



# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT READINESS SELF ASSESSMENT

For each statement below, please choose one of the following:

- ✓ **Red Light:** Our foundation has not gone there
- ✓ **Yellow Light:** Our foundation has started conversations about this or taken some first steps
- ✓ **Green Light:** Our foundation is fully on board

	Red Light	Yellow Light	Green Light
<b>LEADERSHIP</b>			
1. Foundation leadership (president or executive director) have an organizational commitment to using philanthropy to address injustice in society.			
2. Trustees or board members have an organizational commitment to supporting civic engagement strategies to meet the foundation’s goals.			
3. Board has received information or training about permissible activities for (c)(3) grantee partners.			
4. Decision-making about direction of the foundation includes engagement from broad stakeholders with expertise in civic engagement.			
<b>PROGRAM STRATEGIES + GRANTMAKING</b>			
1. Program staff have completed an analysis of how civic engagement strategies can benefit the portfolio or foundation’s goals.			
2. Programs/portfolios provide at least 50 percent of grant dollars to benefit lower-income communities, communities of color and other marginalized groups, broadly defined.*			
3. Programs/portfolios provide at least 25 percent of grant dollars for advocacy, organizing and civic engagement to promote equity, opportunity and justice in our society.*			
4. Foundation promotes training to grantees to learn how to incorporate civic engagement strategies into their work while complying with IRS regulations.			
5. Grant agreements do not needlessly or inadvertently prohibit allowable civic engagement activities.			

	Red Light	Yellow Light	Green Light
<b>INTERNAL SKILLS TRAINING</b>			
1. Program staff have received training on (c)(3) permissible activities for grantees.			
2. Foundation legal staff have received training on (c)(3) permissible activities for grantees.			
<b>EVALUATION OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT INVESTMENTS</b>			
1. Civic engagement metrics are developed on a case by case basis with grantees using civic engagement strategies.			
2. Overall metrics for civic engagement outcomes are evaluated on a three-year cycle or longer.			
3. Foundation provides at least 50 percent of its grant dollars as multi-year grants and at least 50 percent for general operating support.*			

\* From "Criteria for Philanthropy at its Best," NCRP, 2012.

[http://www.ncrp.org/files/publications/PAIB\\_OnePage\\_042512.pdf](http://www.ncrp.org/files/publications/PAIB_OnePage_042512.pdf)