



PIONEERS  
OF  
PROSPERITY

## **Pioneers of Prosperity Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is "Pioneers of Prosperity"?**

Pioneers of Prosperity (PoP) is a global awards program that seeks to inspire a new generation of entrepreneurs in emerging economies by identifying, rewarding, and promoting truly outstanding businesses who can serve as role models to their peers.

### **Who can apply for the PoP Award?**

Eligible companies must be based in The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, or Trinidad & Tobago and:

- ❖ Earn US \$100,000 – US \$5,000,000 in revenues per year.
- ❖ Be a for-profit entity.
- ❖ Employ at least 5, but no more than 250, full-time staff.
- ❖ Not rely on other donor grant financing.

### **How will winners be selected?**

Winners will be chosen based on their ability to:

- ❖ Create unique value for customers through innovative products and/or services.
- ❖ Generate a sustainable profit for owners/shareholders commensurate with the risks taken by investing in them.
- ❖ Invest in their employees through training, safe working conditions, and high and rising salaries.
- ❖ Protect the future by strengthening local and global environments and communities.

Pioneers of Prosperity will select quarter-finalists, semi-finalists and finalists based on the firms' ability to meet the award's selection criteria. Finalists and winners will be chosen by an independent panel of judges.

### **What do winners of the PoP Award receive?**

Winners receive grants of up to US \$100,000 to invest in technical infrastructure and training for their companies and are connected to networks of technical expertise, potential investors, and other cutting-edge entrepreneurs on the local, regional, and global level.

### **What does technical infrastructure mean?**

Technical infrastructure includes equipment such as computers, training facilities, and software, as well as training for executives and employees, and strategic planning support. The focus of technical infrastructure is support for a firm's human capital.

**How do I apply? What if our company doesn't have computers / access to the internet, can I send my application in the mail or fax it to you?**

It is strongly recommended that applications be completed through the website [www.pioneersofprosperity.org](http://www.pioneersofprosperity.org). Because of the volume of applications received, we are unable to guarantee the processing of applications that are not submitted through the website. If you cannot comply with this, please send an email to [awards@pioneersofprosperity.org](mailto:awards@pioneersofprosperity.org).

**I don't have all the information requested in the application. Can I still apply?**

Yes. Please try to fill out everything you can, and estimate numbers to the best of your knowledge where necessary. Make sure to indicate where you have estimated the numbers, as inaccurate representation of information could potentially disqualify you. If you don't know something, leave it blank. However, comprehensive applications stand a better chance of being selected.

**My firm has operations in the target countries, but is headquartered elsewhere. Can I apply?**

No. Only firms headquartered in one of the seven target countries can apply.

**I manage a not-for-profit entity but we sell products or services similar to a firm. Can I apply?**

No. The Pioneers of Prosperity Award is for for-profit entities only.

**When and where will the awards ceremony be held? Can anyone attend?**

The awards ceremony will be held in one of the seven participating Caribbean countries. Please stay tuned for information on the exact location. The awards ceremony is by invitation only. If you are interested in attending, please contact [awards@pioneersofprosperity.org](mailto:awards@pioneersofprosperity.org).

**Who are the sponsors of the Pioneers of Prosperity Awards?**

The sponsors of the Pioneers of Prosperity Caribbean Award are the John Templeton Foundation and the Multilateral Investment Fund to the Inter-American Development Bank.

**Who are the implementers of the Pioneers of Prosperity Awards?**

*OTF Group*

The OTF Group is the world's leading specialist in building country competitiveness in emerging and transitional economies around the world. Over the past 15 years, OTF Group has established a strong track record of success in more than 35 emerging economies, including Brazil, Jamaica, Rwanda, Afghanistan, the Dominican Republic, several U.S. states, Ireland, Colombia, Bolivia, El Salvador, Peru, Bermuda, Venezuela, South Africa, Gabon, Guyana, Bangladesh, Serbia, Macedonia and South Korea. The OTF Group is based in the United States, with satellite offices in the Caribbean and Africa. For more information, please see [www.otfgroup.com](http://www.otfgroup.com).

### *S.E.VEN*

The Social Equity Venture Fund (SEVEN) is OTF Group's partner. S.E.VEN is a non-profit entity that aims to markedly increase the rate of diffusion of enterprise-based solutions to poverty through sponsorships and the establishment of high productivity partnerships such as that between itself, OTF, and the Inter-American Development Bank. For more information, please see <http://sevenfund.org>.