William Penn Foundation

Democracy and Civic Initiatives

Build Trust and Participation in Democratic Processes Decision-Making Framework

The Democracy and Civic Initiatives program uses the following criteria to assess a project's alignment with this strategy.

Alignment with Objective

ABSENT

Project activities and goals are unrelated to the defined objective.

EMERGENT

Project activities and goals may advance the defined objective, but connection is vague.

DEVELOPING

Project will make a clear but indirect contribution to advancing the defined objective.

STRONG

Project will make a clear and direct contribution to advancing the defined objective.

"DEVELOPING" OR "STRONG" REQUIRED

Equity and Inclusion

ABSENT

No plan to prioritize underrepresented communities. No apparent community engagement.

EMERGENT

Limited efforts to prioritize underrepresented communities. Sporadic or cursory engagement of relevant community members.

DEVELOPING

Project prioritizes access and creates opportunities for underrepresented communities. Meaningful engagement of relevant community members in project planning, goalsetting and implementation.

STRONG

Underrepresented communities are leaders in project planning, goal-setting, and implementation.

"DEVELOPING" OR "STRONG" REQUIRED

Organizational Capacity

ABSENT

No evidence of plan, timeline, resources, staffing, or partnerships necessary to achieve project's goals; no prior relevant experience with proposed work.

EMERGENT

Some elements of project plan and resources are in place, but plan to fill gaps is vague or nonexistent.

DEVELOPING

Project has a realistic plan and timeline; some resources, staffing, and partnerships are in place, with a clear plan to fill remaining gaps.

STRONG

Evidence of credible, realistic plan, timeline, resources, and staffing to achieve the project's goals; history of successful implementation of similar work.

"DEVELOPING" OR "STRONG" REQUIRED

Collaboration and Partnerships

ABSENT

No identified partners or plans for collaboration.

EMERGENT

Intended partners are identified but there are no clear commitments to collaborate that would strengthen the work.

DEVELOPING

Some committed partners and a clear plan to build new partnerships that will address gaps in perspective and expertise.

STRONG

Evidence of commitment to collaborate from partners who will strengthen the work through diverse perspectives and expertise.

"DEVELOPING" OR "STRONG" REQUIRED

William Penn Foundation

Democracy and Civic Initiatives

Increase the Amount and Efficiency of Philanthropic Giving in the Philadelphia Region Decision-Making Framework

The Democracy and Civic Initiatives program uses the following criteria to assess a project's alignment with this strategy.

Understanding of Funding Context

ABSENT

No understanding of relevant philanthropic landscape; no plan for learning about it.

MARGINAL

Limited understanding of and experience working within funding landscape.

DEVELOPING

Ongoing, intentional efforts to understand relevant funding landscape and some prior experience working within it.

STRONG

Strong knowledge of funding landscape and deep experience is present, ongoing, and shapes proposed work.

"DEVELOPING" OR "STRONG" REQUIRED

Equity and Inclusion

ABSENT

No plan to prioritize equitable access to funding for communities most affected by economic inequity, racial discrimination, or other forms of injustice.

MARGINAL

Limited consideration of equitable access to funding in project plan.

DEVELOPING

Project plan and goals prioritize equitable access to funding for communities most affected by economic inequity, racial discrimination, or other forms of injustice.

STRONG

Project plan and goals directly address structural inequities in access to funding.

"DEVELOPING" OR "STRONG" REQUIRED

Organizational Capacity

ABSENT

No evidence of plan, timeline, leadership, resources, staffing, or partnerships necessary to achieve project's goals.

MARGINAL

Some elements of project plan and resources are in place, but plan to fill gaps is vague or nonexistent.

DEVELOPING

Project has a realistic plan, timeline, and leadership; some resources, staffing, and partnerships are in place, with a clear plan to fill remaining gaps.

STRONG

Evidence of realistic plan, timeline, resources, staffing, and partnerships to achieve the project's goals; history of successful implementation of similar work.

"DEVELOPING" OR "STRONG" REQUIRED

For Objective 1, Improve Regional Funder Coordination and Collaboration:

Collaboration and Partnerships

ABSENT

No identified partners or plans for collaboration.

MARGINAL

Intended partners are identified but there are no clear commitments to collaborate that would strengthen the work.

DEVELOPING

Some committed partners and a clear plan to build new partnerships that will address gaps in perspective and expertise.

STRONG

Evidence of commitment to collaborate from partners who will strengthen the work through diverse perspectives and expertise.

"DEVELOPING" OR "STRONG" REQUIRED

For Objective 2, Increase Philanthropic Dollars WPF Helps to Secure:

Potential for Financial Impact

ABSENT

WPF funds will not help secure additional funding for the region.

MARGINAL

Proposal has potential to secure limited additional funding for the region.

DEVELOPING

Proposal has potential to secure meaningful additional funding for the region.

STRONG

Proposal has potential to secure significant additional resources for the region, with strong evidence that proposal will be competitive.

"DEVELOPING" OR "STRONG" REQUIRED

William Penn Foundation

Democracy and Civic Initiatives

Respond to Emerging Civic Initiatives Decision-Making Framework

The Democracy and Civic Initiatives program uses the following criteria to assess a project's alignment with this strategy.

Alignment with WPF's Mission

ABSENT

Project is pursuing goals unrelated to WPF's mission.

EMERGENT

Project may advance WPF's mission but contribution is tenuous

DEVELOPING

Project is likely to advance WPF's mission in a minor way.

STRONG

Project will make a direct and sizable contribution to advancing WPF's mission.

"STRONG" REQUIRED

Potential for Broad Impact

ABSENT

Project discusses an issue and/or scale that is highly localized.

EMERGENT

Project addresses an issue of citywide, regional, or statewide scale but does not have an approach that addresses it at that scale

DEVELOPING

Project addresses an issue and approach of citywide, regional, or statewide scale but expertise, capacity, or partnerships to achieve that scale are uncertain.

STRONG

Project addresses an issue of citywide, regional, or statewide scale; expertise and operational capacity to achieve the desired scale is in place.

"STRONG" REQUIRED

Leadership

ABSENT

Project leadership is undefined.

EMERGENT

Leadership and decisionmaking structure is to be defined OR an effective leader is not yet in place.

DEVELOPING

Project has a clear leadership and decisionmaking structure; leadership has limited track record.

STRONG

Project has a clear leadership and decision-making structure with an effective leader (or leaders) in place.

"STRONG" REQUIRED

Collaboration and Partnerships

ABSENT

No identified partners or plans for collaboration.

EMERGENT

Intended partners are identified but there are no clear commitments to collaborate that would strengthen the work.

DEVELOPING

Some committed partners and a clear plan to build new partnerships that will address gaps in perspective and expertise.

STRONG

Evidence of commitment to collaborate from partners who will strengthen the work through diverse perspectives and expertise.

"DEVELOPING" OR "STRONG" REQUIRED

Equity and Inclusion

ABSENT

No plan to prioritize communities most affected by economic inequity, racial discrimination, or other forms of injustice.

EMERGENT

Limited efforts to prioritize communities most affected by economic inequity, racial discrimination, or other forms of injustice.

DEVELOPING

Project plan and goals prioritize and create opportunities for communities most affected by economic inequity, racial discrimination, or other forms of injustice.

STRONG

Project plan and goals directly address structural inequities present in communities most affected by economic inequity, racial discrimination, or other forms of injustice.

"DEVELOPING" OR "STRONG" REQUIRED

Community Engagement and Public Support

ABSENT

No evidence that communities were engaged in development of the proposed project. Clear public resistance to the work.

EMERGENT

Limited opportunities for community members to provide input; neutral public response.

DEVELOPING

Community members are engaged in development of the project with some opportunity for ongoing input; public response is overall positive.

STRONG

Robust community engagement in developing and implementing the project *and* strong public support to see the work done.

"DEVELOPING" OR "STRONG" REQUIRED