

## SYNERGOS ARAB WORLD SOCIAL INNOVATORS PROGRAM – APPLICATION

### What is the Synergos Social Innovators Program?

This Arab World Social Innovators (AWSI) program will identify and support men and women who are the founders of businesses and civil society organizations whose work is intended to improve the well being of those living in the geographies where they operate. Innovators are eligible who are engaged in doing work in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine or the United Arab Emirates. The AWSI program, Chaired by His Excellency Sheikh Tariq Bin Faisil Al Qassimi, provides professional and financial support to help social innovators transform already successful models into larger-scale enterprises or non-governmental organizations.

Members of the first AWSI Program are leaders of projects promoting jobs and economic development, more sustainable agriculture, services for people with disabilities, opportunities for youth leadership development and civic participation, and the preservation of local crafts and culture – a total of 22 such initiatives altogether.

### **Program Benefits**

If selected as a Social Innovator, you will have access to:

- **Leadership Development** workshops and events designed to strengthen the skills and experiences to help your innovation achieve its goals and objectives.
- **Training** provided by Synergos staff, business leaders and experts.
- **Peer Learning** offered by others in the current Program and other social innovators.
- **Networking** with business, government, philanthropic and other civil society leaders in your area and across the world to leverage your innovation and make a greater impact.
- **Financial awards** of \$12,500 per year, for each of two years, to help you develop your social venture.

### **Selection Criteria**

The points listed below describe the qualities and characteristics that Synergos is looking for in a Social Innovator. Candidates should meet all of the five main selection criteria.

**The Idea:** Social innovators must possess a creative idea, solution or approach to a social, economic, environmental or other problem that will make an impact on the alleviation of poverty and inequity.

## SYNERGOS ARAB WORLD SOCIAL INNOVATORS PROGRAM – APPLICATION

The deadline for completed applications is January 31, 2011.

We encourage interested applicants to submit their information at an earlier date so that any missing materials can be provided in a timely manner.

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**The Entrepreneur:** Social innovators must be driven by a vision to promote social progress and break old patterns of action and perception. S/he will persevere to refine, test and spread a remarkable new idea, methodology or approach to improve the quality of life for people in their community and beyond.

**The Impact:** Social innovators must lead social innovations that have already demonstrated significant social impact at a local level with the potential to serve a larger population or geography.

**The Potential:** Social innovators must demonstrate the potential for scaling up their initiative by securing needed talent, capital, technology and other resources.

**The Values:** Social innovators must be persons who have demonstrated high standards of personal and professional conduct along with a genuine commitment to helping the community. Candidates will not be considered who advocate any form of discrimination against race, ethnicity, sex, gender, religion, age, or disability.

Synergos is seeking a cohort of Innovators displaying gender, sector and geographic diversity and, in a limited number of cases, innovators who meet special qualifications set by our funders.

## What are the Program Guidelines?

Carefully review the program guidelines below to better assess whether you and your social innovation are eligible for the Program.

<b>Program Guidelines</b>	
<b><u>WILL BE CONSIDERED:</u></b>	<b><u>WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED:</u></b>
Social innovators working in the non-profit or private sectors.	Social innovators who are government officials or employees.
Social innovations and innovators active in one of the following five program areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Egypt</li><li>• Jordan</li><li>• Lebanon</li><li>• Palestine</li><li>• United Arab Emirates</li></ul>	Social innovations and innovators not operating in any of the five designated program areas.

## Program Guidelines

<b>WILL BE CONSIDERED:</b>	<b>WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED:</b>
Social innovation projects that are environmentally responsible.	Social innovations that pose harm to the environment or incorporate methods that are environmentally damaging.
Social innovations with a <u>proven track record</u> . Social innovations must be operating long enough to have proven their success at solving a social, economic or environmental problem. We are looking for projects that have already demonstrated positive social change at a community level and need additional professional and financial support to strengthen and expand their offerings.	<u>Social innovations with no proven track record</u> . Social projects at a beginning stage of development with a limited operational history and no record of success at solving a social, economic or environmental problem. We will not consider social innovations that have no documented social impact at the community level.

### What is required of a Social Innovator?

**During the course of the two-year Program, Social Innovators must:**

- Participate in regional and/or international meetings and workshops.
- Possess a basic knowledge of the English language; applicants should be able to engage in active conversation in English in order to benefit from international meetings and workshops.
- Understand, respect and operate within the framework of Synergos' mission, vision and values. Synergos' five values include (1) social justice, (2) collaboration, (3) innovation, (4) integrity, and (5) compassion.

## Eligibility Assessment

### Should I Apply?

Please answer the following questions before completing the longer application to determine if you are eligible for the Social Innovators Program.

If you answer “YES” to all the questions below, we welcome you to apply to the program. If your answers to one or more questions are “NO,” please review the selection criteria, program guidelines and requirements again to ensure that you are eligible for the program.

#### General

- Is your innovation for the benefit of people living in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine or the UAE?
- Are you and your organization independent (that is, you are neither employed full time nor fully funded by any government)?
- Are you willing and able to participate in regional and/or international meetings each year?
- Do you have a basic command of the English language? Are you comfortable enough with spoken English to do an interview in English?

#### Innovation

- Is your innovation contributing to the reduction of poverty, inequity and/or environmental degradation?
- Would you describe your innovation as an idea that has the potential to change policies and practices where you operate that contribute to poverty, inequity and/or environmental degradation?

#### Stage of Innovation & Social Impact

- Does your social project have a proven track record of success at solving an economic, social or environmental problem in your community?
- Does your innovation demonstrate the potential for replication to serve new kinds of clients or customers or expand to a broader geographic area?

#### Innovative Quality

- Do you have a vision about how to create social change?
- Do you have a commitment to test, refine, and spread the new idea, methodology or approach that is the essence of your innovation?
- Do you have a long-term commitment to social change?



## **Education**

Please list any educational experiences, including secondary education. If you attended university or other centers of post-high school learning please list the name of the institution, its location, the dates you attended, your major and any degrees or certificates received.

## **Current Employment**

Please list your current employment. You may use additional sheets as necessary if submitting by hand.

Position

Title

Organization

Primary Responsibilities

## **Time Commitment**

A. How many hours per week do you dedicate towards your innovation?

B. If selected as a social innovator will you be able to spend more hours on your initiative? If so, how much more?

**References**

Please list three personal/professional references (excluding relatives). Be sure to include professional references who know the field in which you are working and can comment on your innovative idea.

Name Position/Title

Organization

Phone Number (please include country and city codes if applicable)

E-Mail Address

What is your relationship to this individual?

Name Position/Title

Organization

Phone Number (please include country and city codes if applicable)

E-Mail Address

What is your relationship to this individual?

Name Position/Title

Organization

Phone Number (please include country and city codes if applicable)

E-Mail Address

What is your relationship to this individual?

### Organizational Information

Please provide some information below to help us understand more about your organization (innovation).

Organization Name

Street Address

City

Country

Postal Code

Type of Organization (non profit, for profit, a mix of both)

Number of full and part time staff and volunteers

Annual budget (local currency)

Main donors or sponsors if any

Other non-monetary resources mobilized (in kind contributions, donations of goods and services, etc.):

Where did you find out about the Synergos Social Innovators Program?

## **Application Questions**

Your answers to the questions below will allow us to gain a better understanding of you, your social project, your plans for its implementation and the social impact your innovation has achieved to date. Please be sure that you have thoroughly reviewed the selection criteria, program guidelines, requirements and the eligibility assessment before you complete the application questions. We look forward to reviewing your application and learning more about you and your social project.

**Please limit your response to each question to no more than two paragraphs on attached sheets of paper.**

1. What is the problem you are trying to solve?

2. What is your innovative idea, solution or approach to solving the problem described above and why is it unique?

3. Who are the beneficiaries of your social innovation?  
*For example; youth, women, elderly, the disabled.*

4. Provide a description of the community you serve.  
*For example; country location, rural/urban, population.*

5. Provide a short example to illustrate the impact that your innovation has made on your community.

6. Describe the programs or activities that you use to deliver the social innovation to your community.

7. Comment on how you plan to expand your innovation beyond local impact. Include any details on expansion through partnerships or the adoption of the innovation by other organizations or programs.

8. Describe the circumstances that influenced you to tackle the problem your innovation addresses and why it is so important to you.

9. How will becoming a Synergos Social Innovator advance your goals?

### **Additional Information**

If there is anything else you would like to share with us please use this space to mention additional information that you were unable to cover in the questions above.

Email applications to [socialinnovators@synergos.org](mailto:socialinnovators@synergos.org)

To submit this application by postal mail:

The Synergos Institute  
Arab World Social Innovators Program  
51 Madison Avenue, 21<sup>st</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10010  
USA