

Project Redwood Sponsor Role

Being a project sponsor is one of the most rewarding ways to volunteer with Project Redwood (PRW). Sponsors serve as the primary link between PRW and the social-impact organizations we support, guiding that relationship throughout the term of the grant. In their dual roles as project advocate and advisor, sponsors have the unique opportunity to work directly with extraordinary leaders engaged in the global fight against poverty.

Sponsor responsibilities vary throughout the life cycle of a project grant and include:

1. Helping to find compelling projects for PRW.

Sponsors help identify that projects are a good fit for PRW's mission. They provide initial vetting and introduce a potential grantee organization to the Grant Review Committee (GRC). Sponsors need to be familiar with the operation and aspirations of the potential grantee, particularly with respect to the GRC's basic grant requirements:

- The organization has a 501(c)3 certification as a non-profit under the US Tax Code.
- The project is focused on helping people to help themselves and improving economic outcomes for the underserved through education, job training, job creation or entrepreneurship.
- The project has specific goals and metrics for success and impact in helping people lift themselves out of poverty.
- The project offers innovative and effective poverty-reduction strategies.

2. Helping grantees through the PRW application process.

Sponsors collaborate with the organization and project principals to prepare application materials for the GRC, including:

- The grant preview form, which determines whether the organization is an appropriate grant candidate meeting PRW's grantmaking requirements and criteria;
- The application form and related documents if the preview form is approved; and
- Responses to any application follow-up questions from the GRC.

3. Helping grantees through PRW's post-grant process and project completion.

If a grant has been awarded, the sponsor facilitates the grantee's ongoing communications with PRW, including assistance with:

- Completion of a grant agreement contract and confirmation of receipt of funds;
- Project progress and interim and final reports to the Evaluation and Impact Committee (EIC); and
- Participation in periodic conference calls with PRW's Community of Grantees and Sponsors (COGS) to discuss common issues of interest to grantees.

4. Helping grantees with additional non-financial support.

All sponsors have the opportunity to provide grantees with ongoing non-financial support and advice. This assistance often makes a significant difference to the organization and project, and is both satisfying and rewarding for the sponsor. Non-financial support can occur across a range of activities, including:

- Leadership coaching;
- Helping with fundraising strategies;
- Facilitating introductions to individuals and organizations helpful to the grantee;

- Serving on the grantee's board;
- General consulting support, etc.

Every sponsor-grantee relationship is unique, and tailored to fit the experience, skills, and time availability of the individuals involved. We encourage sponsors to consider recruiting a co-sponsor to share the work and the reward of supporting PRW projects.

If you are interested in learning more about the opportunity of becoming a Project Redwood Sponsor and working with a grantee organization, please contact Operations Director, Rachel Merrell, rmerrell@projectredwood.org.