

CDP Webinar Responses and Resources

[COVID-19: Place-based Grantmakers and Investing in Local Communities](#)

It is difficult to get to all questions posed during the webinar, but it is important to us that we provide responses and share resources. Similar questions are grouped together, however questions answered by the panelists are not included here but can be accessed in the recording of the webinar.

Presentation slides and recordings are available on [our website](#), generally within 48 hours of the webinar.

Q1) How many Community Foundations are in PPREP? Could not hear the number.

PPREP has [17 foundations](#) and three regional associations.

Q2) Is it too soon to start working with Community Foundations to fund projects that are delivering new and innovative methods of service delivery by nonprofits?

No. Although normally we would say that a disaster is not time for experimentation, this is an unprecedented situation. It is possible that the nonprofit landscape will look different when we return to a “new normal” which could include new ways of delivering services to comply with social distancing, the emergence of new organizations and possibly the closure of some others. The impact on reduced volunteer capacity is also going to be felt by many nonprofits. Not only is it a good time to fund projects but it is also a good time to support coalition-building and collaboration among nonprofits. Help them dream and plan together for their new reality. And it is never too early for nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to reach out to foundations. As Carmen mentioned in the webinar, they may have turned you down once, but you could be eligible now. If you do not qualify now, you might in the future. Our COVID-19 Response Fund grantmaker Sally Ray frequently tells groups to continue to send her information so they stay on her radar.

Q3) Please talk about advantages of working with others to build on current efforts as opposed to working with others to start a new effort.

As addressed above, innovation is not always the best strategy in disasters but at the same time, necessity is the mother of invention. We are all doing things differently as we work to keep up with the demands and the implications of the pandemic. Some things to consider.

- Have you determined that no other organization is engaged in your new effort? Is there another group doing similar work you could connect with? Make sure you do a thorough [environmental scan](#).
- How much time/energy is the new effort going to take? Will it draw too many resources (financial and human) from your existing work? Or will it supplement it and open up new opportunities?
- Is what you are currently doing working? Are you being called on to do something new because the old approach is excluding people or is founded in a delivery model that is not sustainable with the new reality of social distancing?
- Have you determined everyone’s role in the partnership/[collaboration](#)?

Q4) Our local foundation has not pushed any additional dollars out to assist with C-19 yet but have given flexibility to existing grantees to use their grants as they need to. Most other area foundations have pushed many dollars out, but our philosophy has been that there will be future needs that no one even knows about yet. From your experience and perspective, when there are so many needs expected to continue over time, what strategies would you implement to become the most effective with this philosophy?

This is a question that CDP is grappling with too. We are known for focusing on recovery and for encouraging funders to wait for – or at least save money for -- the recovery phase of a disaster. However, with this crisis there was an imperative to respond immediately to help address some of the critical needs. As a result, we have already made four rounds of grants (see our [blogs](#) for more details). That said, we have now started moving our grantmaking toward recovery needs. We are also saving some funds for longer-term grantmaking. For those foundations who are holding their funding, we would suggest:

- Use this time to talk to grantees and see what needs they are seeing and anticipating. Be playful in determining what you anticipate you will fund.
- Explore (as discussed in Questions 2 and 3) the needs of NGOs to reconfigure or realign.
- [Talk to other funders](#). See what they are funding now and what they anticipate funding in the future. They may have projects that are doing great work that will need extended funding.
- Look at early recovery needs that will enhance long-term recovery. For example, in our grant to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), CDP provided funding to help with their response but also infrastructure assistance to support a change to a more online version of their services, including virtual trainings. Our Midwest Early Recovery Fund often funds community capacity building activities – supporting those organizations that are going to lead recovery.

Q5) Suggestions for tools or approaches to community engagement around determining most productive or needed use of relief funds for mid to long term recovery? Keeping in mind that we are all trying to expedite the development of a grantmaking strategy and want to move quicker than we normally would.

Many of the answers to Question 4 would also apply here so we will focus this around tools and approaches. CDP has [five elements](#) that drive our grantmaking.

- The [Disaster Philanthropy Playbook](#) is an ever-growing resource for developing a successful disaster grantmaking practice.
- CDP partnered with Candid to research disaster giving and can help you learn what other funders have done as well as how to invest in relief and recovery. This includes [nearly 3,000 COVID grants](#) as well. To learn more about how nonprofits are responding to disasters worldwide, download [Measuring the State of Disaster Philanthropy 2018](#), a report by the Center for Disaster Philanthropy and Candid. Explore the data on disaster philanthropy [here](#). To learn more about how individuals respond to disasters, read [U.S. Household Disaster Giving in 2017 and 2018](#). The report was prepared by the Center for Disaster Philanthropy, Candid and the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.
- The Iowa Community Foundation has a [Disaster Philanthropy Toolkit](#) that offers practical resources to use to build your strategy.
- Learn from experience: [Best Practices in Disaster Grantmaking: Lessons from the Gulf Coast](#).
- One of our webinar co-sponsors, Council on Foundations, also has a [number of disaster resources](#) including specific advice for recent disasters.
- Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors created a short resources - [Giving Strategically After Disaster: Ten Points to Consider](#) – that can help plan your grantmaking.

- Move your normal community engagement strategies online. Surveys, virtual focus groups and key informant interviews can all take place online to help build your strategies and engagement plans.

Q6) What do you see as the role of nonprofit service providers (i.e., consultants) in supporting nonprofits through short-, medium-, and long-term recovery?

Some nonprofits are going to need [to hire consultants](#) to guide them in recovering from the impact of COVID. In reviewing resources (included below) we have distilled the key points in deciding about hiring a consultant.

- A [consultant can fill gaps](#) in expertise missing from your team (e.g. grantwriting, legal, HR).
- [Understand the consultant's role](#), responsibility, limitations, billing practices etc.
- [Do your research](#) before making a decision about who to hire. Make sure they are the best fit for your organization.
- [Hire a consultant the same way](#) you would go about hiring an employee.
- [Think about your budget](#) for a consultant.
- Having a consultant is a partnership. Make sure you [fulfill your role](#) to maximize the consultancy.
- [10 Characteristics of Nonprofit Consultants](#)

Q7) Has there been thought or action on helping to shape how government funding is deployed?

Our [next webinar](#) on May 26 at 2 p.m. EDT will help address that question. We will be discussing what philanthropy should know about the CARES Act and how to support public policy discussions, including more funding.

Q8) How are you encouraging folks with Donor-Advised Funds to liquidate their accounts during this unprecedented crisis?

CDP has a number of clients who represent people with donor-advised funds. We provide guidance, [including a curated list of NGOs](#) that are responding to COVID-19, that our clients can share with their donors. We have encouraged – through webinars and presentations, our disaster profile and our information we send clients – both DAF holders and foundations to increase their giving. We explore this more explicitly in response to [Q6 in last webinar's follow-up Q and A](#).