

Public Policy Grantmaking

A Powerful tool for Mission



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Public Policy
Engagement of
Minnesota
Foundations:
A framework for
future dialogue

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difference
Grants
Philanthropy
Systems
Make
Change
POLICY
Impact
Public
Cultivation



Study Background



- 3 year partnership: MCF and HHH Center for Public and Nonprofit Leadership
- New Fellow each year addresses new pieces
- Literature searches
- Interviews with foundation leaders
- Focus groups with diverse representation



Emerging concepts



1. Staff and Trustees need ways to describe common activities beyond grant making
2. Focused grantmaking draws staff and trustees into more engagement on issues
3. More active engagement is happening



What is prohibited by law?



- *Generally speaking, "direct" lobbying is a communication with a member or employee of a legislative body (or certain other government officials) that both (a) refers to specific legislation, and (b) reflects a view on the legislation.*
- *"Grassroots" lobbying is attempting to influence the opinions of the general public about specific legislation. In order to be grassroots lobbying, a communication must (a) refer to specific legislation, (b) reflect a view on the legislation, and (c) encourage the recipient to take action, such as contacting his or her legislator.*



Two dimensions frame engagement



Foundations Actions



Stages
of
System
Change
Action





Matrix elements: Horizontal axis- roles of foundations



- ✓ All roles are valuable
- ✓ Can do some, usually not all roles
- ✓ Movement on axis tied to increased staff and trustee direct engagement
- ✓ Movement on axis can mean increased risk
- ✓ Movement on axis lengthens duration of commitment to focus or issue area



Matrix elements: Vertical axis- Actions needed for issue change



- ✓ Actions taken by nonprofits and community leaders engaged in systems change
- ✓ Steps usually taken in order
- ✓ Movement on axis tied to progress on solution
- ✓ Movement on axis can mean increased risk
- ✓ Movement on axis lengthens duration of commitment to focus or issue area



Roles of foundations: Responding roles



General Funding- grants	Self- Education	Research on issue- do or fund	Info- Exchange with other Fdtns
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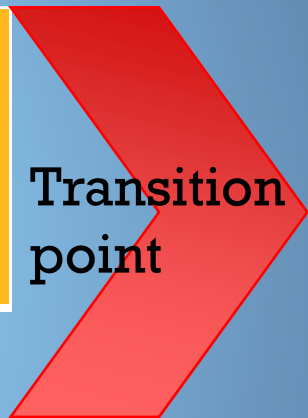
- Respond to request
- Improve capacity to assess & choose
- Define desired results



Roles of foundations: Choice for more engagement Step



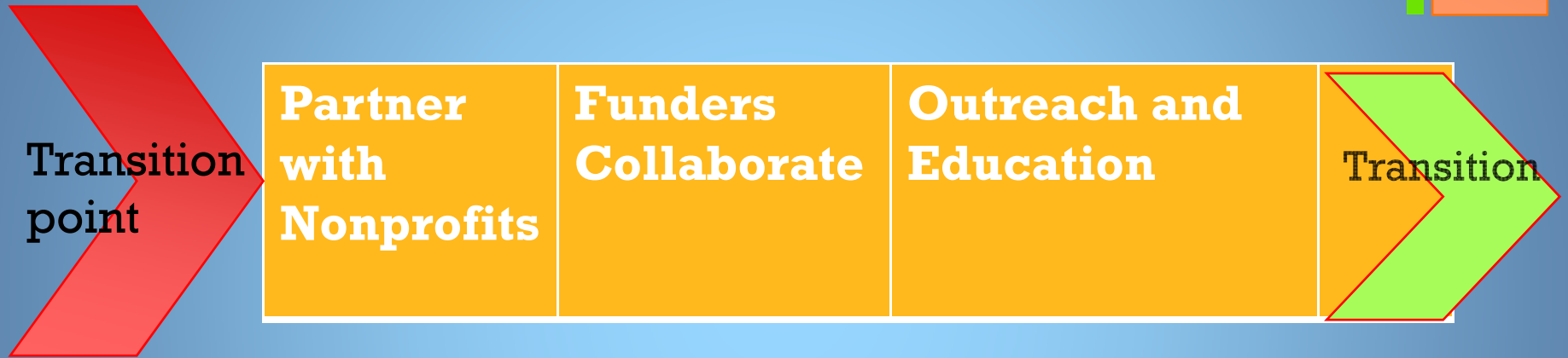
General Funding-grants	Self-Education	Research on issue-do or fund	Info-Exchange with other Fdtns
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- Assess fdtn achievement to date
- Discover new approaches not being tried
- Outside encouragement for direct involvement



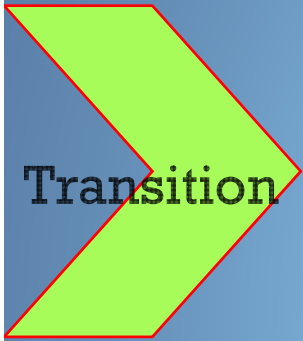
Roles of foundations: Active Engagement



- Increased staff and trustee time
- Leverage assets
- Share with others vision for success



Roles of foundations: Leadership



Lead	Asset investin g	Active Issue Education	Partner with gov't ---- Judicial advocacy
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- Increased public spotlight
- Expanded Leverage of assets
- Share with others vision for success
- Requires new expertise



Sector Action on Issue- Stages of Systems Change



1. Problem Definition
2. Issue Framing and Desired Outcome Determined
3. Solution Testing
4. Systems Change Agenda Setting



Sector Action on Issue- Stages of Systems Change



- Policy Formation
- Public Awareness & Perception Change Strategies
- Public Behavior Change
- Legislation change
- Other systems changes

Matrix of Philanthropy and Public Policy Engagement

Foundation Behaviors: Steps for New Policy Formation & Systems Change:	Philanthropy				&	Public Policy Engagement							
	General Funder	Self-Education	Research	Info. Exchange		Partner with Non-Profit(s)	Funders Collaborate	Fund Outreach, Education	Leader	Asset Investment	Public Campaign	Partner w/ Govt	Judicial Advocacy
Problem Definition		X	X		Requires Trustee Awareness, Approval	X	X					X	X
Issue Frame and Outcome	X	X				X	X					X	X
Solution Testing	X	X	X	X		X	X			X	X	X	
Agenda Setting						X	X	X			X	X	
Policy Formation	X				Additional Support/Resources Requested	X	X	X	X				
Public Awareness & Perception	X					X	X	X	X			X	
Public Behavior	X					X			X		X	X	
Legislative Action (local/state/nat)											X		X

Note:
 "X" indicates a role that one or more foundations participating in focus groups or interviews has played.
 Included foundations are those that systematically give away funds, and not operating foundations.



Questions about framework?





This is Not a finished product



- We need to learn more about engagement roles
- We need to revise the matrix as we learn more
- We need to refine the steps for systems change



Where are you on the Matrix?



- Circle the boxes for your foundation's engagement
- Does it vary with the issue?
- What factors helped you move from one role to another?



Sharing experiences



- Give an example of your own engagement
- What drew you in
- Who are your partners
- What are the risks and rewards