

**December 28, 2012**

To: WISR Faculty and Friends  
Fr: John Bilorusky, President, [johnb@wisr.edu](mailto:johnb@wisr.edu)  
David Yamada, Board Member, [david\\_yamada@yahoo.com](mailto:david_yamada@yahoo.com)  
Re: Using WISR as a Fiscal Agent for Grant-Funded Initiatives

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As many of you know, WISR is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. It means that donations to WISR are tax-deductible and that we can be the recipient of foundation grants and private contributions.

In view of the above, we invite you to use this memo to think about how WISR's tax-exempt status can be utilized to seek funding for a social change-oriented project of your design, using WISR as its fiscal agent and perhaps more:

- Do you have the makings of a project or initiative that is consistent with WISR's values and mission and that may be worthy of outside funding?
- Might it also offer opportunities for WISR learners and faculty to engage in social action research work and to provide some income for you?
- Are funding possibilities dependent upon, or enhanced by, affiliation with a tax-exempt organization?
- Are you willing to devote the time and energy toward researching potential donors and putting together a grant proposal?
- Does your idea *not* involve (1) profit making endeavors; (2) support of political candidates; or (3) primary activities devoted to legislative advocacy and lobbying?

If your answer to these questions is "yes," then perhaps you're ready to take some steps toward making your idea a reality.

### **Using WISR as a fiscal agent...and perhaps more**

In an attempt to expand WISR's work and influence, we're open to proposals that would use WISR as a fiscal agent for obtaining grant monies and other donated funds. If your fundraising efforts are successful, WISR would get a small amount of money to cover overhead expenses, a standard arrangement in fiscal sponsorships that usually is negotiated at the time the proposal is made to WISR.

We also are open to projects that include potential involvement of members of the WISR community, and such possibilities should be discussed as specifically as possible in your proposal. However, in assessing staffing needs for your project, we strongly caution against building them around expectations that members of the WISR community are available to fulfill them.

Your proposal should be in the form of a fully developed grant proposal, with necessary explanations as to its details and WISR's potential role as a sponsor.

### **Steps in the process**

Your draft proposal will go to WISR's President and Board for consideration. We may decide to (1) sponsor your proposal; (2) decline to sponsor your proposal; or (3) return your proposal with suggestions for re-working. We also ask to review your list of potential funders to avoid conflicts of interest.

This call is for, in essence, "shovel ready" proposals. Due to staffing limitations on our end, we are not in a position to offer technical assistance. Thus, we cannot offer ongoing guidance on developing and editing funding proposals or on identifying lists of potential funders. It's up to you to do the brainstorming and detailed legwork to get your proposal into shape.

Because of the time and logistics involved, we need to receive your proposal at least six weeks before a possible application deadline. For a larger project, a longer lead time is strongly advisable.

### **Interested?**

Your proposal should be sent to:

John Bilorusky, WISR President ([johnb@wisr.edu](mailto:johnb@wisr.edu))

David Yamada, WISR Board Member ([david\\_yamada@yahoo.com](mailto:david_yamada@yahoo.com))