



Social Impact Bond Technical Assistance Lab Proposals Requested

The Harvard Kennedy School's social impact bond technical assistance lab (SIB Lab) conducts research on how governments can foster social innovation and improve the results they obtain with their social spending. An important part of our research model involves providing pro bono technical assistance to state and local governments implementing pay-for-success contracts using social impact bonds. Through this hands-on involvement, we gain insights into the barriers that governments face and the solutions that can overcome these barriers. These insights are ultimately published in academic papers and policy briefs.

The SIB Lab is pleased to announce that it is offering pro bono technical assistance to up to four state and local governments considering the pay for success approach. This assistance is made possible by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. The SIB Lab is requesting proposals from interested parties as described below. The most suitable proposals will be selected through review by the SIB Lab and successful applicants will receive the following support:

Government innovation fellow

The fellow will be employed by the SIB Lab and placed full time for one year in the government agency that is spearheading the pay for success initiative. The fellow will help both in coordinating the policy process and in performing technical analysis. The fellow will report to the agency's pay for success policy lead and will also receive supervision from Professor Jeffrey Liebman.

Data analyst

Up to six months of programmer time will be available to government agencies requiring this type of assistance. Based on previous experience, extensive matching of data sets across agencies (for example earnings histories and criminal records) is often required to establish historic performance trends, analyze the amount of variability in these trends, and target individuals to be served by the initiatives.

Senior technical advisor

Each government agency will be provided pro bono advising from Professor Liebman and other senior experts, including in-person meetings as needed.

Flexible funding

Successful applicants will also be eligible for up to \$15,000 of flexible funding. This money will be made available to respond quickly in situations where providing a modest amount of financial resources can remove a barrier to the implementation of pay for success contracts using social impact bonds. For example, it might become necessary to hire outside legal counsel to review the contracting terms proposed by the bond-issuing organization or a statistical consultant to develop the exact methodology for measuring the impact of the intervention. Decisions about how to allocate this funding would be made jointly by the government agency and Professor Liebman and will be subject to approval from the panel of experts that make up the competition selection committee.

Application details

This program is open to US state, county and city governments. A downloadable application form and further information about social impact bonds can be found on our website: hks-siblab.org. Applicants should aim to demonstrate:

- A high level of commitment among top decision makers to testing the pay for success / social impact bond model.
- Scope for the project to be scaled up if it is successful.
- Availability of innovative service providers with proven or promising interventions.
- Willingness to consider investment structures that include commercial capital.

In line with our research goals, preference will be given to projects applying the social impact bond model to policy areas where the model has not yet been tried. No more than one award will be made to a jurisdiction currently receiving assistance from the SIB Lab.

Completed applications should be sent to hks-siblab@hks.harvard.edu and are due by **February 8, 2013**. The SIB Lab is happy to provide additional information on the social impact bond model and to help applicants develop strong applications in advance of this deadline. Please email hks-siblab@hks.harvard.edu to arrange a phone call.

After you submit your application it will be reviewed by the SIB Lab and a committee of expert advisors. The SIB Lab is likely to request further information by phone before final decisions are made. Responses will be provided in early March, 2013. If four strong applications are not received by the application deadline, additional applications will be considered on a rolling basis.

The SIB Lab

Social impact bonds are a promising new approach to government financing of social service programs. By combining performance-based payments and market discipline, pay-for-success contracts using social impact bonds have the potential to improve results, overcome barriers to social innovation, and encourage investments in cost-saving preventive services.

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The SIB Lab is located within the Taubman Center for State and Local Government at the Harvard Kennedy School. The director of the SIB Lab is Professor Jeffrey Liebman. For more information please visit us at hks-siblab.org.