William Penn Foundation

Democracy and Civic Initiatives

Respond to Emerging Civic Initiatives Decision-Making Framework

The Democracy and Civic Initiatives program uses the following criteria to assess a project's alignment with this strategy.

Alignment with WPF's Mission

ABSENT

Project is pursuing goals unrelated to WPF's mission.

EMERGENT

Project may advance WPF's mission but contribution is tenuous

DEVELOPING

Project is likely to advance WPF's mission in a minor way.

STRONG

Project will make a direct and sizable contribution to advancing WPF's mission.

"STRONG" REQUIRED

Potential for Broad Impact

ABSENT

Project discusses an issue and/or scale that is highly localized.

EMERGENT

Project addresses an issue of citywide, regional, or statewide scale but does not have an approach that addresses it at that scale

DEVELOPING

Project addresses an issue and approach of citywide, regional, or statewide scale but expertise, capacity, or partnerships to achieve that scale are uncertain.

STRONG

Project addresses an issue of citywide, regional, or statewide scale; expertise and operational capacity to achieve the desired scale is in place.

"STRONG" REQUIRED

Leadership

ABSENT

Project leadership is undefined.

EMERGENT

Leadership and decisionmaking structure is to be defined OR an effective leader is not yet in place.

DEVELOPING

Project has a clear leadership and decisionmaking structure; leadership has limited track record.

STRONG

Project has a clear leadership and decision-making structure with an effective leader (or leaders) in place.

"STRONG" REQUIRED

Collaboration and Partnerships

ABSENT

No identified partners or plans for collaboration.

EMERGENT

Intended partners are identified but there are no clear commitments to collaborate that would strengthen the work.

DEVELOPING

Some committed partners and a clear plan to build new partnerships that will address gaps in perspective and expertise.

STRONG

Evidence of commitment to collaborate from partners who will strengthen the work through diverse perspectives and expertise.

"DEVELOPING" OR "STRONG" REQUIRED

Equity and Inclusion

ABSENT

No plan to prioritize communities most affected by economic inequity, racial discrimination, or other forms of injustice.

EMERGENT

Limited efforts to prioritize communities most affected by economic inequity, racial discrimination, or other forms of injustice.

DEVELOPING

Project plan and goals prioritize and create opportunities for communities most affected by economic inequity, racial discrimination, or other forms of injustice.

STRONG

Project plan and goals directly address structural inequities present in communities most affected by economic inequity, racial discrimination, or other forms of injustice.

"DEVELOPING" OR "STRONG" REQUIRED

Community Engagement and Public Support

ABSENT

No evidence that communities were engaged in development of the proposed project. Clear public resistance to the work.

EMERGENT

Limited opportunities for community members to provide input; neutral public response.

DEVELOPING

Community members are engaged in development of the project with some opportunity for ongoing input; public response is overall positive.

STRONG

Robust community engagement in developing and implementing the project *and* strong public support to see the work done.

"DEVELOPING" OR "STRONG" REQUIRED