# Competitive Grantmaking Approach

CFL continues to take steps to include Trust Based Philanthropy practices in distribution of funds from the Fund for Louisville and the Field of Interest funds. Trust Based Philanthropy encourages foundations to adopt six practices in order to alleviate power imbalances and strengthen relationships with grantees.

| Trust-Based Practice for Foundations | Difference it will make | How CFL is living this |
|---|---|---|
| **Provide Multi-Year, Unrestricted Funding** | -Supports the sustainability of organizations and reduces stress on executive directors<br>-Encourages risk taking, creativity, innovation, and emergent action instead of sticking to proposal outcomes that may become outdated<br>-Supports grantees' long-term planning by allowing them to plan and make strategic investments to meet emerging needs | -The Fund for Louisville will offer multi-year, unrestricted funding for the first time.<br>-Three Field of Interest Funds - the Affordable Housing Fund, AIDS Project Fund, and Dennis Reker Fund have issued multi-year, unrestricted grants for the first time. |
| **Do the Homework** | -Reduces the time organizations spend sharing information with grantmakers, especially in early review stages | -CFL staff researched and had conversations with nonprofits and partners to determine which organizations to extend Field of Interest Funds to; several of the organizations had applied multiple times in past years. |
| **Simplify & Streamline Paperwork** | -Less time spent on written applications and reporting means more time for genuine learning, deeper conversations and relationships for grantmakers and grantees | -The Fund for Louisville's application will invite short audio/video or written introductions, and place the responsibility of getting to know the organization on CFL and the selection committee members<br>-CFL invites either a short, written report (including reports already produced for other grantmakers); recorded audio/video reports; or telephone/video call, whichever the grantee prefers |
| **Be Transparent** | -Creates conditions for a more honest grantmaker-grantee relationship<br>-Fosters a better understanding of grantees, their work, and their challenges | -Offer documents like this so nonprofits and partners understand CFL's approach to grantmaking<br>-Offer written or oral feedback to organizations that submit applications for grant funding regarding why an organization was not granted funds. |
| **Solicit & Act on Feedback** | -Offers insight that can help grantmakers better serve grantees<br>-Encourages mutual trust and authenticity<br>-Improves funder practices and policies | -At the end of all reports, surveys, and processes CFL asks for open and honest feedback so we can improve. When we receive feedback, we use it to make our processes better. |
| **Offer Support Beyond the Check** | -Helps build the capacity and strength of leaders and organizations over time<br>-Fosters a deeper sense of connection to grantees and their work<br>-Offers grantmakers a chance to learn about grantees' work and organizational context | -CFL regularly convenes organizations and individuals that have received grant funding from CFL for informal networking, learning and to encourage collaboration. |

For more information about trust-based philanthropy please visit trustbasedphilanthropy.org