



# FOUNDATION BEYOND BELIEF

*humanism at work*

Foundation Beyond Belief (FBB) aims to unite the humanist community in charitable and volunteer efforts, and to advocate for compassionate action throughout the world. The Humanist Grants program collectively demonstrates humanist generosity and compassion in the nonprofit and philanthropic world by awarding grants to highly qualified and thoroughly vetted organizations that reflect the values of our program’s donors.

### **Grant-making**

FBB donors have raised and donated more than \$2.5 million to charitable organizations. In the fall of 2019, our grant-making efforts are focused on increasing the impact of an innovative non-profit through a capacity-building [Compassionate Impact Grant](#) (CIG). Our goal is to support organizations that solve critical community problems through evidence-based and evidence-informed social innovations.

### **Funding Opportunity**

In Fall 2019, FBB will make a capacity-building grant in the amount of \$25,000 to \$35,000 to one organization with the goal of increasing that organization’s ability to support its target population. This is an open, competitive process and will assess applicants on their ability to provide evidence-driven, innovative solutions that reach underserved communities. Our key program requirements are:

1. *Innovation*: The CIG grant will fund organizations that are developing potentially transformative solutions. FBB seeks to support an organization that pursues a new way to solve problems with a solution that is more efficient, faster, increases cost effectiveness, and leads to better results for the population served and the broader community.
2. *Evidence-driven*: Organizations must utilize evidence to drive the development and implementation of their program. Organizations are asked to provide a thorough summary of the evidence or studies that have influenced their program. In addition, the organization must demonstrate their understanding of the range of studies and various schools of thought regarding how communities should approach this particular problem.

FBB categorizes evidence-driven program as relying on one of three types of evidence:

- A. Preliminary evidence – evidence is based on a reasonable hypothesis supported by credible research findings.
- B. Moderate evidence – a collection of studies supports causal conclusions, but studies have not been conducted across wide populations or groups. Random Controlled Studies (RCTs) are planned for the future.
- C. Strong evidence – significant number of studies which support causal conclusions and studies conducted across a range of participants and settings to support scaling up to larger implementation. RCTs are planned, being implemented, or analyzed to show evidence of effectiveness.

Strong applicants use rigorous methods to collect data regarding their program. Applicants must demonstrate past and current use of data to perform program evaluations and make improvements in the overall efficacy of their program.

Possible sources of evidence to document/support your approach:

- Past performance measurement outcome data collected over time and in a rigorous manner.
  - Results from an impact evaluation of your program conducted by an outside evaluator.
  - Research that documents the outcomes of similar programs.
  - Impact evaluations that document outcomes of similar programs.
  - Random Controlled Study
3. *Performance Measures*: FBB seeks to fund organizations that utilize rigorous methods to collect and analyze data regarding the performance of their programs. Sufficient performance measure systems will involve the collection of valid and reliable data through monitoring and evaluations, and analysis of data at regular intervals.

FBB will give priority consideration to organizations that can establish that their approach:

1. Impacts low-income communities.
  - a. A low-income community in the United States is defined as one in which the majority of households have incomes at 200% or less of the U.S federal poverty guidelines, or where other indicators of low-income are present such as significant numbers of children enrolled in the free or reduced lunch program, long term unemployment, significant risk of homelessness for the population, low school achievement, persistent hunger, or serious mental illness.

- b. Low income international communities are defined as communities that struggle to meet the basic needs of their residents (jobs, sanitation, education, etc.) and/or are located in a region where the cost of living is below the Gross National Income (GNI).
2. Impacts underserved or underrepresented geographic areas or populations.
3. Impacts historically oppressed peoples (e.g. racial minorities, minority sexual or gender identities, people living with disability)
4. Uses a collaborative approach.

Programs **not** eligible for consideration:

1. Advocacy organizations and projects.
2. Programs run in a specific religious world view or that proselytize in their organization.
3. Organizations which have already received a Compassionate Impact Grant from FBB.

**Award information**

Estimated available funds: \$25,000 to \$35,000

Estimated award amount: \$30,000

Project Period: November 1, 2019 - March 1, 2021

**Eligibility Information**

**Eligible applicants:** All applicants must be non-profit organizations with current 501(c)3 status with United States Internal Revenue Service.

**Budget requirements:** The budget for this program should be at least twice the amount requested from FBB. The program budget should be as follows: up to 50% funded by FBB, and 50% or more funded by the organization and/or matching funds from other grant-makers. These funds should be existing or secured already. Funds contingent on receiving the CIG funds is acceptable.

**Previous applicants:** Previous applicants are welcome to reapply.

Please direct any questions to Wendy Webber at [programs@foundationbeyondbelief.org](mailto:programs@foundationbeyondbelief.org). Emails will answered between February 4th and 15th only.

### LETTER OF INTENT REQUIREMENTS

All applicants are required to complete an executive summary via our online portal and provide a three (3) page description of the project. The Letter of Intent (LOI) application window begins on January 8, 2019 and ends on **February 22, 2019, 4:00pm Central Time**. The LOI is an open call for organizations to submit funding proposals for potential programs that meet the aforementioned eligibility criteria. You cannot save your LOI mid-process. Please allow extra time and have all materials ready before beginning. Late applications will not be considered.

**Executive Summary:** completed on [online](#) form

Complete Letter of Intent Executive Summary: **(6 points)**

1. Organization Name
2. Website Address
3. Contact Name
4. Contact Email
5. **Summary** of Mission Statement (less than 100 words)
6. Program/Project Name
7. Program/Project Location
8. **Brief** Program Description (less than 100 words)
9. Category (Education, Health, Human Rights, Natural World, or Poverty)
10. Cash Match
11. LOI document attached
12. Image (optional)

**Letter of Intent** must be no longer than 3 pages, 1.5 spaced, 11 point font, 1-inch margins; submit in **Google Docs format or PDF format** please. **(14 Points) Submit in the Files section of the online form.**

Name your document: LOICIG6YourOrganizationName

1. Paragraph describing target population
2. Paragraph describing history of your organization in this area
3. 3-5 paragraphs outlining the project
4. Discuss evidence model used in the project with footnotes
5. Basic budget discussion
6. 3 most important outcomes of the project
7. Conclusion

FBB staff will notify organizations **no later than March 29, 2019** of our **invitation** to submit a full funding proposal. If you are not contacted directly by that time, your LOI has not advanced your organization to the next round. Please do not request information if you are **not** invited to submit a complete funding proposal.