



SIF CLASSIC GRANTEE PERSPECTIVE

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Project Management is Critical

You will need to get your project manager on board quickly and make sure you have a fiscal team that really understands federal grants – for example, the difference between subawards vs. contracts. The level of detail that this person needs to understand is beyond what you would see in typical grant-making. For example – if you are subcontracting with a vendor, when do they need to do background checks? What is a SIF-eligible beneficiary? How do federal funds and match funds have to be tracked?

Technical Assistance Planning

Think about the technical assistance your subgrantees will need to do quality implementation. Some SIF grantees simply subgrant and then monitor their subgrantees. We built in extensive coaching to support the sites. Depending on what you are doing and the state of the field in your area, you may want to think about how you would structure this.

Manage Deadlines

The first year is intensive in terms of deadlines. Almost immediately, you will need to submit a site selection plan. You'll need to select your sites and get the subgrant awards in place, and your sites will need to understand how to operate under federal requirements. You'll need to develop an evaluation plan. You'll need to develop a scaling plan. Be ready to launch and sprint as soon as you are notified of the award.

The Benefits of SIF

In terms of benefits, the SIF is enabling us to implement and evaluate our Back on Track interventions in a way that would not be possible otherwise. We will have an impact on the field that we think is really critical in terms of improving outcomes for our target population – opportunity youth and in particular young men of color. The ability to build an evidence base through a rigorous third-party evaluation is really important to us. It has also brought in funders that we had not been able to tap or collaborate with before. SIF staff are terrific. They are somewhat different from other federal agencies in the level of problem-solving and collaboration they bring to the work.