TEMPLETON WORLD
CHARITY FOUNDATION

Character Virtue Development
Funding Category Guidelines

The concept of character development refers to the acquisition of learned and learnable attributes, skills, or habits which enable individuals to live better, more fulfilling, and prosperous lives. The study and practice of character also overlaps and intersects with notions of virtues, habits, character skills, soft skills, capabilities, and non-cognitive skills as encountered in diverse fields of study.

Examples of potential character strengths include: appreciation of beauty, awe, beneficial purpose, citizenship, compassion, creativity, curiosity, diligence, empathy, entrepreneurship, forgiveness, future-mindedness, generosity, gratitude, honesty, hope, humility, humor, integrity, joy, kindness, love, optimism, perseverance, reliability, responsibility, self-regulation, selflessness, social responsibility, thrift, and wisdom.

The foundation also strongly encourages applications with new thinking on character strengths not specifically identified here. Nonetheless it is important to note that character strengths all have a basis in individual moral and ethical action that can lead to personal and societal flourishing in all its dimensions (physical, economic, mental, and spiritual). To this end, we are specifically interested in proposals which do the following:

- Focus on identification and promotion of culturally important character strengths;
- Aim to transform values and attitudes so that a group of people or society as a whole espouse, promote, and practice positive character development;
- Evaluate the contribution of character strengths to social functioning, educational achievement, economic status, health, etc.;
- Analyze the impact on an individual of voluntarily engaging in programs and interventions that seek to serve and benefit others;
- Consider the climate of current moral belief and practice among targeted audiences and the environmental and/or social factors that strengthen or diminish critical character strengths;
- Focus on the promotion and fostering of positive character strengths (i.e. virtues) rather than on the mitigation of negative traits (vices) or on immoral or unethical behaviour;

- Emphasize the merits of a particular character strength;
- Explore how the practice or presence of one character strength relates to the presence or practice of another in an individual;
- Engage beneficiaries, including youth, in project design, implementation and evaluation;
- Utilize inherent social infrastructure and networks to reach scale and sustainability.

Proposals may target individuals from infancy through to adulthood and be delivered through a diversity of platforms (schools, voluntary associations, private sector, religious communities, sports clubs, peers, parents & family members). Overall, we aim to build a global capacity for research and implementation of character development initiatives.