



March 17, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Room S128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Room S128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations LHHHS Subcommittee  
Subcommittee  
Room S128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations LHHHS  
Subcommittee  
Room S128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairman Blunt, and Ranking Member Murray,

As you continue consideration of fiscal year 2017 funding levels and begin to develop and mark up the fiscal year 2018 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill, we are writing to urge you to include funding for the **Social Innovation Fund (SIF)**, which has a strong history of spurring innovation, rewarding results, and catalyzing cross-sector partnerships.

The Social Innovation Fund recognizes that government alone cannot be expected to generate the evidence-based, positive outcomes we need in America. The SIF has played a critical role in supporting high-impact and evidence-based nonprofits in communities across the country, bringing innovators from multiple sectors together to develop collective solutions to some of America's most pressing challenges. Under the SIF structure, federal funds are leveraged through matching funds to ensure that results-driven organizations are able to bring their effective programs to scale at minimal expense to the federal taxpayer.

Through the authorization granted in 2014, SIF funds are also being used to explore and experiment with Pay for Success (PFS) approaches. This funding plays a critical role in addressing the limited resources currently available for planning, feasibility studies, project structuring, and pipeline development of PFS projects. The SIF PFS provisions are critically important at a time when there is a great need for improving the services that we provide and ensuring efficient use of our limited resources.

Since 2009, SIF grantees have expanded evidence-based programs through over 1,800 local organizations in 46 states and the District of Columbia. Through its private sector partnerships, the SIF has invested over **\$1 billion dollars** in interventions ranging from supportive housing, reentry support for justice involved youth and adults, workforce training, and educational support. **A third of that funding has come through federal investments with the rest provided through nonfederal and private sector match commitments.** The rigorous evaluations that are a core component of the SIF have found positive effects of SIF-funded work in the areas of workforce training, employment services, personal (income) savings, reading education, and childhood health.

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**We strongly encourage you to ensure continued full funding for the Social Innovation Fund at \$70 million dollars, including a 20% set aside for Pay for Success** so that locally-driven approaches to solving major social challenges can continue to expand and achieve measureable impacts in our nation's communities. Through SIF, during a time of shrinking budgets and growing need, government has improved its ability to do more with less, focus on results and accountability, and break down silos.

We recognize the many difficult choices both the Subcommittee and full Committee faces and thank you for your ongoing support for social innovation policies. We look forward to working with you to advance this important issue in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

Members of the America Forward Coalition (full list below)

Alliance House

Center for Employment Opportunities

City of Boise, Idaho

Community Supervision Alternatives

Darlington County First Steps

First Step House

Green and Healthy Homes Initiatives

International Center for Appropriate and Sustainable Technology

Lee Pesky Learning Center

New Profit

Pomona Unified School District

Purpose Built Communities

Reach Out and Read Carolinas

Results for America

Rural School and Community Trust

Social Innovation Research Center

Sorenson Impact Center

The Road Home

United Way of Coastal Fairfield County

cc: House Appropriations Committee, House Appropriations LHHS Subcommittee

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## America Forward Coalition

Acelero Learning/Shine Early Learning	Family Independence Initiative (FII)	Public Allies
Alternative Staffing Alliance	Fuse Corps	Reading Partners
America's Promise Alliance	Generation Citizen	REDF
ANet	Genesys Works	Roca
AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation	Global Citizen Year	Root Cause
AVANCE	GreenLight Fund	Save the Children
Bard Early Colleges	iMentor	Schools That Can
BELL	Institute for Child Success	Service Year Alliance
Beyond 12	Jumpstart	Single Stop
Bottom Line	JVS	Social Enterprise Alliance
BUILD	KIPP	Social Finance US
Citizen Schools	LIFT	Teach For America
City Year	LISC	The Children's Aid Society
College Advising Corps	Match Education	The Corps Network
College Forward	National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS)	Third Sector Capital Partners
College Possible	National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD)	Turnaround for Children
College Summit	New Classrooms Innovation Partners	Twin Cities Rise!
Compass Working Capital	New Leaders	uAspire
Connecticut Center for Social Innovation	New Teacher Center	Urban Teachers
Corporation for Supportive Housing	Opportunity Nation	UVA Pay For Success Lab
Educators 4 Excellence	Peace First	Year Up
Enterprise Community Partners	Peer Health Exchange	YouthBuild USA
Eye to Eye	PowerMyLearning	Youth Villages
		10,000 Degrees

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