



national committee for
responsive philanthropy

THE GRANTMAKING FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT PROJECT

*Increasing Philanthropic Resources for Advocacy,
Organizing and Civic Engagement*

OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH APPROACH

The Grantmaking for Community Impact Project seeks to increase philanthropic resources for advocacy, organizing, and civic engagement work that benefits low-income communities, communities of color, and other disadvantaged groups. The National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP) will achieve this goal by documenting impact and engaging stakeholders in dialogue.

SITE SELECTION

NCRP will choose project sites that have some or all of the following characteristics:

- A vibrant mix of active organizing, advocacy and civic engagement groups;
- A grantmaker association and nonprofit association interested in the project;
- Foundations that currently support advocacy and organizing;
- Foundations that desire to begin or increase support for this work; and,
- Communities that reflect overall diversity (population density, regions of the country, demographics).

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

NCRP will identify potential community organizations to be researched by gathering information from nonprofit associations, foundations and other community leaders. After a complete list has been generated, NCRP will consider organizations that can demonstrate meeting the following criteria:

- Been in existence for at least five years;
- Have a commitment to and capacity for organizing or advocacy;
- Have at least one full-time staff person devoted to this work throughout the five year timeframe;
- Focus on a core constituency of low-income people, people of color or other marginalized groups;
- Work on a local, regional (within-state) or statewide level; and,
- Have the capacity to provide data for the research.

DATA COLLECTION

NCRP will collect data for a five-year period for the following measures:

- Quantitative impacts (e.g. the dollar value of policy changes and the number of constituents benefiting from the changes);
- Civic engagement indicators (e.g. the number of leaders trained, voters registered and volunteers recruited);
- Interim progress and capacity-building indicators (e.g. changes in leaders' skills and better access to the policy process); and,
- Amounts and types of funding groups have received during the five years.

FINAL REPORT AND DIALOGUE

NCRP will produce a report on the research findings for each site. This report will be the focus of a release event and other outreach activities that will highlight key lessons and recommendations for foundations on how to more effectively support advocacy, organizing and civic engagement efforts. NCRP will work with both nonprofits and foundations to create meaningful conversations and link foundations to resources on how to get involved.