



2009 INVESTMENT GUIDELINES Letter of Intent Process

Background:

Social Venture Partners (SVP) Cincinnati is a network of accomplished individuals who care passionately about making the community a better place and give of their time and resources to benefit community needs. Partners are volunteers who bring their collective expertise, financial resources, professional skills, life experience, and creativity to work in partnership with area nonprofits and their leaders. We call this the *engaged giving model*. SVP Cincinnati is an affiliate of Social Venture Partners International (www.svpi.org).

SVP Cincinnati functions as a philanthropic venture fund that invests in 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations where partners can have a significant and positive impact on an organization's infrastructure and future capacity. Our goal is to help build successful and sustainable nonprofit organizations through a multi-year partnership. Therefore, we do not advise on the programmatic content of an organization. Our geographic area includes the 20 counties comprising Southwest Ohio, Southeastern Indiana, and Northern Kentucky. Specifically, SVP Cincinnati seeks to partner with organizations that:

- Have an engaged and diverse board of directors.
- Have an executive director and board who are receptive to SVP Cincinnati's involvement over a 3 to 5-year time period.
- Will benefit from not only financial investment, but also from the personal and professional expertise of SVP Cincinnati partners.
- Are stable and ready to move to the next level, yet need some assistance.
- Are innovative and offer unique programming.
- Have broad community appeal.
- Have staff appropriate to implement capacity building efforts.

In 2009, SVP Cincinnati will focus its philanthropic contributions and volunteer capacity building efforts on the environment and we seek to support organizations engaged in environmental education with youth. Using a venture capital approach, SVP Cincinnati seeks to evaluate the proposals of organizations that are addressing environmental challenges through educational activities and/or working with youth. Successful organizations will receive an initial single-year unrestricted investment of up to \$25,000. During the first year of partnership, the Social Investment Partner (grantee) and SVP will jointly develop an

action plan with benchmarks for potential multi-year unrestricted funding (5-year maximum). Each Social Investment Partner will be matched with an active SVP partner who will serve as the lead liaison between SVP Cincinnati and the Social Investment Partner. The lead partner will facilitate a team of SVP partners who will assist with accomplishing the action plan developed jointly with the nonprofit Social Investment Partner.

Organizations interested in applying for the SVP Cincinnati's 2009 environmental investment are strongly encouraged to attend a workshop for potential Social Investment Partners on **December 2, 2008, from 9:00 am – 10:30 am at InterAct for Change, 3805 Edwards Road, Suite 500 Cincinnati, Ohio 45209**. Staff and board members are welcome to attend; RSVP to info@svpcincinnati.org.

Letter of Intent Procedures:

The first step in the investment process is the submission of a letter of intent, followed by an invitation from SVP Cincinnati to submit a full proposal. Full proposal submission procedures will be provided directly to organizations selected in the letter of intent phase of the process.

The letter of intent must not exceed three pages in length and must include the following information on organization letterhead.

- Organization name, address, telephone, website, chief executive name, contact person, year 501(c)3 status granted, and organization's annual budget amount.
- Summary of the organization's mission, goals, history, and geographic service area.
- Summary of major environmental accomplishments during the past 3-5 years.
- Brief and specific description of how your organization can benefit from SVP Cincinnati's investment of time and expertise, and how it expects to grow its capacity and impact as a result.
- Anticipated 2009 request amount and brief description of how SVP's unrestricted funding will be used to further your overall mission.

Letters of intent should be addressed to the SVP Cincinnati Investment Committee and must be submitted **electronically** no later than midnight February 4, 2009 to info@svpcincinnati.org. Organizations invited for full proposal submission will be notified no later than February 24, 2009. Further information will be distributed to semi-finalists at that time. The new Social Investment Partner will be announced in June 2009.

For further information, contact SVP Coordinator, Lisa Davis-Roberts at (513) 458-6715.

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