

OPEN > < ROAD

KEEPING IMPACT ON TRACK

**THE WORLD IS
UNPREDICTIBLE**

IS YOUR ORGANIZATION PREPARED FOR THE UNEXPECTED?

Five questions about risk that every foundation leader should ask

- < Have you spoken to your grantees about what to do if something goes wrong?**
Acknowledging the possibility of roadblocks and having a candid conversation about process and protocol will help ensure that you and your grantees can problem solve quickly.
- < ➤ Do your individual grant budgets account for risk?**
Consider asking grantees to include a budget line item for risk, and ask them to justify the estimate like they would any other line item.
- < Have you talked to your Board of Directors about your organization's tolerance for risk?**
Like any investment group, it's important to agree on your objective and tolerance for risk. Discuss both broad goals and hypothetical scenarios to make sure your stakeholders are clearly aligned.
- < ➤ Do you have contingency funds set aside for unforeseen roadblocks?**
Consider setting aside 5 or 10% of your grant making budget to plan for risk and contingencies.
- < Do you have a way to expedite grant approvals in emergency situations?**
Consider creating an emergency approval committee to handle timely requests from existing grantees when roadblocks arise.

Founded by Laurie Michaels, Open Road Alliance provides critical funding to help non-profits overcome unforeseen roadblocks, or to leverage unanticipated opportunities for impact. Learn more at www.open-roadalliance.com