

Social Innovator Accelerator Criteria

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](#) and bring their own perspective and innovation to the topic
- Are working in the Greater Boston area, unless otherwise noted in the track description. *We define Greater Boston broadly. In the past, we've worked with organizations in surrounding cities like Worcester, Lowell, Lawrence, New Bedford and Fall River.*
- Have been delivering programs or services for at least 3 years
- Have a minimum of 1.5 paid FTEs (full-time equivalents—counting full and part-time staff, not volunteers)
- Have an annual operating budget of \$100,000–\$2 million

Social Innovator Profile

We refer to organizations that are selected to and go through the Accelerator program as “Social Innovators.” Typically a strong Social Innovator applicant:

- Uses an **innovative approach**. As we define it at the Social Innovation Forum, social innovation is the process of finding, testing, and honing impactful and potentially transformative approaches that are responsive to the needs of community members, disrupt systems, and bring about systemic change.
- Has a **long-term vision** and has goals, ideas, and/or plans for moving toward its long-term vision.
- Is at a point in its trajectory where it is **seeking to engage in capacity building** to deepen, shift, and/or expand its work and has interest and capacity to participate in the Accelerator program.
- **Works collaboratively** with community partners and stakeholders
- Engages in reflection and **continuous quality improvement**.
- Leadership and decision-making **reflect and are accountable** to the community served.
- The Executive Director and other leaders have **autonomy and decision-making** power.
- Leaders are **open to new ideas** and coaching.
- Is committed to or has intentions to pay **fair wages**.
- Has or is working towards having a **fundraising strategy** and has the organizational capacity to take advantage of SIF's fundraising supports, including network-building.