Data for Equity RFP: Questions & Answers

- **What kind of organizations are eligible to apply?**
  The lead organization/applicant must be a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or a public entity (e.g., a municipality, health department, or university/school). Unincorporated organizations submitting a proposal must identify a 501(c)(3) organization that has agreed to function as its fiscal sponsor.

- **What is the relationship between Measure and St. David's Foundation for this proposal?**
  Measure is an important collaborator and thought partner for St. David's Foundation on this opportunity, and they have given input on this RFP concept. They are a great example of one local model of this work. Measure will use their own prioritization to assess the opportunity for collaboration on this opportunity. Measure's workshop will be one of the four learning opportunities offered next year, in addition to technical assistance office hours. Learn more about Measure here: https://wemeasure.org/

- **What is an example of a project that would meet qualifying criteria?**
  The following examples are provided to give a sense of the type of work we hope to support and are not exhaustive. We are open to supporting any project that incorporates equitable evaluation considerations, such as the following concepts:
  - Gather client feedback to check alignment between organizational data and client experiences.
  - Create new tools to engage the community and integrate insights into programmatic and organizational changes.
  - Report findings back to the community and gather feedback on usefulness and understandability.
  - Convene evaluators and practitioners to explore the intersection of racism and the field of evaluation.
  - Assess who is a part of evaluation efforts from design and data collection to analysis and decision making. Identify and implement opportunities to engage clients throughout.

- **Are you looking for specific projects, or for higher-level change in the overall approach in project design/evaluation at the organization?**
  Both! Any specific projects we hope tie into a larger conversation in the organization or community to put into practice.

- **Is the idea that this can be used for staff time to do this work, or more to hire a consultant to support this evaluation process?**
  Honoring the time of staff is part of the process, so funding can be used to support the time of staff doing new work. Funding could also be used to compensate community members in the form of stipends to help complete the work. You'll find four categories of expenses on the budget template within the application: personnel (includes salaries); project direct costs (includes reimbursement or incentives for participants); project indirect costs; and consulting/purchasing.

- **Can you provide examples of what is meant by strong proposals with organizations that are further along in their equity journey?**
  There is a question in the application that specifically asks how equity shows up in your organization—how the organization has dedicated resources to staff, training, and further understanding of equity and racism issues. We will prioritize applicants that are further along in their equity journey at an organizational level regardless of their progress at an evaluation level.

- **Would you speak a little more about projects that include participatory evaluation?**
  Participatory evaluation asks community members to be involved in evaluation design and data collection. After the initial evaluation, these projects can often fall short in returning to the community. The gold star of equitable evaluation is when community members are part of the decision making and sensemaking that happens after the evaluation.

- **What does the continued funding opportunity look like for successful applicants?**
  We want to be able to apply what we learn in the process, so we are leaving the door open to further funding for some projects. Additional funds to support emerging findings or action steps will be considered in 2022. For more specifics, please reach out by email (evalstrategiclearning@stdavidsfoundation.org) or schedule time during office hours or by email to discuss your specific project.

- **The RFP states that an organization's diversity is one factor for consideration. Can small organizations (like a team of two) still apply?**
  Yes! Size of organization is also something we're looking at, especially grassroots organizations that are deeply connected to the community or communities they support.

- **Can the same organization apply alone and part of a collaboration (or multiple collaborations)?**
  Organizations can apply as partners in multiple collaborations if the proposed project and collaborating partners vary.

- **What other supports are available for prospective applicants?**
  Grant writing support is available for small organizations who are interested in applying but lack the organizational bandwidth to apply. Please contact evalstrategiclearning@stdavidsfoundation.org to express interest.