

Civil Unrest in St. Louis County, Missouri

Grant Type: **Dollar and nondollar support**

Dollar Amount: **Board allocation of \$100,000**

Foundation Name: **Deaconess Foundation**

What was your objective with the grant or initiative?

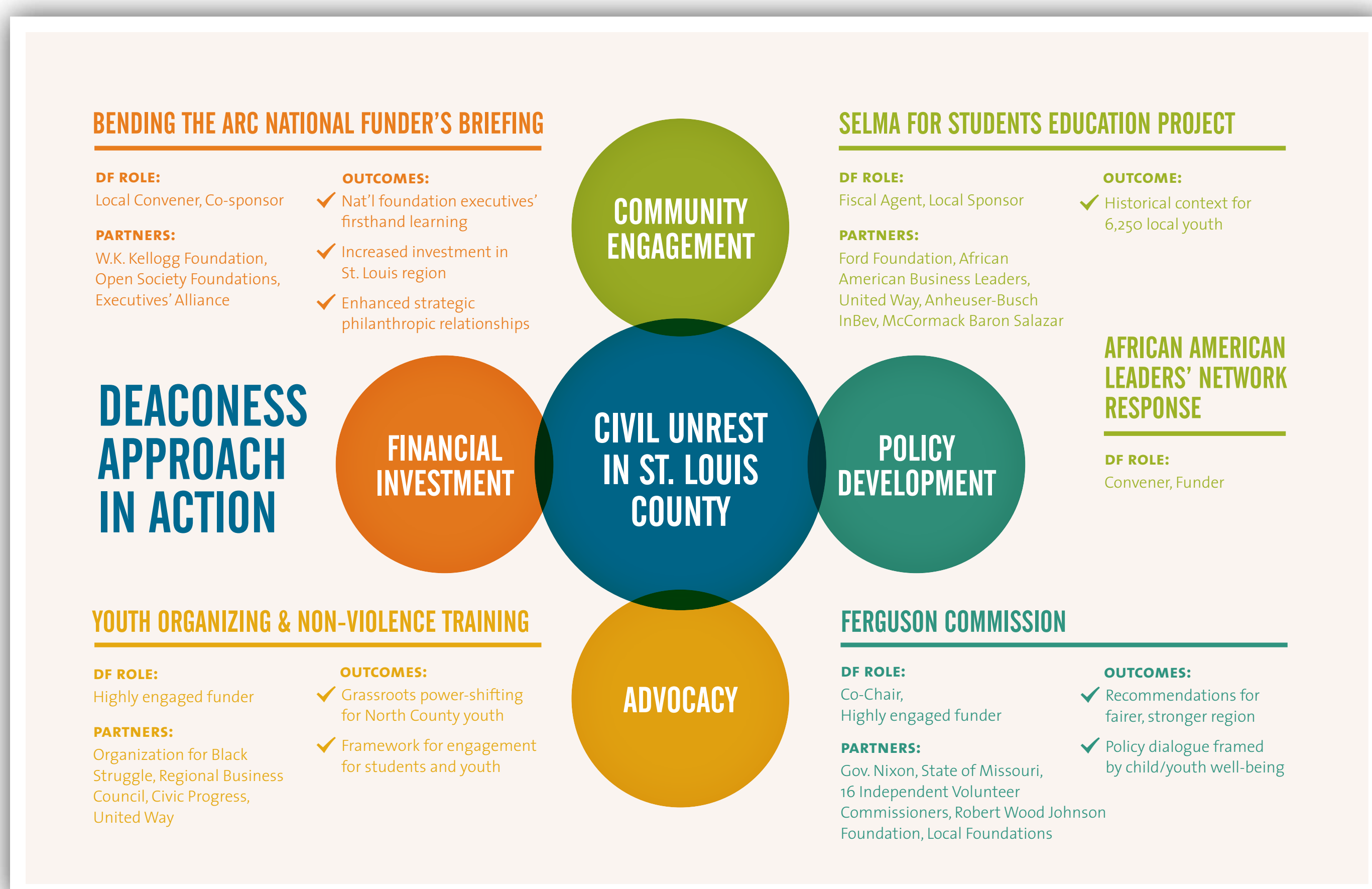
In the aftermath of the Michael Brown shooting and subsequent civil unrest in Ferguson, Deaconess Foundation made a special allocation of \$100,000 to enhance the community's capacity to address issues exposed by the events. The funds focused on the advancement of youth organizing, community-informed development, networked leadership, and wraparound supports for African American youths. Deaconess staff members were highly engaged in coordinating roles with community organizers, local clergy, civil rights activists, and national funders to inform, develop, and align a systemic response consistent with its mission and vision for children.

What were the results of this grant or initiative?

The initial investment by Deaconess provided the opportunity to engage national philanthropic leaders in strengthening advocacy efforts to change policies and improve systems on behalf of children. The engaged national organizations displayed an admirable ability to recognize the diversity of need, respond to the call, and match the commitment of Deaconess.

Why would you say this grant or initiative had outsized impact?

Deaconess Foundation provided grants of more than \$120,000 to various organizations and leveraged more than \$360,000 in additional dollars from funding partners. In addition, the president and CEO of Deaconess served as cochair of the Ferguson Commission, which made policy recommendations for a fairer, stronger region. With limited dollars, the foundation realized that opportunity exists for a leveraging effect. The foundation's funding has evolved from supporting programs to organizational infrastructure to a focus on strategies that impact systems affecting child well-being.



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