



Generous U Grant Application

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Background Information

Effective Altruists of Berkeley (EAB) is a registered student organization at the University of California, Berkeley, whose mission is to empower students to give more and give smarter. We represent a diverse worldwide community of thousands of effective altruists who strive to combine rationality and empiricism with a broad and deep sense of compassion. Details about our club can be found below:

EA Berkeley Contact	Matthew Borchardt: [REDACTED]
Group Advisor	Deepak Sharma: [REDACTED]
Website	http://eab.berkeley.edu
Student Org Listing	https://callink.berkeley.edu/organization/EAB

Through outreach, discussions, and a student-led course, we educate UC Berkeley students on the principles of high-impact giving. Our teaching guides students on a path of increasing commitment, culminating in a lifetime giving pledge. Our present budget of approximately [REDACTED] per semester, or [REDACTED] per year, drives our multi-level outreach, education, and pledge drive efforts. We would leverage the Generous U grant both to continue our present activities for another year and to try new methods to increase our reach and boost pledge-taking rates.

Who We Serve

Research so far indicates our donations can make a much bigger difference abroad, often giving beneficiaries huge health and income benefits that we take for granted in the developed world.¹ For example, one of our supported charities is the DeWorm the World Initiative, which advocates and provides technical assistance to school-based deworming programs in Kenya and India. Charity evaluator GiveWell estimates that for as little as \$0.80, Deworm the World can significantly increase a child's lifespan and quality of life by decreasing their infection rates and improving their school attendance.² We are not limited to global health charities, but before we support any cause, we rigorously assess its relative importance and the evidence behind our giving options.

Ladder of Engagement

We teach the ideas of effective altruism (EA) both casually to a general audience year-round and intimately to a small class for an entire 15-week semester. This creates a "ladder of engagement", where education on EA may ultimately lead to lifestyle changes and pledged donations.

Giving games: For six hours each week, we invite students on campus to play a "giving game." We present the player with two charities and provide them a dollar to donate. We then ask the player to choose one of the two charities and explain their choice. This opens up one-on-one conversations on effective giving, prompting students to critically examine their future giving decisions. In just the past eight weeks, we have played 687 such games. To reach an even broader audience, we are collaborating with a contractor to develop an educational web-based giving game.

¹"Your Dollar Goes Further Overseas | GiveWell." GiveWell. Web. 11 Mar. 2016. <<http://www.givewell.org/giving101/Your-dollar-goes-further-overseas>>.

²"Deworm the World Initiative, Led by Evidence Action | GiveWell." GiveWell. Nov. 2015. Web. 11 Mar. 2016. <<http://www.givewell.org/international/top-charities/deworm-world-initiative>>.

Effective Altruism Global x (EAGx): We are currently organizing EAGx, a conference featuring presentations by leaders in philanthropy and social change. EAGx is designed to increase our club's visibility and engage a broader range of students and faculty. Prominent experts both within and outside of the EA movement will be invited to discuss how we should prioritize and tackle some of the world's most pressing problems, such as global poverty and climate change. We have a projected audience of one hundred people from UC Berkeley and the greater community. Our goal is to equip our attendees with a deeper understanding of their ability to create a global impact.

Student-taught course: Our co-presidents teach The Greater Good, a fifteen-person course on effective altruism. For two hours each week, students explore EA concepts and engage with its objections. The class features guest speakers from the nonprofit sector such as Catherine Hollander, an outreach associate at GiveWell. The concepts we analyze are put to practice with our in-class giving games, in which the class is divided into groups of two or three students. Each group is asked to direct \$50 of club money to one of several nonprofits. The class will culminate with a giving game of even higher stakes. Each individual student will be given \$50 to donate, and we will further match any contributions students make to the charity of their choice. In total, our class will have directed at least \$1600 to charity.

Giving What We Can

The Giving What We Can pledge is a lifelong commitment to donate at least 10% of the pledger's future income to organizations that can "most effectively use it to improve the lives of others."³ Our outreach efforts this past year directly led to sixteen UC Berkeley students committing to the Giving What We Can pledge. This amounts to an estimated \$6 million pledged over 30 years.⁴ If this money were donated now to the Against Malaria Foundation, which aids distribution of insecticide-treated bed nets in parts of Africa, GiveWell estimates this would prevent 2000 children from dying of malaria.⁵ This semester, our goal is to encourage at least another sixteen students to take the pledge, doubling our impact to \$12 million donated and 4000 lives saved.

Sustained Growth and Interest

Since Fall 2014, we have grown from two to over fifteen active members, with hundreds of students on our mailing list. We have an executive board of two co-presidents, a vice president, and a fundraising chair. They are responsible for leading discussions, choosing club projects, and ensuring work is completed in a timely manner. Our other members are divided into task-specific committees, such as an EAGx committee and a Giving What We Can committee.

We make it a priority to keep members engaged. We hold a club social activity at least once every two weeks, which is partially supported by a membership fee. Our weekly member meetings are a combination of club business and lively debate over EA philosophy. We are always looking to provide more opportunities for people to make valuable contributions to our projects, and we foster a culture that rewards work ethic and initiative.

³"The Giving What We Can Pledge." The Giving What We Can Pledge. Web. 11 Mar. 2016. <<https://www.givingwhatwecan.org/pledge/>>.

⁴"Giving What We Can Pledge Impact Calculation." <<https://goo.gl/pUaXgB>>

⁵"Against Malaria Foundation | GiveWell." GiveWell. Jan. 2016. Web. 11 Mar. 2016. <<http://www.givewell.org/international/top-charities/amf>>.

Our Plan for the Grant

In Spring 2016, we expect to spend \$4200, of which \$3500 will be regranted to effective charities:

Giving games for our course	\$2500
Community dinners with guest speakers	\$500
Giving games during weekly outreach	\$1000
Club socials	\$100
Advertising materials	\$100
Total	\$4200

We also plan to spend approximately \$5000 on EAGx, which will be funded separately. We hope our emphasis on education will lead to an additional \$6 million in pledged donations this year.

If we win the Generous U grant, we would designate \$8400 of it towards funding our current operations over two semesters, since it has increased student philanthropy substantially, especially through our pledge drive. We would use the remaining \$1600 during Fall 2016 to test new methods of generating interest in our club and mission. Our proposed ventures include:

Establishing an EA reading group and library: Currently, we do not have many pathways for newly-interested students to engage with EAB without committing to active membership or enrolling in our course. With an expanded budget, we hope to improve our outreach and education by setting up an EA library and reading group for interested students who cannot commit to being active members. To encourage attendance at reading group sessions, we plan to spend \$400 on light refreshments and relevant EA literature.

Organizing large speaker events: Another \$1000 would be used to organize a large philanthropy-themed event aimed at attracting hundreds of people from UC Berkeley and the local community. This event would feature a well-known speaker, such as philanthropists Bill and Melinda Gates, ethical philosopher Peter Singer, or cognitive scientist Steven Pinker.

Conducting a pledge ceremony: We will hold a formal ceremony for students taking the Giving What We Can pledge, which would use the remaining \$200 for refreshments and the venue. Our speaker events and pledge ceremony would improve awareness of our club and mission.

We have already obtained pledges from Berkeley students to give over \$6 million in their lifetimes, which we have accomplished on a budget of under \$10,000. By strategically spending another \$10,000, we can create millions of dollars of well-targeted aid over the next 30 years for some of the most disadvantaged individuals in the world.

Thank you, Sillerman Center and Generous U for considering our application!

