

Live Discussion Funder Response:

4.17.20 Chat

- Tanir, how are you convening with your board members during this period of time-sensitive decision making?
- How are you expecting to evaluate the use of grantee funds in the future when the dust settles?
- At Douglas County CF, this is the first time we've done a crisis relief grant application. At this time, we are only requiring grantees to complete a follow-up report listing expenses that correlate to the grant budget form. We are learning as we go and from all of you as well.
- Given how much the gov't is spending on short term emergencies, many cities and others are already stripping their "regular" budgets like Medicaid bare. What are you doing to help these governments keep the most important things in their budgets so they survive the cuts?
- The government is putting forward TRILLIONS to help people at this time. What are you doing to educate and advocate so that the government officials understand the real needs and solutions?
- What are creative ways to fund the needs of our undocumented communities?
- I have contacted a lot of funders who are also granting to our nonprofit partners. We were hoping to work with them to create a survey for our partners so we weren't all contacting them asking for all the same information etc. I think this was suggested on the call a couple of weeks ago with Kerry. However, one thing we have been hearing from these other funders we've had conversations with is that the nonprofit partners are actually appreciating the funders reaching out individually to show them this support. We were wondering if other funders are finding this as they are trying to collaborate. Is this the best time to ask this question, or is there a different platform we should use to ask this?
- Does anyone have any wisdom or tools to handle a situation when there is a grantee that does important and needed work but isn't necessarily running a "healthy" and well-governed organization? We were struggling with how to handle them prior to COVID-19 but now, they are needed, but not running a sustainable or best-practices-based entity. [We KNOW we can't help everyone and are looking for any suggestions].
 - Molly - thank you for this question. We are struggling with exactly the same issue. Would love to hear how others are addressing this.
 - we are asking that exact same question, especially critical when it's not clear that the organization will survive

- can structure your gift them as a loan conditioned on a change of methods, so that you help them now, but give them an incentive to do a better job of managing?
- Exactly, Diane... We know many won't survive and we usually focus on groups that are thriving in their lanes. This is painful and a hard situation. Might be a good topic for a whole discussion? We are thinking that we'll probably see closing/merging and new structures overall, but how can we help guide and support those who need to do this?
- Molly, we've had the same issue. Especially when the grantee has a "monopoly" on the giving area. We give in a couple of very narrow niches, and in one case, there is only one grantee who does this work. Long story short, we have tried everything, from matching grants to capacity building grants, to hours of coaching, to referrals to peer organizations, etc. Finally, after 20 years, we are letting them go. We kept them that long because they did actually get work done and it was very important work that nobody else was doing. If it weren't for our board members' also shifting their priorities, we may still be funding them.
- Hi all, we started collaborating with other funders of our nonprofit partners to put together a survey for our nonprofit partners. However, something we are hearing from the other funders is that the nonprofits are really valuing the individual funders reaching out to them, so we are thinking this shared survey may not be the best route for our nonprofit partners. Is anyone else finding this, too, or are the collaborative surveys working for anyone?
- we are major contributor to local CDFI funding small businesses NOW . the fund also gives funds to nonprofits. The effort has been going for 4 years. also have 4 transportation initiatives. transportation now difficult as people stay home. we were innovators in establishing a fund with local CDFI several years ago. have added additional funds to give 0% and forgivable loans NOW to small businesses and nonprofits. Thrive South Jersey and Thrive N J are the funds. look online. we also fund 4 transportation efforts tied to NJT. transportation not thriving now with shelter in place.
- Henry - sadly I think it's only drizzling compared to the rainy day that is coming. Unless some of the science pans out I think things will get much worse. I urged all the groups I support to get the SBA/PPA loans and many of them got it. But on July 1 many will be forced to dump a lot of their staff. Governments are going to run out of money. People got their \$1200 bucks and that money will go fast. This could go on for years and we have to prepare for a marathon and not a sprint.
- kudos to ms briggs pointing out the importance of grassroots, unsophisticated operations! how could we fund wide spread healthy coping mechanisms.

- I have seen statistics that suicide rates go up relative to unemployment and it may be possible that we lose more to Americans to suicide as a result of the massive UE than we lose to COVID. I agree that we need to prepare and keep this discussion/funding going.
- Yes, I really appreciate the point about grassroots orgs., which are often overlooked. Plus, these orgs are often in and led by communities most impacted by covid, by health disparities.
- Generally thinking, I think that suicide rates, hate crimes and intimate partner violence rates are increasing right now so that is certainly a concern! Community violence rates have gone down in many areas during this pandemic period, but as Tanir mentioned, that is probably limited and may go back up given the increase in gun sales, economic and emotional stress, etc.
- I LOVE that the foundation I work with has given me the ability to recommend small discretionary grants to organizations I especially love. It's my favorite benefit.