FASTER FORWARD FUND

Accelerating the Theory, Practice & Profession of Evaluation

RoE TIG Presentation, January 28, 2021
Sarah Mason

The Faster Forward Fund
accelerating the theory, practice, and profession of evaluation

ORIGINS

The Faster Forward Fund
accelerating the theory, practice, and profession of evaluation
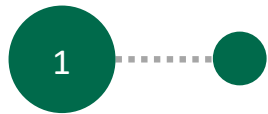
Founded and led by Dr. Michael Scriven

- For purpose of accelerating (not merely advancing) the theory and practice of evaluation

- Personal funds

- Donor Advised Fund, under Marin Community Foundation

FUNDING AVENUES

Small grants

3F Fellowship

Critical Thinking Fellowship

The Faster Forward Fund
accelerating the theory, practice, and profession of evaluation

PURPOSE

1 ····· Develop ideas that show promise for ***accelerating evaluation*** theory, practice & the profession

The Faster Forward Fund
accelerating the theory, practice, and profession of evaluation

PURPOSE

1 Develop ideas that show promise for ***accelerating evaluation*** theory, practice & the profession

2 Support '***long shot***' ideas that sit outside traditional research paradigms

The Faster Forward Fund
accelerating the theory, practice, and profession of evaluation

PURPOSE

1 ....● Develop ideas that show promise for ***accelerating evaluation*** theory, practice & the profession

2 ....● Support '***long shot***' ideas that sit outside traditional research paradigms

3 ....● Give weight to ideas that show signs of substantially benefiting people with ***serious unmet needs***

The Faster Forward Fund
accelerating the theory, practice, and profession of evaluation

PRIORITY: MAVERICK IDEAS

PRIORITY TOPIC(S)

"The current weak spot is the place where fundamental assumptions are challenged. That's not something that has much popular appeal."

*Michael Scriven—yesterday

The Faster Forward Fund
accelerating the theory, practice, and profession of evaluation

PRIORITY TOPIC—EXAMPLE

- Strategies for encouraging meta-evaluation

- General positive bias in evaluations

- Especially interested in critiques of evaluation look at ways to handle positive bias

*Michael Scriven—yesterday

The Faster Forward Fund
accelerating the theory, practice, and profession of evaluation

EXAMPLE: POST PROJECT EVALUATION

Building the Evidence Base for Post-Project Evaluation

Fewer than 1% of international development projects are evaluated after they end.This project explored the potential value-add of post-project evaluation through a review of eight projects with end of project and post-project evaluations. It found that post-project evaluations can contribute to better understanding of sustainability, but can also identify unexpected outcomes years after projects close. Checklists to(1) help prepare for post-project evaluation, and (2) measure sustainability throughout the project cycle were also developed.

The Faster Forward Fund
accelerating the theory, practice, and profession of evaluation

EXAMPLE: CHALLENGING ASSUMPTIONS

Guiding Principles for HIV Advocacy in Evaluation

This project challenges the assumption that advocacy evaluation methods can be universally applied.

It pursued this goal through a series of research studies exploring the ways in which Buddhist and Confucian worldviews can inform (and perhaps offer modifications to) a range of evaluation methods. Studies led to a number of academic publications.

The Faster Forward Fund
accelerating the theory, practice, and profession of evaluation

PRACTICALITIES

Small grants

Max. 10% indirect

501 (c) 3

Rolling submission

The Faster Forward Fund
accelerating the theory, practice, and profession of evaluation
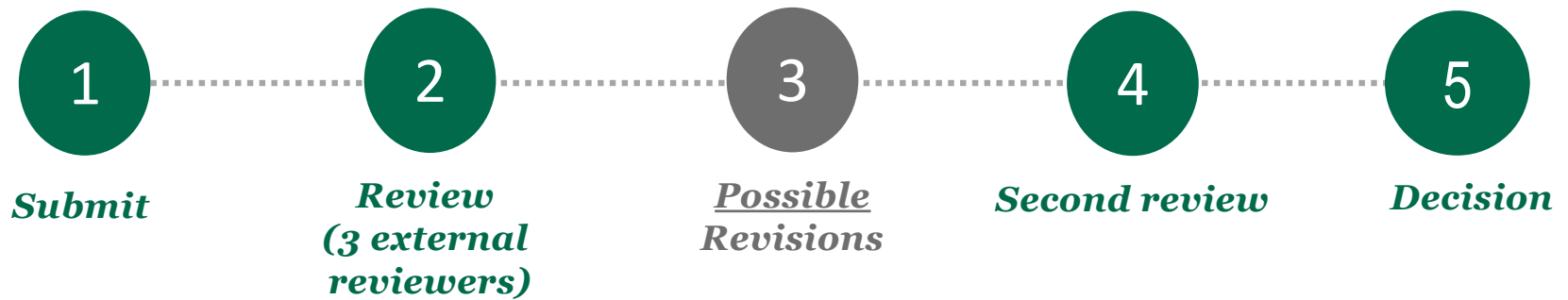
PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS

Submit via email to fasterforwardfund@gmail.com

- *Title*
- *Contact details*
- *Proposed project*
- *Timeline*

- *Indicators*
- *Rationale*
- *Feasibility & importance*
- *Budget*
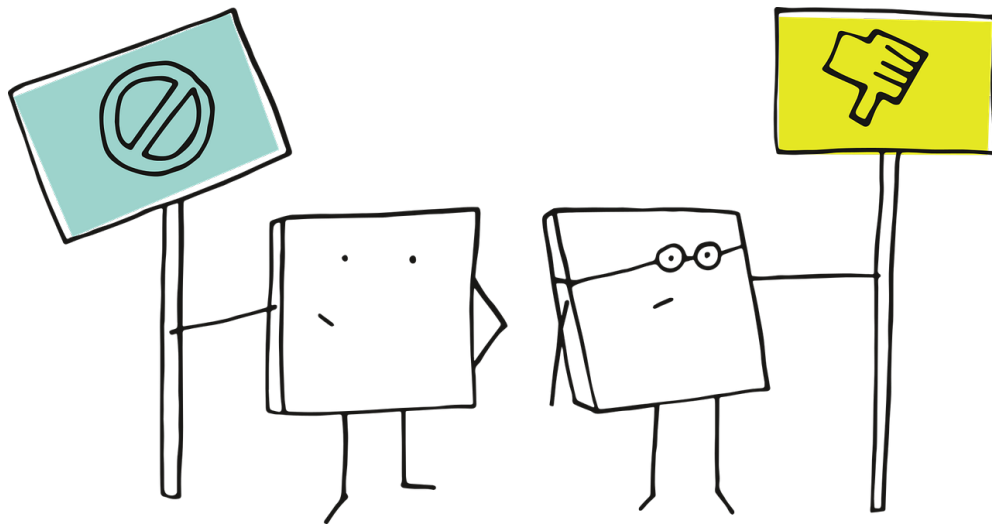- *Bios*

More details: www.fasterforwardfund.org

The Faster Forward Fund
accelerating the theory, practice, and profession of evaluation

PROCESS

1 ······ **2** ······ **3** ······ **4** ······ **5**

Submit

Review (3 external reviewers)

Possible Revisions

Second review

Decision

The Faster Forward Fund
accelerating the theory, practice, and profession of evaluation

CRITERIA

Fit 3F target area

Originality

Intellectual importance

Social importance

Value for needy people

The Faster Forward Fund
accelerating the theory, practice, and profession of evaluation

BECOME A REVIEWER!

We'd like to expand our network of reviewers!

Fill out this EoI if you're interested:
https://forms.gle/fX6fRHdqLEHK6PBU9

*will provide link to RoE leaders

The Faster Forward Fund
accelerating the theory, practice, and profession of evaluation

IDEAS ON WHAT TO FUND?
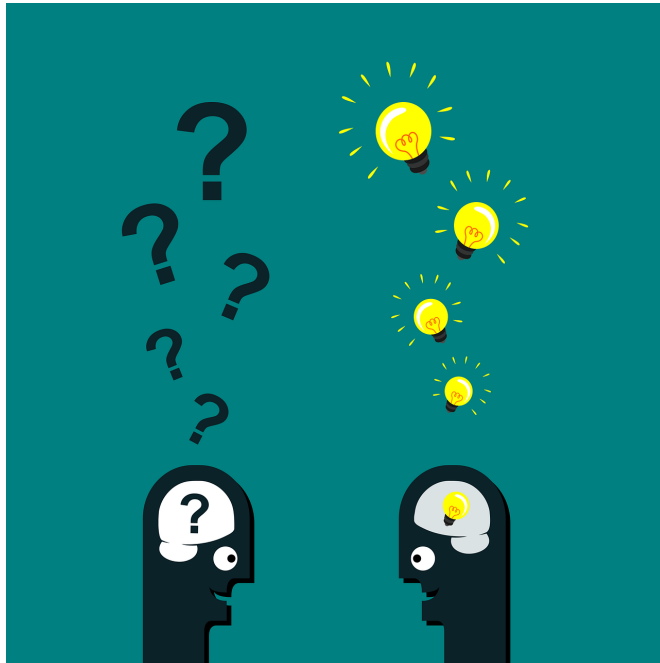
Michael is also interested in ideas about what should be funded—even if you don't want to submit a proposal yourself.

Send ideas t:o
fasterforwardfund@gmail.com

The Faster Forward Fund
accelerating the theory, practice, and profession of evaluation

3F FELLOWSHIP

Awarded to evaluation students whose ideas offer potential to accelerate the theory and practice of evaluation. *Awarded on the basis of an essay.*

The Faster Forward Fund
accelerating the theory, practice, and profession of evaluation

PRACTICALITIES

$2,000

2000-5000 words

Evaluation-related

Oct. 30th

FT student

1 eval class

The Faster Forward Fund
accelerating the theory, practice, and profession of evaluation

CRITICAL THINKING FELLOWSHIP

Open to all; focus is on ideas that have potential to advance the discipline of critical thinking. *Awarded on the basis of an essay.*

The Faster Forward Fund
accelerating the theory, practice, and profession of evaluation

Contact:

fasterforwardfund@gmail.com

More information

www.fasterforwardfund.org

The Faster Forward Fund
accelerating the theory, practice, and profession of evaluation