Social Investment Fund
Assessment Framework for New Investment (Round One)

Social Investment Agency Toi Hau Tāngata

	Criteria	Description	Developing	Meets (Minimum requirements for proposals to be funded during round 1)	Leading
Components of social investment	**Outcomes**	Focus on social investment priority outcomes.	The proposal includes high-level statements on outcomes There is an opportunity to build on this foundation by identifying specific, measurable outcomes.	The proposal outlines specific, measurable outcomes that are well aligned with one priority outcome or reasonably aligned with multiple priority outcomes	The proposal identifies specific, measurable outcomes that align strongly with several priority outcomes, as well as other outcomes participants value. The outcomes are clearly tied to the theory of change and evaluation approach.
	Cohorts	Will reach a significant number of the social investment priority cohort(s).	The proposal demonstrates understanding of the population group that will be supported by the initiative. It is likely that this group includes one or more of the priority cohorts. It is unclear *how* that the initiative will reach more than 250 participants over the course of the programme, and participants are well-aligned to one or more of the priority cohorts.	The proposal is clear on the priority cohort(s) they intend to reach and there is a credible plan for reaching and working with a priority cohort(s). It is likely that the initiative will reach more than 250 participants over the course of the programme, and participants are well-aligned to one or more of the priority cohorts, which will enable a robust evaluation.	The proposal demonstrates the organisation's track record of working with the priority cohort(s) and includes referral pathways agreed with partners. The initiative will easily reach enough of the priority cohort(s) to enable a robust evaluation.
	Theory of change	Proposal has evidence that the intervention works, and the theory of change is plausible	The proposal introduces a theory of change, providing a foundational framework to build upon. There is an opportunity to further strengthen the connections between activities and outcomes by providing evidence that demonstrates a clearer pathway to impact.	The proposal presents a coherent theory of change that outlines the connections between activities and outcomes. Some evidence (including academic research, mātauranga Māori, or practice-based evidence) to support those connections is provided. The theory of change could form the basis of a robust evaluation.	The proposal presents a comprehensive, well-articulated theory of change that is clear, logical, and supported by strong evidence. The theory of change provides a robust framework for evaluation, including clear indicators for tracking intermediate outcomes.
	Continuous learning	It is clear how learning will be captured and used to improve reach and impact.	It is clear that progress data will be captured and recorded but it is not clear *how* insights and learning will inform practice and service improvement as there is little evidence of an established learning culture within the organisation.	The proposal sets out clearly how data, insights, and learning will be used to support practice and service improvements, and how this builds on the organisation's proven learning approach.	The proposal will build on the delivery organisation's proven approach to using data, insights and learning to support service and practice improvement.
Social Investment Fund-specific	**Sector-wide learning**	Proposal includes innovative approaches to design, funding and delivery of social services – creating a learning opportunity for the wider social sector.	The proposal includes some novel features. The lessons learned will add to the evidence base of what works and why in New Zealand.	The proposal tests or demonstrates solutions build on existing research evidence, with respect to service design, delivery and funding. There is clear potential for the wider social sector to gain valuable new insights or learning.	The proposal includes potentially transformational elements. There is a high likelihood that the social system will gain significant insights and learning, which could be used to benefit the wider social sector.
	Community connectedness	The delivery organisation(s) has the relationships and trust needed to work in and with the community and other partners.	The delivery organisation(s) has a developing understanding of the community(s) they will work in and a clear plan for how they will build the relationships they need to be successful.	The delivery organisation(s) has a good understanding of the community(s) they will work in and has existing relationships that can be strengthened to enable success. There is a clear plan to establish any relationships required to support the initiative (eg establishing referral pathways).	The delivery organisation(s) has deep knowledge of the community. They are well-known, respected, and have strong, trusted relationships with providers and key stakeholders, which will support the successful delivery of the initiative.
	Delivery confidence	The delivery organisation(s) have a proven track record- they have successfully delivered similar initiatives before.	The delivery organisation(s) has limited experience of delivering initiatives for the priority cohort at scale. However, their track record in other areas provides some confidence.	The delivery organisation(s) has recent or ongoing experience of delivering similar initiatives in terms of scale and cohort.	The delivery organisation has a strong track record of delivering successful initiatives at scale to the priority cohort(s) and / or groups of the population with similar challenges. Appropriate accreditation or certification is already in place (e.g. Health Cert, Te Kahui Kahu)