

Operating Grants

Outcomes Webinar Q&A Summary

Will you share a copy of this presentation?

Yes, the recording will be available on our website. [You can also find it here.](#)

Update: We have uploaded the slides for both the Overview and Outcomes webinars. You can find them as links in the Operating Grants description in [PCF's grant portal](#).

How many grants will be awarded?

The number of grants awarded isn't fixed - it depends on available funding and the number and strength of applications. We believe we'll be able to award between 50 and 60 grants this cycle.

Do the outcomes need to be statistically quantified?

Data that is specific and clearly presented allows PCF to better understand the impact that your organization provides. Our focus is on understanding outcomes, not outputs. We do not require third-party verification of data.

For the Measurement and Evaluation section, would answering the questions individually under the section be best practice or could we answer all the questions under the section in one go?

We've structured each question to make sure we're being clear about what we are asking - not to dictate how an applicant responds. If it's faster/easier for you to delineate your answers with numbers, please feel free! If you'd prefer to answer a question using a narrative response without numbering, that's great, too. As long as you provide all the information we're asking for, you've answered the question.

Are you able to share your source for how you define 'outcomes'? I am gathering resources that might help our team strengthen our questions/prompts for our feedback loops to strengthen our outcomes.

To prepare for this webinar, we used the Google search term "outputs versus outcomes" and chose a few reputable sources to ensure we had a clear understanding of how the term is used in evaluating impact. [This is one example](#). An applicant might consider adding their specific area of service or programming to that search term. Using established professional grantwriting organizations' blog posts or forums for discussions may also turn up helpful resources.

Locally, the work of Dr. Barbara Morrison Rodriguez has been impactful for PCF and other organizations. You can use Google, or even ChatGPT, to learn more about the work that other organizations are doing in certain areas to help inform your team's approach to outcomes, measurement, and evaluation. The full answer begins at 55:00 in the recording.

We're happy to chat more about outcomes after the Operating Grant cycle closes - please feel free to reach out!

Is community impact quantified? As in, the number of individuals we serve? Is that how impact is evaluated?

PCF is interested in the number of community members served, as well as the depth of the impact on those community members - both elements are important. Bigger numbers are not what we look for. This is also why we separate small, medium, and large organizations during the review process. Some organizations may have large impacts on a smaller population, while others may serve a wider segment of the community - both approaches are valuable and are considered thoughtfully during the review process.

You mentioned that you are looking for a couple of outcomes. If our project monitors six or seven specific measurable outcomes, will it be viewed negatively?

Not at all! It's wonderful that your organization is able to measure multiple outcomes. Meanwhile, we do want you to make sure that a complete response is provided for each outcome that is described in the application. Not including complete information for all referenced outcomes will lead to confusion for the reviewers.

Consider: is including all seven outcomes going to strengthen the content, the structure, and the story that your application is telling?

An alternative to this approach might involve saying at the top of the response: "We measure these seven outcomes for this program. For the purposes of this application, we are focusing on these two."

Please address any start up organization criteria and best practices to strengthen an application.

For all applicants, but especially our emerging and growing nonprofits, we would like to hear what your plans are for achieving some of the benchmarks we've established as critical for understanding your impact on the

community (feedback loops and data collection/evaluation). For example, if you haven't implemented a feedback loop yet, but you know how you will, use that field to explain your future plans.

Generally, transparency is the best approach to this application.

Our organization uses consultants that are not based in Pinellas County - should we include those costs when calculating the operating expenses that support serving Pinellas County residents?

We are asking how much is spent to benefit people residing in Pinellas County - the vendors themselves do not have to be local.

Consider - does the money spent benefit residents of the County?

Should the LOI address program-specific information or agency information?

This will depend on how each organization intends to use awarded funds. If the funds would be used to support the entire organization, the answers to most questions should be answered at the agency level. If the funds would be used to support a specific program, focus the answers on that program.

In terms of the outcomes and measurement questions, you can focus those answers on one specific program, as PCF is only asking for details about one outcome. If you would use the funds to support the entire organization, we recommend selecting the outcome that most clearly demonstrates your mission impact, or your organization's approach to using data to inform program development over time.