*Social Venture Partners (SVP) engages in venture philanthropy to help solve community problems. We partner across sectors and industries to support sustainable, community-driven solutions. We connect people and organizations striving to change the world together.*

*Our current ten-year goal is to ensure that all children in the Portland metro area are ready for kindergarten (R4K), prepared with the foundation for learning and life success. We are focused on kids in our community who are called “at risk”, but are actually full of promise.*

**SVP’s INVESTMENT APPROACH:** SVP invests our financial, human and social capital resources in organizations and collaborations to build capacity and catalyze system innovation, where we see strong leadership, effective programs, and clear opportunities for significantly broader or deeper community impact. Our current Investment Team model was developed as an alternative to a traditional Request For Proposal (RFP) process in order to be more responsive to the needs emerging from our community. Through a proactive, collaborative process with community-based organizations, SVP Partners will investigate investment opportunities identified by SVP’s Goal Strategy Team.

**Process Overview**: Following the Goal Strategy Team’s initial due diligence, it launches 8-12 Investment Teams over the course of each year. A team of 3-4 Partners works directly with a potential investee to explore a venture philanthropy partnership, following “orientation” and guidance from SVP’s staff. The team works closely with the prospective investee to develop a written proposal to present to SVP’s Capacity Investment Team (for potential Strengthen Key Players investments) or the Goal Strategy Team (for potential System Innovation investments). This process of seeking investments that make significant and sustainable contributions towards SVP’s R4K goal is designed to be iterative, collaborative and responsive to community needs. The nature of this process requires curiosity, listening skills and flexibility to adapt to new inputs, insight to drive good decision-making and leadership to keep the process moving.

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| **Partner Roles:**  | **Essential Partner Skills:**  |
| Team Lead - Primary liaison with Investee; Facilitate; Ensures high quality final proposal & recommendation | Experience on previous team; excellent communication, listening, relationship-building, group facilitation  |
| Team Member Roles:* Manage process
* Writer & editor of investment proposal
* Make reference calls & write synthesis
* Assess financials; write analysis & recommendation
* Present proposal & recommendation to SVP Committee
 | Combined Team Member Skills:* Project Management (scheduling & tracking)
* Non-profit financial assessment
* Written communication (note-taking, business writing, editing)
* Oral communication (inquiry, listening)
* Meeting facilitation
* Presentation skills (PowerPoint creation)
 |

**Timing:** Teams will be launched on an ongoing basis throughout the year. The duration varies based on meeting availability of SVP and prospective Investee, but we anticipate a period of 4-8 weeks. This includes an orientation meeting, 3 in-person meetings with the prospective Investee, as well as 3 meetings (phone or in person) with the SVP Investment Team, prior and subsequent to the prospective Investee meetings.

**SVP Investment:** SVP’s priority is to leverage our human, social *and* financial capital, including the time and professional expertise of SVP Partners & Encore Fellows, network / influence, as well as grant dollars. If, however, there is a strong logic for strategically investing financial resources only, this is an option to consider.

**Three Phase Process**

*Pre*-Investment Team

SVP 101: New Partner on-boarding to SVP with Partnership Manager

SVP 201: Equity, Diversity & Inclusion workshop

SVP 301: Community Impact Overview training: R4K landscape, venture philanthropy model & capacity building resources

**Investment Team**

Phase 1: Education

**90 minute SVP Investment Sub-Team internal meeting,** upon launch to discuss the Goal Strategy Team. This includes an overview of SVP’s due diligence process, evaluation criteria, tools & templates, preliminary investment hypothesis, investment team roles & timeline.

Phase Two: Due Diligence:

This entails 3 in-person meeting(s) with prospective Investee Executive Team to discuss **Partnership Proposal** questions, as well as meeting preparation & follow up with the SVP Partner Investment Team. The goal is to ensure alignment between prospective Investee and SVP’s goal & resources, and to collaboratively **develop written investment proposal.**

Final due diligence: If aligned in partnership vision:

* Meet with prospective Investee’s Executive Director, Early Childhood Program Director & Board Chair to ensure commitment to partnership and vision to scale. SVP Staff (VP for Community Impact or Goal Strategy will participate). As needed, revise and finalize written proposal.
* Request non-profit financials (last two years of audited financial statements, current fiscal year balance, and YTD profit and loss actual versus budget). Write narrative assessment.
* Check references with 2-3 partners/funders/investors (see reference questions).
* Complete SVP scoring tool.

**Due Diligence Tools**: Preliminary Filters & Selection Criteria Scoring Tool; Partnership Proposal Template; Reference call guidelines / template.

Phase Three: Develop a one-slide PowerPoint overview of the investment opportunity & present to SVP’s Capacity Investment Team or Goal Strategy Team. The Committee will have reviewed the full proposal and scoring tool in advance.