

Applying to the Opportunities Fund

**METCALF
FOUNDATION**

November 2015

Agenda

- ▶ Overview of Inclusive Local Economies Program
- ▶ New strategic focus areas for Opportunities Fund
- ▶ Application process
- ▶ What makes a successful application
- ▶ Q & A

Inclusive Local Economies Program

The Foundation's Inclusive Local Economies program is designed to support the development of **long-term strategies** that can create **sustainable economic opportunities** and **generate wealth for low-income people** and **communities** in Toronto.

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Inclusive Local Economies Program

- ▶ Innovative community practice:
Opportunities Fund
- ▶ Research and promising public policy:
Innovation Fellowships
- ▶ Collaborative learning & capacity building:
Resilient Neighbourhood Economies
(pilot 2012-15)

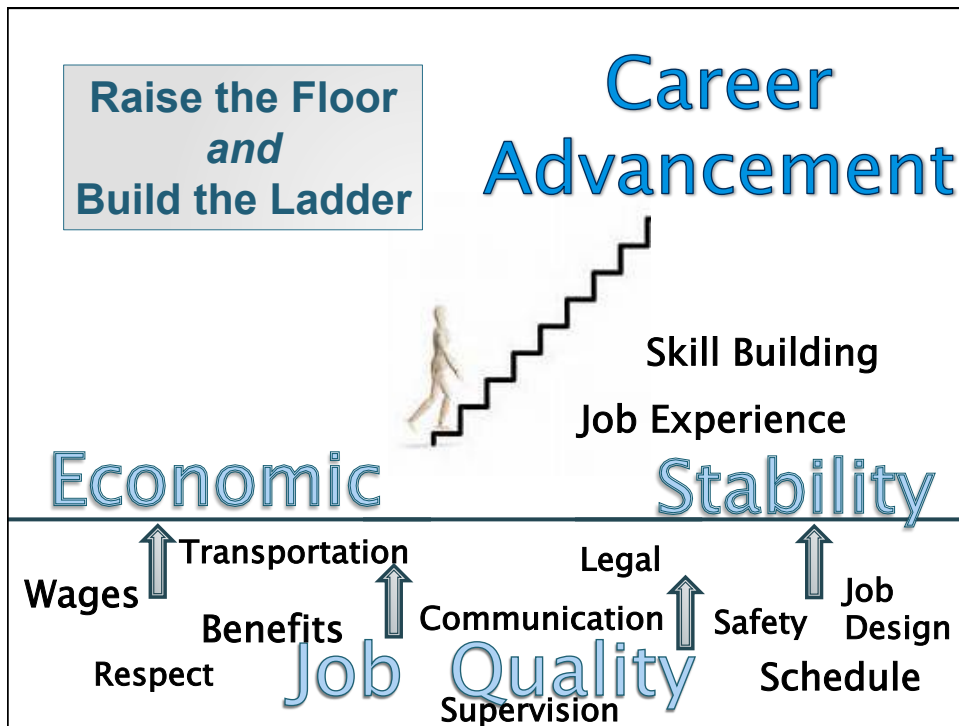
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Opportunities Fund

- ▶ The goal of the Opportunities Fund is to improve the economic livelihoods of low-income people through strategies that:
 - make precarious jobs better (raise the floor) and support the upward mobility of workers (build ladders)
 - reduce barriers for low-income entrepreneurs and alternative business models
 - leverage the capacity of neighbourhoods to improve the economic livelihoods of low-income residents

Strategic Focus Area

- ▶ Low-wage workers often face poor working conditions and limited access to training and opportunities to move upwards in job responsibility with corresponding pay, making it difficult for them to achieve financial stability and upward economic mobility.
- ▶ <http://www.aspenwsi.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/Build-Ladders-and-Raise-Floor-concept-brief.pdf>



Strategic Focus Area

- ▶ Entrepreneurship is a risky endeavour for any entrepreneur
- ▶ These risks are amplified for low-income people & alternative business models that provide training and employment for low-income people
- ▶ Reduce barriers for low-income entrepreneurs & alternative business models to start and grow their businesses
- ▶ Improve opportunities to participate in the mainstream economy

Strategic Focus Area

- ▶ As economic development and neighbourhood investment occur across Toronto communities, it is important to increase collaboration, coordination, organizing and coalition building, to leverage these opportunities and neighbourhood assets to improve the economic livelihoods of low-income residents

Letter of Intent

- ▶ Organizational Overview
- ▶ Overview of Project
- ▶ Collaboration
- ▶ Our Process
- ▶ Follow up

Full Application Process

- ▶ Organizational Overview
- ▶ Project Overview
- ▶ Project Strategy
- ▶ Project Workplan
- ▶ Project Evaluation & Learning
- ▶ Collaboration & Leadership
- ▶ Budget

Successful Applications

- ▶ Strategy
- ▶ Focus Area Alignment
- ▶ Impact, Implication, Influence
- ▶ Potential for Learning

Learnings from 2013 - 2015

- ▶ Incredibly competitive program
- ▶ Importance of a clearly written proposal
- ▶ Planning must be complete and rigorous
- ▶ Strongest applications are based in real knowledge and interest in Focus Area
- ▶ Importance of innovation in strong applications
- ▶ Potential for impact, contribution to system change
- ▶ Analysis of equity - economic livelihoods of low-income people

What pitfalls should I avoid?

- ▶ Not eligible (organization, geographic catchment)
- ▶ Project delivery
- ▶ Answer the questions
- ▶ Alignment of strategy, work plan, budget
- ▶ Succinct summary
- ▶ Approach application from resource development
- ▶ Follow up before/after

Resources

- ▶ Metcalf Renewal Program
 - “...makes significant opportunities for professional renewal available to talented individuals with a record of achievement. ...could include residencies, attendance at retreats, participation in conferences or workshops, periods of specialized training or study...”
- ▶ Metcalf program staff

Q & A

Upcoming Application Deadlines

Opportunities Fund

LOI - November 26, 2015

Full application February 2016

Next LOI – June 2016

Metcalf Renewal Program

November 16, 2015

February, May, August, November 2016

(Application deadlines change annually.
Please check Metcalf website for current deadlines.)

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Thank you for participating in today's webinar.

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