

**First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor (UUA)**  
**Jackson Social Welfare Fund Committee**  
**2020 Criteria for Proposal Evaluation**

Reviewed annually, last reviewed Jan 20, 2020.

The Committee agreed to distribute this document with the 2019 RFP.

The Committee agrees to evaluate proposals according to all the following:

1. ONE PRIMARY CRITERION: Each proposal shall have a clear relationship to the Fund's mission established in the original bequest. The ***Request for Proposals*** provides this language:

*The bequest specifies that the funds be*

*...used for the purpose of advancing the understanding and acceptance of the great principles of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for promoting the use of reason and understanding as the effective method of solving, in a peaceful manner, domestic and international difficulties and conflicts.*

*The Committee will consider proposals which satisfy either of the above criteria.*

2. Durable outcomes: We favor projects that promise a durable product (meaningful beyond the current year; for example, a publication, ongoing training program, etc.)
3. Two statements were adopted from the evaluation criteria of the UUA Sharing the Collection Program concerning the organizations it supports:
  - A. The organization has a demonstrable staff structure and record of performance, or if just established, a convincing project/program work plan. (STCP criteria 3)
  - B. The organization is substantially dependent on community support in terms of funding and/or volunteers. (STCP criteria 4)

The other STCP criteria were considered, but not adopted for JSWF.

4. The following factors, which the committee will consider and discuss:
  - A. Non-profit / for-profit: Experienced committee members recall no applications from for-profit organizations. Committee members differ on whether a highly mission-relevant proposal from a for-profit applicant deserves consideration. Therefore, further discussion will be necessary in the event such an application is received.

- B. Government-funded vs. privately funded: Applicant may be government-funded or privately funded; neither is preferred.
- C. Need for funds: We will consider the applicant's need for funds, asking: What difference do our funds make? How well does the applicant make a difference we value? We want to sustain even a well-established organization that makes a meaningful difference.
- D. Prior use of JSWF grants: We will consider whether recent JSWF grants to an applicant have been used effectively and beneficially as proposed.
- E. Diversity in audience benefitted: We want to diversify awards based on the audiences benefitted by proposed projects. We favor economically and otherwise deprived project audiences that (respecting the Constitution's First Amendment) provide a "voice for the voiceless."
- F. Local / regional / state / beyond: We will identify (without preference) whether an applicant organization is local (Washtenaw County), regional (southeast Michigan), state-wide or beyond Michigan in location or scope, and favor projects that propose local benefits.
- G. Internal congregational projects: We will not consider proposals from UUAA or Ann Arbor Friends Meeting (AAFM) organizations (committees, programs, task forces, services provided, etc.). The Committee agrees to review this provision annually.
- H. Avoid Sharing The Collection overlap: Organizations that the UUAA Sharing The Collection Program has chosen for support this calendar year are not eligible for JSWF grants this year.