

Egalitarian Intentional Community Funding Framework

EICFF 1.1

(By Thomas Cal - November 2018)

Introduction:

The purpose of this document is to define a framework that outlines a funds distribution model by which currency that has been gifted or invested in to a community is shared transparently and equally amongst its members in the form of a UBI (**Universal Basic Income**). The framework is as fair as possible and is intended to prevent the possibility of discrimination, corruption, loss of trust and division which can arise once money is involved in intentional communities. Its goals are to provide the funder/s with some accountability and attract people who are interested in transition projects that solve real world problems rather than personal self gain.

Framework Tenants

1. **Respect of entropy:** members are given funding inclusion under a framework that respects their time and energy inputs. (see social ties under the funding dynamics section)
2. **Respect of equality:** members are treated equally with respect to currency allocation regardless of age, gender, race or intellect.
3. **Respect of transparency:** The members currency distribution and records are made transparent to all parties involved, no common accounts or intermediary entities are permitted. (see more in funding dynamics).
4. **Respect of natural law economy:** currency allocation is capped at an amount which covers basic needs and distributed over time. Ideally members should have enough to volunteer or pool their income for common community resources with the aim of creating independent regenerative systems that require less need for currency. (see UBI funds allocation)

UBI Funds Allocation

All members of the community would receive an **equal monthly** UBI. which is a base amount to live on. The amount is equal regardless of whether you are resident or non-resident in the community base and qualify under the social ties. The UBI should be determined according to the living requirements of the community base bioregion. Enough to cover food/utilities/transport and contributions to common community assets.

Distribution algorithm options

1. UBI is distributed evenly to members over a monthly time frames with no greater than one year of advanced pledges (see smart contract tools) .

2. The UBI decays each month a certain percentage according to the total available against of function of time

Funding Dynamics and Community Members

In this model, funders gift to an auto-distributed pool which transfers currency equally to all members of the community or project. The minimum number of people to be regarded as a project/community is 4. This framework does not apply to groups with less than 4 people. A funder has the freedom to terminate donations at anytime from the beginning of the subsequent calendar month.

Only individuals can hold currency and as such all common resources for the community must involve the individuals volunteering from their sovereign accounts.

For new communities with funding available, generally a 1-2 month onboarding period in which the individual is working and living in the community is expected before they can request funding inclusion with a UBI. Each member must be accepted through a community consensus process.

Once a new member enters into the community he/she cannot be denied a UBI share for the duration of one year, unless they terminate their position in the community, are expelled for violence or because funds have been exhausted. Annually the community will use a consensus mechanism / community tools to decide which people should continue as members for the starting new year

For communities that began with volunteers and later received funding, the social ties mechanism offers those members a UBI for a least 6 months based on the time and energy they have volunteered to the community whether they are still a resident member or not. The social ties mechanism is detailed below. A minimum of **at least two ties** should be shown. Ties:

1. **Physical presence tie:** the person has been physically present in a community base for more than 9 months (250 days) in total out of the previous 3 year period.
2. **Work tie:** the person has submitted sufficient valued work that equates to 500 hours in time (or 125 days). The definition of work would need to be clarified but could include physical tasks like cooking, permaculture and mental/intellectual tasks like programming, mapping, networking etc. The work tie equates to a maximum of 4 hours a day and must be achieved within a 1 year period.
3. **Community host/donation tie:** a person that donates in excess of two years (of an individual's) UBI to the community within a three year period or provides the equivalent in hosting for the community.
4. **Transition project tie:** a person/s that brought in a valuable project to the community that has intrinsic material or novelty value and is in-line with the communities ethos. The tie should be awarded through the democratic consensus of members.

Community Base/Hub

The physical locations where most members of the community are present.

Community funder participation and feedback

The person/s funding the community are aware of the **EICFF** framework and while they may be interested in a specific transition project, they accept that there is a community behind the work and the funds they provide are unconditional/gifted and go equally to all community members. A funder enters into contract under this framework and agrees to abide by its terms. In return for their gifted funds they are entitled to progress information presented at the quarterly (3-4 month) review meetings, along with an annual review meeting for continued funding. Funders can also make agreements with the community to receive a percentage on the commercialisation of any community project, but its clarified this is not a capitalist business and no expectations in time or capital return can be guaranteed.

Consensus decision making and community tools

Various open source community tools are in development to aid intentional communities in creating structure, decision making and transparent equal funds distribution:

- Liquid Democracy for voting and decision making (Decentralised app)
- Transparent funds distribution system (decentralised app)

The tools are designed to be resilient against corruption and manipulation and prevent the formation of unhealthy power hierarchies

References

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intentional_community