SEED Scoring Rubric

The following are the review criteria the review team will use to score each grant application the Strategic Economic Expansion and Development (SEED) Grant. Each grant will be rated based on the criteria listed and given a score out of one hundred.

	Exemplary	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Needs Improvement	Insufficient Evidence
(1) Quality of Life **20 Points Possible**	Detailed and tangible project that will improve living standards and establish more attractive and compelling places for residents and visitors. (18-20 Points)	Somewhat detailed and tangible project that improves living standards or establish more attractive and compelling places for residents and visitors. (15-17 Points)	Basic project overview provided but unclear strategy for how this project will impact quality of life or make more attractive and compelling places for residents and visitors. (11-14 Points)	Limited or unclear description of the project with missing or vague information. (6-10 Points)	Little to no information about the impact on quality-of-life improvements. (0-5 Points)
(2) Community Led Improvements **20 Points Possible**	A compelling and well-detailed narrative that clearly outlines the action steps and people involved in the project. The narrative shows a strong understanding of the community needs, and the project will include targeted impactful investments. (18-20 Points)	The narrative provides a clear outline of actions steps and people involved in the project with minor gaps in detail. There are a reasonable understanding of community needs and the project includes solves majority of these challenges. (15-17 Points)	The narrative identifies basic action steps and lists some of the people involved but lacks detail or depth. There's a fair understanding of the community needs, and the project solves some of these challenges. (11-14 Points)	The narrative is unclear or incomplete in identifying action steps and people involved with significant gaps in how these will be addressed. There's an incomplete understanding of the community needs and the project doesn't address these needs clearly. (6-10 Points)	Little to no information is provided on the action steps and people involved with the project. There's no acknowledgement of the community needs and the project does not solve these challenges. (0-5 Points)

Commented [A[1]: Would think about how to have more broad point ranges. I would think it might be hard to decide if something deserves 19-20 pts or 17-18. The range above is a bit easier.

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SEED Scoring Rubric

(3) Economic Revitalization **15 Points Possible**	The application provides a clear and well-justified explanation of the potential to stimulate economic development and spur long-term rural prosperity. Project helps the community be a sustainable place to live and work. (15 Points)	Good description of economic impact is somewhat evident but could be further refined. (9 Points)	The narrative adequately describes the economic impact but lacks innovation or clear market differentiation. (8 Points)	The description is unclear or lacks sufficient detail, making it difficult to understand the impact of the project(s). (6-7 Points)	No clear description or narrative provided regarding the impact of the project(s). (0-5 Points)
(4) Capacity **10 Points Possible**	The organization demonstrates strong institutional capacity with dedicated project staff, a well-established track record (3+ years), and recent experience managing state or federal funds without audit issues or defaults. A clear plan is in place to expand capacity through both staff and volunteer engagement. (10 Points)	The organization shows solid potential with part-time staff assigned to the project and some prior grant management experience. While the organization is relatively new, it has avoided audit findings or defaults and plans to build capacity through additional staff. (9 Points)	The organization is emerging, with multiple contacts identified for the project and limited prior grant experience. While audit and financial histories are unclear, a basic plan for capacity growth is in place, though community involvement appears minimal. (8 Points)	The organization lacks clear project leadership and has not yet established itself formally. It has no recent grant management experience and a limited or problematic financial history. Plans for capacity development are either vague or absent. (6-7)	The application lacks the necessary information to assess organizational capacity or past grant performance. More detail is required to evaluate readiness and growth potential. (0-5)

SEED Scoring Rubric

(5) Funding Need **10 Points Possible**	A compelling and well-detailed narrative that clearly outlines the specific project funding need. (10 Points)	The narrative provides a clear outline of project funding need with minor gaps in detail. (8-9 Points)	The narrative identifies basic project funding need but lacks detail or depth. (5-7 Points)	The narrative is unclear or incomplete in identifying project funding need. (2-4 Points)	Little to no information is provided on the project funding need. (0-1 Points)
(6) Project Timeline with Milestones **10 Points Possible**	A comprehensive and highly detailed project timeline with specific, measurable milestones. Clear deadlines are provided, and the timeline demonstrates a strong likelihood of successful completion. (10 Points)	Well-developed project timeline with specific milestones. A few areas may need further clarification or adjustment, but overall, the timeline is solid. (9 Points)	The timeline is sufficient with basic milestones but lacks detail or specificity. The likelihood of successful project completion is adequate. (8 Points)	The timeline is vague or incomplete, with few specific milestones, making it difficult to assess the likelihood of successful completion. (6-7 Points)	No project timeline or milestones are provided. (0-5 Points)
(7) Project Budget **10 Points Possible**	Highly detailed budget that is comprehensive, realistic, and aligned with project goals. Clear justification of all budget items. (10 Points)	A detailed budget that is mostly realistic and aligned with project goals. Some minor gaps in justification. (9 Points)	Basic budget provided with sufficient alignment to project goals but lacking detail or justification for some items. (8 Points)	Incomplete or unrealistic budget with significant gaps in alignment to project goals or lack of justification. (6-7 Points)	No budget provided or the budget is severely lacking in detail and justification. (0-5 Points)
(8) Technical Components **5 Points Possible**	Well-documented photos and applicable attachments that provide clear support for the project narrative. (5 Points)	Photos and applicable attachments that provide clear support for the project narrative with minor gaps in detail. (4 Points)	Photos and attachments lack detail and correlation to the project narrative. (3 Points)	Little to no information provided regarding photos or supporting documents. (2 Points)	Missing photos and applicable documents. (0-1 Points)

SEED Scoring Rubric

Total: 100 Points Possible					

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