**CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION FORM**

## General Information

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Lead Organization |  |
| Primary Contact Name and Position |  |
| Email |  |
| Phone |  |
| Mailing Address |  |
| Number of employees |  |

## Project Overview

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| --- | --- |
| Project Title |  |
| Project Duration (months) |  |
| Total Amount Requested from TAF |  |
| If requesting multi-year funding, indicate the annual request for each project year: | Year 1:  | Year 2: | Year 3: |
| Location(s) of Proposed Activities: |  |

**Is this project expected to involve the undertaking of communications with a public office holder from the Province of Ontario (e.g., elected officials and their staff and/or employees of any ministry, agency, board or commission) in an attempt to influence the development, introduction, amendment, or termination of any legislative proposal, bill, resolution, regulation, policy or program of the Province of Ontario?**
*This information will be used for TAF’s record-keeping and will have no effect on the grant assessment process.*

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No

## Project Impact (55 points)

## *The responses provided below will be assessed out of 25 points. Separately, TAF’s Carbon and Co-Benefits Quantification Team will calculate the carbon emissions reduction potential of your project and score it out of 30 points. For more information about TAF’s carbon emissions quantification methodology, refer to* [*this report*](https://taf.ca/custom/uploads/2023/03/Carbon-Emissions-Quantification-Methodology-April2023.pdf.)*.*

**1a. What is the concept you are seeking to develop or test through this project?**

*We recommend responding in 300 words or fewer.*

*Example: We are seeking to identify and validate skills shortages within the building industry that need to be filled in order to decarbonize new and existing buildings in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA). We will develop a two-year business plan for a learning exchange that would coordinate the delivery of existing education and skills training programs, and would also develop new green construction training programs to address industry needs.*

**1b. How will the proposed project complement and/or build on, rather than duplicate, related work in the GTHA?**
*Consider how the proposed project fits within the current landscape of projects, policies, organizations, etc., and adds value to previous, ongoing and planned initiatives led by others. We recommend responding in 300 words or fewer.*

*Example: The learning exchange would connect building industry professionals to existing training programs, coordinate strategies and curricula among training providers, and deliver new training programs where needed. Mohawk College, George Brown College, Canada Green Building Council, and Ontario Building Officials Association each collaborate with building industry stakeholders to deliver skills training and education programs related to net zero and sustainable construction practices. Through this project, we will engage these and other training providers to better understand their current activities, find opportunities for collaboration, and identify training gaps so that new services can be developed and delivered through the learning exchange.*

**1c. TAF seeks to support initiatives with the potential to be scaled up across the GTHA for maximum impact, particularly initiatives that seed accelerated or exponential change beyond a project's direct scope. Although such change is often achieved beyond the timeframe of a funded project, we believe that the likelihood of scaling up a solution is higher when the initial project is designed with this goal in mind.**

* **What factors might help or hinder the likelihood of the proposed project achieving scale up [e.g., vested interests, economic factors, public or political perceptions, (un)favourable policy, etc.]?**
* **How is the proposed project being designed to address the identified factor(s)?**

*We recommend responding in 400 words or fewer.*

**1d. TAF recognizes that many urgent societal issues are interrelated, and that climate actions need to be designed to minimize community harms and maximize community benefits. As such, we would like to understand how the proposed project is being designed to integrate relevant social, economic and environmental benefits. Designing solutions with co-benefits in mind contributes to thriving, resilient and prosperous communities and promotes the long-term durability of these solutions.**

* **In what ways is the proposed project being designed to minimize community harms and maximize community benefits beyond carbon reduction (e.g., improved public health, jobs created, more equitable access to services, strengthened community resilience, etc.)? If not applicable in your case, respond “N/A.”**

*We recommend responding in 300 words or fewer.*

**1e. TAF’s** [**theory of change**](https://taf.ca/publications/theory-of-change/) **identifies social equity as a major component of activating systems change to achieve a net zero vision. Social equity in this context refers to the fair treatment of individuals or groups of people as informed by historic and contemporary realities. We seek to support climate solutions whose benefits are accessible to all, and to ensure that the burden of transformational change does not fall to marginalized communities. Given this, please speak to the following elements of your proposal:**

* **Impact on equity- How will the proposed project be designed and delivered to improve outcomes for equity-deserving groups, or at minimum to mitigate potential harms for individuals, groups, or communities that might be disproportionately affected based on race or other marginalized identity markers such as gender, religion, ethnicity etc.?**
* **Leadership - How will impacted equity deserving groups be engaged and involved in leading the design and implementation of the proposed project? Where appropriate, applicants are encouraged to incorporate engagement-related activities and costs into their proposed work plan and budget.**

*We recommend responding in 400 words or fewer.*

***Note:*** *We at TAF along with our grant applicants are on a learning journey to determine how social equity goals integrate with our shared climate goals. Please get in touch if you would like to explore this topic together – we look forward to the conversation! For this year’s grants intake rounds, we will be observing how the relationship between climate action and equity shows up in applications and thinking about how to improve our collective understanding and approaches.*

## 2. Project Approach (20 points)

**In the table below, list the key strategies you will use to develop or test your concept, the activities required to complete each strategy, the outputs/deliverables, and timeframe.** While we have provided ample room to list project strategies, it is not necessary to complete each row of the table. You may add additional rows as needed.

***Note:*** *The proposed outputs/deliverables will form the basis of the grant contract, pending approval from TAF’s Grants Committee and Board.*

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Strategy &** **High-level Activities** | **Approximate Timeframe** | **Outputs / Deliverables** |
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## **3. Clear and Reasonable Budget (10 points)**

## Complete the budget in the accompanying spreadsheet ([link here](https://taf.ca/custom/uploads/2024/02/TAF_Grant_Budget_Template_2024.xlsx)). The budget must:

* **Include all sources of confirmed and planned revenue**
* **Include all project expenses, broken down by the strategies listed above**
* **Highlight the intended use of TAF funds**
* **Include any funding support being offered to support the contribution of the charities and non-profit organizations listed in Sections 4a and 4b to the project’s goals. \***

## *A clear and reasonable budget should demonstrate that the total funding request is commensurate with the value of the work being proposed, and that sufficient and reasonable funds are being allocated to each project strategy.*

*\* As part of TAF’s commitment to greater equity in our grantmaking process, we are making funding available to charities and not-for-profit organizations beyond the project lead that also contribute to the advancement of TAF-funded grant projects. An honorarium will be made available at the rate of $50/hour with the intention to support third-party activities such as preparation for and attendance at project-related meetings.*

*The participation of non-profit participants will be estimated upfront and reflected in the project budget, tracked by the grantee during the project, and recognized through an honorarium provided periodically by TAF to each entity.*

## **4. Project Implementation Capacity (15 points)**

**4a. Who are the core team members and what will their respective roles be?**

*Please ensure that your responses to 4a and 4b include each Team Lead listed in your project plan table (2a) and the core team members or other collaborators who can support the achievement of the community benefits outlined in 1e. You may add more rows to each table, as needed.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Team Member Name** | **Title** (and organization if different from lead applicant) | **Role in Proposed Project** | **Relevant Skills, Experience, & Qualifications** |
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**4b. Beyond the core project team, who else will you collaborate with on this project?**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Collaborator***Name and organization* | **What is their anticipated role and contribution to the project?** | **Have they committed to collaborating?**  |
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**4c. [Optional] In addition to direct project funding, how can TAF support the achievement of desired project outcomes?***TAF will assess its capacity to provide the identified support(s) and discuss this opportunity further with your team, as appropriate.*

[ ]  Knowledge transfer (i.e. promoting project goals, outcomes and lessons to relevant stakeholders)

[ ]  Advisory services (i.e. participating on a strategic or technical advisory group; see [here](https://taf.ca/programs/) for the areas in which TAF may be able to offer expertise)

[ ]  Funding for skills development and training opportunities related to effective project delivery. Training topics could include:

* **Project design and evaluation**
*Develop a project plan which defines your intended impact, how you will achieve it, and how you will measure success*
* **Developmental evaluation**
*Create a strategy to apply real-time data and feedback to adapt the project as it unfolds (*[*read more*](https://mcconnellfoundation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/A-Developmental-Evaluation-Primer-EN.pdf)*)*
* **Collective impact** *Work with diverse organizations, often across sectors, to establish a shared understanding of a complex social problem, develop a common vision, and create an action plan to address it with shared measurements and reinforcing activities (*[*read more*](https://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/collective-impact-toolkit)*)*
* **Multisolving**
*Design climate solutions which are rooted in social and economic justice and produce multiple societal benefits*
* **Public relations and communications**
*Develop strategies to reach intended audiences, engage stakeholders, or effectively share project outcomes*
* **Policy advocacy**
*Work with policy makers to advance evidence-based public policy solutions*
* **Any other areas relevant to the proposed project**

[ ]  Other (please specify in the box below)

**Please provide more detail as to how the area(s) of support selected above would support the achievement of project outcomes:**

## Supporting Documents

**Mandatory:**

* Project budget (please download template and complete)
* Evidence of legal status as a registered charity or not-for-profit organization
* Most recent audited financial statements
* Names and affiliations of Board of Directors

**Optional:**

* Letters of support
* Team member bios, CVs or LinkedIn profiles
* Relevant evidence of project’s carbon reduction potential (to support our Quantification team’s calculations)

**Please email your completed project proposal in Microsoft Word format, along with any relevant attachments from the list above, to** **grants@taf.ca****.**