Session Outline

Topic 1: 100&Change Overview
- ◦ Tim Wuchter, *Senior Director, Foundation Relations*

Topic 2: 2016 Proposal Criteria
- ◦ DeAndra Beck, *Associate Dean for Research, International Studies and Programs*

Topic 3: 2019 Proposal Process
- ◦ Doug Gage, *Assistant Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies*

100&Change Overview

TIM WUCHTER

What is 100&Change?

MacArthur Foundation competitively funds a single $100 million grant to make measurable progress toward solving a significant problem affecting people, places, or the planet.

The inaugural competition opened in June, 2016 with the first $100 million grant awarded in December, 2017; the foundation expects a recurring three year cycle for this opportunity.

The next RFP is expected in April, 2019 with applications due August 6.

What is the MacArthur Foundation Seeking?

To solve a significant problem by taking tested models to scale.

Solutions that have been tested or piloted and have an identified model that works within a particular community(ies).

The solution does not require global reach or necessarily need to impact a large number of people. It could focus on a solution to a serious, devastating problem for a well-defined number of people or a single geography.

Rigorous, persuasive evidence that the proposed solution would effectively address the problem – evidence that the proposed solution worked at least once, somewhere and on some scale.

"Authentic engagement" with communities as integral partners. The "community" needs to have a clear and evident voice in the process.

Emphasis on social change/social impact.

Inaugural Round: Proposal Statistics

7,069 Registrants

1904 Proposals submitted

1103 Proposals rejected in administrative review

801 Proposals accepted

8 Semifinalists selected

4 Finalists selected
- 1 Grant of $100 Million to winner
- 3 Grants of $15 Million to three finalists (not originally announced)

Semifinalists and Finalists

Catholic Relief Services: Changing how society cares for children in orphanages

HarvestPlus: Eliminating hidden hunger in Africa by fortifying staple crops

Himalayan Cataract: Eliminating needless blindness in Nepal, Ethiopia, and Ghana

Human Diagnosis Project: Providing virtual access to specialist medical care for underserved U.S. patients

Internet Archive: Providing libraries and learners free digital access to four million books

Rice University: Improving newborn survival in Africa

Sesame Workshop and International Rescue Committee: Educating children displaced by conflict and persecution

The Carter Center: Eliminating river blindness in Nigeria

$100M Award made to: Sesame Workshop and the International Rescue Committee

For educating children displaced by conflict and persecution. The organizations' early childhood development program will be the largest in the history of humanitarian response, bringing hope and opportunity to a generation of refugee children in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. It will also serve as a scalable model that has the potential to impact the way the humanitarian system responds to refugee crises around the world.

For more information on the winner visit https://www.macfound.org/press/press-releases/sesame-workshop-and-international-rescue-committee-awarded-100-million-early-childhood-education-syrian-refugees/

Top 3 Reasons Proposals Were Rejected During Administrative Review

1. **Too Small in Scale** (463 proposals)

    MacArthur received a surprising number of proposals for projects with budgets well below $100 million. The aspiration of *100&Change* is to address problems and support solutions that are radically different in scale, scope, and complexity than what foundations typically fund.

2. **Too Early in Project Timeline** (121 proposals)

    MacArthur received many blue-sky research and development proposals, as well as proposals to run pilot studies. For these, strong evidence that the proposed solution will address the identified problem was lacking, often because projects were at an early stage in their development or evolution.

3. **Weak Evidence of Effectiveness** (92 proposals)

    Other proposals offered no strong evidence that proposed solutions would address the problem identified. MacArthur expected one or more of the following types of evidence cited in applications: data or findings from external evaluation of a pilot project or experimental study, citations to peer-reviewed research indicating a strong scientific consensus, a strong logic model, and documentation of a detailed pathway from the proposed actions to specific outcomes.

MSU's 2016 Proposal

A Fusion Revolution: Meeting the Challenges of a Changing World

The Green Revolution increased agricultural yields and improved food security in Asia and Latin America. However, it failed to reach millions in Africa, and as a result of agricultural intensification, led to environmental degradation in many parts of the world. Researchers from Michigan State University, together with longtime collaborators in Malawi, Rwanda and Tanzania, will bring forth a "Fusion Revolution" – an interdisciplinary approach to deliver technological and outreach solutions to ensure agricultural and community sustainability. Leveraging our team's expertise in crop improvement, water, and human nutrition, we will tackle the challenges associated with increases in global populations, water shortages, and diet-related chronic diseases.

Our solution addresses:

1) Public health-focused agricultural production, emphasizing nutrition and gender equity in food access.

2) The implementation of cost-effective technologies to improve water use efficiency in agriculture.

3) The deployment of knowledge transfer platforms that move research to practice for farmers and consumers worldwide.

Feedback on MSU's 2016 Proposal

MSU's proposal was rejected at the Administrative Review phase for the following reason:

Too Early in Project Timeline

MacArthur Foundation Feedback

100&Change requires strong evidence that the proposed solution will address the identified problem. You have proposed a project at an early stage in its evolution. There is not sufficient evidence to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed solution and the time horizon is likely to extend beyond the parameters of the 100&Change program.

2016 Competition Criteria

DEANDRA BECK

2016 Inaugural Round Proposal Criteria

MEANINGFUL: The proposal presented an appropriate solution to a serious and pressing problem; met the needs of beneficiaries with an understanding of local conditions; noteworthy public benefit.

(In other words: Is the proposal bold? Does it seek to solve an important and urgent problem? Will the proposed solution significantly improve the condition of the target beneficiaries and result in broad public benefit?)

VERIFIABLE: The proposal established a reasonable record of effectiveness; methodology, technology, and/or science are reliable and dependable.

(In other words: Does the proposal present evidence that the solution has previously yielded practical and concrete results? Does the proposed solution rely on existing methodology, technology, and/or provable science?)

FEASIBLE: The proposal presented a competent, qualified team with clear strengths; presented a realistic budget and a project plan with sufficient attention to detail.

(In other words: Does the team have the skills, capacity, and experience to deliver the proposed solution? Do the budget and project plan align with a realistic understanding of the costs and tasks to implement the proposed solution?)

DURABLE: The proposal focused on a reliable solution with a clear pathway toward sustainability; presented a sufficient plan for support.

(In other words: Does the team propose a solution that has staying power? Is there a plan in place to support the resolution of the problem, including any need for ongoing support if necessary?)

Collaborations and Teams

Collaborations must present a clear case as to why this will be an effective collaboration.

Need to explain how the collaboration is positioned to deliver the proposed solution as an integrated team with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.

Fully executed MOUs between/among all parties in the collaboration need to be established.

With regard to the team, the foundation wants to know the motives for participating in this competition and how the team (internal/external collaborators) came to work on this problem and arrived at the potential solution.

The team should already have been working on the problem and proposed solution for some time, not coming together for the first time in response to the RFP.

The Problem and Solution:
What to address in the Proposal

Problem

- Describe the specific problem the team is committed to solving.
- Who or what is impacted by this problem?
- Current resources available to address the problem and why they are insufficient to support meaningful progress toward the solution.
- Previous attempts to solve the problem.

Solution

- Describe the proposed solution to the problem.
- Direct benefits (outcomes) of the proposed solution.
- Direct beneficiaries.
- Why have you chosen this solution as compared to alternative solutions?
- What is the evidence the proposed solution will work?

Tactics and Technology

- Describe your technical approach and/or related technology.
- How will you implement the proposed solution? Circumstances to achieve optimal results?
- Proposed solution must be implemented over a period of three to six years.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Need to develop a plan for monitoring the types of information you expect to document, track, and assess over time.

Need to develop a plan to measure progress toward achieving the specified results of the proposed solution addressing the following questions:

- *Who are your intended or targeted beneficiaries?*
- *What changes do you expect?*
- *How will changes be measured?*
- *How will you know what is working, why, and under what conditions and for whom?*
- *What are your data sources?*
- *What methods and/or specific instruments will you use to ensure that your findings are recorded against a constantly evolving set of conditions?*

Budget and Sustainability

If the projected costs exceed $100 million, how do you plan to secure the necessary balance?

Once the solution has been implemented, what will be the cost (if any) to sustain the benefits over time? Identify the source(s) of funding for those costs.

View the full application requirements for the inaugural round here:
https://www.100andchange.org/#application

2019 Competition

DOUG GAGE

100&Change: 2019 Competition

The MacArthur Foundation is expected to announce a second competition in the first quarter of 2019, building upon what was learned from the inaugural competition.

VPRGS Process for 100&Change Proposal Development: 2019 Request for Proposals (RFP)

1. Informational session for faculty members: **February 11, 2019**

2. Deadline for submission of 3-page white papers: **noon, March 8, 2019**

3. Internal review and selection of top proposal teams: **March 25, 2019**

4. Work session with selected teams to hone the concepts and position work strategically: ongoing until RFP is issued in April, 2019

5. RFP issued: April, 2019

6. Internal review of selected teams to choose those to support and repositioning those not selected

7. Application window closes August, 2019

Additional Resources for Consideration

100&Change Website
https://www.100andchange.org/

100&Change Learning and Evaluation Final Report
https://www.macfound.org/press/grantee-publications/100change-learning-and-evaluation-final-report/

100&Change: Exploring Solutions at Scale
https://www.macfound.org/press/40-years-40-stories/100change-exploring-solutions-scale/

Top 200 Proposals from 100&Change Inaugural Competition
https://www.100andchange.org/#results/top200

Solutions Bank: Top Projects Ready for Funding
http://100andchange.foundationcenter.org/

UPenn Center for High Impact Philanthropy
https://www.impact.upenn.edu/

Questions?