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