

Aligning for **IMPACT** *Learnings*

SIFT Tips for Becoming A Stronger Funder Network



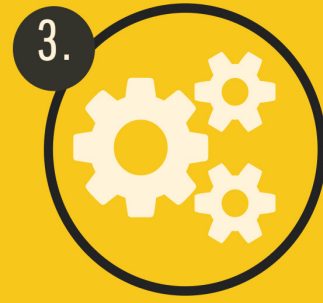
1. INVEST IN STRONG COMMUNICATIONS

- Expert facilitation is vital and can showcase new communication models to replicate.
- Trust is key, and information sharing builds trust. Prepare for this to take a lot of time.
- Create a deep level of buy-in and challenge participants to bring their best strategic thinking to the center of the room, not share it in back channels.



2. ENCOURAGE SMARTER FUNDING

- Instead of surfacing more civic engagement money for state work, this project revealed that in order to sustain the state-based civic engagement infrastructure that has already been built, we need to help issue funders find smarter (tactical) strategies for state impact.



3. TRY NEW TOOLS + APPROACHES

- Cultivate a willingness to trying new things.
- Utilize a virtual meeting platform to bridge the geographic divide.
- Consider adopting a shared leadership model where everyone takes responsibility for the group process.
- Challenge each member to strengthen their ability to participate in the network process.

In the end, participants agreed that taking time to be part of a process that learned from others, shared stories and connected with peers was very valuable. Those relationships continue today.