



Centering Equity through Flexible, Reliable Funding

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GEO Speakers



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Welcome & Introductions

Agenda



1. Welcome
2. Introductions and Framing
3. Making the Case for Flexible, Reliable Funding
4. Integrating Flexible, Reliable Funding into your Grantmaking Portfolios
5. Storytelling
6. Breakout Rooms and Group Discussion
7. Final Thoughts




Effective Practices

Stronger Nonprofits

Thriving Communities

Flexible, Reliable Funding



The term encompasses, but is not limited to, grantmaking approaches that center general operating support and multiyear grants.

Understanding Philanthropy's Historical Roots



- The pioneers of U.S. philanthropy, not coincidentally, were known as “robber barons,” white men who accumulated large amounts of wealth by extracting labor and resources from Black, Native Indigenous and immigrant communities.
- The persistent gaps in wealth, income and opportunity that exist today, divided starkly along racial lines, trace their origins to this history.



Making the Case for Flexible, Reliable Funding

Effective philanthropy emerges out of transformational relationships between grantmakers and their nonprofit and community partners — relationships that are long term, rooted in trust, and based on shared values and vision.

Making the Case for Flexible, Reliable Funding



- Reducing Power Imbalances
- Resourcing BIPOC Leaders More Fully
- Catalyzing Strong, Resilient Infrastructure
- Strengthening Focus on Organizational Mission
- Providing Flexibility to Respond to Changing Community Needs
- Fostering Innovation and Creating Space to Explore New Opportunities
- Catalyzing More Community-Driven Approaches



Integrating Flexible, Reliable Funding to your Grantmaking

- Build Relationships and Trust
- Acknowledge the Power Imbalance
- Center Nonprofits and Their Needs
- Rethink the Grantmaking Process
- Reframe the Conversation around Evaluation

Build Relationships and Trust



- Take the time to get to know the nonprofits you are working with
- Prioritize and create opportunities for open and honest conversations
- Discuss values and create shared goals

Acknowledge the Power Imbalance



- Acknowledge the position of power you hold as a grantmaker
- Examine your current grantee sourcing channels
- Educate yourself about the ways that unconscious bias can show up in your grantmaking practice and what it takes to do systems change work.

Center Nonprofits and Their Needs



- Learn from your nonprofit partners
- Prioritize the nonprofit leaders experiences and backgrounds
- Analyze your process of vetting potential nonprofit partners

Rethink the Grantmaking Process



- Rely on nonprofit leaders' voices
- Check for any knowledge gaps
- Consider which aspects of your policies and grant processes either prevent or support providing more multiyear funding

Reframe the Conversation Around Evaluation



- Consider reframing conversations about impact to prioritize organization capacity assessment and long-term growth
- Create clear expectations for your nonprofit partners about how you assess grants
- Ensure nonprofits understand how to assess their longer-term work.
- Make space for evaluating your own grantmaking processes

Monica Fischer represents an Anonymous Donor

- Started general operating support funding during the pandemic with plans to sustain it.

Julie Hitchins, Executive Director, Community Foundation of Marshall County


- Aligning funding strategies with their community's city master plan.

Carrie Walker, Director of Learning, Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation

- Lessons learned from the THRIVE cohort, adaptations they are making from the lessons learned, and how cohort members used their unrestricted resources.

A group of people in a meeting or workshop setting, with several individuals raising their hands. The scene is brightly lit, and the background is a plain white wall with a wooden handrail. The text 'Breakout Rooms' is overlaid in the top right corner.

Breakout Rooms



**Group
Discussion**

Final Thoughts & Reflections

A serene landscape featuring a calm body of water in the foreground, reflecting the surrounding greenery. The water is still, acting as a perfect mirror for the dense forest of tall, slender pine trees that line the right bank. The trees are lush and green, with their reflections creating a rhythmic pattern of vertical lines in the water. In the background, a misty or hazy atmosphere softens the outlines of more trees and hills, adding a sense of depth and tranquility. The overall lighting is soft and natural, suggesting a quiet time of day like dawn or dusk. The text 'Final Thoughts & Reflections' is overlaid in the upper left corner in a clean, white, sans-serif font.



Resources

- *Centering Equity through Flexible, Reliable Funding* (GEO, 2022)
- *General Operating Support: A Guide for Trustees* (GEO, 2018)

Centering Equity
through Flexible,
Reliable Funding



Thank you!

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