

## Proposal Rating Criteria

**A. The grant proposal provides a clear description of expected outcomes and tangible evidence that the expected outcomes are achievable.** Things to consider include, but are not limited to:

- Clearly stated and defined outcome(s) with appropriate measures/benchmarks.
- Historical data documenting previous success in achieving stated outcomes.
- A proven model implemented and tested by others.
- Clear and concise business plan
- Clear and concise strategic plan

**B. Evidence is provided that the program, project and/or organization supported by the grant has the potential to improve individual sustainability, which is a person's capacity to care for themselves, their families and other direct dependents.** Things to consider include, but are not limited to:

- Historical supporting data
- A proven model implemented and tested by others.
- Clear and concise strategies

**C. The grant proposal provides clear evidence of organizational sustainability.** Things to consider include, but are not limited to:

- *Financial sustainability* – The organization's capacity to develop and maintain an appropriately diverse and consistent stream of revenue that underwrites all operational activities as indicated in balance sheets, P&L statements, budgets, the existence of endowments and/or donor agreements.
- *Management sustainability* – The organization's capacity to manage organizational activities in an efficient and effective manner as indicated in organizational structure (board and staff), business plans, annual reports, community reputation, staff turnover rates, volunteer turnover rates, etc.
- *Missional sustainability* as indicated in annual reports, community reputation, IRS Form 990, etc., that provide evidence that the organization has not "drifted" from its original purpose as defined in their Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, etc.

**D. The grant supports impactful collaboration between organizations.** Things to consider include, but are not limited to:

- A formal Memorandum of Understanding / contract between organizations
- An informal (non-binding) partnership between organizations.
- A project / program that pursues collaborations/partnerships between organizations.

**E. The grant dollars have the potential to be multiplied (leveraged) via a matching grant opportunity.** Things to consider include, but are not limited to:

- The existence of a matching opportunity, i.e. the organization has been challenged by another donor to match their funds.
- Evidence that the organization has the capacity to successfully match a SMUMCF initiated challenge.

*(Note: A match opportunity presented by the potential grantee should rate higher than a match opportunity initiated by SMUMCF)*

**F. The program / project / organization supported by the grant benefits the residents of more than one county.** Things to consider include, but are not limited to:

- Evidence that program/project/organizational services extend beyond one county.
- Evidence that program/project/organizational services extend into Charlton and/or Brantley County.

*(Example: A program/project/org located in Glynn County that also provides services to residents of Brantley County should rate higher than one that serves Glynn only. A program/project/organization that effectively serves people living in Camden, Glynn, Charlton and Brantley Counties should receive the highest rating for this point of criteria.*

**G. The program / project strongly supports the mission of the SMUMC Foundation.**

This point of criteria is measured through evidence of a focus in each of the following mission-based target areas:

- *People in need (physical / mental / spiritual)*
- *Institutions related to United Methodism, and*
- *Organizations that promote evangelical Christianity*

*(Example: A United Methodist Agency that provides services to people in need and actively promotes evangelical Christianity will score higher than a secular organization that provides similar services.)*

**H. The grant supports a program / project / organization that is a proactive response by SMUMC Foundation to a significant problem/issue/need.** In order to further the mission of the SMUMCF Foundation, program/project requests may be initiated and encouraged by the Foundation. These programs/projects are believed to provide significant benefits to the community and/or are in keeping with identified strategic initiatives.

*(Example: A program / project / organization that includes SMUMCF involvement in the investigative and/or planning phase is considered proactive, but will not rate as high as a program / project / organization that is initiated by SMUMCF)*

**I. I like this program / project.** This point of criteria rates your intuitive or “gut” feel for the program / project relative to other proposals.