

Pre-Application Screening Criteria

Grant pre-applications will be scored using the following rating system and criteria:

**1 point=Below Expectations 3 5 points=Exceeds Expectations**

**Creativity/Innovation**

**5:** Project design and/or delivery is new to the community; has potential to address need at lower cost and/or address root cause(s) that create need.

**1:** Expansion of existing project.

**Community Impact**

**5:** If successfully implemented, project has the potential to be transformative within project target area.

**1:** Will have minimal impact on project target area.

**Feasibility**

**5:** Agency has capacity; proposed budget is sufficient to meet goals; diverse funding support is probable; low risk of failure.

**1:** Agency has no or minimal track record with proposed budget; budget does not appear adequate to meet goals; Foundation is looked to be majority funder; or risk of failure is medium to high.

**Collaboration**

**5:** Project planning and delivery involves multiple agencies which strengthens application.

**1:** Project involves only applicant agency in planning and delivery.

**Financial Plan**

**5:** Well thought out financial plan that shows how project will be sustained after first year. Financial resources are secured or highly probable for three years.

**1:** Financial plan relies on funding that is unsecured; agency has few resources and no contingency plan if funding falls short.

**Leadership**

**5:** Strong board of directors; board is representative of community; management staff have experience to implement project.

**1:** Board of directors is inexperienced in governing; management staff is new or there are key vacancies waiting to be filled.

**Alignment with Rochester Area Foundation Priorities**

**5:** Proposed project supports attainment of the mission of the Foundation.

**1:** Proposed project is outside of any of RAF’s mission.

**Overall Impression**

**5:** Proposed project is clearly described; need for project is compelling; outcomes are clearly defined and processes to measure are outlined.

**1:** Difficult to understand what is being proposed; need for project has not been documented; and/or outcomes are not measurable.