



www.eri-institute.com

Giving Policy and Application Guidelines

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ERI offers grants and impact investments to promising organizations that aim to reduce poverty and social injustice, both global and domestic, by addressing the roots causes that perpetuate them

Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

Any non-profit organization that meets the following criteria:

1. Its mission is to promote social justice (in the sense of a fair distribution of social goods) and/or poverty alleviation at the global or domestic level.
2. Is currently or is intending to make efforts to address some of the root causes that perpetuate poverty and social injustice.
3. Is able to provide an evidence-based argument that the root cause they are addressing is such that:
 - (a) It is a significant contributor to poverty and injustice.
 - (b) Reforming it is likely to result in a significant reduction of poverty or injustice.
4. Is able to produce an evidence-based theory of change that explains why their activities are likely to result in an effective reform of the root cause they are addressing.
5. Does not engage in any way or endorse any kind of activity that involves: unjust discrimination, disrespect or violation of any person or group's human rights, or violence.

What kinds of grants do we issue?

We issue two kinds of grants:

1. Operational grants: non-dedicated grants that are meant to support the operation of non-profits who strongly meet the aforementioned criteria.
2. Project grants: dedicated grants that are meant to support a specific project, which meets the aforementioned criteria.

Who is eligible for an impact investment?

Any organization, including non-profits, social enterprises and impact-oriented businesses, which meet the following criteria:

1. Is able to provide a return on the investment, in the form of monetary yield, goods and services, or impact on poverty reduction and social justice.
2. Is currently or is intending to make efforts to reduce poverty and social injustice.
3. Does not engage in any way or endorse any kind of activity that involves: unjust discrimination, disrespect or violation of any person or group's human rights, or violence.

Funding application guidelines

We are acutely aware of the difficulties, frustrations and heavy time investment involved in the fundraising process. We are also aware of the fact that these costs weigh most heavily on smaller organizations who have very limited resources available to commit to effective fundraising.

Therefore, we consider it to be part of our mission to help impact oriented organizations reduce these costs by making our application process simple, transparent, respectful and fair.

Our grant application process includes two stages. If ERI has invited your organization to submit a grant proposal please skip to the second stage:

First Stage: Letter of Intent

The applicant should submit a short (up to two pages) and informal letter of intent describing:

- a. The organization requesting the grant or investment, its mission and main activities.
- b. Information about the kind of funding they are seeking: whether it is a grant or an impact investment, the amount of funds requested and the desired schedule for receiving the funds.
- c. What the organization plans to do with the requested funds.

ERI will respond to letters of intent within a reasonable timeframe and invite applicants meeting the funding criteria to submit a full proposal.

Second Stage: Grant or Impact Investment Proposal

ERI will only consider proposals from organizations that have been invited to submit a grant or impact investment proposal. The proposal should be concise and clear and need not be formal in style. **What we are looking for are good ideas for impact articulated in plain and jargon-free language.** The ideal length for a proposal is between five and ten pages. The proposal should include:

1. Information about the organization requesting the funds, including references to transparent information about the organization's budget and expenditure.
2. A description of the purpose and activities for which the funds are requested, be it a specific project or support for the day-to-day operations of the organization.
3. A description of the projected impact of these activities on promoting social justice and poverty alleviation.
4. A brief description of the theory of change that explains why these activities are likely to bring about the desired impact.
5. Only if possible, a methodology for measuring progress and success towards achieving the desired impact.
6. Only if available, an assessment of the impact previous efforts have had on promoting social justice and poverty alleviation.
7. A brief explanation of the value added of the proposed activities: why should we think that they are cost-effective and efficient means to achieving the desired impact
8. In the case of impact investment requests, a description of the kind of returns ERI can expect on its investment be they monetary, goods and services or impact.