



Upward Momentum Open Call Proposal Information and Criteria

We want to hear from community-led, community-driven nonprofit organizations in Missouri with a demonstrated capability to advance upward mobility for populations facing the greatest need. This open call aims to support initiatives that are looking to grow or expand promising work that can help leaders and institutions collectively drive catalytic change and sustainable impact.

Proposals should aim to bridge across rural and urban communities through solutions that are effective in both environments. This could involve a rural approach that can be adapted for an urban setting, or an urban approach that can be replicated in rural areas.

Successful applications will demonstrate:

1. **A track record of impact:** Ideas that have made measurable and meaningful impacts on the quality of lives and economic mobility of the focus population.
2. **Focus on proven concepts:** Initiatives that have traction and can provide proof of concept that shows potential for successful implementation.
3. **Potential for scaling:** Ideas that can be replicated and scaled beyond the local level to make an impact on the lives of all Missourians.
4. **A commitment to dialogue and community engagement:** Ideas that actively promote open and inclusive communication among diverse community members and stakeholders, promoting mutual understanding.
5. **A commitment to collaboration:** Ideas that focus on addressing common issues and aligning resources and efforts.

Ten organizations from across the state will be selected based on published criteria.

We have allocated \$2 million for this first open call, with each selected organization receiving a \$200,000 grant to support and amplify their efforts to create lasting, transformative change in Missouri communities.

We encourage everyone to apply and submit your application **before midnight on January 7, 2025**. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to info@UpwardMO.org.

To apply, please register for our online grant application portal [using this link](#). Click on “Sign Up” to register for the portal. Once you’ve registered, you will receive an email to create a permanent password. After creating your password, please look for the grant application titled “**Upward**

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Momentum 2024 Open Call". Please provide all of the information requested in the application, including all of the required uploads. As part of the application, you will also need this [EFT form](#).

Proposal Criteria details

1. A Track Record of Impact

Rating	Details
1 - Minimal Impact	The project has little to no documented impact on the quality of lives or economic mobility of the focus population. Any impacts are anecdotal and not backed by measurable data.
2 - Limited Impact	The project has shown some measurable impact, but it is small in scale, affecting only a limited number of individuals or having short-term effects
3 - Moderate Impact	The project has made a measurable and meaningful impact on the quality of lives and economic mobility of the focus population, with clear evidence of positive outcomes for a moderate number of individuals or communities.
4 - Significant Impact	The project has a well-documented, significant, and sustainable impact on the quality of lives and economic mobility of the focus population, with extensive evidence of long-term positive outcomes for a large number of individuals or communities.

2. Focus on Proven Concepts

Rating	Details
1 - Unproven Concept	The initiative is still in the idea phase, with no proof of concept or track record of implementation. There is little to no evidence supporting its feasibility or potential for success.
2 - Early Stage Concept	The initiative has some initial traction but limited proof of concept. There may be some early evidence of success, but it remains largely theoretical with minimal real-world application
3 - Demonstrated Concept	The initiative has clear proof of concept with evidence of successful implementation in real-world settings. It has demonstrated potential for successful outcomes, though it may still be limited in scope.
4 - Established Concept	The initiative is well-established with substantial proof of concept. It has

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	been successfully implemented in multiple settings and has a strong track record of achieving intended outcomes.
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3. Potential for Scaling

Rating	Details
1 - Low Potential for Scaling	The idea is highly localized or specific, with limited potential for replication or scaling beyond the immediate community. It may be constrained by unique local factors or resources.
2 - Moderate Potential for Scaling	The idea has some potential for replication or scaling, but there are significant challenges or limitations. It may require substantial adaptation to be effective in other contexts.
3 - High Potential for Scaling	The idea is replicable and has demonstrated potential for scaling beyond the local level. It could be adapted to different contexts with relative ease and could have a broader impact with additional resources.
4 - Exceptional Potential for Scaling	The idea is highly scalable with a clear plan for replication across multiple regions. It has strong potential to make a widespread impact on the lives of all Missourians and beyond.

4. A Commitment to Dialogue and Community Engagement

Rating	Details
1 - Minimal Engagement	The idea shows little to no commitment to dialogue or community engagement. Stakeholder involvement is minimal or superficial, with little effort to include diverse voices.
2 - Limited Engagement	The idea includes some efforts to engage the community, but they are limited in scope or depth. Dialogue may be one-way or exclude key stakeholders, leading to limited mutual understanding.
3 - Active Engagement	The idea actively promotes open and inclusive dialogue among diverse community members and stakeholders. It fosters mutual understanding and collaboration, though there may be room for improvement in inclusivity or depth of engagement.
4 - Exemplary Engagement	The idea demonstrates a strong commitment to ongoing, inclusive, and meaningful dialogue and community engagement. It effectively brings together diverse voices, fosters mutual understanding, and builds strong relationships among stakeholders.

5. A Commitment to Collaboration

Rating	Details
1 - Minimal Collaboration	The idea focuses primarily on individual efforts with little to no collaboration with other organizations or stakeholders. There is minimal alignment of resources or efforts.
2 - Limited Collaboration	The idea includes some collaborative efforts, but they are limited in scope or depth. Collaboration may be sporadic or focused on specific tasks rather than a holistic approach to addressing common issues.
3 - Strong Collaboration	The idea emphasizes collaboration with multiple organizations and stakeholders, focusing on aligning resources and efforts to address common issues. There is a clear commitment to working together, though there may be opportunities to deepen these relationships.
4 - Exemplary Collaboration	The idea is built on a foundation of deep, sustained collaboration among a wide range of organizations and stakeholders. It demonstrates a strong alignment of resources and efforts, with a focus on collective impact and shared goals.