Overview:

The QF Social Enterprise Fellowship is a program of the Barton Institute for Philanthropy and Social Enterprise at the University of Denver. The Fellowship brings together an interdisciplinary group of twelve DU graduate students from eight different fields of study to take action on social and economic challenges through social enterprise, with a focus on improving the lives of people in Colorado facing challenges in their communities. The Fellowship is funded through a partnership with the Quarterly Forum (QF).

Opportunity:

The Barton Institute invites social sector organizations, businesses, and funders/investors working with social enterprises to consider applying to host a team of two Social Enterprise Fellows for a field experience that would be comprised of approximately ten hours per week (x two fellows = 20 hours/week of effort) for five months from January – May 2019.

An important goal of the field experience is to expose Barton Fellows to the management and strategic challenges of social enterprises. Host organizations will benefit from the skills and capabilities of the Fellows, while the Fellows will benefit from applying their knowledge and expertise in a real-world setting. The Fellows are paid through a stipend from the Barton Institute. Projects will be structured as a consulting project with a specific work plan and concrete deliverables to the host organization as client, with Barton Institute staff providing support and oversight.

Requirements:

Host organizations can request a team of Fellows by proposing a defined project that could benefit from the Fellows’ energy and expertise. Projects may range from time-limited activities, such as conceiving and launching a new product line, to ongoing efforts such as developing and conducting evaluations of financial and programmatic impact. (See below for examples of projects.)

Host organizations must also provide:

- A primary supervisor to launch and oversee the work of the Fellows; this individual must be available to meet with the Fellows weekly and to provide professional guidance to them in their project
- Space in which Fellows can work and technology to assist them, if necessary
- Access to professional development and networking opportunities for the Fellows
Other Guidelines:

- The project must be located in the Metro Denver area (Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Elbert, Douglas or Jefferson counties), but could serve people outside of this area.
- The project should have a specific outcome that will improve the performance of the organization and eventually improve its social impact.
- There should a specific target audience and concrete deliverable that completed within the five-month period.
- The board or leadership of the organization must be fully aware of and approve the project plan.
- The following types of projects will not be considered:
  - Projects that are politically partisan or religious in nature
  - Projects solely aimed at event planning
  - Projects that are administrative in nature
  - Projects with fundraising as a primary purpose, though projects may include researching capital sources and their implications for a social enterprise

Examples of Projects:

The following are examples of the types of projects that might prove to be a good fit for a team of Social Enterprise Fellows:

- Conducting research about potential markets and strengthening marketing strategies
- Improving internal information systems measuring social and financial performance to inform strategy
- Developing or enhancing business plans for effective operation of a social enterprise
- Researching shifts in customers and changing markets and their impact on the social enterprise
- Evaluating market potential or growth/expansion strategy for a proposed social enterprise, including exploration of capital and funding sources

Visit our website for stories about past Fellows projects. Your specific project description and clear objectives will help us match your organization with Fellows who have the skills and interests that will accomplish your goals.

Process:

Host organizations submit proposals and a committee assembled by the Barton Institute reviews the proposals and narrows to a group of twelve finalists. Those organizations will be vetted by the Fellows themselves, and will be invited to a pitch session with the Fellows. At the end of the session, the Fellows will submit rankings, requesting the perceived best matches for their skills and interests. Using this information, projects will be selected and Fellows assigned.

This is likely to be a highly competitive process and the interests and skills and experience of the Fellows will significantly influence the selection process, so that selected projects will have the best project outcomes for both Fellows and host organizations.
Proposal Guidelines:

To apply to host a team of Social Enterprise Fellows, please submit a proposal of no longer than three (3) pages with the following components.

1. Mission/Purpose of Organization/Business
2. Description of Organization’s work and social/financial impact (1-2 paragraphs)
3. Project Description answering the following questions:
   a. What is the Project?
   b. How does the Project fit within the work of the Organization?
   c. How and why is this Project related to a social enterprise?
   d. If successful, what will the outcomes of the Project be?
   e. What role will the Fellows play in achieving these outcomes?
   f. What type of expertise would you like to have among the Fellows who work on your project?
   g. Who will serve as supervisor of the Fellows in their work on the Project?
4. Attachments (not included in the three-page limit): Please attach materials to the proposal that tell the story of your organization and its work. These materials could include links to websites, annual reports, brochures, videos, etc.

Timeline:

- Deadline for proposals: October 1, 2018, 5:00 p.m.
- Semi-finalists selected by committee: October 15, 2018
- Finalists selected by Fellows: October 22, 2018
- Finalists make presentations and meet Fellows: Week of October 22
- Projects selected: October 29, 2018
- Introductory meetings of Projects and Fellows: November, 2018
- Fellows begin work on Projects: Week of January 7, 2019
- Project ends by: June 1, 2019

Submission of Proposal:

Please submit your proposal via an attachment to email by 5 p.m. on Monday, October 1st to:

Tanya Salih
Program Coordinator
Barton Institute for Philanthropy and Social Enterprise
Tanya.salih@du.edu

You will receive an email notifying you of receipt of your proposal. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please contact Tanya at 303.871.6299.

If you have questions while preparing your proposal, please contact Rebecca Arno, Rebecca.arno@du.edu or 303.871.6090.