



Social Innovation Fund – Subgrantee Selection and Management

In April, the Boston Foundation concluded its four month subgrantee due diligence and selection process. Nine subgrantee organizations were selected, out of a pool of fifteen applicants. Briefly, the selection process included:

- An RFP, which was released in October and widely disseminated to the following networks: STRIVE, Boston After School and Beyond, the Massachusetts Service Alliance, and the Boston Opportunity Agenda. In addition, the RFP was published on the Boston Foundation's web site, and was shared with the Giving Common [<http://www.givingcommon.org/>], a detailed online resource that includes comprehensive information about 950 nonprofits.
- Three bidders' conferences, held in early November and attended by 21 organizations.
- An eligibility screen, to ensure that all 15 applicants were 501C3 organizations, and had the required documentation.
- A first round review, which consisted of: 1) Input from a Leadership Advisory Group comprised of representatives from the core local higher education partners, the City of Boston, and the Boston Public Schools. This group identified key questions to ask in the selection process. 2) An internal and external Review Team was convened to score the 15 applications, using a common rubric. Each application was reviewed by at least four members of the Review Team. 3) A review by Abt Associates, the BosC4C SIF Evaluation partner, to identify each applicant's experience with data systems and tracking, and likely ability to participate in an evaluation.
- A second round review, which consisted of site visits with applicant organizations, including student beneficiaries. Fourteen organizations received site visits, which were attended by members of the Review Team.
- A comprehensive financial analysis, conducted by the Nonprofit Finance Fund, which examined the financial strength of each applicant.
- A final review of all of the artifacts from the selection process by the Review Team, which shaped the recommendations for the SIF subgrantee portfolio.

TBF's subgrantees were required to demonstrate that they had at least 25% of the Year One match on hand at the time of application. The Boston Foundation will monitor progress toward the match on a quarterly basis, and the first report will be due to TBF on July 20, 2015. At that time, TBF will have more complete information about the progress made toward raising the match, and filling out their full cohort of students who will be coached. In the meantime, all subgrantees met TBF's requirements for the criminal history background checks in early May. Additionally, all subgrantees have participated in at least two orientation sessions.