OPPORTUNITY REBOOT
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)
RELATED TO THE FULL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DECEMBER 7, 2015

BUDGET/MATCH

1. Can you provide any further details about the 1:1 match requirements? Can the match be secured using in kind goods or services?

In order to receive SIF funding the subgrantee must be willing and able to secure 1:1 dollar for dollar cash match using nonfederal, unrestricted (defined as not previously-obligated funding that is redirected for purposes of meeting the SIF match requirement) new or existing funds. For example, if a subgrantee is awarded $150,000 in SIF funds, the subgrantee will need to raise an additional $150,000 in cash to match the SIF grant using their own funds. The match can come from state, local and private sources, including state or local agencies, businesses, private philanthropic organizations, or individuals. In addition, the match must be cash only. Unlike most federal grant programs, the market value of goods and services donated by third parties as “in kind” matching costs does not count toward the matching requirement. Youthprise will work with subgrantees in supporting fundraising efforts, including developing a plan and establishing fundraising markers to ensure that the full match is secured.

2. Will the funds for the match need to be secured before the grant begins? Letters of support?

Opportunity Reboot requires that applicants secure at least the minimum of 25% of Year 1 matching funds at the time of proposal submission, which is Friday, January 8, 2016. Applicants may demonstrate commitments to secure the minimum matching funds requirement by including dated and signed letters of support from each donor or foundation indicating the amount of funds committed for the specific use of supporting the Social Innovation Fund grant. The letter must also state their commitment to provide funding upon receiving the Opportunity Reboot grant from Youthprise.
3. **Our program serves low-income students who are at risk and have significant barriers to completing their education. Are programs that serve a broader population eligible for Opportunity Reboot funding?**

Opportunity Reboot is targeting “opportunity youth”, who are between the ages of 14 and 24 who are either homeless, in foster care, involved in the juvenile justice system, or disconnected from school and work. Opportunity youth can be served within a broader population; however, Opportunity Reboot funds are limited to serve the target population as outlined in the Request for Proposals. Applicants must show how they are serving this population in their proposed models and how they will ensure funds are only used to serve the target population.

4. **Is Opportunity Reboot a “supplement not supplant” grant related to the match?**

Opportunity Reboot is a reimbursable grant, meaning that the subgrantee must demonstrate spending at least dollar for dollar resources for the selected program implementation when submitting for reimbursement. For example, if your organization was awarded $150,000/year for three years through Opportunity Reboot, your organization must raise 1:1, dollar for dollar nonfederal matching funds equaling the awarded grant amount, and will need to submit documentation that your matching funds for each year ($150,000 in this case) have been expended prior to receiving payment from the Opportunity Reboot grant. To this point, Opportunity Reboot funds should be used to supplement program implementation and scaling, and not to diminish or replace current resources.

5. **Our organization is currently receiving state funding to support another one of our programs that are similar to the Opportunity Reboot project. Can we leverage a portion of our state funding to fulfill the matching funds requirement?**

Matching funds must be unrestricted new or existing dollars, meaning that they cannot be previously obligated funding that is redirected for purposes of meeting the match requirement. Reallocation of state, local or private dollars can be leveraged for Opportunity Reboot matching purposes meeting the following conditions:

a) the existing program must be similar in design, target population and outcomes to the proposed program;

b) Organization must receive express consent of the original donor. Demonstration of consent must be in the form of a letter acknowledging the request for reallocation from the original program to the Opportunity Reboot proposed program match, including the exact dollar amount to be reallocated
**Evaluation**

1. **What type of evidence would we need for selected models?**

   Youthprise does not require the use or implementation of a specific model. Subgrantees can employ their own models as long as the selected approach meets the Career Pathways criteria; emphasizes a positive youth development approach to workforce development that includes the development of 21st century skills, including global citizenship and social-emotional development; and has shown at least a preliminary level of evidence, meaning that the program has promising results. Examples of demonstrating a preliminary level of evidence would include pre-test and post-test data with non-matched comparison group; data from your organization, or a different organization doing a similar, but not identical intervention.

**Program Plan/Design**

1. **What is the minimum number of participants we need in our program for this grant?**

   There is not an absolute number of program participants required to apply. However, applicants are reminded that a core goal of Opportunity Reboot and the larger Social Innovation Fund mechanism is to increase the empirical evidence of effectiveness of promising innovations that are poised for expansion to more people or new communities in need of promising innovations. To demonstrate evidence of program effectiveness requires that programs have data from a large sample. Programs serving 120 or more participants within a program cycle are more likely to achieve the sample size needed to detect statistical significance. Programs with fewer than 80 participants will need to make a strong case for the viability of this smaller sample to achieve the core goals of this funding mechanism.

2. **Does an internal employment program “count” as employment?**

   Applicants must demonstrate that proposed program models align with and is adaptable to the Career Pathways Framework, which includes skill development for occupations that are in high demand in local communities; education options such as apprenticeships with a non-duplicative progression of courses clearly articulated from one level of instruction to the next; training/education which leads to securing an industry-recognized credential in a high-demand local industry.

3. **Can stipends be offered to youth participants upon completing programs or to pay them for their participation?**

   All participant costs must be included in both the program model and the budget and are subject to federal agency approval.

4. **In what format should we present the timeline in our proposal? Should a workplan or matrix be present?**

   Applicants are expected to include a timeline of activities to be completed over a one-year period, with activities, parties, and time frames denoted.