

Capacity Development Fund (CDF) Request for Proposals

Open Date: July 1, 2011

Proposals Due: August 22, 2011

Awards Announced: October 3, 2011

The Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE) invites proposals from ANDE members interested in receiving support to fuel initiatives aimed at capacity building and inter-organizational collaboration. The goal of the CDF is to increase the productivity and effectiveness of ANDE members, while creating tools and insights that can help the SGB sector as a whole.

ANDE members may apply to the Capacity Development Fund for grants of up to 18 months; we are looking to fund proposals in the \$20-60,000 range but the maximum total request must not exceed a total amount of \$75,000. Joint submissions from ANDE members and submissions which demonstrate the broader benefit to the sector are strongly encouraged. Non-ANDE members may be part of a collaborative grant request; however the ANDE member must be the primary grant recipient. ANDE members may participate in more than one grant proposal. Annual membership dues must be current in order to be eligible and organizations must be members for the duration of the granting period.

This round of funding will put additional emphasis on funding proposals geared towards projects aimed at alleviating human capital constraints through training, collaboration, and general staff development. Human capital projects can benefit both the intermediaries as well as the SGB's/clients themselves and should help alleviate challenges faced in getting to scale, reducing risk, enhancing product/service delivery, etc. ANDE seeks to partially or fully fund approximately 5-7 proposals. Total funds available for this RFP are approximately \$350,000. The Citi Foundation and the Lemelson Foundation have graciously provided the funding for this round.

Two types of grants will be funded:

- **Human-Capital Focused Grants:** At least half of the funded proposals will include a focus on alleviating human capital challenges through training programs, opportunities for shared learning, and creative partnerships. Proposals will need to demonstrate how building the capacity of individual members can be internalized (essential) and shared with other members (strongly encouraged).

- **Innovation/Collaboration Grants:** These grants are designed to encourage innovative partnerships of multiple ANDE members to address common challenges or take advantage of common opportunities. Preference will be given to those proposals that show the most promise for significant positive impact on the SGB sector and demonstrate the greatest commitment of ANDE members to the proposed initiative. Novel ideas and pilot programs that respond to identified needs of the SGB sector are encouraged. The project findings or outputs should be valuable to the ANDE membership, and the strategy for disseminating results to the sector should be explicit.

Application Process

To apply for a CDF Grant, please provide a brief (no more than 9 pages, **including cover sheet and appendices**) proposal that clearly includes, in this order:

1. Cover sheet (1 page):
 - Title of proposal
 - Organizations involved with request
 - Amount of request (\$75,000 max)
 - Time frame of proposed project or program (18 months max)
 - 1-4 sentence brief description of the request
2. Organizational Overview/Information (1 page):
 - Proposal's main contact name, title, and contact details
 - A brief description of your organization(s) and why it is well suited to carry out the proposed project
3. A narrative description of the proposed project/program (3-5 pages), including:
 - a) The problem or need being addressed
 - b) How the project will address the identified problem or need, including specific goals for the effort
 - c) How the project fits the ANDE CDF funding priorities
 - d) Who will implement/participate in the proposed effort and their qualifications.
 - e) How the project or program will create value for the sector and/or SGBs
 - f) The expected outcomes that will result from this initiative and how they will be measured and captured

- f) How the project findings/results will be shared with ANDE and the overall sector
 - g) How and when will the success of this project be evaluated
4. A list of other project funders (prospective and committed)
 5. Total proposed project budget with a line item breakout (Include total projected cost of project, not only portion you are requesting funding for; if funding request is for entire budget, please indicate.)
 6. Timeline of the project activities

*Proposals following this outline format preferred

Questions about the CDF should be directed to Joanna Herrmann
(Joanna.herrmann@aspeninstitute.org).

Please submit proposals no later than 5:00 pm EDT on **August 22, 2011**.