

Dear Friends,

We hope you enjoy this month’s edition of the Newsflash!

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

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(Resource) Acumen: Free Online Courses on Social Entrepreneurship, Human-Centered Design, Lean Data Systems, and more

(Resource) Global Health eLearning Center: Free Online Courses

(Open for Applications) Elton John AIDS Foundation Grants to Create an AIDS Free Future

(Open for Applications) VGIF Small Grants of up to \$7,500 to Women-led Projects

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(Resource) Acumen: Free Online Courses on Social Entrepreneurship, Human-Centered Design, Lean Data Systems, and more

+Acumen gives people a meaningful way to ‘Add Acumen’ to their lives, and their online courses are a new way to do just that. With 7+ years of experience running their flagship Acumen Global Fellows Program, they saw an opportunity to use online tools to scale the impact of their traditional leadership development programs to equip more emerging leaders with the tools, knowledge, and networks to change the way the world tackles poverty. Combined with operational skills and financial skills, their courses aim to equip emerging change leaders with the tools to change the way the world tackles poverty and build a world based on dignity.

Courses starting soon include:

- Storytelling for Change (start date: August 5)— a 6 module course that will teach you storytelling techniques for how to be a better public speaker and connect with your audience whether you’re in a meeting with one person or in a presentation to hundreds of people.
- Design Kit: The course for Human-Centered Design (start date: August 20) — a seven-week curriculum that will introduce you to the concepts of human-centered design and how this approach can be used to create innovative, effective, and sustainable solutions for social change.
- Social Entrepreneurship 101: Discovering your passion & path to change the world (start date: July 7) — Ever dream of changing the world or making a difference? You are invited to roll up your sleeves and join a group of entrepreneurs on a journey to change lives by changing systems. In this 4 week introductory course

from +Acumen, we'll cover what is social entrepreneurship and why it's so exciting.

To learn more and to sign up for courses, please

visit: [http://plusacumen.org/courses/?utm\\_source=%2BAcumen+Courses&utm\\_campaign=267fe4639a-20150616\\_Q3\\_email\\_1\\_course\\_roundup&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_5487fc5190-267fe4639a-58290469](http://plusacumen.org/courses/?utm_source=%2BAcumen+Courses&utm_campaign=267fe4639a-20150616_Q3_email_1_course_roundup&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5487fc5190-267fe4639a-58290469)

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(Resource) Global Health eLearning Center: Free Online Courses

In 2005, USAID's Bureau of Global Health developed the Global Health eLearning (GHeL) Center to provide its worldwide mission-based health staff with access to state of the art technical global health information.

The courses and certificate programs at the Center offer self-paced Internet-based courses that:

- Provide useful and timely continuing education for the world's premier global health professionals
- Present state-of-the-art technical content on key public health topics
- Serve as a practical resource for increasing public health knowledge

Free online courses are offered on a variety of topics, including:

- Child Survival
- Early Childhood Development
- Maternal Health
- Monitoring and Evaluation

To learn more and to sign up for courses, please

visit: <http://www.globalhealthlearning.org/courses>

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(Open for Applications) Elton John AIDS Foundation Grants to Create an AIDS Free Future

The Elton John AIDS Foundation is accepting applications for EJAF 2015 grants to help create an AIDS free future.

The Foundation is committed to:

- No more discrimination
- No more new HIV infections
- No more AIDS deaths

In line with the UNAIDS's agenda, EJAF's grant making strategy is built around two key focus areas: vulnerable populations and large scale and grass roots initiatives.

Grants can be divided into following two categories:

- Key Vulnerable Populations
  - Pioneer Grants – A Pioneer Grant supports a specific initiative focusing on an individual key population at higher risk – such as men who have sex with men (MSM), sex workers and injecting drug users – within an individual country.
  - Flagship Grants – A Flagship Grant targets a specific vulnerable group through a number of related initiatives within an individual country.
- Large Scale and Grass Roots Initiatives
  - Support Grants – These are grants which drive momentum towards an AIDS free future because they have the potential to have an impact on large numbers of people.
  - Robert Key Memorial Fund – small, one-off grants to grassroots initiatives that deliver tangible, immediate benefits to people living with HIV.

#### Eligible Countries

• Africa – Botswana\*, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo\*, Ethiopia\*, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique\*, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Note: Countries with a asterix (\*) are not eligible for Pioneer Grants.

For more information and to apply: <http://london.ejaf.org/grants/#our+grants>

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(Open for Applications) VGIF Small Grants of up to \$7,500 to Women-led Projects

Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF) provides small grants up to \$7,500 USD to grassroots projects that are led by women and that help empower women and girls, in developing countries around the world. Over the years, VGIF has funded over 475 projects in 89 countries addressing specific challenges faced by women and girls.

VGIF grants are for one year. A limited number of grants are available for multi-year projects. VGIF may invite successful one year grantees to submit a proposal for a three-year grant. Multi-year applications follow a separate process, and are by invitation only. The budget amount requested from VGIF must not exceed \$7,500 USD.

#### Focus Areas

- Economic empowerment
- Community development
- Health and nutritional support
- Literacy and leadership training
- Educational seminars and workshops Promoting education in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) for girls
- Women's human rights

## 2015-16 Timeline

VGIF's 2015 grantmaking schedule for one-year grants is:

- June 1 – July 31, 2015- Letters of Intent (LOIs) accepted
- 17, 2015- Approved LOIs are invited to submit full applications
- 16, 2015- Applications are due and review process begins
- April 2016- Board votes and selects top projects

## Eligibility Criteria

- Applicant can be from anywhere around the world and the project must be women led empowering women in developing countries.
- VGIF will consider funding organizations located outside of the country where the project will be implemented only when most or all of the project leadership and staff are locally based.
- GIF does not support:
  - Individual scholarships and tuition
  - The purchase of land
  - Political organizations, political campaigns, or projects that aim to influence specific legislation
  - Religious groups, unless the proposed project contributes to the general good of the community Organizations that discriminate against individuals or groups based on gender, age, race, caste, color, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation.

## How to Apply?

- VGIF has a two-step process for grant applications. The first step is the Letter of Intent (LOI).
- To submit an application, applicant must first submit an LOI online.
- Selected LOIs will be invited to apply for funding.

Deadline: **31 July, 2015**. For more information and to apply: <http://vgif.org/our-work/for-grantseekers/>

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As part of the Firelight Foundation’s Capacity Building Program, Firelight provides “Newsflashes” to share relevant resources and information with our active grantee-partners via monthly emails. We hope that by facilitating access to information for grassroots, community-focused organizations, programming for children and families, as well as organizational development, is enhanced. Past editions of the Firelight Newsflash can be found on our website:

<http://www.firelightfoundation.org/resources/newsflash/>

We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at [newsletter@firelightfoundation.org](mailto:newsletter@firelightfoundation.org).