Would you like to apply or nominate a social entrepreneur to become an Ashoka Fellow?

This checklist will help you identify any areas that may need strengthening before starting the application process to become an Ashoka Fellow.

Step 1: Make sure you meet the basic eligibility requirements

☐ The initiative is legally established as a nonprofit[1] entity or as a hybrid model where funds are reinvested in the social mission, and has been legally operating for at least 3 years.

☐ The initiative has shown significant progress and positive impact backed by quantifiable data, indicating it is ready to be scaled or replicated with the right support.

☐ The applicant or nominee is the founder of the initiative.

☐ The applicant or nominee works full-time on the initiative or plans to do so upon joining the Ashoka Fellows Network.

Step 2: Review Ashoka's 5 Key Criteria

1. New Idea

☐ Is your solution innovative and different from existing ones at a national or regional level?

☐ Does your innovation offer a more effective, sustainable, or fair vision for addressing the problem you are tackling?

☐ Are you implementing new methods, dynamics, or transformative outcomes in your field?

Note: It is essential that you can demonstrate how your initiative offers a new idea distinct from current solutions, as this is a key criterion for moving forward in the process. To compare your proposal with other innovative solutions, you can explore our network of Fellows on our website through this link.

2. Social Impact

☐ Does your project have the potential to be scaled or replicated at a regional or global level in the next 10 years?

☐ Does your solution address the root causes of the problem and create fundamental change in the sector or system related to your area?

☐ Have you formed or are you forming networks to help replicate and scale the impact of your initiative?

☐ Through your initiative, are you strengthening the capacity of the groups you work with to address and solve the issue (generating changemaking)?

☐ Do you have a system to measure and evaluate the impact of your solution, and can you share that information?

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1. The most common types of nonprofit legal entities are: Civil Association, Civil Society, Private Assistance Institution, Foundation, and Authorized Donees.

3. **Creativity**

☐ Do you have the ability to identify opportunities in uncertain contexts or highly complex situations?

☐ Does your approach creatively involve other people and institutions, assigning new roles that enhance and expand the impact?

4. **Entrepreneurial Quality**

☐ Since your youth, have you demonstrated determination, courage, and dynamism in developing and leading your solution?

☐ Do you empower more people as changemakers within your community or sector?

☐ Even if you don't have a fully defined growth plan, do you have a clear vision of how you could scale your impact in the future?

5. **Ethical fiber**

☐ Are you able to clearly demonstrate your reliability and commitment to strong ethical principles?

☐ Have you built trust within your environment and promoted large-scale social change?

☐ Are you deeply committed to the common good and handle ethical dilemmas responsibly?

Step 3: Learn and prepare everything needed for the selection process

☐ Do you have enough time and resources to participate in a selection process that lasts between 8 and 12 months?

☐ Are you able to share additional information about your project, participate in field visits, interviews, and workshops if you advance in the process?

☐ Are you open to using this process as an opportunity to deepen the systemic impact of your work?

Step 4: Additional Considerations

☐ Has your project been evaluated locally and internationally by experts, and do you feel it can stand out in a high-level selection panel?

☐ Are you interested in joining an international network of social entrepreneurs and leveraging the leadership opportunities offered by the Ashoka Fellows Network?

If you've checked most of the boxes, you likely have a strong chance of success in applying or nominating a social entrepreneur for the Ashoka program.