CIVIC ENGAGEMENT WORKS

A Funder-exclusive Workshop to Help You Achieve Your Mission

Presented By

ncrp
FCCP

National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy
FUNDERS COMMITTEE FOR CIVIC PARTICIPATION
GOALS

1. CREATE a shared definition of civic engagement
2. DEMYSTIFY what civic engagement is and how it can help your cause
3. ADDRESS any barriers that could keep you from supporting this work
4. ASSESS your readiness to support civic engagement
5. PROVIDE resources for you to share within your institution
Building a shared definition of CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT is the process and impact of everyday people participating in the life of a community to improve conditions and shape that community’s future.

It requires that individuals see themselves as part of the fabric of their communities and as having the motivation, skills and ability to make a difference.
LAY IT ON THE LINE
STATEMENT 1
Investing in civic engagement is a high risk strategy for me as a program officer or for my institution.
STATEMENT 2

I see how civic engagement grantmaking intersects with my existing portfolio.
VOLUNTEERISM

Cultivates Community

Builds and Strengthens Community Infrastructure and Networks

Meets Immediate Community Needs
CHANGING SYSTEMS, LAWS + POLICIES ISN’T EASY, BUT IT IS VITAL TO CREATING LASTING CHANGE.
ELECTIONS

★ Voter Registration
★ Community Education
★ Get out the Vote
★ Election Protection

POLICYMAKING

★ Shifting Terms of Debate
★ Educating Decision-makers
★ Lobbying Decision-makers
★ Holding Officials Accountable
INTEGRATED VOTER ENGAGEMENT

A Proven Strategy For Achieving Impact on the Issues You Care About

Strategies that integrate year-round nonpartisan voter engagement with community-organizing activities build a strong base of support that strengthens an organization's ability to hold decision-makers accountable, impact public policy and build long-term power for the communities they serve.
WHITE MEN ARE 31% OF THE POPULATION

BUT HOLD 65% OF ELECTED OFFICES
HOW DOES YOUR STATE RANK IN THE NATIONAL REPRESENTATION INDEX?

from WhoLeads.US

MICHIGAN

14
out of 50 states + DC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elected Officials</th>
<th>Population</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>64%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- white men: 38%
- white women: 39%
- men of color: 12%
- women of color: 12%
VOTING RESTRICTIONS IN AMERICA

Status Key:
- Red: Restriction in place for first time in presidential election in 2016
- Light pink: Restriction in place for 2012 presidential election

BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE
The Supreme Court’s **CITIZENS UNITED** and **McCUTCHEON** decisions give wealthy individuals and corporations undue influence over electoral outcomes.
STATES CONSIDERING AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION IN 2016
In the run-up to the three most recent decennial counts, funding for the Census Bureau increased by 79 to 143 percent between the years ending in 6 and 8.

The White House’s current proposal would increase spending by just 9.6 percent between 2016 and 2018, and would be less than what was requested for 2017.

Source: Office of Management and Budget public use database.
ADDITIONAL THREATS TO AN ACCURATE CENSUS COUNT

Adding Citizenship + Status Questions

Making the ACS Voluntary

Potential Impact of “Innovations” on Hard-to-Count Communities

- Internet Response
- Use of Administrative Records
- Race & Ethnicity questions redesign
- In-Office Address Canvassing
- Reduced Field Infrastructure
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What was Access Strategies’ starting point to begin exploring the census?

What makes the foundation’s strategy legally okay? What wouldn’t be okay?

What was the impact they saw by investing in civic engagement?
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What do we mean by “political”?

What makes the foundation’s strategy legally okay? What wouldn’t be okay?

Were the California nonprofits engaging in politics?
DO

★ MAKE TRUE MULTI-YEAR GRANTS
Civic engagement work is long-term

★ Support non-partisan VOTER REGISTRATION, EDUCATION + MOBILIZATION

★ MAKE GENERAL SUPPORT GRANTS to c3 groups engaged in issue advocacy and ballot campaigns

★ Support appropriate CANDIDATE FORUMS + VOTER GUIDES

★ UNDERSTAND THE GOALS + STRATEGIES of your civic engagement grantees
DON’T

★ Use c3 dollars to SUPPORT OR OPPOSE CANDIDATES for public office

★ EARMARK GRANTS FOR LOBBYING unless you are a public foundation working within lobbying limits

★ Use unnecessarily RESTRICTIVE LANGUAGE in grant agreements

★ WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE to make election-related grants (late dollars are deeply-discounted dollars)
What came up for folks at your table?

Where are your green lights?

Where are your red lights?
LEVERAGE YOUR BENEFITS

Access a variety of valuable resources specifically developed for civic engagement funders at the FCCP member portal

www.FundersCommittee.org
Thank You For Participating in Today’s Workshop

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