**BETTER TOGETHER FUND**

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RFQ**

The Better Together Fund (BTF) has released a Technical Assistance RFQ for providers of technical assistance in various areas related to strategic partnerships. This is the response of the applicant below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| What is the legal name of the consulting firm or independent consultant? | Project Evident |
| Please provide the legal structure of the firm. | Project Evident is a nonprofit fiscally sponsored by Tides. Legally, we are part of the Tides Center. |
| What year was the firm founded? (if applicable) | 2017 |
| How many individuals work in the firm? | 35 |
| Please provide the names and title of key individuals in the firm who would potentially be working as part of this RFQ. | Kelly Fitzsimmons Founder and Chief Executive Gabriel Rhoads Managing Director, Nonprofit and Philanthropy Practice Dhyia Thompson-Phillips Deputy Managing Director, Nonprofit and Philanthropy Practice |
| Please provide the consultant’s or firm’s website. | https://projectevident.org/ https://projectevident.org/nonprofits/ |
| For an independent consultant. How long has the applicant been working as a consultant? (if applicable) | N/A |
| Please provide a list of languages spoken by staff. | English, Spanish, and Chinese |

|  |
| --- |
| PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION |
| Name  | Gabriel Rhoads |
| Address | 501 Boylston Street, 10th Floor |
| City/Town | Boston |
| State/Province | MA |
| Zip/Postal Code | 02116 |
| Country | United States |
| Email Address | grhoads@projectevident.org |
| Phone Number | 917-353-6437 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Please describe the geographic area served by the firm. | Worldwide |
| What are your firm’s primary areas of practice? | Project Evident has 3 primary practice areas: The Nonprofit and Philanthropy Practice works with nonprofit organizations (multiple domains) and funders to build and use evidence to improve program practices and equitable outcomes. The Education Agency Practice works with local school districts and state education agencies to use data and evidence to improve student outcomes. Project Evident’s Field Building strategy takes an “ecosystem” approach–working from all angles. We engage and collaborate across sectors to build a new culture of evidence for equitable outcomes. We put practitioners at the center of evidence building, while engaging all stakeholders, including funders, policymakers, researchers and communities. |
| How many Better Together Fund projects that were awarded funding have you been involved with? | 0 |
| Please list all Better Together Fund projects that were awarded funding that you have been involved with. You can list a project as anonymous if it is confidential. | N/A |
| Briefly describe 1-3 examples of restructuring negotiations with which you have been involved; and/or examples of projects where you have helped facilitate, explore, or implement a formal collaboration as defined by the Better Together Fund. | In formal plans: In many Strategic Evidence planning engagements, we recommend structuring for greater efficiency and improved outcomes or outcome measurement. With specific programs: With impact analysis and exercises to assess mission alignment and cost coverage, we have helped nonprofits determine programs to discontinue, scale down, or scale up. Collective Impact: We have worked with collaborations of nonprofits to assess outcomes using a collective impact framework to determine how multiple activities are creating place-based impact. |
| How would you describe the range of diversity reflected in your firm? | Since our founding in April 2017, we intentionally sought out to build a diverse and interdisciplinary team. We currently have a team of 35, with nearly 50% of our staff identifying as BIPOC (including, Hispanic, Asian, Black, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and multi-racial staff). Further, our team combines expertise in evaluation, data and technology, policy, philanthropy, and nonprofit management with a shared goal of improving the ecosystem for evidence. |
| Please list all nonprofit issue areas within which you have worked as a paid employee or consultant. | The Nonprofit and Philanthropy Practice works with nearly 100 funders and nonprofit organizations with primary focus areas in Child Welfare, Early childhood, Community development, Education (K-12), College access and success, Criminal Justice, Economic mobility, Employment, workforce training, Health, and human services, Housing, and Youth Development. |
| Please provide any other information you feel would aid in understanding the value the firm can bring to Better Together Fund grantees and any specific expertise you have in a specific BTF grant phase(s). | Project Evident strives to be a trusted partner—to practitioners, funders, and other stakeholders committed to stronger, meaningful, and equitable outcomes for communities and individuals so that all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential.\* We believe in the power of data and evidence to address social and racial justice and seek to advance a next-generation ecosystem for actionable evidence-building and use. We live into our mission through our values, specifically: We’re unapologetically practitioner-focused. We center on practitioners and ground our work in their needs and contexts. We’re committed to learning, inclusion, and transparency. We are frank, honest, and compassionate with our colleagues, clients, and stakeholders, and seek input and feedback from a wide range of voices. We recognize that evidence is not immune from the racism and inequities that exist in our society, and strive to understand the context in which we operate, and to uphold the principles of belonging, dignity, and justice through our work. We’re oriented to actionable evidence. We build and use relevant and timely data and evidence with our partners and ourselves to continuously learn, improve, and make meaningful, equitable, and cost effective decisions. We’re SWAP to a fault. We strive to be Smart, Warm, Approachable, and Productive in all interactions. When we fall short, we do what it takes to repair and show up better. \*Language around equitable outcomes is drawn from PolicyLink’s definition of equity with their permission. |

|  |
| --- |
| CONSULTANT #1 DETAILS |
| Name  | Gabriel Rhoads |
| Email Address | grhoads@projectevident.org |
| Education (list only name of school, major, and degree) | Columbia University Master of Business Administration University of Chicago History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Science and Medicine (HIPS) Bachelors of Arts |
| Employment History (list only name of employer, title, and dates employed) | Project Evident Managing Director, Evaluation Services Apr 2017 - Present Chair and Co-Founder BBQ Films Jul 2007 - Present The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation Director of Evaluation and Learning Oct 2013 - Apr 2017 The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation Evaluation and Learning Officer Apr 2013 - Sep 2013 The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation Senior Associate Sep 2008 - Mar 2013 |
| Awards or Certificates | Beta Gamma Sigma, Columbia University Maroon Key, University of Chicago Emmy Nomination, Creative Arts |
| Nonprofit Board Membership (list only name of organization and the dates served) | N/A |

|  |
| --- |
| CONSULTANT #2 DETAILS |
| Name  | Dhyia Thompson-Phillips |
| Email Address | dthompson-phillips@projectevident.org |
| Education (list only name of school, major, and degree) | The Broad Center (Yale School of Management) Educational Leadership Master of Education Loyola University Chicago Higher Education Administration Master of Education University of Illinois, Urbana-Campaign Political Science Bachelor of Arts |
| Employment History (list only name of employer, title, and dates employed) | Project Evident Deputy Managing Director, Nonprofit Organization + Philanthropy Practice Jan 2022 - Current City Colleges of Chicago Executive Director, Workforce Equity (OHC) Nov 2019 - Dec 2021 GALS, Inc. Deputy Chief of Planning/ Broad Resident 2018 - 2020 City Colleges of Chicago Director of Strategic Initiatives (MXC) 2013 - 2017 Virgo Project Consulting Lead Consultant 2008 - 2014 |
| Awards or Certificates | State of Illinois Appointee Gender Equity Advisory Committee, Vice Chair Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) CSM Scrum Master |
| Nonprofit Board Membership (list only name of organization and the dates served) | N/A |

|  |
| --- |
| CONSULTANT #3 DETAILS |
| Name  | Naima Pittman |
| Email Address | npittman@projectevident.org |
| Education (list only name of school, major, and degree) | Columbia University Education Policy Master of Arts Wellesley College English Bachelor of Arts |
| Employment History (list only name of employer, title, and dates employed) | Project Evident Associate Director January 2018 - present The Opportunity Network Program and Development Associate October 2016 - September 2017 |
| Awards or Certificates | N/A |
| Nonprofit Board Membership (list only name of organization and the dates served) | N/A |

|  |
| --- |
| CLIENT REFERENCE #1 |
| Name of Organization | Center for Transforming Lives |
| Please provide the name(s) of other organizations involved in the collaboration or negotiations. | Project Evident and the Center for Transforming Lives |
| Client Reference – Contact Name | Carol Klocek |
| Client Reference – Contact Email Address | cklocek@transforminglives.org |
| Client Reference – Phone Number | 817-484-1540 |
| Please briefly describe the engagement. | Project Evident partnered with the Center for Transforming Lives to develop a Strategic Evidence Plan, and data/evaluation technical assistance for their multi-service program model. |

|  |
| --- |
| CLIENT REFERENCE #2 |
| Name of Organization | The Promise - Philadelphia Poverty Action Fund |
| Please provide the name(s) of other organizations involved in the collaboration or negotiations. | Project Evident United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey City of Philadelphia Envoy Growth |
| Client Reference – Contact Name | Bill Golderer |
| Client Reference – Contact Email Address | bgolderer@unitedforimpact.org |
| Client Reference – Phone Number | 215-665-2690 |
| Please briefly describe the engagement. | Project Evident partnered with the United Way of Philadelphia, City of Philadelphia and Envoy Growth on a new, independent public-private partnership called: The Promise - The Philadelphia Poverty Action Fund. Through this work, Project Evident developed a Strategic Evidence Plan to establish and launch a data and research hub called the Knowledge Center, which uses evidence to guide solutions that alleviate poverty and improve life outcomes for people experiencing poverty in Philadelphia. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Please provide any additional client references.  | N/A |