

Good Measure Evaluation Funds Request for Proposal

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About Good Measure and Mission Capital

Who is distributing these funds?

Mission Capital has been serving and building the capacity of the Central Texas Nonprofit community for over twenty years. We believe that authentic collaboration between the nonprofit, private, and public sectors lead to transformational community change. Our mission is to equip and connect mission-driven leaders, organizations, and networks by advancing equity and opportunity through their work.

Good Measure is a group of philanthropic organizations*, who work together with their grantees to creatively and strategically use data to make a bigger difference in the lives of more people.

The collaborative was founded in 2015 by a group of Central Texas funders interested in exploring how they could pool resources, commit staff time, and offer a unified voice to improve learning and evaluation. Each funder puts forth a financial commitment to the work of Good Measure, and the group works collectively to set priorities and oversee a portfolio of work annually. Key goals for Good Measure include:

- Invest in non-profit data and evaluation training resources
- Encourage and equip funders to support grant partners’ and the broader nonprofit community’s data and evaluation efforts
- Advocate for community data systems and infrastructure
- Collectively build and sustain cultures of data, learning and inquiry to amplify community impact

*Funders of Good Measure: St. David's Foundation, Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, Hogg Foundation, Applied Materials, United Way for Greater Austin, Andy Roddick Foundation.

Request for Proposals: Evaluation Funds

What is Good Measure Funding?

The goal of the Good Measure Evaluation Funds is to support community engagement in strategic learning and evaluation practices. Funds can be used in a variety of ways and are meant to increase community-led, equity-focused evaluation in Central Texas nonprofit organizations.

Good Measure defines “community-led, equitable evaluation” as practices that engage those most affected by the issues being addressed in the design, implementation, and interpretation of strategic learning and evaluation activities.

Whether you have just started thinking about incorporating community in your evaluation practices or are enhancing your current methods, we encourage you to apply!

Decision Criteria:

While your project may vary, examples of questions these funds might help answer are shared below to help illustrate what kinds of projects might be funded.

- “When defining organizational success, in what ways can my organization increase the involvement of individuals that we serve... and those in our service population who choose not to engage us?”
- “Do those we serve believe we are collecting the most helpful data? What information are we collecting that is not being used? How can people outside our organization assist in improving data collection and analysis?”
- “How can we better compensate and support our evaluation participants and/or those who collect the data?”
- “How can we make the data collection and analysis process easier? How can we use data to improve our programming and services?”
- “Do our evaluation methods cause any harm, such as re-traumatizing people, and how can they be modified to reduce or eliminate harm?”

We recommend reviewing the below listed scoring criteria and assigned points on the criteria ahead of submitting your proposal. The applications will be reviewed through a community review process (a review group that includes members of the

Central Texas non-profit community as well as funders from Good Measure) and scored based on evidence of the following criteria:

- Project plan is clearly designed to incorporate or enhance community engagement in the organization's evaluation work (5 points)
- Budget is clear and includes compensation for community members involved in the project. (5 points)
- Outcomes are well-defined and realistic given scope. (5 points)

Grantee Criteria

What is required of applicants?

Eligibility Criteria & Documentation:

- Applicant organizations must be operating in the Austin MSA (Travis, Williamson, Hays, Caldwell, and/or Bastrop counties) and must have an office headquartered in this area.
- Applicants must have 501(c)3 status or have a fiscal agent/sponsor that has 501(c)3 status. We ask for your most recent 990 or IRS (Internal Revenue Service) determination letter.
 - For help in getting IRS letters of determination or affirmation, [click here](#).
- Applicants will be asked to verify that they are in good standing with all relevant local, state, or federal governmental bodies or regulatory agencies with authority over the applicant's organization and activities.
 - "Good Standing" is defined as having no outstanding or overdue reports, no funding has been taken away or ended for violation of grant agreements or contracts, and the applicant is not currently in corrective action with a funder or government agency.
- Applicants will be asked to submit their operating budgets.
- Work described in the proposal should take place within about 18 months (about 1 and a half years) from the funding date (November 2023 – May 2025).

Reporting

Organizations that receive funding will be required to report back to Good Measure: once midway through the grant period and once at the end of the grant period.

The midpoint check-in will be a call to share information on what's working and on what challenges have come up. For the final report grantees can submit in any

format that best works for the organization and that best represents the work they've done. Examples include but are not limited to, a written report, video/visual medium, slideshow/decks, conference call etc.

Good Measure is happy to schedule additional calls during the grant period if needed.

Application

How to apply?

We will be using Survey Monkey to collect applications. [Use this link](#) to fill out your application.

We are also providing all questions from the Survey Monkey application in the appendix for you to review in full.

Applications are due October 9th, 2023 by 11:59 PM CST.

If you have further questions or need support in your application, please reach out to us at goodmeasure@missioncapital.org.

Appendix

Full Application

Section 1: Basic Organizational Information

- Applicant Name
- Applicant Role or Title
- Applicant email/phone

- Organization Name
- Organization Mailing Address
- Organization Mission or Focus
- Is your organization a 501(c)3 or under a Fiscal Sponsor?
 - Yes, 501(c)3
 - Yes, Fiscal Sponsor
 - Fiscal Sponsor Name
 - Fiscal Sponsor Contact (Name/title/email/phone number)
 - Fiscal Sponsor Mailing Address
- Organization Annual Budget: _____

Section 2: Project Description and Outcomes

1.) Please list your requested funding amount:

No organization will receive more than \$25,000. This funding can supplement other funding sources.

2.) Describe the people you serve using the measures and terminology used by your organization and communities. (This can include characteristics such as race/gender/zip codes/age/systematic barriers faced etc.)

3.) Please describe how, if at all, leadership, employees, volunteers, and advisors of your organization represent the communities you serve.

4.) Proposed Activities: Please describe the work you hope to do and outline how it aligns with Good Measure's goal of increasing community engagement in strategic learning and evaluation practices.

a) How will the voices of the community being served by your organization be prioritized and made central to your project?

b.) What are your learning goals for the project? What will it look like to have reached those goals?

c.) Is this a new initiative/approach or does it intersect with something you are already doing? If it aligns with pre-existing work, please explain.

5.) Describe your project budget and how this funding will support the success of the project. This can include a line-item outline of the budget or any budgeting template your organization uses. A sample budget template is offered, but any format is accepted.

Grant Agreements:

1. I confirm I have permission to submit this application on behalf of my organization and that our leadership team agrees with this proposal submission.

2. I confirm that our organization/collective/community group operates within the Austin MSA, with the work or project proposed in this application taking place within the Austin MSA.

3. I confirm that our organization/collective/community group is in good standing with all local, state, and federal government bodies or regulatory agencies with authority over our activities.

4. I confirm that if our organization/collective/community group is selected for funding, we will submit two progress updates at the intervals as described in the reporting criteria above. The format of this submission can include video, call, written or visual documentation.

5. I confirm that if there are any significant changes to the project scope, key deliverables, or anticipated use of funds, I will inform Good Measure of these changes before proceeding.

Attachments:

Please include the following attachments:

- Please upload your 501(c)3 determination letter or most recent 990
- Most recent audited financials or a financial review if an audit is not available (please let us know if this will be a burden)
- Project Budget (any template format is welcome)

Thank You

Thank you for your interest in the Good Measure Special Projects Fund. We will reach out within a few days of your application being submitted to confirm receipt.

Applications are due no later than October 9th, 2023, at 11:59PM CST. Applicants will hear about funding decisions in late October, and funds are expected to be dispersed by November 10th, 2023.