



POSNER CENTER

**INTERNATIONAL
COLLABORATION FUND**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

2015-2016



**POSNER
CENTER**

posnercenter.org



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INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION FUND

The Posner Center seeks to build a network of Tenants and Members whose activity contributes to our collective mission to build a community of innovators who grow lasting solutions to global poverty. We believe that communication and collaboration among our Tenants and Members will strengthen individual organizations and increase the collective impact of the Posner Center as a whole. The Posner Center's International Collaboration Fund (ICF) offers support to promising collaborations among Posner Center / Horse Barn Tenants and Members to build capacity, explore new directions, fuel action, and improve the impact and knowledge base of our network. Proposals are requested for collaborations that are led by a current Posner Center Tenant and involve significant partnership with at least one other Tenant or Member. Proposals should take into consideration the [Posner Center's Values](#) of: Collaboration, Education, Diversity, Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Impact.

ELIGIBILITY

The lead applicant for an ICF grant must be a 501(c)(3) organization that is a current Tenant of the Posner Center. At least one other organization partnering on the proposal must be a current Tenant or Member. Other collaborating partners do not have to be Posner Center Tenants or Members, though participation by additional Tenants and Members is encouraged.

GRANT INFORMATION

The Posner Center encourages the submission of ICF proposals that demonstrate how new collaborations can broaden and strengthen the work of Tenant and Member organizations. These grants can support a new collaboration or advance an existing partnership. Applicants are encouraged to use this opportunity to take risks and experiment with new directions. While the majority of ICF funding will be distributed without regard to issue area or geographic location, additional funding is available in this grant cycle for Scoping and Project Grants with a strong focus on agriculture or STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math). Proposals that utilize techniques developed internationally to achieve impact in Colorado or that utilize techniques developed locally to achieve impact in the developing world are also of interest to the review committee.

\$60,000 is available to fund 2015-16 ICF grants, though additional funds may be made available. The Posner Center reserves the right to make any number and size of awards its reviewing committee deems fit. Funding is available for the following grant types:

1. Scoping Grant

(4-8 grants from \$1,000-\$5,000):

Funds initial collaborative steps, including support for strategy development, team-building, training, travel, staff time, etc., with a high potential to lead to impactful future collaboration. Examples of potential Scoping Grants include:

- Funding for international travel for collaborators to learn firsthand about successful (and unsuccessful) strategies of other organizations working in the same field or region;
- Facilitation of a working group to support ongoing communication and planning between organizations working to address a common challenge;
- Planning of a joint international project or business by organizations sharing similar focus countries or complimentary areas of expertise;
- Shared research, communications, training, facilitator, or technical assistance for a small group of Tenants and Members (e.g., a proposal for a shared consultant); and
- Assessment of program or organizational mergers between Tenant and Member organizations with overlapping program areas or countries of expertise.



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2. Project Grant

(2-4 grants from \$5,000-\$20,000):

Supports established and long-term partnerships, including on-the-ground projects and mergers. Preference will be given to collaborators that have already received a Scoping Grant or can show evidence of equivalent thought/resources already invested in evaluating the project. Note, however, that it is not possible for the Posner Center to provide Project Grants as a follow up to every Scoping Grant that is awarded. Examples of potential Project Grants include:

- Implementation of a strategy, plan, or project developed as a result of an earlier ICF Scoping Grant that could result in significant impact or scale for the collaborating organizations and the Posner Center community;
- Scaling of a collaboration between two or more organizations with a history of collaboration via the completion of a joint project;
- Implementation of a collaborative project between existing partners for the purpose of determining if a merger is beneficial and feasible; and,
- Funding to cover costs of a program or organizational merger between two or more related organizations that has already received tentative approval by the boards of each organization.

3. Capacity-Building Grant

(1-4 grants from \$1,000-\$10,000):

Supports opportunities for training, consulting, and/or facilitation that benefits a large number (at least 10) Posner Center Tenants and/or Members. Proposals that demonstrate creative ways to utilize the technology available in the Posner Center's IEEE Global Classroom are encouraged. Examples of potential Capacity-Building Grants include:

- Facilitation of a training series or working group that addresses a core need of many Posner Center stakeholders, such as fundraising, financial management, M&E, communications, governance, etc.;
- Proposals for additional Posner Center shared services or staffing to address the collective needs of a large group of Posner Center Tenants and/or Members; and,
- Proposals for additional equipment or technology installed at the Posner Center or made available for check-out by Tenants and Members.

DEVELOPING YOUR COLLABORATIVE TEAM

There are many opportunities at the Posner Center to meet other Tenants and Members and explore opportunities for partnerships. See our [Events Calendar](#) to learn more about and RSVP for these upcoming events and trainings:

- **Cross-Pollinate:**
Monday, Sept. 28th from 12-1 PM ([RSVP here.](#))
- **2015-16 ICF Q&A Session:**
Thurs., Oct. 1st from 12-1 PM
Online participation available via the IEEE Global Classroom. ([RSVP here.](#))
- **Toolbox - Collaboration Readiness with Cultivation Center:**
Wed., Oct. 7th from 1-4 PM ([RSVP here.](#))
- **Block Party Lunch - Walking Tree Travel & Konektid:**
Wed., Oct. 14th from 12-1 PM ([RSVP here.](#))
- **Development Dialogue - Utilizing Volunteers Abroad:**
Tues., Oct. 20th from 12-1 PM ([RSVP here.](#))
- **Posner Center Collaboration Celebration:**
Wed., Oct. 21st from 6-9 PM ([Register here.](#))
- **Toolbox - Collaboration Action Planning Workshop:**
Tues., Oct. 27th, 1-4 PM (RSVP link pending.)

Other ways to connect with potential collaborators include:

Get Animated: Brandi Stanley, our resident Community Animator, is always available to discuss collaborative ideas and help connect you with potential collaborators. In October and November, Brandi will place even higher priority on answering questions and scheduling meetings to talk through ICF ideas. Schedule a meeting with her at brandi@posnercenter.org.

Horse Barn Google Group: Circulate your idea on the Google Group and invite other Tenants and Members to strategize at the Posner Center. Members, please contact Jess Harig (members@posnercenter.org) if you are interested in reserving a FREE room from 9 AM - 5 PM in Oct. or Nov. to discuss ICF grant ideas with Posner Center Tenants.

Collaboration Chalkboard: The chalkboard outside the Classroom upstairs has been cleaned off and is dedicated to brainstorming collaborative activities. Please add your ideas/information before our Collaboration Celebration on October 21st so your organization gets maximum exposure!



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Free Beer and Coffee for ICF Meetings: We have five gift cards for \$10 each (20 total) to Crema Coffee House, Purple Door Coffee, Epic Brewing Company, and Black Shirt Brewing Company for those of you who would like to meet to discuss potential ICF proposals (limit one per org). They're first come, first served, so show your calendared meeting to Brandi Stanley (brandi@posnercenter.org) ASAP to get your gift card.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Scoping Grant and Capacity-Building Grant Proposals and should no more than 1,000 words (excluding budget) and Project Grant Proposals should be no more than 2,000 words (excluding budget). Both should provide at least the following information:

1. Title of proposal / activity and grant type (Scoping, Project, or Capacity-Building);
2. Name and contact for lead organization (must be current Tenant);
3. Name and contact for partner organization(s) (must be a least one current Tenant or Member);
4. Name and contact for additional partner organizations;
5. A short 2-4 sentence description/abstract of the proposed activity/project;
6. Objectives of proposed activity, including key indicators of success;
7. Description / scope of work of proposed activity and any necessary context needed to understand the objective and how the objective will be achieved;
8. Brief description of how the proposed collaboration will strengthen the Posner Center's network of Tenants and Members;
9. Selection of one key [Posner Center Value](#) (aside from collaboration) and brief description of how that value highlights the importance of the collaborative effort;
10. Plan for monitoring and evaluating the proposed activity, taking into account activity objectives and key indicators of success;
11. Timeline for activity implementation organized by key milestones;
12. Description of how the work will be supported after the conclusion of the ICF grant, if proposing organizations intend to continue the work going forward;
13. Requested amount and detailed activity budget, including any in-kind support provided by each partner (additional budget information and detail may be requested as needed); and
14. A copy of the lead organization's 501(c)(3) determination letter and a copy of or link to the lead organization's 2014 IRS Form 990.

TIMETABLE & REVIEW PROCESS

Proposals must be submitted on or before 11:59 PM MST on Tuesday, **November 17, 2015** to be eligible for an award. Lead organizations should submit proposals in PDF or Word format to info@posnercenter.org with **"Lead Org Name - Collaboration Fund"** in the subject line.

Proposals will be reviewed by an ICF committee consisting of Non-Tenant Members of the Posner Center's Board of Directors and additional leaders in the international development community. Following an initial review of applications, some applicants may be asked to participate in a short interview to answer questions posed by the review committee.

It is anticipated that funding decisions will be made by December 31, 2015, with the possibility of additional grants awarded at a later date, pending availability of funding. Grant funds will be dispersed no more than 45 days after selection. A public announcement of 2015-16 ICF awardees will be made during a Town Hall meeting in January 2016.

Potential collaborators are encouraged to ask questions and solicit feedback from Posner Center staff Members as they develop proposals. Questions posed at or prior to the live-streamed Q&A Session on October 1st, which will provide an overview of the 2015-16 ICF, could result in small changes/amendments to the ICF process, which would be circulated to all Tenants and Members in an addendum to this RFP. Questions will also be posted, and can be submitted, [in this Google Doc](#) so that all applicants have access to the same information. The Posner Center will respond to questions as time allows.



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REVIEW CRITERIA

The following questions may be used to assess the strength of proposals:

- Is the activity likely to lead to significant learning or impact?
- Will the proposed activity encourage experimentation across silos?
- Will the collaboration strengthen the Posner Center's network?
- How well aligned is the proposal with Posner Center's mission and core values?
- Are the outcomes of the activity measurable and is there a solid plan to record the impact of the activity?
- Is it realistic that the outcomes can be achieved with the amount of funding requested and in-kind support contributed?
- Will the program create a need for additional support? If so, is there a plan for raising funds to support ongoing operations?
- Has the ICF process engaged a diversity of organizations (e.g. size, geographic focus, practice area, etc.)?

REPORTING

ICF grant recipients are subject to the following reporting requirements during and following the conclusion of the grant period:

- Submission of 1-2 page quarterly status reports, at least one blog post, and photos and other multimedia during the grant period, including coordinated social media campaigns (to be detailed later);
- Participation in short quarterly ICF meetings (lunch provided) for the duration of the grant period to share learning with other ICF grantees;
- Submission of a brief final report (at least 1,000 words for Scoping Grants and 2,000 words for Project Grants) within 45 days of the conclusion of the activity. An expense summary must accompany the final report;
- Presenting collaborative work to other Posner Center Tenants and Members during at-least one Posner Center meeting or event;
- Recording a short "Collaborative Story" video/ interview for posting online and showing at the Posner Center's annual Collaboration Celebration, which you may also use in your own marketing (Posner Center will organize and pay for filming); and,
- Cooperation with the Posner Center after the conclusion of the grant period to assess the longevity and impact of collaborations supported by the ICF.

The Posner Center is a community of nearly 60 international development-oriented businesses and organizations in a 25,000 square-foot shared space in Denver's Curtis Park neighborhood, spurring innovation by enabling groups to cross-pollinate through the exchange of ideas, the overlap of programming, and the generation of more comprehensive and lasting solutions to global poverty.

For any questions, please contact:

720-382-7630 • info@posnercenter.org



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