



2017 Request for Letters of Interest

SVP is a global network, founded in 1997, with more than 3,500 partners in 39 affiliates in 8 countries around the world. In 2010, Social Venture Partners (SVP) was founded here in Waterloo Region as a network of people who care about our community and are committed to making it the best it can be. We are volunteers, parents, community leaders, and philanthropists, pooling our time, talent and financial resources to realize greater impact with our giving, help strengthen non-profits, and enrich our social sector. We believe that by working together, and in partnership with promising non-profits and their leaders, we can have a bigger and more positive impact on our region.

SVP Partnerships

SVP has two missions. First is to help create more engaged, effective philanthropists through hands-on, shared learning and education. Second is to “invest” collectively in innovative organizations where we feel SVP can have a positive impact on future organizational capacity. Our second mission supports the first.

In addition to a financial grant, we provide investees with the personal time, resources and expertise of our volunteer partners, to assist in meeting and growing operational capacity in order to achieve its mission and increase its impact. We fund and partner with organizations as a whole, not specific programs and projects.

Our goal is to help build successful and sustainable non-profit organizations through a multi-year partnership. By working together, our investee (grant recipient) and partners develop a mutually beneficial relationship. Investees gain from the valuable expertise and guidance of our partners and partners gain rich insight into community issues and the non-profit sector while typically developing a deep connection to the investee.

Partners are not traditional volunteers; we ask that you think outside the box when you elaborate on ways they can help strengthen your organization. Our partners come from a variety of backgrounds. They are successful educators, CEOs, entrepreneurs, marketers, accountants, lawyers, and community leaders. We believe that partners` time and expertise will represent the biggest value to our investee. Partners bring an interest and breadth and depth of expertise in areas including, but not limited to:

- financial management
- technology management
- marketing/communications
- strategic and organizational planning
- legal
- project management
- leadership development
- board development and governance
- revenue generation
- general human resources

The organization selected in 2017 will be our seventh investee, joining our portfolio of current or past investees: Strong Start – 2011, Woolwich Counselling Centre – 2012, Kinbridge Community Association – 2013, Hospice of Waterloo Region – 2014, SHORE – 2015, and Child Witness Centre - 2016.

Investment Focus

SVP Waterloo Region would like to partner with a registered charity located in Waterloo Region that:

- is committed to building their organizational capacity; can demonstrate how they have built capacity in the past and identify how they can continue to do so;
- is ready for change and can articulate where they want to go and how to get there; must have an effective Board-Executive Director relationship where both are equally supportive of focusing on capacity building;
- can demonstrate they have the time required to work with SVP;
- is committed to furthering the community agenda of belonging and can outline how they apply a “lens” of belonging to their work as it relates the [Vital Signs Report](#).

Grant Recipient Requirements:

- Full time paid Executive Director
- Registered Charity
- Majority of programs serve Waterloo Region
- Head office located in Waterloo Region

At this time, SVP works only with individual organizations and not with collaborative structures or networks.

Capacity Development-Ready Organizations

In addition to the above, SVP seeks to partner with an organization that is ready for SVP's capacity development assistance. Typically, that means that the organization:

- Has long-term goals (three years) and ideas for how capacity building support can help amplify organizational impact
- Is self-aware, understanding their strengths and challenges*
- Has an engaged Executive Director *and* engaged board – all are receptive and supportive of SVP volunteer involvement over multiple years
- Is financially stable
- Is committed to measuring impact
- Values the importance of building internal capacity to achieve their mission
- Requests skills and expertise that we feel matches our partner resources

**Note: an important part of our process is an Organizational Capacity Assessment which occurs once an investee has been selected*

One organization will be selected in May/June 2017 as SVP's seventh investee. They will receive an initial grant that is anticipated to be \$10,000-\$20,000, to be used for general operating support and capacity building initiatives. Based on successful annual reviews, similar grants will be given in years two and three (SVP may also choose to invest longer).

How to Apply

① Letter of Interest

If you are planning to submit a Letter of Interest, we ask that you discuss your application with Rose Greensides, Executive Director (rose@svpwr.org) of Social Venture Partners.

Applicants complete the online Letter of Interest (watch our website and social media platforms for links**) and submit it **no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 31st, 2017**. This application provides our Investment Committee with information on how you are helping families, children and/or youth in Waterloo Region. Letters will be reviewed by the Committee and full proposals will be invited from a short list of organizations. All organizations will be notified of the status of their Letter of Interest **by February 28th, 2017**.

Letters of Interest are assessed across four categories:

1. Organization: leadership, organization vision, size/capacity to engage, readiness
2. Potential for Impact: growth, capacity building, results-oriented, achievability
3. Model and Programs: need, track record, innovation
4. SVP Engagement and Connection: SVP partner engagement, ability and readiness to partner, WOW factor

How the Rest of our Process Works

② Full Proposal by Invitation

Short-listed organizations will submit full proposals **by 5:00 p.m. on April 3rd, 2017**. Proposals provide more detailed information on your organization's work and accomplishments, and more specifics related to how SVP and its volunteers can help build your capacity to better Waterloo Region.

Applicants will work with the SVP Executive Director who will advise on the development of your proposal, including exploring options on how SVP might best work with your organization. Proposal submission guidelines will be provided with the invitation to submit a full proposal.

③ Site Visits and Finalist Pitches to Committee

Based on proposal reviews, site visits *may be* required. If so, these site visits will be completed between **May 1st – May 15th**. After reference checks and other due diligence steps are completed, our Investment Committee will select finalist organizations from the pool of short-listed organizations. Finalists will make a presentation to the Committee **on Saturday, May 13th, 2017**. The Committee will then select our 2017 investee. Their decision will then be ratified by the SVP Board of Directors in early June. The New 2017 Investee will be required to attend our All Partners meeting on the evening of **June 13th**.

Requirements of SVP Investees

- Work with SVP within the first 3 months of our partnership to assess organizational capacity and develop a shared vision and work plan for how SVP's volunteer time and skills would support the organization over a three-year timeline. This requires **at least 2 staff members and at least 2 board members** to complete and is facilitated by the SVP Executive Director and an SVP lead partner.
- Completion of a short six-month progress report.
- Completion of a satisfaction survey at the end of year one to give us information about the success of our collaboration and suggestions for improvements.
- Provide an annual report to SVP detailing the impact of the investment and volunteers (including financial statements), including:
 - Measurable accomplishments toward initial work plan and objectives;
 - Details of how SVP volunteer time was directed and how SVP staff and partners were utilized
 - Quantitative and qualitative outcomes of your programs on the constituency you serve.