

# Criteria for Philanthropy at Its Best<sup>®</sup>

A grantmaker practicing Philanthropy at Its Best serves the public good by ...

## CRITERION I: VALUES

... contributing to a strong, participatory democracy that engages all communities.

- a) Provides at least 50 percent of its grant dollars to benefit lower-income communities, communities of color and other marginalized groups, broadly defined
- b) Provides at least 25 percent of its grant dollars for advocacy, organizing and civic engagement to promote equity, opportunity and justice in our society

## CRITERION II: EFFECTIVENESS

... investing in the health, growth and effectiveness of its nonprofit partners.

- a) Provides at least 50 percent of its grant dollars for general operating support
- b) Provides at least 50 percent of its grant dollars as multi-year grants
- c) Ensures that the time to apply for and report on the grant is commensurate with grant size

## CRITERION III: ETHICS

... demonstrating accountability and transparency to the public, its grantees and constituents.

- a) Maintains an engaged board of at least five people who include among them a diversity of perspectives—including of the communities it serves—and who serve without compensation
- b) Maintains policies and practices that support ethical behavior
- c) Discloses information freely

## CRITERION IV: COMMITMENT

... engaging a substantial portion of its financial assets in pursuit of its mission.

- a) Pays out at least 6 percent of its assets annually in grants
- b) Invests at least 25 percent of its assets in ways that support its mission

## QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

You can reach us at (202) 387-9177 or [info@ncrp.org](mailto:info@ncrp.org).

National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy  
1331 H Street NW, Suite 200 • Washington, D.C. 20005

