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30 April 2015

Dear Friends,

We hope you enjoy this week's edition of Newsflash!

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

*(Infographic) Social Accountability Infographic from Results for Development*

*(Resource) The Community Scorecard Toolkit*

*(Accepting Applications) Innovation Grants from Amplify Change*

*(Accepting Concept Applications) The Conservation, Food & Health Foundation*

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(Infographic) Social Accountability Infographic from Results for Development

Social Accountability - The Community Score Card

Social accountability is defined as a citizen centered approach to build government accountability. In order to work it must include strong citizen participation as well as strong government responsiveness.

Social accountability uses a broad range of mechanisms to increase engagement between a government and its citizens, including participatory budgeting, public expenditure tracking, community score cards, and social audits.

More than just a process for identifying and solving problems, social accountability uses social action to demand government, services providers, and others to improve services. Citizens use their collective voice to engage with government to create change.

The graphic shown in the link below gives a simple illustration of how change happens.

<http://bit.ly/1yWA2SD>

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(Resource) The Community Scorecard Toolkit

One of the most powerful tools of social accountability is the community scorecard. The process is designed to bring together service users and service providers to identify the underlying obstacles to service delivery, and develop a shared strategy for improvement.

Evaluation of the community scorecards shows that

1) they work best in a context where there is collaborative space or collective problem solving across the supply and demand side. The process of identifying the key stakeholders and bringing them together to develop joint action plans is critical to success.

2) They work well where they energize the community's own capacity to solve local problems. In other words the scorecard is powerful for the community to understand its own roles and responsibilities.

3) It requires a good understanding of the socio-political context of governance and structure of public finance at a local level

4) technical competence of the entity that is facilitating the process

5) a strong public campaign to ensure maximum participation from the community and local stakeholders.

The **Community Scorecard Toolkit** provides an introduction to the community scorecard process. It facilitates good governance through promotion of participation, transparency, accountability and informed decision making. It supports a community process to identify challenges in services delivery, mutually generate solutions and work in partnership to implement and track effectiveness of those solutions.

View or download the toolkit online at: <http://bit.ly/1qp2sj0>

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(Accepting Applications) Innovation Grants from Amplify Change

Innovation grant funding is available to established groups and coalitions seeking modest support to implement new ideas, but we particularly encourage applications from smaller community level groups advocating for change, including groups who are unregistered or new CSO groups.

We aim to provide funding for organisations and groups that implement new approaches and ideas for advocacy and activism. This can include potential funding for more established organisations or coalitions, as well as for smaller, newer, grassroots groups engaging in work on one or more of our priority themes. We are therefore able to consider funding new CSOs groups, including groups who are not registered.

We are especially keen to fund groups from or working with communities directly affected by the priority themes we focus on, including, but not limited to:

- Stigma and discrimination
- LGBTI issues

- Sexual violence
- Young people's groups
- People living with HIV/AIDS

**Funding amount:** Up to 10,000 Euro

**Deadline:** There is no deadline. Applications reviewed the first of the month

For more information and instruction on how to apply, visit: <http://bit.ly/1GplrPH>

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(Accepting Concept Applications) The Conservation, Food & Health Foundation

The foundation supports projects that demonstrate strong local leadership, promote professional development in the conservation, agricultural, and health sciences; develop the capacity of local organizations; and address a particular problem in the field. It prefers to support projects addressing under-funded issues and geographic areas. The average grant is approximately \$20,000. Grants exceeding \$25,000 are rarely awarded.

### **Geographic Focus**

The foundation's geographic focus is the developing world. It prefers to support organizations located in developing countries or to developed country organizations whose activities are of direct and immediate benefit to developing countries. The foundation does not consider the states of the former Soviet Union or former Eastern Bloc countries as within its geographic focus.

### **Eligibility**

The foundation supports most types of non-governmental organizations that can provide evidence of their nongovernmental status or charitable purpose.

In general, the foundation will support:

- Non-governmental organizations (NGO)
- Nonprofit organizations
- Civil society organizations
- Community-based organizations
- Colleges, universities and academic institutions

The foundation does not support businesses, government agencies, humanitarian relief organizations other foundations or churches.

### **Deadlines for Grant Round 2**

Concept Application Deadline: 1 July 2015  
Request for Proposal Issued: 1 August 2015  
Proposal Deadline: 3 September 2015  
Grant Awards: 1 December 2015

For more information and instruction on how to apply, visit: <http://bit.ly/1zUL3PC>

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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 weekly emails and via post on a monthly basis. 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)

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