

Director of Strategic Learning and Evaluation, The Irene E. and George A. Davis Foundation

Location: Springfield, MA

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation is a private family foundation dedicated to serving Hampden County in Massachusetts. With a rich history spanning over 50 years, the Davis Foundation is committed to improving the quality of life for residents by supporting local initiatives and nonprofit organizations. Recently, the Foundation completed a four-year strategic plan focused on early education (birth to 5), early literacy, innovation in education (K-12), and economic mobility. As a funder, catalyst, convenor, and advocate for the region, the Davis Foundation aims to have a meaningful impact in collaboration with its grantees.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Position Overview

The Director of Strategic Learning and Evaluation is a newly established position within The Davis Foundation. We seek a skilled and innovative Director to serve as the inaugural leader and shape the Foundation's commitment to collective impact. By incorporating the principles of collective impact and leveraging recent breakthrough research findings in early education, early literacy, education, and economic mobility, the Director will refine and deepen the Foundation's vision for transformative, measurable change. This position will also involve assessing the effectiveness of grant-making strategies and providing thought leadership to define outcomes, write impact briefs, papers, and reports, while collaborating with grantee partners to extend the reach of collective efforts. The evaluation process will encompass both qualitative and quantitative measurement methodologies.

The Director will be employed on a full-time basis and will report directly to the Executive Director of the Davis Foundation.

Key Responsibilities

Leadership and Strategy

- Embrace and advance the Davis Foundation's vision, mission, and core values.
- Collaborate with staff, board members, and community partners to establish and align key metrics and goals for Priority Impact Initiatives in early education, early literacy, education, and economic mobility.
- Provide overall leadership and direction for the Davis Foundation's grant-making strategies and related outcomes.
- Work closely with staff and the Board to establish Davis Foundation accountability targets concerning impact and grant-making activities.
- Develop dashboards and performance management systems to maintain continuous visibility into progress toward goals and to inform program and grant-making improvements.
- Facilitate staff and board training in data systems and dashboard usage.

- Develop a plan and timeline for reviewing new systems to enhance process efficiency.
- Foster effective community partnerships for shared data collection and measurement.
- Support the execution of the Foundation's Strategic Plan through the development of an evaluation strategy.

Program and Community Management and Evaluation

- Ensure the development and execution of well-structured work plans, annual benchmarks, and cross-initiative alignment with the Foundation's partners and strategic plan.
- Communicate outcomes and insights to staff, board, and community partners, translating findings into operational actions to drive impact.
- Serve as the primary point of contact for all data requests.
- Cultivate and promote a culture of learning among internal and external partners.

Outreach and Communications

- Engage with aligned subject matter experts to access data related to the identified domains of work in the strategic plan.
- Regularly communicate progress across our network of partners and stakeholders.

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience in data analysis and research to inform decision-making, including a deep understanding of the role of data use in decision-making processes.
- Bachelor's degree required (Master's preferred) in a social science discipline, public administration, nonprofit administration, statistics, or a related field, with at least five years of experience in program and data management; nonprofit and evaluation experience preferred.
- Proven track record as an internal consultant and thought partner, demonstrating success in providing tailored information and insights to team members.
- Strong adaptive leadership, collaboration, facilitation, and communication skills.
- Successful experience in leading and managing complex projects involving multiple stakeholders, with a demonstrated track record of organizing and managing partnerships and/or initiatives.
- A positive outlook and attitude toward the potential of social change and collective impact work.
- Independent, self-motivated, and proficient in interacting with a wide variety of people and organizations.

The Director of Strategic Learning and Evaluation position offers a unique opportunity to drive transformative change and make a lasting impact on the community served by The Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation. If you possess the qualifications and dedication to collective impact work, we encourage you to apply and become a key member of our team.

Applicants can apply directly to Paul Belsito, Executive Director at pbelsito@davisfdn.org.