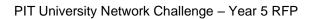# Public Interest Technology University Network Challenge – Year 5
EVALUATION CRITERIA

The below table shows the criteria PIT-UN uses when evaluating proposals. This rubric has two parts:

- The left column has the criteria the proposal reviewers will assess. A winning proposal will demonstrate that your project matches most or all of the description of each criterion.

- The right column has the total number of points (or eligibility status) a proposal can be awarded based on how completely it meets each criterion. PIT-UN will consider proposals with the most possible points.

Application Evaluation Rubric *Application must meet all RFP stated requirements for completion.*	**Evaluation Points**
Partnerships. The project has meaningful and equitable partnerships with one or more of the following entities: ● Other educational institutions in their proposals, including those that are not part of the PIT-UN University Network, in particular Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) as well as two-year, community college institutions ● Other educational institutions, including those that are not part of the PIT-UN University Network, affinity groups, or organizations that focus on non-tech disciplines including, but not limited to, ethnic studies, disabilities studies, history, humanities, and social sciences ● Community organizations that have a specific focus on workforce development and/or creating career pathways for populations currently underrepresented in public service or science, technology, engineering, or math fields. ● Affinity groups or organizations that support academic leadership among communities of color *Meaningful and equitable partnerships may include, but are not limited to:* ● *Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) for internships, apprenticeships, and practica* ● *Articulation agreements* ● *Past collaboration on a previous funding opportunity with letters of support* ● *Documentation of community listening sessions, focus groups, and training sessions*	Up to 15 points

Project Plan. *Proposals for new projects:* The project has clearly defined objectives, a well-designed method, and a process and timeline to achieve its goals; provides an evaluation plan with measurable indicators of success and is feasible and likely to succeed. *Proposals for previously funded projects:* The project has clearly defined objectives, a well-defined method, and a process and timeline to achieve its goals. The project has an evaluation plan with measurable indicators of success and clarity on how it will build upon both accomplishments and lessons it has learned to date.	Up to 10 points
Impact. *Proposals for new projects:* The proposal clearly articulates the rationale for the project. That is, the proposal explains how the project will create meaningful educational offerings or strengthen the career placement pipeline for the field of Public Interest Technology. It will be helpful to list the assumptions the project is making about its work, its prioritized activities, and its intended impact over time. *Proposals for previously funded projects:* The proposal clearly articulates the rationale for continuing the project, what the project has accomplished to date, and how extending the project will generate a meaningful contribution to educational opportunities or career pipeline opportunities in the field of Public Interest Technology. It will be helpful to list the assumptions the project is making about its work, its prioritized activities, and its intended impact in a potential second or third year.	Up to 25 points
Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. - The proposal clearly articulates major barriers to equity and access related to Public Interest Technology and identifies gaps in the workforce pipeline that lead to exclusion of the majority of people of color, women, and people with disabilities in the current tech workforce - The project's objectives and method include a plan to address the articulated barriers and gaps, ensuring that aspects of racial, ethnic, linguistic, and socioeconomic diversity and equity are reflected in the design and reach of the project (i.e., students served) as well as the staffing of the proposed project team - The project team demonstrates the ability to serve ethnically, racially, socioeconomically diverse and underrepresented populations, perhaps supported by an actionable plan to use this funding to engage and serve those populations that is informed by best practices	Up to 35 points
Qualifications & Capacity The proposal clearly articulates that the project team and institution have deep knowledge of the field of Public Interest Technology and/or other fields relevant for the proposed project. The proposal also articulates that the institution has the capacity and resources to support the project.	Up to 10 points

Institutional Support.	Up to 15 points
Proposals for new or previously funded projects requesting up to $90,000 (Tranche 1): The project has demonstrated buy-in from the applicant's university to help sustain the project's impact. For example, the host university can contribute funds, provide support from university leaders, or enable collaboration between departments, faculty, or other university groups. *Proposals for new or previously funded projects requesting $90,001 to $180,000 (Tranche 2):* The project team has secured specific commitments from its university (or universities if part of a collaboration). Such commitments may be in the form of cash contributions (either the value of the effort that university-paid personnel are expending on the project or monies from a university gift, endowment, and/or other unrestricted fund) and/or in-kind support (real property, equipment, supplies and other expendable property, or goods and services). *Proposals for previously funded projects (Tranche 1 or Tranche 2):* The project's institutional plan(s) and related commitments clearly demonstrate the institutionalization of Public Interest Technology within their university.	