

What do you mean by “Social Enterprise?”

Social enterprise, social entrepreneurship and social innovation are all evolving terms with varying definitions. For the purpose of this competition, a social enterprise:

- can be a for-profit, nonprofit, or hybrid entity
- has a business component that aims to generate income by selling goods or services or works to apply business strategies to address social and/or environmental challenges
- embraces a social or environmental mission that is integrated into the organization’s operations and has an impact within their community, especially focusing on Wisconsin.

How long will the application take to complete?

The application is designed in two phases:

- Phase I is designed to identify those entities that meet the basic eligibility requirements and whose objectives align with the basic goals of the competition, i.e., organizations that are committed to making a positive impact in Wisconsin in the targeted categories, i.e. in the areas delineated in the UN Sustainable Development Goals).
- A select pool of applicants will be invited to complete the Phase II application to select those entities making highly a significant, innovative and sustainable impact in Wisconsin.

What are the award criteria?

Awardees will demonstrate significant impact toward improving lives in Wisconsin and will articulate a sustainable approach with the potential to scale or be replicated other areas of the state and possibly beyond.

Will there be different awards for different sectors?

There are FOUR (4) types of awards this year. At least three awards will be made in the open category (can be to either a non-profit or a for-profit enterprise) based on scoring by the judges. Applicants must be able to identify that their organization addresses at least one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals to be eligible for an award. Multiple awards may be made in the same category.

This year there are three additional special consideration awards open to both for-profit and non-profit social enterprises:

- Pivot due to COVID-19
- Fight for racial equity for Wisconsin's Black, Indigenous and People of Color communities
- Rural prosperity

All of the awards are \$10,000 prizes. For more information on these special consideration prizes, please review the Phase I applications where you'll find a special question for each of these awards.

I am a farmer. Can I apply for the rural prosperity award?

Farmers are certainly welcome to apply if they can identify a part of their operation that addresses the challenges facing Wisconsin's rural communities, e.g. workforce development, training, concerns in their community, environmental sustainability, etc. For additional information or to discuss your particular circumstance, please contact Laura Heisler at laura@warf.org or 608-770-4134.

Will there be an honorable mention category this year?

Honorable mention awards will be made at the judges' discretion and pending sufficient funds. Any honorable mention awards will be announced at the spring Force for Positive Change event.

What constitutes a base of operations in Wisconsin?

At least one of the following

- Bricks and mortar operation in Wisconsin
- A full-time equivalent (FTE) employee with a Wisconsin residence

Will there be an interview as part of the application process?

Yes, Phase II applicants will be invited for an in-person or teleconference interview and will be welcome to identify the most appropriate personnel from their organization to participate.

What is the background of the judges?

A panel of judges comprised of experts from the for-profit, nonprofit and academic sectors, as well as investors and granting organizations will review each application.