

COLORADO FUNDERS
FOR INCLUSIVENESS AND EQUITY

Meeting Notes

December 19, 2013

There were two main topics for this meeting: debriefing the October external training and statewide funding strategies.

Erin provided a written summary of the October event. It was well attended and well-received. The summary will be sent electronically to all COFIE members.

Jamie facilitated the group discussion about statewide funding. We broke into small groups to talk about what it means to be a statewide funder. Below is a summary from each group.

Notes from group brainstorm, Tenets of Statewide Funding: What Does it Take to be a bona fide Statewide Funder?

Group 1

- Grants proportionate to population size
- Geographic coverage
- Staff on the ground [in each region]
- Connection with CRC/Rural Philanthropy Days
- Advisory Councils of community members who reflect the depth of the community (unlike traditional “board” make-up)
- Funding based on need indicators, i.e. rates of obesity
- Regular visits to the area (not just during grants cycle), attend football games, cultural events, patronize local businesses
- Board representation (regional)
- Regional information sessions and convenings
- Communication materials show all areas of the state (pictures from the Eastern Plains to the Western Slope)
- No one-size-fits-all application process
- Pay for grantees to come to you

Group 2

- Proportional funding versus population
- Regularly showing your face in the community
- Board is representative of the state

- Regional advisory groups
- Regional outreach activities (i.e. application workshops)
- Communication materials reflect all of Colorado
- No one-size-fits-all applications process (flexible, relational)
- Aware of local celebrations, events, cultural celebrations
- Deliberately educate state elected officials about nonprofits, philanthropy, regional issues
- Pay for grantees to come to you
- Host convenings in different regions
- Foundation staff patronize small/local businesses
- Rotate board meetings throughout the state

Group 3

- Outreach session
- Communication materials
- No one-size-fits-all application process
- Be aware of cultural norms
- State advocacy
- Pay for grantees to come to you
- Patronize small local businesses
- What matters to people in all four corners?
- Establish yourself as a trusted resource
- Have events outside of Denver
- Show up, dress appropriately, honor what you said you would do
- Non-metro board members (have meetings there!)
- Take down your own biases before entering a community
- Meet them where they are

Group 4

- Get to know the community, go there
- Intentionality
- Outreach, staff time
- Aware of taking down biases/prejudgments
- Really get to know the community
- Site visit, go there
- Work at allocating funding (metro vs. other)
- Willingness to look past a “non-sophisticated” proposal/org
- Best practices may be different regionally
- Responsive to grant-making needs in different communities

Group 5

- Intention/purpose
- Resources
- Field trips/site visits/learning tours for staff, board and volunteers
- Becoming a trusted source
- Events in non-metro Denver
- Application process rural friendly
- Use grantees as a resource
- Board, trustees, GMC are from non-metro Denver, rural parts of Colorado
- Collaboration with CBO's, convening issue areas
- Mix of initiative and responsive grant making

Next steps:

1. Please answer the Doodle poll that will be arriving in your email box soon! We are trying to determine the best date to meet in 2014.
2. Jamie and Erin will type up meeting notes and send them out to all.
3. Jamie and Erin will also send out the report on statewide funding from El Pomar Foundation.
4. Erin will send out the summary notes from the external training in October.
5. Coming to all in early 2014:
 - 2014 meeting calendar with topics
 - COFIE roster
 - Introduction of recently updated COFIE website