

USSF 2014 Affinity Groups

Cultivating Resources for US Social Forum Through Dedicated Support for Fronts of Struggle

THE PLAN

1) Identification of Working Groups

- a. Identify which working groups are still operating, or are planning to re-form.

2) Affinity Group Purpose and Format

a. Purpose/Aims:

- i. Educate foundations that support social justice about the purpose, process, and aims of the USSF.
- ii. Engage interested foundations in providing input to the USSF.
- iii. Transform perceptions in the funding community about the utility and impact of the USSF.
- iv. Solicit dedicated financial support for USSF 2014 Working Groups/Fronts of Struggle
- v. Gain financial support for the USSF 2014 General Operations through a 10% indirect costs line item for all grants to working groups.

b. Basic Steps:

- i. Identify set of funders whose interests correspond with the focus of the working group.
- ii. Host introductory webinar about the purpose of the USSF and the specific frame, aims and processes of the working group.
- iii. Convene a set of program officers who have committed to engaging further with the USSF.
- iv. Host monthly calls that engage those program officers in offering input, including perspectives on the movement, connections to like-minded organizations given their breadth of contacts, technical information, etc. to the working group.
- v. Submit proposals to individual foundations/funders. (Revert to RDC guidelines for protocols on submitting proposals.)

3) Guidelines for participation in Affinity Group Fundraising process:

- a. Develop list of prospective funders and provide details on any existing relationships with those funders.
- b. Complete the concept note questionnaire.
- c. Designate working group members to participate in the development of the working group concept note.
- d. Designate working group members who commit to the formation and ongoing facilitation of the Affinity Group

4) Concept Note Template

a. Working Group Purpose

- i. One or two paragraphs stating the core focus and aim of the working group.

b. Working Group History

- i. If applicable, share the evolution of the working group, including past activities/successes.

c. Working Group Objectives

- i. I.E. What are the concrete changes that will be wrought in the lives of communities by the end of the USSF 2014 as a result of the working group or at the very least, how will the ball be moved on advancing systems change and/or the movement?

d. Working Group Activities

- i. What are the activities in which you will engage and how will they result in achievement of the objectives?

e. The Plan/Timeline

- i. Ideally, develop a logic model including a timeline, with an accompanying explanatory narrative. Guidance on developing a logic model:

http://www.epa.gov/ciconference/2009/download/presentations/watson_logic-models.pdf

f. Structure and Decision Making

- i. Who is in the working group? Are the representatives individuals? Organizations? Both? What is the structure, including roles and responsibilities of the working group and its members (individually and organizationally)? How are decisions made?

g. Added Value/Comparative Advantage

- i. How does the USSF working group fit into the bigger movement picture? What does it add to the movement that wasn't there before? Why is the USSF working group uniquely qualified to fill this niche in the movement?

h. Sustainability/Post USSF 2014 Longevity

- i. Will the working group exist after USSF2014? If so, what are the plans for continuing the work after USSF 2014? If not, how will the aims/objectives live on and flourish?

i. Evaluation

- i. What is the evaluation plan for the working group? What are the indicators of success and how will you measure success?

j. Documentation and Dissemination Plan

- i. How will you share your successes with those outside of the USSF? How will those in the social justice world, foundation world, and others know of your success including knowing enough about the model to potentially replicate?

k. Budget

- i. See USSF template

5) RDC Guidance and Support

- a. Intensive---for groups who are willing but need intensive stewardship
- b. Moderate/minimal--Provide feedback and guidance as needed for more independent groups