

Funded Partner Experience

November 2018

Our Commitment to the Funded Partner Experience

The St. Louis philanthropic community envisions a future in which grantmaking is relational and funded partner-funder relationships reflect strong partnerships that lead to meaningful, long-lasting, positive change for the St. Louis region. The funders and philanthropy-supporting organizations listed below are united in our intention to 1) promise the following to all potential funded partners and/or 2) support the following best practices within the field of philanthropy:

1. Communication

- **Staff Contact.** We will designate a named staff member to contact directly about your proposal/grant. Staff continuity is a priority.
- **Prompt Response.** We will provide prompt and respectful responses to all inquiries within and outside of the grant process within three business days (or notification if the staff member you are contacting is out of the office).
- **Proactive Approach.** We will provide proactive and transparent communication to support your timely and effective preparation and participation in our public processes.

2. Grantmaking Process

- **Timeline and Consideration.** We will provide well-defined and realistic expectations about the proposal/application process, including fair and timely consideration of all grant requests.
- **Consistency.** We will ensure the provision of consistent information about our policies and procedures, including the requirements for completing and submitting grant applications/reports and how to request support and/or changes.
- **Performance Management.** We will use performance metrics as an opportunity to learn and propose possible modifications.

3. Relationship

- **You are an Expert.** We value the knowledge and experience you bring to the partnership. We will strive to continuously learn about your organization's strategies, challenges and the context in which you work.
- **Sharing Resources.** Whenever we are able, we will help connect you to our resources, perspectives and approaches (as requested) to support strong programs/organizations and amplify community impact.
- **Assume Best Intentions.** We will engage with you from a perspective of learning and growing together. We will strive to create a genuine and honest relationship, assuming the best intentions of everyone involved.

Funded Partner Feedback

We also encourage funded partners to directly provide honest feedback about what is and is not working, so we can improve our own individual processes and practices. We are committed to integrating as much feedback as possible and to share with you how your feedback has changed and improved our processes.

Possible items might include:

- Proposal/application review process
- Interaction with staff members
- Clarity of guidelines and other communications
- Reporting requirements
- Training and available resources
- Any other topic related to your experience that will help improve our grantmaking efforts

Note: This document is the product of insights gathered from local and national sources completed and vetted by the St. Louis Funder's Learning and Evaluation Group (FLEG). It was finalized and adopted by the funders and philanthropy-supporting organizations below in July of 2018.



Helping people.

