Beacon Awards Nomination Process & Application Questions

1.) **Phase 1 Nominations - closes noon April 28**

The West Virginia Beacon Awards are selected on a nomination-basis. Phase 1 nominations for those leaders who are performing outstanding work in their community are submitted online between March 27 - noon, April 28, 2020. Through the nomination form, nominators provide basic information around the "what" of their nominee’s work, including name, organization (if applicable), the primary community of work, and answers to a few longer descriptive questions. These questions provide further detail on the individual, their work and strategy, and how they are supporting their community through their vision and execution. Nominators are invited to complete Phase 2 of the nomination process if their nominees meet the following criteria:

- Inspiring others to action
- Addressing a social challenge in their community
- Internally driven to make change
- Represent the values of the Beacon Awards and the One Foundation

In addition to contact information, Phase 1 Questions include:

1. How do you know the person you are nominating for the Beacon Awards?
2. Through the Beacon Awards, we highlight young people across the state who bring hope and light to their communities through who they are and the work that they do. They inspire others to do more and see more in their communities, too. What about your nominee inspires you? Please share a brief story as one example.
3. The Beacon Awards highlight those who are working to solve complex social problems within their communities. Your nominator may not see themselves in this way (yet), but what challenge(s) do you see that your nominee is working to solve?
4. When we asked this year’s Beacon Award Winners why they started their work or project, they each responded with something like “I saw a gap in my community and just started doing what I could to fill it.” They didn’t set out to be leaders necessarily, but they became leaders by stepping up. Please describe how your nominee addresses the challenges identified in Question 3. How have you seen them 'step up' as a leader in their community?

2.) **Phase 2 Nominations - closes May 10**

For those nominees who meet the requirements, their nominators will be invited to complete a few final questions for the nomination process. These questions focus on the "how" of the nominees work. Both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the nomination process were created in
alignment with our desire to select awardees who may be under the radar and doing their work not focused on recognition.

**Phase 2 Questions:**

1. How does the nominee work with and empower those most impacted by the challenge they are trying to solve? How has their work grown other leaders?
2. What other organizations or groups of people has your nominee worked with to create impact in their community?
3. How do you know your nominee's work is making a difference? Please share 3 examples, which can include stories, measures of impact (how many people have they reached, etc.), links to news articles or anything that demonstrates how their work is making an impact.

3.) **Nominations Review**

The Review Committee, made up of Generation West Virginia and One Foundation staff, review all nominations according to the selection criteria as outlined above to identify up to 15 individuals to continue onto step 4.

4.) **Follow Up & Research**

The Review Committee will reach out to nominees to discuss the program and identify references. After receiving additional feedback from references the Nominating Committee will reach out to the nominated individuals directly for in depth interviews. The nominator remains confidential throughout the process.

5.) **Award Selection**

Based on the step 4 research, the Review Committee, with input from prominent community leaders, will select five winners for the award.

6.) **Beacon Retreat & Awards Presentation**

On August 4 & 5, 2020, Beacon Award winners will join a cohort of past and current winners for a 2-day retreat. Later that fall, the One Foundation and Generation West Virginia will host an awards ceremony where the five Beacon Award Winners are presented with monetary awards of $2,000 each.