



SMEFUNDS Graduate Fellowship Program: OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

Adopt a Small Business Program Description and Benefits

More about SMEFUNDS

SMEFUNDS is an International Non Profit Organization fighting to end poverty through the promotion of sustainable enterprise development in Africa. SMEFUNDS promotes the creation of sustainable new business ventures; to encourage poor people typically from disadvantaged backgrounds to get involved in enterprise. The way we do this is not through Grants, Handouts or Lectures but through real world support and investing in start-up and early stage businesses as they grow and become economically viable, self sustaining and profitable.

Adopt a Small Business Objective: Access to Finance for the small and medium sized enterprise sector:

In Africa, better options to excel in business is only available to the Rich, well established companies have better access to business capital to grow while SMEs are left with little access to the link timely business capital.

Small and medium sized businesses (smes) account for over 80% of the national GDP in African countries yet are facing their biggest challenge as a result of lack of capital to grow or expand businesses, obsolete machinery breed mediocrity and harsh economic situation breed desperation. Less than 1% of these populations have access to timely capital for business growth which has now worsen the face of today's global economic situation.

Adopt a small business project is a bottom of the Pyramid (BOP) funding movement which combines the established traditional participation, collaboration, interactive culture of people and the internet. This model seeks to match local entrepreneurs eking out living with alternative source of funding to grow their business.

Big and well established businesses can create economic opportunity for individual entrepreneur or enterprise by setting aside SMEFUNDS in form of small loans directly targeting the growth opportunities in their sector. Creating a more socially conscious world where every individual has a part to play to help save the "missing link" of our economy.

"We believe with this mechanism in place and coupled with the emergence and proliferation of small scale businesses, our economy will take a higher gear towards prosperity and happiness" Femi Oye said.

A number of challenges exist that keep the poor down;

- Unequal distribution of wealth and resources.
- Rule of Law
- A complex, bureaucratic & corrupt business environment
- A near or total lack of financing from local banks
- Difficulty obtaining necessary technical assistance

These have created widened gap between the upper and lower sector of the economy where the Rich keep getting Richer and Poor is becoming poorer.
Outcome/Impact
A major key indicator we look out for is within 18 months, provided start ups capital and technical supports for 2 million entrepreneurs with the capacity to set up quality micro scale business, employ up to 10 other people, and manage their business intelligently in a way that sustains the business beyond their lifetimes.
Wide spread of strong economic development is expected in less than 1 year as a percentage of their profit could be passed to take these missing link out of poverty.
Other outcomes are measured around;
Impact on Entrepreneurs: Measures the rate at which a sector of a target region attains a self sustainability and escapes poverty.
Collaboration/Institutional Participation: Attain 1,000 endorsements and engagement from the State, Federal Governments and Private institutions within the 1 st year of launch.
Sustainability: Through creation of Products and services, interest is retained thereby leading to adherence of international standards and practices.
Geographical replication of Model: Starting with 180 partners in Nigeria within 12 months and other verified local partners already working with SMEs across other areas we operate.
Benefits/Opportunities
SMEFUNDS Graduate Fellowship Program connects passionate and talented professionals with one of the world's leading social enterprises. Fellows will be provided with small living allowance and will be able to use their unique skills and experiences to contribute in a significant way to our mission of providing Access to Finance for the small and medium sized enterprise. As an organization that strives for excellence and innovation, we are committed to providing our Fellows with a uniquely invigorating, challenging and life- changing experience.
The length of the fellowship will vary from 3 months to 9 months. Fellows will be supervised by one of our senior managers and partner with our diverse team across the countries we operate in.
Fellows will contribute in areas as diverse Involvement in Collaborative partnerships, educational, capacity development, fund raiser activities and formation cooperation's;
a. Form collaboration with various organizations and agencies that are already involved in the area we work. Fellows shall cooperate with various stakeholders; Government, cooperatives, institutions and other organizations working to help achieve a desirable goal.
b. Involved in Management of Online platform where all Adopt a Small business activities are engaged and monitored. Real time information about entrepreneurs would be made available to everyone around the world and

- timely reporting.
- c. Organize advocacy program and educational programs to sensitize and encourage the participation of more institutions in the model.
- d. Measure our progress against the designed plans and outcome set out to achieve.
- e. Administer questionnaire and opinion pool shall be used to consistently check other areas to improve on.
- f. Perform field work and monitoring across the entire areas we work.
- g. Organize fundraisers and networking events.

Who Qualifies

SMEFUNDS is seeking talented professionals who are passionate about SMEFUNDS' mission to develop linkages and alternative access to small business capital to entrepreneurs currently starved with capital to expand. Qualified candidates should have at least a bachelor's degree (graduate degree preferred) and a minimum of 3-5 years of professional experience in a related field. SMEFUNDS expects all fellows to be fully committed to their responsibilities during the program term.

Candidates must be willing to live in the location of their fellowship; remote fellowships are not possible unless specifically stated.

The ideal candidate will also thrive in a fast-paced work environment; have experience working in a diverse, multicultural team; be bilingual or multi-lingual; enjoy new cultures and environments; and be flexible as the needs of the company grow and evolve.

How to Apply

Step One – Written Application

Visit www.smefunds.com to view the Fellowship Positions for which we are recruiting. If you qualify, complete the program application and the fellowship-specific questions. Submit these along with your most recent CV/resume (and, if appropriate, samples of your work) to fellows@smefunds.com on or prior to the application deadline. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

Each Fellowship Position may have different requirements, so please read the position descriptions carefully prior to submission.

Step Two – Interview Process

Qualified applicants will be contacted to schedule an initial interview with the HR Manager or Hiring Manager within 2-3 weeks of the application deadline. Unless you are located in the state of the position, this will most likely be a one on one interview

Step Three – Selection

Candidates who complete the interview process will be notified within 1 week about the status of their application. Selection of Fellows will be based on all components of the application process, including the written application, interviews, and reference checks.

For inquiries or additional information, please contact fellows@smefunds.com.