

KEY INSIGHTS & RECOMMENDED PRACTICES, A SUMMARY TABLE

Use Expansive Definitions and Approaches	 Solicit meaningful input. Value lived experience. Use holistic definitions. Rely on existing principles and frameworks.
Take A Holistic Approach to Funding	 Meet communities where they are. Create cross- or multi-issue funds. Provide flexible, unrestricted multi-year grants. Fund grassroots initiatives.
Be Open to Communities' Definitions of Geographic Boundaries	 Do not rely on conventional political definitions of geography. Be prepared for difficult discussions, and be flexible, open and sensitive. Be mindful of challenges in defining geographic focuses, especially for participants working cross-regionally. Transparently share the definitions you use.
Explore Trust-Based Participatory Philanthropy	 Recognize value and deepen understanding of participatory and trust-based approaches. Consider trade-offs carefully. Compensate those you consult with and share back results. Experiment and be prepared for challenges.
Aim for Radical Hospitality and Inclusion	 Devote resources to facilitation. Welcome participants as their full selves, and foster relationships that go deeper than the work. Use different approaches and methods to engage participants, and consider Disability Justice and Language Justice. Design a schedule and commitments that will work for participants. Navigate power dynamics and hierarchies carefully. Ask yourself who is not participating and why. Ensure access needs are met. Track who is contributing in group spaces, and adjust approaches if needed.





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Increase Participation In Each Phase of Work	 Incorporate the process and ethos of participation beyond your grantmaking. Consider how decision-making power is moving towards stakeholders in meaningful ways. Be intentional about how much power each group of stakeholders holds during each phase and share this with all.
Embrace Interconnectedness (Including Conflicts of Interest)	 Encourage overlapping roles at different stages, and proactively manage any potential conflicts of interest that might arise. Seek out participants with lived expertise — this is an asset rather than a liability. Share conflicts of interest early and manage with transparency. Destigmatize conflicts of interest.
Identify and Shift Administrative Risks and Burdens	 Conduct risk analysis to determine how to shift risk from grantees to the funding institution. Involve administrative staff from the beginning on the foundation side. Ensure you know the limits of what your foundation can do. Document administrative hurdles to reduce them next time. Set realistic expectations with potential grantees about what is required for funding.
See Beyond the 501(c)(3)	 Fund beyond 501(c)(3)s, including individuals, tribes, informal groups, and for-profit entities. Seek support and guidance, externally if needed, about what the risks actually are. Consider needs that different entities seeking funding will have in grantmaking. Don't assume shared language and understanding of financial and legal terminology.

