INITIATE + SUSTAIN CHANGE

At Boston College, we see social innovation and leadership as one way to promote social justice. The GSSW community has an on-going commitment to strengthening social service leadership. We believe that a blend of core management skills, team development, and a focus on social justice can create sustainable social change.

Our new Social Innovation Initiatives are focused on developing innovative and sustainable responses to contemporary social needs. These integrated initiatives blend training, research, and community engagement to address compelling social problems, stimulate innovation among social service leadership, and capitalize on the expertise of social work to use innovation to support social justice.

The initiatives have two primary components:

• The MSW Macro Program—Social Innovation and Leadership Curriculum; Social Innovation Placements; and Student Awards. Specifically, our graduate, masters in social work program focuses on macro skills related to leadership and organizational development, managerial skills, resource development, financial leadership, needs assessment, mobilizing strategic partnerships, and developing and sustaining innovation.

• The COLLABORATIVE—The Social Innovation LAB; Annual Social Innovation Conference; and Awards to Innovative Social Agencies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

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**TRAINING + DEVELOPMENT**

Our Social Innovation LAB helps social service organizations catapult their design thinking into sustainable action steps for social change. The LAB offers a solution-focused experience, training leaders and team members to generate innovative responses to social problems.

Central to the LAB is a series of fast-paced interactions that result in the development and refinement of a solution prototype. Opportunities for personal and organizational growth include:

- Engaging team members in the generation of promising ideas for social innovation.
- Facilitating intensive team interactions to develop core components of social innovation models.
- Supporting and developing leadership skills and capacity for managing social innovation projects and innovation teams.

**KEY COMPONENTS + TIMELINE**

Over five months, from January through May 2011, agency leaders and team members participate in guided, interactive experiences.

- **January 2011**—Identification—Two to four Project Champions from each participating organization diagnose a social problem or opportunity facing the organization.
- **February 2011**—Orientation—Project Champions are briefed and prepared for LAB process.
- **March 2011**—Selection—Project Champions invite six to twelve employees and/or community members to Innovation Team; Innovation Team Orientation.
- **April 2011**—Innovation—Project Champions and Innovation Teams generate innovative responses to identified social issues at Boston College.
- **May 2011**—Celebration—Event revisiting projects and celebrating agency accomplishments; Delivery of a customized summary report with information about your agency’s LAB experience.

**BENEFITS + OPPORTUNITIES**

Participating organizations will:

- Develop one or more custom solution prototypes to address agency responses to social problems.
- Exchange feedback through peer-to-peer consulting and dialogue on sustained change.
- Network in a community of non-profit and human service organization innovators.
- Practice fostering and supporting innovation.
- Provide development and leadership opportunities to team members.
- Receive a customized summary report with information about your agency’s Lab experience.

**COST**

There is no fee associated with participation. The 2011 LAB is fully supported by the Boston College Graduate School of Social Work.

**APPLICATION + PARTICIPATION**

Leaders from social service organizations, NGOs, and public agencies can apply for participation. Organizations will be notified by December 15th regarding their participation in the 2011 LAB.

Apply online at:
http://www.bc.edu/socialinnovationLAB

**CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS**

Social work CEUs will be available.