Third Sector Capital Partners, Inc. & the Stanford Center on Poverty & Inequality

Administrative Data Pilot Competition

Application Guide

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Social Innovation Fund Administrative Data Pilot Competition Objectives

Third Sector Capital Partners, Inc. (Third Sector) and the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality (Stanford) are seeking government entities engaged in outcomes-oriented initiatives who want access to datasets and technical assistance to deploy those data with potential for substantial impact on economic outcomes.

In order to qualify to be a Third Sector and Stanford Sub-Recipient, applicants must meet the two joint objectives of the Corporation for National and Community Service and Third Sector/Stanford in running this Social Innovation Fund (SIF) Administrative Data Pilot competition. The first goal is to select sub-recipients who are "data ready" in that they have the capacity to successfully integrate administrative data for evaluation purposes. The review panel will make its final selection primarily based on an applicant's data readiness. The second goal is to advance the outcomes-oriented field by developing tools and templates to assist projects in accessing and utilizing high-quality, less expensive data so they can improve the outcomes of their interventions.

Services are designed to help link data from sub-recipients with state and federal datasets relevant for a particular outcomes-oriented local project. The competition provides data access and analysis support and capacity building to help governments utilize this enhanced data to better understand program operations and potential impacts.

Decision-makers often face dramatic technical and legal barriers to understanding and improving the impact of social service programs on the populations they serve. Accessing a broader array of administrative data and linking information across datasets has the potential to dramatically improve the ability of decision-makers to understand the potential impacts of service programs on their local communities and how they can refine their program operations to better utilize public resources.

Government agencies participating in the SIF Administrative Data Pilot will: expand their capacity to access datasets outside of their communities, analyze data to gain actionable insights made possible only by accessing data from state and federal sources, and deploy this knowledge to improve program best-practices and evidence over time.

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Services Provided to Sub-Recipients

As part of the Administrative Data Pilot award, **Sub-Recipients will receive up to $708,000 worth of services from Third Sector and Stanford** over the course of the two-and-a-half-year award period, based on their commitment to utilizing linked administrative data to inform outcomes-oriented projects focused on economic opportunity. The exact type, timing, and amount of services will depend on the specific needs of each sub-recipient. Services will begin as early as April 2017 and will last for a maximum of 2.5 years under this award.

Depending upon the needs of the sub-recipient's outcomes-oriented project, Third Sector and Stanford will provide sub-recipients with some or all of the following services:

1. **Data Access and Analysis** – Stanford will determine mechanisms for data access requests to relevant agencies and negotiate data access with and for sub-recipients. Stanford will provide data access to sub-recipients, correlate relevant datasets, conduct analyses and create a plan to ensure ongoing access to data after the award period (where appropriate, based on access feasibility). Stanford, in conjunction with applicants, will also explore the possibility of embedding project staff (whether applicant staff at Stanford or vice-versa) to enhance the opportunities for collaborative learning and capacity building.
2. **Data Deployment Technical Assistance** – Third Sector will complement Stanford's data access and analysis work with an administrative data deployment "blueprint" for pilot projects to integrate real-time learnings and also embed data feedback loops into future contracts.
3. **Learning Community and Academy** – Third Sector and Stanford will conduct webinars and convenings to increase knowledge of topics related to administrative data access and analysis. Sub-recipient teams will participate in a Stanford-hosted "Academy" for government staff with topics including data analytics, outcomes contracting, data-sharing agreements, etc. Applicants will also receive assistance in executing their plans for ongoing learning, such as structuring relationships with service providers and other stakeholders, to ensure that community learning will continue on an ongoing basis, past the conclusion of the Administrative Data Pilot award period.

A summary of deliverables for each sub-recipient may include:

1. **Access requests for specific datasets and data-sharing agreement templates**, as well as clear processes to streamline future data access requests.
2. **Data deployment "blueprint"** for the sub-recipient's jurisdiction, which may include guidelines on how to implement future outcomes-oriented contracts and evaluation utilizing access to Stanford's and other sources of data as appropriate.
3. **Procurement and contract language incorporating access to datasets for ongoing feedback and learning (as desired).** In the event that a jurisdiction's pilot project includes non-government partners, Third Sector can provide technical assistance to design contracting language to extend data-sharing agreements to other partners for ongoing learning.
4. **Capacity building training and learning community** of peer jurisdictions working to turn data into actionable information for their communities.

2017-01-09

Third Sector and Stanford will endeavor to continue data access support and analysis after the conclusion of the award period, however this will require funding sources separate from this specific Social Innovation Fund award.

The terms of the Administrative Data Pilot award also require that each sub-recipient sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreeing to certain terms and conditions. These terms and conditions will be sent to finalists for certification before final selection.

Selection Factors and Scoring

The readiness assessment framework indicates the measures against which organizations will be evaluated throughout various phases of the selection process. The criteria specified below describe the conditions for obtaining full credit under each factor. Applicants are not expected to obtain maximum credit in order to be selected as sub-recipients, since many of these issues would be addressed in the course of technical assistance services. Partial credit may be obtained by demonstrating an ability to meet some but not all of the conditions identified.

Applicants will be required to adhere to strict page limits as they describe their competencies in each of these selection areas.

Applications will be scored out of a total of 100 points. Individuals from Third Sector, Stanford, their SIF Award Partners, and external subject-matter experts will review and score applications.

- **Factor 1**: Government leadership and staff commitment to using data for decision-making [40 points].
- **Factor 2**: Targeting of populations and outcomes of interest relevant for the pilot [30 points].
- **Factor 3**: Understanding of datasets required to measure outcomes of interest [20 points].
- **Factor 4**: Commitment to community learning [10 points].

Supplemental Criteria

While not scored in the final analysis, projects may also align with the two supplemental considerations in place when considering projects submitted for consideration under the pilot:

1. Projects that build evidence for interventions with high potential to demonstrate impacts during the award services period.
2. Projects that are currently developing PFS contracts and require ongoing data access for learning and improvement.

Readiness Framework: Description of Selection Factors

Factor 1: Government leadership and staff commitment to using data for decision-making [40 points]

- Applicant demonstrates clear evidence of the informed commitment to implementing new data strategies by leaders within the applicant's organization and its partners.
- Applicant demonstrates willingness and plan for committing dedicated staff to support the administrative data pilot project.
- Applicant demonstrates willingness and plan for accessing relevant staff outside of applicant agency (budget, procurement, other agencies that benefit from positive outcomes) to support the administrative data pilot project.
- Applicant and/or its partners demonstrate a track record of innovative systems reform and leadership.

Factor 2: Targeting of populations and outcomes of interest relevant for the pilot [30 points]

Third Sector and Stanford are looking for applicants that are testing and scaling strategies to improve economic opportunities and outcomes. To receive maximum points for this factor, Applicants should clearly define target populations and articulate outcomes of interest, both short and long term, for this target population.

Applicants must also clearly articulate a specific project (whether currently operating or under development) that will form the basis of their participation in the Administrative Data Pilot, and for which access to administrative data is required to better estimate program impacts.

- Applicant provides clear **definition(s) of target outcome(s) of interest** and a description of how the applicant is working to improve them**.**
- Applicant provides a clear and robust **definition of the target population(s) and geographical area** that the applicant serves through the outcomes-oriented initiative, including **size of the target population.**
- Applicant provides a clear description of **areas of potential economic or social benefit** from improving outcomes for the target population.
- Applicant provides an **overview of current project services, or the design of the project under development, for the project they are proposing for the Administrative Data Pilot**.
- Applicant demonstrates that outcomes of these services could be well measured with administrative data, and could not be measured well or cost-effectively with survey or other alternative data.
- Applicant describes a current or potential project with a high potential for scalability or large-scale impacts in the targeted issue area.

Applicants should note that this opportunity does not show a preference for existing projects over new initiatives, or vice-versa. Both are considered equally valuable, subject to the overall scoring factors outlined in the scoring rubric.

A hypothetical example of an existing project appropriate for an award under the Administrative Data Pilot might be a home visiting program that is struggling to estimate program impacts due to the high level of mobility evidenced by their target population; linkages with state and federal datasets could provide the opportunity to better understand the impact of such a program through the use of federal-level data that transcends the geographical limitations of local- and state-level data.

A hypothetical example of a new project appropriate for an award under the Administrative Data Pilot could be a county wishing to create a Pay for Success project around recidivism, but feels they would be unable to accurately estimate program impacts due to issues with accessing state-level criminal offense data; without linkages to the state's criminal justice data, they would be unable to effectively evaluate the performance of providers. Accessing federal-level data would also allow for a broader range of outcomes available to evaluate the program.

Factor 3: Understanding of datasets (local, state, federal) required to measure outcomes of interest [20 points]

- Applicant provides evidence of **research underway or planned and/or existing data-sharing agreements** that have been accessed to improve the initiative.
- Applicant demonstrates understanding of how existing data collection activities could be improved.
- Applicant demonstrates willingness to integrate local datasets with state and census data, subject to data use agreements.
- Applicant demonstrates access to identifiers (e.g., Social Security numbers) or identifying information (e.g., name, address, date of birth) and has secured or can readily secure individual-level consent to allow for links to administrative data.
- To receive full points for this criterion, applicants will be required to articulate both the local jurisdiction datasets that are relevant to outcomes of interest as well as the state and federal datasets.

Factor 4 – Commitment to community learning – 10 points

- Applicants must develop a plan for making learnings or data from this pilot accessible and available to relevant community partners, including service providers.
- Applicants must describe any partnerships already in place, or partners who will participate in the administrative data pilot alongside the government entity.
- Applicants must describe a process by which this community learning will continue on an ongoing basis, past the conclusion of the Administrative Data Pilot award period.

Applicants, particularly small and medium-sized local governments, may also describe any regional partnerships, whether in place prior to the award announcement or developed for purposes of this application, that may support their application for services under this opportunity.

Supplemental Considerations

There are two additional factors that Third Sector will use to make its final selection decisions. These factors will not be point scored, but will be included to help ensure that the final set of sub-recipients is best positioned to expand and deepen the pool of Pay for Success experience nationally while maximizing learning to advance the Pay for Success field.

Pay for Success (PFS) projects are about measurably improving the lives of people in need. PFS is an innovative contracting model that drives government resources toward high-performing social programs in areas such as poverty, education, child welfare, recidivism, homelessness, and wellness. PFS contracts track the effectiveness of programs over time to ensure that funding is directed toward programs that succeed in measurably improving the lives of people most in need.

This novel contracting model allows all parties to benefit by aligning incentives. Underserved individuals gain access to the high-quality support they need to thrive. Service providers achieve the stability of upfront, flexible funding that enables them to scale and focus on delivering proven, outcomes-focused services. Governments obtain the flexibility to support preventive services that lead to reduced costs, better outcomes in the long term, and more effective data to identify what works. Taxpayers are secure in knowing that government resources are directed toward programs that produce demonstrated results for society.

Supplemental Factor 1: Building evidence for interventions with high potential to demonstrate impacts during the award services period
In addition to the scoring criteria above, applicants may also provide evidence (operational or research) for why their project issue area and analysis approach has a high potential to demonstrate impacts during the course of the award services period.

One area that may fit this criterion are programs that address housing mobility (whether through vouchers or other subsidies) that are able to link with economic and education performance data as a function of participating in the Administrative Data Pilot. Recent literature suggests that housing may have an effect on economic mobility, which can be measured using metrics that might be expected to show impacts during the timeframe of the grant period.

As discussed in Factor 3 above, such projects may focus on a new intervention or improve the operations of an existing replicable program model.

Supplemental Factor 2: Enhancing viability of PFS contracts under development
Applicants currently exploring or developing specific PFS projects are encouraged to document such operations in their application, and how participation in the administrative data pilot will allow for Projects that are currently developing PFS contracts and require ongoing data access for learning and improvement.

2017-01-09

National and State Administrative Data Types

Primary Source of Data	Relevant Project Areas	Example Outcomes of Interest
Child Welfare databases	• Early Childhood / Youth Development • Education • Maternal Health • Criminal Justice (juvenile) • Intergenerational interventions	• # of home removals • # of placements & foster care • Date of home removal / discharge (length of stay) • Neglect / child abuse type
Homelessness databases	• Homelessness • Criminal Justice (adult) • Workforce Development • Mental Health	• Homelessness status • Service utilization • Cost of service delivery
Housing / Property databases	• Workforce Development • Criminal Justice (adult) • Homelessness • Youth Development	• Rental assistance receipt • Property tax • Foreclosures
Employment / Tax databases	• Workforce Development • Criminal Justice (adult) • Homelessness • Youth Development	• Unemployment status, including start / end date • Self-sufficiency assistance (date start / end) • Adjusted gross income (AGI) • Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
Criminal Justice databases	• Criminal Justice (juvenile) • Criminal Justice (adult) • Homelessness	• Arrests • Charges / Convictions • Incarceration / Supervision
Substance Abuse databases	• Substance abuse / opioid epidemic • Mental Health • Criminal Justice (juvenile and adult) • Homelessness	• # of admissions • Date of admission / discharge (length of stay) • Admission type (alcohol, narcotic, methamphetamine, etc.) • Service utilization
Medicare / Medicaid and other health care databases	• Health & Wellness • Maternal health • Mental Health • Early Childhood / Youth Development • Intergenerational interventions • Homelessness • End of life care	• # of inpatient admissions / emergency department visits • Date of admission / discharge (length of stay) • Health cost per person • Reimbursements for newborn / post-partum care • Reimbursements to care providers
Education / Training databases	• Early Childhood / Youth Development • Education • Criminal Justice (juvenile) • Workforce Development	• Graduation / matriculation • Post-secondary attainment • Workforce training programs

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Appendix A: List of Data Sources Potentially Available to Sub-Recipients

Data available from the Census Bureau available for linking are listed below, followed by state datasets relevant to the proposed project. This initial list is followed by detailed information about the sources of data and their availability.

Access to federal- and state-level data will be subject to data use agreements. The structure of such data use agreements will depend on the specific requirements for each applicant and the parameters for data access outlined by each state-level agency providing data access. In certain jurisdictions, different types of municipalities (e.g. a city vs. a county) may face significantly different expected timeframes for negotiating data access; applicants are encouraged to consider such factors when working to assemble project partners for the Administrative Data Pilot.

Applicants should be prepared to lay out a compelling analysis plan that demonstrates the necessity of accessing the specific datasets referenced in their application, and the value-add of such access over their current analytical capabilities and approach.

Census Bureau data holdings:

- Medicare and Medicaid participation, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF, select states), Unemployment Insurance wages (UI, select states), Tenant Rental Assistance Certification Center (HUD TRACS), Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS, select municipalities, pending), foreclosures and property tax, Death Master File, Census Bureau Location Finder, Decennial Census, and the American Community Survey (ACS). Census Bureau access to data regarding the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Moving to Opportunity (MTO) demonstration is also currently pending.
- IRS data (including the EITC and adjusted gross income), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) data for select states, Veterans Administration (VA) veteran status data, and HMIS data for select municipalities with more restricted access.
- Other non-governmental data sets, such as nationwide data on postsecondary education outcomes that are held by the National Student Clearinghouse, may be available for linkage under certain circumstances, subject to approval by the owners of such data.

California

- State datasets include those falling under the California Health and Human Services Agency (including but not limited to: Departments of Public Health, Social Services, and Health Care Services), California Franchise Tax Board data, as well as potentially other public agencies. Access will depend on the analysis needs of specific sub-recipients and the completion of data use agreements.
- Relevant program data may include: CalWorks, CalFresh, Foster care placement and program data, Child welfare program data, Medi-Cal and health care utilization.

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Oregon

- Third Sector and Stanford are currently engaged with several local research partners and state agencies to ensure access to relevant state data in Oregon for sub-recipients. Applicants should note that a large portion of the initial award services under the Administrative Data Pilot are focused on issuing data access requests and negotiating data use agreements on behalf of sub-recipients.

Washington

- Third Sector and Stanford are currently engaged with several local research partners and state agencies to ensure access to relevant state data in Washington for sub-recipients. Applicants should note that a large portion of the initial award services under the Administrative Data Pilot are focused on issuing data access requests and negotiating data use agreements on behalf of sub-recipients.

2017-01-09