

Establish Funding Criteria

Before the roundtable moves to researching organizations, it is helpful to establish funding criteria. Criteria refer to a set of things that the students agree every organization or project must meet or do in order to receive funding. Having criteria will help make tough funding decisions easier and keep the process fair.

- ✓ Pass out the “Student Grant Making Guidelines.”
- ✓ Use some of the questions below to help guide the discussion about funding criteria:
 - ✓ Do we want to fund many organizations or focus on one or two?
 - ✓ Do we want to give preference to organizations that the school has relationships with or has funded in the past?
 - ✓ Do we want an organization that might offer a long-term partnership?
 - ✓ Do we want only organizations that are willing to come present to us or host us for a visit?
 - ✓ Do we want only organizations that are close by?
 - ✓ Do we want organizations that focus on long-term (advocacy or education) or short-term solutions (direct service)?
 - ✓ Do we want to give preference to organizations with whom we can partner with on a service project?
 - ✓ How important is the age of the organization? Do we want well-established organizations or will we fund newer organizations?
 - ✓ Do we want to give preference to organizations that rate highly according to Guide Star (www.guidestar.org), Charity Navigator (www.charitynavigator.org) or the National Charities Information Bureau (www.give.org)?
 - ✓ Do we only want to give to an organization that will use our money for a specific project of our choice, or are we comfortable leaving it up to the organization to decide how to use the funds?
- ✓ Once students generate a list, ask them to prioritize criteria by ranking from lowest to highest.
- ✓ Generate a short list of criteria most important to the group.
- ✓ Keep this list posted during future meetings to help guide the roundtable as they make decisions.
- ✓ Allow students to revise the criteria as they move forward.