



Research Opportunity: Request for Information Physical, Digital, and Social Infrastructure ROI

[Siegel Family Endowment](#) (SFE) is seeking a research consultant (individual or organization) to undertake a time-bound (approximately 4-6 months) project together with SFE to develop a conceptual framework for measuring the return on investment (ROI) for public investments in infrastructure across physical, digital, and social dimensions.

Background/Context

In late 2020, SFE released a whitepaper titled “[Building the World We Deserve](#).” This report introduced a framework for understanding investments in physical, social, and digital infrastructure. From the whitepaper:

A new understanding of physical, social, and digital infrastructure that recognizes the unity and interdependence of these three dimensions. Any decision or change in one dimension of infrastructure must consider the other two dimensions in equal measure. By doing this, we can design and maintain infrastructure that’s responsive, resilient, and cost-effective and creates further opportunities for society.

The research consultant will work closely with SFE to produce a report and associated materials to answer the following question:

How does the recognition of the unity and interdependence of these three dimensions create further opportunities for society, and how do we measure the impact and return on investment?

We aim to have the research:

- Define in measurable ways how these investments “create further opportunities” (expand on Section 1 from the whitepaper).
- Use established methodologies to link impact to monetized and other returns.
- Outline a conceptual framework for the measurement of ROI, potentially including one or more examples/case studies.

(Tentative) Deliverables + approximate timeline. Throughout the engagement, the research consultant will be expected to meet with the SVP & Head of Research and SFE team on a regular basis

- Week 1-4: Take meetings with SFE team for project onboarding

- By Week 5: Literature review (not for publication)
- By Week 7 and after completion of the final report: 2 Meeting summaries (see below)
- Weeks 12 and 16: Final report draft and final (approx 20-30 pages) with executive summary
- Weeks 16-24: Draft of 2-3 shorter articles (1-2 pages each) to be co authored with SFE staff.

In addition, the research consultant will work with SFE to plan and participate in 2 public events (one aimed at soliciting ideas, and a second to share findings.)

Qualifications

- Excellent writing skills,
- Expertise or experience in one or more of the infrastructure dimensions (physical, digital, social) and/or social impact concepts/measurement,
- Familiarity with relevant research literature and methodologies,
- Willingness to collaborate with SFE and outside experts,
- Advanced degree in a relevant field.

Timing

We anticipate that the work would be conducted primarily in Q2 and early Q3, with a scheduled final report to be released in late Q3.

Funding

Funding support will be provided by SFE.

Authorship/Branding

The research consultant will be acknowledged as the primary author of the report. SFE will be the primary publisher (though we are also open to co-branding with the researcher's home institution, if applicable).

Process

1. To indicate your interest, please complete [this form](#) by no later than **April 16, 2021**.
2. SFE will contact qualified applicants to further discuss the project and answer questions no later than April 30, 2021.
3. Final scope of work and funding arrangements will be developed prior to a final agreement.

About Siegel Family Endowment

We are a foundation focused on understanding and shaping the impact of technology on society.

Siegel Family Endowment employs an inquiry-driven approach to grant making that is informed by the scientific method, and predicated on the belief that philanthropy is uniquely positioned to address some of the most pressing and complex issues facing society today. Our grant making strategy supports organizations doing work at the intersection of learning, workforce, and infrastructure, and is designed to help build a world in which all people have the tools, skills, and context necessary to engage meaningfully in a rapidly changing society. Siegel Family Endowment was founded in 2011 by David M. Siegel, co-founder and co-chairman of financial sciences company Two Sigma.