

Strategy Filter

This filter is used to assess opportunities (or threats) that arise and to help FINE determine whether and how to adjust the current work plan. Opportunities may include a new project, partnership, involvement in a meeting or conference, or other effort that will require a commitment of energy, resources, thinking, and brand. The filter helps FINE remain nimble and responsive to new opportunities and yet be accountable to existing commitments and plans.

*The filter is divided into two sections. The first eight categories correlate to FINE’s strategic plan and organizational mission. The last two categories relate to staff and budget capacity. **When an opportunity receives between 16 and 24 points in the first part of the filter, it will progress to the second section.** If it scores below 16 points or receives any zeros, it will be revisited and modified before moving ahead to the second section. Note that “New England” is abbreviated to “NE.”*

		0 POINTS [RED FLAG]	1 POINT	2 POINTS	3 POINTS
PHASE 1	Values & Mission & Vision	In direct conflict with FINE’s mission, vision, or conflicts with one or more key values	Not directly aligned with FINE’s mission or vision but may address 1 or 2 core values	Aligned with FINE’s mission and vision and addresses 1-5 core values	Aligns with FINE’s mission and vision and addresses 5 or more core values
	Geography	No NE connection	Nationwide with a moderate impact on NE	1 to 5 NE states, may inform regional strategy or benefit other NE states	All six NE states and may include nationwide impacts
	Sectors	Does not relate to institutions	Serves only one of our core sectors	Serves two or three of our core sectors	Serves all of the core sectors and additional sectors
	Regional Food Served at Institutions	Does not directly increase regional food at institutions (directly or indirectly)	Indirectly supports regional food at institutions (e.g., education)	Directly supportive of activities that increase regional food at institutions	Creates measurable increase in regional food at institutions
	Develops the network	Does not contribute to development of the network	Creates some increase in the number of individuals in the network	Increases the number and of individuals in the network and creates at least 1 new organizational partnership	Increases the number and of individuals in the network and creates at least 3 new organizational partnerships
	Diversifies the network	Not likely to diversify the network	Some opportunity to diversify	Good opportunity to diversify if plan is developed accordingly	Creates opportunity to increase diversity and plan already includes strategy to increase diversity
	Stakeholder knowledge,	Does not increase stakeholder access to	Low visibility and unclear impact of shared	High visibility or measurable impact of	High visibility and measurable impact of

	resources, tools	knowledge, resources, or tools	knowledge, resources, or tools	shared knowledge, resources, or tools	shared knowledge, resources, or tools
	Uniqueness/network need	Duplicates, confuses or conflicts with work of other partners	Unclear demand from or conflicts with partners	High demand for work, some overlap with other partners	No other partner does the work; all partners want the work done
	Broader Food System Impact	No impact on regional food systems development	Impact on regional food systems, or institutional markets (national or state level)	Small impact on both regional food systems and institutional markets (national or state level)	Large impact on both regional food systems and institutional markets (national or state level)
PHASE 2	Staff Capacity	No staff capacity or project funds to support additional staff time	Hire new staff with project funds	Have staff skills but need to shift workload	Will put existing staff skills and capacity to work
	Budget/Funding	Prevents us from doing other core work	Pays for project costs	Pays for project costs and generates some unrestricted revenue	Generates unrestricted revenue

*Bonus point if project directly addresses climate change!