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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION CONFERENCE
APRIL 24 • 26, 2026



Developing Impactful Grant Awarding Practices

Grant Making

Sunday, April 26, 9:00 am, Conference Room



Your Facilitators

Neneth Banas

Manager of Grants
The Winnipeg Foundation

Karen Guth

Board Chair
North Norfolk Foundation Inc.



Which key factors shape your decisions when awarding grants?



Definition: Impactful grant awarding practices



Giving impactful grants means connecting your community knowledge as a community foundation to grantmaking activities



Why impact grant awarding matters

- It builds trust
- It shows donors their money is used well
- It provides your value



How grant making practice works

- Review the process regularly
- Ask for feedback if possible
- Be clear on the change
- Be accessible
- Stay flexible
- Keep your core values



How grant making awarding works

The application review process

- Requires a base of community knowledge
 - local news, community meetings, social media, vital signs and plans
- Consider the factors that go into reviewing an application
 - organization capacity, project activities and timelines, community engagement, culturally responsive practices

How grant making awarding works

The application review process

- Align community needs with your values whether this means...
 - Taking a 360- degree view of holistic community wellbeing from multiple angles
 - Considering geography to ensure funding reflects specific local needs and priority areas
 - Applying specific values of your community foundation
 - Focusing on strategic, innovative or transformative work

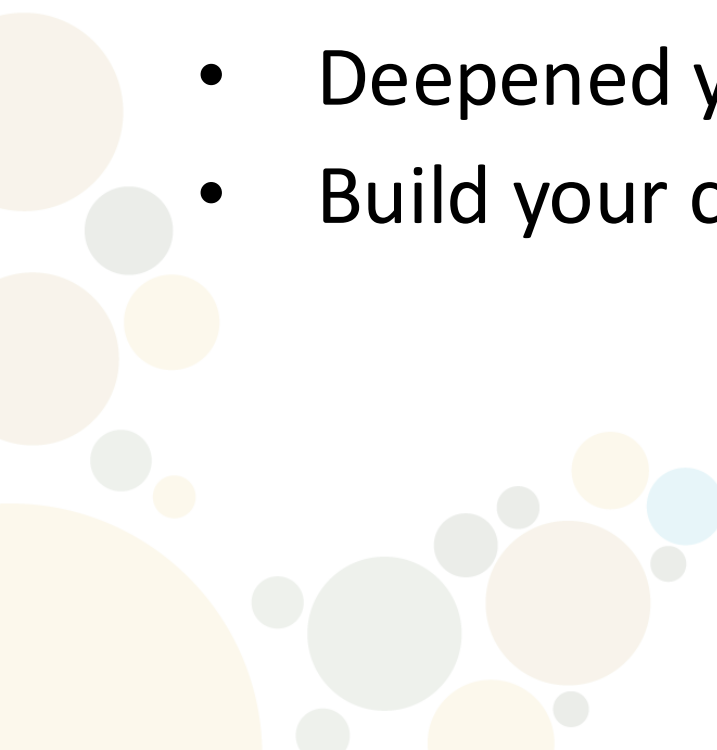
How grant making awarding works

The application review process

- Recognize we bring different perspectives in decisions
 - Acknowledging that bias exist
 - Being open and honest
 - Reflect and review
 - Other perspectives



What are the outcomes of impactful grant awarding practices

- Support meaningful community transformation by improving lives and strengthening community resilience
 - Strengthened the not profit sector
 - Deepened your partnership and trust in community
 - Build your confidence and benefits as an organization
- 



Discussion Question



Discussion question

- What's one part of your grant making approach you are excited to keep learning and improving?
- What are some challenges in your grant making approach?

Discussion question

In your experience, what influences your judgement as a funder?

How can you make space for trust and humility?

How can you be fair and inclusive?



Shared reflections

What's one key takeaway or "AHA" that you want to remember?
What are you curious about now?

Individual Reflection

What tools & ideas can you take back to your community foundation board?



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