
- Inspire Boston Funder Collaborative
  - 1434 Foundation
  - The Beker Foundation
  - Bess Foundation
  - Jillian McGrath
  - Bill and Alison Monaghan
  - The Pine Lodge Charitable Fund
  - Stifler Family Foundation
- JAKET Foundation
- MassMutual Foundation
- Schrafft Charitable Trust
- Wellington Management Foundation

Benefactors
- Anonymous
- Michael and Linda Frieze
- Larry and Beth Greenberg
- Macomber Family Fund

Lead Benefactors
- Anonymous
- Stephanie Connaughton
- Cummings Foundation
- Doug and Audrey Miller
- The Fallon Company Foundation
- MassMutual Foundation
- Andrew and Suzanne Offit
- The Poler Family Foundation
- Amy and Bob Rands
- Shipley Foundation, Inc.
- Wellington Management Foundation

Lead Angels
- Michael Carmen and Pam Lederer
- Debbie Johnston
- Liberty Mutual Insurance

Angels
- Anonymous
- Bess Foundation
- Fleetwing Charitable Foundation
- James B. Boskey Memorial Foundation
- Jonathan Hecht and Lora Sabin
- Tony and Susanah Howland
- Jean and Jordan Krasnow
- Albert and Mijn Park
- Jim Sloman and Nora Devlin

In-Kind Partners
- altr
- Analysis Group
- Ariel
- DPA Communications
- Emerson College, Nonprofit Communication Management Program
- Goodwin
- Microsoft New England Research & Development Center
- Positively Partners
- PROMUS+ Consulting
- William James College

WHOM SHOULD I CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?
If you have any questions about the application process, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Dingee, Program Manager at Social Innovation Forum, at team@socialinnovationforum.org or at 978.344.2622.