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Assessing if Your Schweitzer Project is a Good Fit for a Community Organization

Below are some questions that can help you assess a) if your project is a good fit for the community organization and b) whether the community organization has the capacity to support you and your project.

Checking for Fitness

- How does my project idea resonate with your organization's values and identified community needs?
- Is my project idea a priority for your organization? If not, what is?
- Are external forces impacting your organization (e.g. pandemic, workforce challenges) creating other, more immediate needs for you right now?

Understanding Experience/Capacity

- Has the organization had a fellow or intern in the past? If yes, how was the experience for you? How do you think it was for the fellow/ intern? What worked well? What would you change?
- What is your capacity now to have a Fellow? Does someone on staff have time to be a mentor and help guide the project? Who might that person be?

Working together

Acknowledge that your project start-up will entail up-front and ongoing resources from the organization. Ask your contact:

- How do you envision getting started with the project and what do you need?
- What are your suggestions for orienting me?
- How do you envision regular communication about the project?

We hope these questions will help you as you reach out to potential community partners. Please contact Nancy Gabriel, nancy.e.gabriel@dartmouth.edu if you have any questions.