

Dallas Social Venture Partners (DSVP) 2009 Investment Program *Guidelines*

Who We Are

DSVP was launched in March of 2000 for the purpose of bringing the venture capital approach of investing in long-term solutions to some of the social challenges found in North Texas. The Partnership has selected at-risk children's issues and education as our current priorities.

Venture – or engaged philanthropy – borrows from venture capital as the “Investor” (DSVP) makes highly engaged “Investments” (grants) of money, time and business expertise in “Investees” (nonprofits) in order to help develop the long term capacity and sustainability of those nonprofit organizations.

We seek to invest in nonprofits that may benefit from a multi-year relationship with DSVP, including hands-on involvement by individual DSVP Partners. Determining how organizations intend to leverage Partner skills is an important element in the investment review process.

Partners have expertise in the following areas:

- Strategic Planning
- Board Development and Governance
- Human Resources and Leadership Development
- Outcomes and Program Evaluation
- Finance and Accounting
- Marketing, Communications, Public Relations
- Information Technology

What We Are Looking For

DSVP launches promising nonprofits on a path to greater success. We seek growth-minded nonprofits that desire transformation and present opportunities where DSVP can make the largest and longest term impact. DSVP actively provides capacity-building services with the organizations we fund; supports capacity building through general operating fund contributions; and typically plans for a 4-5 year life cycle of engagement. The grants will range in size depending on the agency's budget, goals and progress after the initial year of funding, but we anticipate providing as much as \$150,000 over a 4-5 year engagement. We define success as helping an investee achieve sustainability and grow their capacity to serve their community.

Additional guiding principles for investment selection:

- DSVP funds organizations focused on at-risk children (infants to age 18) and/or education in North Texas (Dallas, Tarrant and Collin Counties)
- DSVP supports innovative programs that
 - Address the root causes of problems to bring about lasting change for the individuals served
 - Are scalable solutions
 - Work to measure the effectiveness of the agencies we select
- We typically work with smaller 501(c)(3) nonprofits (often with annual budgets of \$1 million or less)
- Ideal organizations have operated programs serving at least 50 clients for at least one year where:
 - The current Executive Director has been in place for at least one year
 - The Board of Directors of the nonprofit is supportive of DSVP's involvement
 - Collaboration with other organizations is encouraged, allowing for broad-based community involvement