

## Respectful & Supportive Funder Practices during Challenging Times:

During times of great uncertainty, Philanthropy West Virginia shares this list of supportive practices that your foundation, corporation, United Way, or funding agency could undertake during these challenging times to relieve the stress of your grantees and fellow nonprofit partners.

These suggestions could be easily adapted for your organization in order to best support nonprofits who are likely feeling a great deal of pressure right now:

- **Check-in with your grantees:** As time and staffing permits, send an email or give a call to your grantees. Let your current grant applicants know what is underway at your organization. As the situation evolves, non-profits may experience challenges related to event planning, remote staff work arrangements, revenue loss, volunteer management, or other areas of operations, so their plans will change.
- **Be flexible on reporting dates and grant periods:** (1) Give your grantees a 6 to 9-month extension on their grant reporting deadlines. (2) If you manage deadlines grantee-by-grantee, invite them to let you know as soon as possible if they need an extension of their grant period.
- **Be flexible with grantee fund usage:** Invite grantees to let your company, foundation, or agency know if they may need to adjust their budget as a result of the fiscal impact of the pandemic. This could, for example, include shifting funds from project support to operating.
- **Be open to grant objective changes:** If the pandemic requires the organization to re-adjust grant objectives, please let them share that information with you.

### Other resources shared with Philanthropy WV from United Philanthropy Forum network:

- **Communicate with grantees:** Share your intentions to honor current funding commitments to your grantees. This reassures to them that they have your full support despite market turbulence.
- **Consider adding an additional year to each grant:** In an effort to ease some funding concerns, communicate, when possible, that your organization will allow the grantee to focus on serving their community. *(For example, Robert Sterling Clark Foundation is offering a "Plus One" initiative pushing grant terms out so grantees don't have to do anything in 2020. For multi-year grants that ended in 2019, they will extend them to include this year. For their current grants, add one-year to existing agreements.)*
- **Adjust check-in meetings:** Relax the timing of in-person check-in meetings by letting go of previously scheduled meetings or mid-term reports. Plan to circle back later this year to reschedule.
- **Offer virtual meeting times:** Several grantees might have questions and need insights on how to adjust during challenging times so offering virtual office hours to talk through any issues or topics for your grantees and their organizations can be helpful.
- **Consider special one-time investments:** As many organizations are switching to remote working, consider offering to pay for a one-year subscription to Zoom videoconferencing for them, if desired or needed, to help transition organizations to a virtual workplace *(FYI: WVNPA members can get a reduced rate).*
- **Welcome condensed and templated funder responses:** As nonprofits have multiple funders, be open to accepting general updates from your grantees they might template for all funders to receive.
- **Advocate for collaborative and flexible funding within philanthropy:** Reach out to your philanthropic peers in Philanthropy WV and other PSOs to encourage them to convert project-based grants to unrestricted to provide more flexibility to grantees. If you haven't done so before, consider applying trust-based practices, such as multi-year general operating support and streamlined processes.
- **Simplify processes and be flexible:** Reduce paperwork and onerous processes by simplifying paperwork with shorter forms and one-page formats *(Philanthropy WV has some templates available).*
- **Be available:** Offer to follow up with each grant individually if they have any questions or special needs.