



2026 LEARNING AND EVALUATION REPORT

Flexible funding, measurable impact

Learning about trust-based philanthropy and systems change

Executive summary

There is a commonly held misconception in philanthropy that providing flexible funding means funders have to compromise on accountability and measurable change. This report shares learnings from [Point32Health Foundation's](#) trust-based approach with grantees, specifically how it supports nonprofits to advance their mission, affect systems change and ultimately see direct improvements in the communities they serve.

Six core findings emerged consistently across 55 conversations with grantees about what trust-based approaches make possible in their work:

- i. **Flexible funding enables adaptability and defense-oriented strategies in a highly volatile context.** Grantees are protecting and strengthening the “people and systems that make change possible.” For example, grantees are championing eligibility rules that protect or expand access to services or building coalitions and power to shift systems.
- ii. **The Foundation's trust-based practices are “impact enablers” to advance grantees' missions.** Grantees value the Foundation's relational, flexible approach and encourage the Foundation to deepen and expand these practices.
- iii. **Integrating community voice is seen as a strategic lever to improve outcomes.** Nonprofits are increasing mutual trust and validity between community members and decision makers to shape priorities, program design and governance.
- iv. **Systems change is being advanced by building relationships, strengthening infrastructure and shifting mindsets, narratives and norms.** Trust-based practices allow the flexibility and space for community-led organizations to invest in longer-term, collaborative solutions to spur lasting change.
- v. **Communities experience direct improvements as a result of grantees' work—**including increased access to benefits and services, greater stability in basic needs and safety, improved health, and stronger civic participation. Community-level impact is achievable through a relational, trust-based approach.
- vi. **The Foundation's flexible funding helps unlock additional resources,** especially when flexible dollars served as bridge funding, matches or credibility signals.

Among the Foundation's grantees....

- **64%** are collaborating to achieve systems change
- **58%** are advancing policy change. Progress in policy change includes expanding eligibility and accessibility, removing application barriers and solidifying funding for programs that serve older adults and people with lower incomes
- **56%** see community voice integration as a primary lever for change
- **49%** gained additional funding and resources from other philanthropic sources
- **38%** are shifting narratives to achieve systems change

Introduction

Point32Health Foundation works with communities to support, advocate, and advance healthier lives for everyone. Formed by the combination of the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation and the Tufts Health Plan Foundation, Point32Health Foundation centers community and builds on a value of service and giving to support the five states in its region: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

The Foundation supports nonprofits doing community-led work addressing systemic inequities. We support work that advances equity in aging. We take a trust-based approach, listening and learning from community. The Foundation's trust-based approach centers organizations by providing multi-year, general operating support to advance the nonprofit missions; the Foundation does not have prescribed outcomes it hopes to achieve. The Foundation's aim is to advance equity in aging through systems change approaches, with the belief that individual organizations, who are closest to community, are best positioned to determine *how* to do this.

The Foundation's trust-based approach evolved following the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The organization shifted its approach to be more flexible and did not shift back. The application process was streamlined, and the reporting process was adapted in ways that best fit the grantees (i.e. sharing a written report developed for another funder, engaging in a verbal report, etc.).

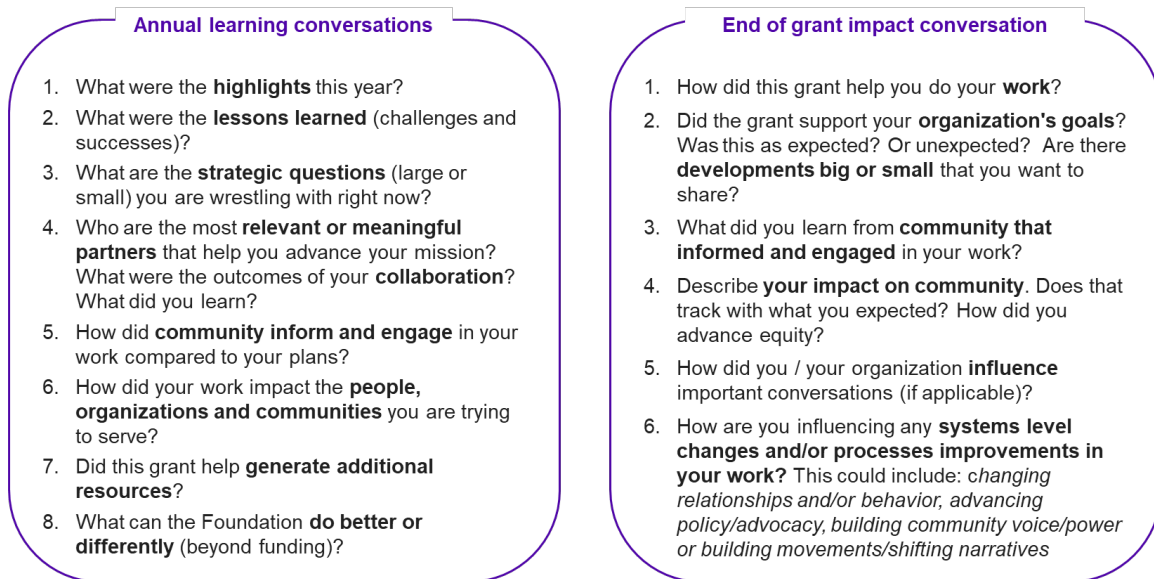
This report shares what is possible for organizations and the communities they serve with a trust-based approach. The Foundation hopes to dispel the myth that general operating support and accountability are at odds with one another. The story told by this data aims to encourage other funders to embrace trust-based practices.

Trust-based philanthropy is geared toward achieving results. By creating conditions for transparency and mutual learning, it helps organizations achieve intended impact, while also helping funders see the bigger picture of what it takes to achieve change.

Methodology

The data in this report comes from annual learning conversations between the Foundation team and the grantees it funds. These two-way learning conversations discuss the grantees' work, progress, and impact by focusing on the questions below:

Figure 1: Conversation questions



This report synthesizes findings from **55** learning conversations that happened in 2025 and early 2026. These conversations included:

- **35** annual learning conversations and **20** end of grant conversations.
- **26** organizations focused on improving conditions for older adults, **12** that act as movement makers or intermediaries, **15** focused on community building across the lifespan and **two** focused on access to healthy food.

Appendix A includes the full list of grantees included in this analysis, along with the state they operate in and their focus area.

Artificial Intelligence models were used to help synthesize conversations and generate themes, omitting individual identities and maintaining organizational anonymity. Foundation staff members verified information and drew conclusions outlined in this report.

Flexible funding enables adaptability and defense-oriented strategies in a highly volatile context

Grantees report frequent organizational pivots in response to federal and state policy shifts, reductions in funding and climate events. In a time of increased need across issue areas, many have shifted resources toward rapid response, legal protection, safety planning and crisis navigation. Grantees highlighted the need to defend existing programs, policies or narratives essential to advancing inclusion and systems improvements. Grantees framed progress as the prevention of harm and assurance that policies translate into real access.

“Point32Health Foundation helped us create a streamlined grantmaking round that bypassed the usual application process, helping us meet the moment by reducing the burden on organizations doing critical community resilience work. We also leveraged those dollars to secure a multi-year grant from a major institution, creating stability for our community.”

Point32Health Foundation grantee

Many grantees highlighted the tension between the need to react to the current context to stabilize communities and the desire to proactively build better systems for the future. As grantees work to fill safety-net gaps to protect vulnerable community members while also planning for the future, **there is an increasing demand for flexible, general operating philanthropic support and mutual aid**. Multiyear general operating grants enable “staying power” to retain staff, make rapid pivots and invest in operations as needed to sustain while planning for the future.

Leaders are grappling with strategic questions such as:

- How to sustain work under funding changes, including funding ending
- How to communicate and balance visibility in hostile environments
- How to support and protect staff and community members (i.e., staff professional development, self-care for staff and community members)
- What activities to pause or stop to preserve effectiveness and resources
- When to take risks and scale programming

Trust-based practices are “impact enablers” to advance grantees’ missions

Feedback on the Foundation’s trust-based practices is consistently positive and framed as an **impact enabler**. Strong relationships between the Foundation and its grantees allowed for open, honest communication and real-time feedback about grantee financial needs and needs for support “beyond the check.”

What organizations value most

- Funding flexibility to pivot and respond to emerging needs
- A sense that the Foundation understands and believes in the work
- Human partnership, timely touchpoints
- Low-burden processes that respect the constraints of small and grassroots organizations
- Low-burden, relationship-based reporting
- Continued funding despite political shifts

What organizations want more of

- Opportunities for connection and peer learning
- Strategic convening among grantees
- Strategic introductions to other funders
- Help identifying new funders / pathways (especially in underfunded sectors)
- Convening/learning communities that connect like-minded organizations and reduce isolation
- The Foundation’s influence on other funders to adopt a flexible, trust-based approach
- Opportunities for the Foundation to partner with other funders and adopt collaborative funding models
- Increased visibility of the Foundation’s position to stand firm in its commitment to equity in aging

Suggestions for strengthening the sector

- Provide technical assistance and capacity building to individual grantees and cohorts on topics such as financial planning, strategic planning, measurement and evaluation and communications and storytelling. Ensure that capacity building is focused on the entire team.
- Connect organizations and sectors, including supporting partnership development and coalition building, especially across states and issues
- Foster more intentional dialogue and learning across grantees (i.e., peer learning, convenings, cross-issue or state collaborations)
- Expand shared services and operational support

Community voice is a strategic lever to improve outcomes

Among grantees, listening mechanisms to gather community perspectives are becoming more formalized while participatory structures, advisory bodies and governance reforms are becoming more commonly integrated into grantees’ work. Many grantees are using continuous feedback loops to ensure information flows and continuous improvement are prioritized. As the Foundation builds trust with grantees, these nonprofit organizations are building trust with and staying proximate to the communities they serve.

Foundation grantees are using multiple, increasingly deep mechanisms to integrate community voice. The [IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation](#)¹ (see Figure 2 for model) helps illustrate the impact of these mechanisms. Moving left to right across the spectrum indicates an increasing impact of public participation on decisions.

Figure 2: IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION

INFORM

CONSULT

INVOLVE

COLLABORATE

EMPOWER

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL

To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.

To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.

To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.

To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.

To place final decision making in the hands of the public.

PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC

We will keep you informed.

We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.

We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.

We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.

We will implement what you decide.

© Federation of International Association for Public Participation 2024. All rights reserved. This work was created with contributions from Lewis Michaelson, Martha Rozelle and Doug Sarno.

Inform

Nearly all (95%) grantees discussed activities such as **public information dissemination, awareness campaigns and resource guides**, indicating this is core to the work. The goal is to provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.

Consult

Over half of grantees (56%) highlighted their approach to gathering perspectives to

¹ Federation of International Association for Public Participation 2024. All rights reserved. This work was created with contributions from Lewis Michaelson, Martha Rozelle, and Doug Sarno. www.iap2.org. The IA2 Spectrum of Public Participation is used to unify language around public participation and engagement and help define decision-making roles between decision makers and the public.

understand the problem through surveys, interviews/focus groups, listening sessions and participatory research. This includes one-off research and annual surveys.

Involve

Nearly half (49%) of grantees highlighted that they gather community perspectives to **evaluate potential solutions**, which may also include surveys, interviews/focus groups, listening sessions and participatory research. For some, this was done through more formal structures such as councils that were not on-going and did not have decision-making power. For example, this may involve getting community input on a draft policy agenda or testing potential program options.

Collaborate

Sixteen of the 55 grantees (29%) discussed collaborating with community members. Collaboration is achieved through more formal structures to **co-create solutions and share decision-making**. This is done intentionally over time to shape priorities and/or program design. This includes developing resident-led champions for policy change, creating spaces for communities to develop a policy agenda or co-designing an app with the primary audience.

Empower

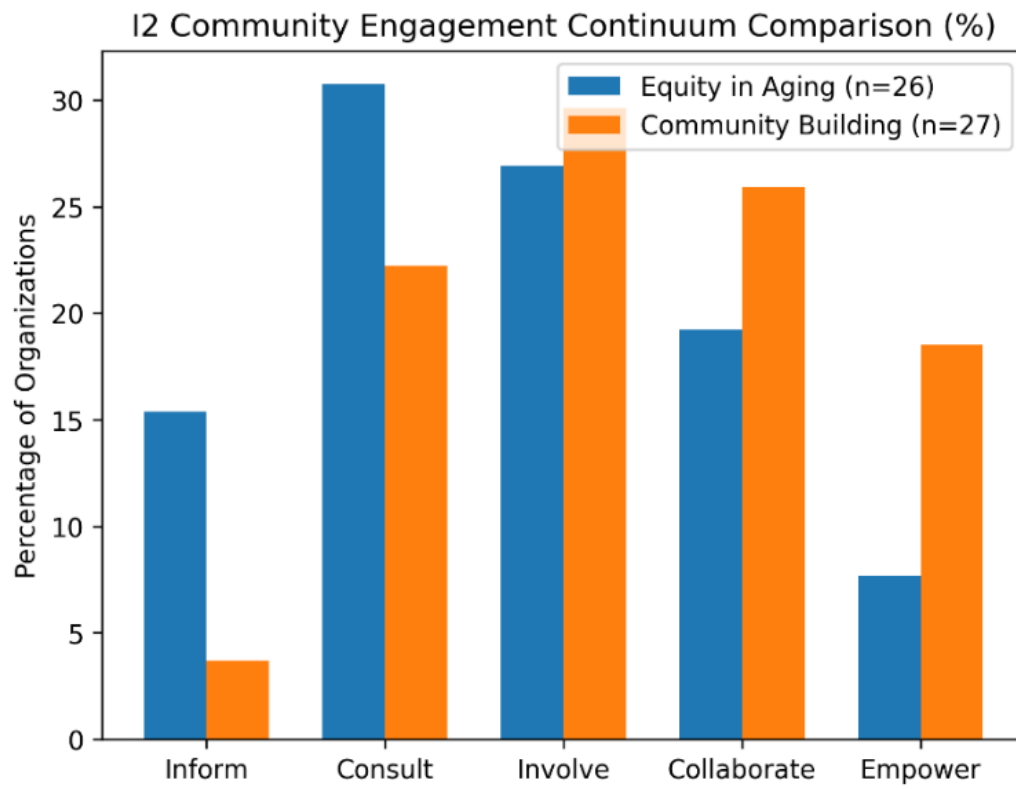
Eight of the fifty-five grantees (15%) discussed empowering **community members to hold formal decision-making authority**. Most of the organization in this “empowerment cluster” are equity funds, movement-based organizations, member-led policy change groups and grassroots community building groups.

Community shaping strategy and governance: some grantees have adjusted governance structures, advisory bodies and strategic planning processes to reflect community leadership and lived experience. These bodies have authority to make the final decision on strategy and governance based on their lived experience. This may include volunteer grant reviewers, youth advisory councils or resident-led coalitions where the community sets and owns the agenda.

Community shaping grantmaking: some grantees are developing participatory grantmaking structures. These grantmaking bodies have the final decision on resource allocation. Many are doing so in a “safety conscious way” in the current context of heightened risk.

It is important to tailor a community engagement approach to the specific issue and community. For example, grantees that focus on improving conditions for older adults and grantees that focus on community building differ in their approach to integrating community voice. Grantees focused on improving conditions for older adults tend to integrate community voice to strengthen service access and policy implementation. Community building grantees focus more on transformational systems change due to the nature of their work. They frequently embed shared decision-making and power redistribution within engagement models.

Figure 3: Public participation methods by grantee focus



Systems change is advanced by building relationships, strengthening infrastructure and shifting mindsets, narratives and norms

The Foundation’s grantees advance systems change, and articulate that progress, through several reinforcing pathways described below. Trust and relationships are foundational to all three pathways. In addition, flexible, multi-year funding allowed grantees to invest in these pathways that often do not see outcomes for long time frames.

Relational	Structural	Transformative
• Trust-building • Community voice • Collaboration • Storytelling	• Policy-change • Advocacy / convening • Systems planning and strengthening • Infrastructure shifts	• Mindset shifts • Narrative change • New models/practices • Long-term culture change

Relational systems change

More than half (56%) of grantees noted that the relationships they built or strengthened are foundational to advancing systems change. Relational systems change builds the connective tissue of trust and participation.

- **Trust-building as a pre-condition for access:** many grantees noted that trust-building is necessary for participation in service uptake, community data collection/community engagement, leadership development and policy change. Grantees note that trust and safety are especially critical to program designs when serving communities that have been historically overlooked.
- **Valuing community voice to inform all work:** many grantees are authentically engaging community by moving beyond informing or consulting community to sharing decision-making power. With this approach, grantees co-create programs, inform policy agendas, change governance structures and influence grantees’ grantmaking priorities.
- **Intermediaries as relationship infrastructure:** equity funds and community foundations support the connection of isolated grassroots groups, convene organizations, reduce barriers for unincorporated or fiscally sponsored groups and strengthen peer networks.

What progress looks like:

- ✓ Increased participation
- ✓ Decreased isolation
- ✓ Stronger partner alignment
- ✓ Community members influencing decisions
- ✓ Safer civic engagement spaces

The approach to relational systems-change work differed between grantees focused on organizing, policy and systems change to improve the conditions affecting older adults and those focused on community building - organizations supporting community power and advancing solutions promoting healthier communities.

Focus on older adults	Focus on community building
<i>Trust as access</i>	<i>Trust as power building</i>
Strategies that support service delivery for all: • Reducing isolation among older adults • Ensuring culturally competent outreach • Trusted messengers for health, benefits and services • Language accessibility • Building trust with caregivers	Strategies that redistribute influence and build civic agency: • Base-building • Leadership pipelines • Participatory governance • Resident advisory councils • Movement-building

Structural systems change

64% of grantees are building coordinating structures (e.g., coalitions, data systems, etc.) to better serve communities. Strategies include:

- **Convening as a systems tool:** grantees use convenings to increase trust, build cross-sector relationships, align stakeholders and develop shared agendas and movements.
- **Coalition building:** grantees are increasingly working through organized, collaborative coalitions with clarified roles, shared tools and coordinated messaging. Backbone organizations' work—convening, data, communications and policy translation—are repeatedly cited as critical to sustain this type of collaboration. Movement makers and intermediaries are

What progress looks like:

- ✓ Clear roles
- ✓ Policy wins or defense of existing gains
- ✓ Improved service integration
- ✓ Reduced duplication
- ✓ Faster coordinated responses
- ✓ Shared messaging
- ✓ Shared infrastructure
- ✓ Client-centered processes
- ✓ Inclusive data gathering

important for building networks, convening repeatedly over time and strengthening shared leadership.

- **Shared infrastructure for system integration:** many grantees are focused on working together to build the operational “plumbing” for systems integration.
- **Policy change:** many grantees are combining technical policy work with developing community-level champions to inform testimony, validate needs and hopes and defend gains over time. Grantees are educating legislators about the challenges facing communities and shaping how policy is implemented. Policy change is happening at the local, regional, state and federal level.

The approach to structural systems-change work differed between grantees focused on organizing, policy and systems change to improve the conditions affecting older adults and those focused on community building - organizations supporting community power and advancing solutions promoting healthier communities.

Focus on older adults	Focus on community building
<i>Strengthening institutional systems to improve access</i>	<i>Strengthening civic and movement infrastructure</i>
Common approaches: • Expanding eligibility and accessibility • Removing application barriers • Securing funding for programs serving older people • Policy monitoring and implementation defense • Service integration models (e.g., no-wrong-door systems) • Government partnerships	Common approaches: • Coalition formation and alignment • Civic engagement infrastructure • Cross-sector networks • Democracy and voting access • Grassroots-to-policy pipelines • Philanthropic ecosystem reform

Transformative systems change

51% of grantees are working to build agency of people closest to the problem to transform communities for the future. Strategies include:

- **Building models to demonstrate the need for systems change:** grantees are creating models that are designed to: (1) demonstrate what systems that serve all could look like, (2) influence policy or philanthropic practice or (3) be replicated or scaled.
- **Narrative change:** 21 of the 55 grantees referenced narrative change or storytelling as a strategy, using stories, the arts, media and lived-experience testimony to influence policymakers and the general public. Grantees shared that narrative change is a strategic lever, not just a communications strategy. Specific strategies included:
 - Disrupting harmful stereotypes
 - Publishing research to challenge dominant frames
 - Elevating lived experience in legislative spaces
 - Cultural organizing and arts-based engagement
 - Field reports aimed at shifting philanthropic behavior
- **Mindset shift:** many grantees are working to shift mindsets within government agencies, health systems, philanthropy, employers and coalition partners. Examples include:
 - Changing how agencies define eligibility or accessibility
 - Shifting philanthropic criteria toward smaller grassroots groups
 - Moving systems from deficit framing to strengths-based framing
 - Increasing awareness of hidden disparities within broad demographic categories
- **Long-term culture change through belonging and identity:** grantees are working to shift power structures and build long-term capacity in communities to increase belonging, strengthen identity, heal harms and restore cultural connection.

What progress looks like:

- ✓ Increased participation
- ✓ Institutional behavior change
- ✓ Shifts in who holds power, reduced fear
- ✓ New funding norms
- ✓ Participatory models for grantmaking and policy change
- ✓ “No wrong door” service models
- ✓ Disrupted harmful narratives
- ✓ Community members seen as leaders, increased civic agency and reduction in fear

- **Redefining success metrics:** some grantees are transforming systems by challenging traditional evaluation approaches. They are considering how to assess and communicate metrics that speak to the progress indicators below.

Community building grantees focused much more on transformative systems change than grantees focused on organizing, policy and systems change to improve the conditions affecting older adults. Grantees focused on improving conditions for older people are primarily strengthening institutional systems to improve access for all. Community building grantees are more likely to pursue transformational strategies to redistribute power or reshape civic and cultural norms.

Focus on older adults	Focus on community building
<i>Transformational strategies present, nested within structural changes</i>	<i>Transformational strategies more central</i>
Common approaches: • Redefining narratives • Combating stigma • Integrating disability justice into systems advancing healthy aging • Changing how institutions define eligibility • Increasing awareness of hidden disparities	Common approaches: • Participatory grantmaking • Narrative change campaigns • Cultural organizing • Leadership pipelines • Shifting philanthropic norms • Redistributing decision-making power • Challenging dominant racial and economic narratives

Communities see tangible improvements

Nearly two-thirds of grantees (62%) shared evidence that their work has contributed to tangible improvements in people's lives, including increased access to services and benefits, greater stability, improved health and stronger civic participation. Grantees are able to communicate benefits and advance their missions, dispelling the myth that there is a trade-off between trust-based approaches and accountability.

Category	Example Outcomes
Improved access to services and benefits	• Increased enrollment of older adults in benefits • Reduced wait times • Increased successful applications • Removed language barriers • Improved disability accommodations • Improved food access
Increased stability and security	• Prevented evictions • Stabilized housing • Sustained public benefits • Expanded food security • Increased safety for immigrant communities
Improved health and wellbeing	• Reduced isolation among older adults • Increased mental health service access • Improved caregiver support • Increased participation in wellness programs
Increased civic participation and agency	• Increased number of residents testifying at hearings • Increased number of youths participating in leadership roles • Increased voter turnout in historically disinvested communities

	• Increased number of community members serving on advisory boards
Cultural and identity-based outcomes	• Strengthened cultural identity • Reduced stigma • Increased intergenerational connection • Restored language and traditions • Created safer spaces for vulnerable communities
Policy wins with concrete improvements	• Expanded eligibility thresholds • Increased funding streams • Removed bureaucratic hurdles • Improved accessibility standards

The remaining 38% of grantees primarily emphasized intangible structural outcomes:

- Infrastructure building
- Coalition strengthening
- Narrative change
- Policy defense
- Field-level coordination

Direct improvements in lived experience are most frequently reported in aging-focused grants (77%), while community-building grants more often emphasize structural and transformational progress (52% reporting direct improvements).

Foundation funding unlocks additional resources

Nearly half (49%) of grantees indicated that their grant from the Foundation helped attract additional funding and resources. Grantees indicated this was possible because the Foundation's funding was **flexible, multi-year and positioned as catalytic rather than transactional**.

This happened in different ways, as outlined below.

Catalytic/bridge and matching capital

General operating grants functioned as match or bridge funding, enabling organizations to unlock public funds or other philanthropic support.

Credibility and signaling ("seal of approval")

Grantees frequently described the Foundation's support as a "seal of approval" that strengthened their standing with other funders.

Capacity-enabled fundraising and earned revenue

General operating support allowed organizations to invest in development capacity, fee-based programming and partnerships that expanded revenue over time.

Visibility effects

Association with the Foundation increased visibility and donor confidence, contributing to new support.

Appendix A: Grantee examples that showcase executive summary themes

- i. **Community voice is seen as a strategic lever - integral in shaping priorities, design and governance and increasing mutual trust and validity between community members and decision makers.**

The Boston Women's Fund (Mass.) Movement Maker

The organization realized how important it is to have people of all ages involved in the work. This year, eighteen young adults participated in deciding on the allocation of \$30,000 in grants. As a result of this pilot, the organization intends to create a youth advisory board to further institutionalize youth voices in organizational decision-making.

Sista Fire (R.I.) Community Building

Community members shape strategy through justice circles, door-knocking, surveys, mutual aid committees, and participatory action research. Members' stories are intentionally collected and elevated to inform campaigns (e.g., rent stabilization), positioning community voice as a driver of strategy and power.

Maine Association of New Americans (MANA) (Maine) Community Building

MANA highlighted that nearly all of their staff and volunteers represent New Americans and it's these deep community ties that enable authentic community engagement throughout all their initiatives. Community members involved in their peer-support mental health work become trusted ambassadors, helping recruit new participants and shape social connection opportunities.

- ii. **Systems change is being advanced by building relationships, strengthening infrastructure and shifting mindsets, narratives and norms. Grantees are investing in longer-term, collaborative solutions to spur lasting change.**

Partners in Health (Mass.) Community Building

Partners in Health convened the Health Equity Community of Practice in New Bedford, a hub of over 40 stakeholders to advance community priorities through a systems change vision for health equity. To address youth mental health and stigma, 4 youth-serving groups, including the New Bedford public school system, adopted mental health first aid organizational policies and hosted training for staff. HECOP provided technical assistance to update policy manuals. The hub also provided much-needed capacity building infrastructure for local organizations, stories and champions to be included in statewide campaigns that have disproportionate positive influence on New Bedford communities like Cover All Kids and Mass Speaks Coalition around language access.

Alzheimer's of MA and NH (Mass.) Older Adults

The organization expanded its reach into Black and Brown communities by changing its approach. Instead of creating stand-alone events and inviting groups to attend, they reached out to organizations in the community and asked them to attend their events and learn more about the communities that they served. They eventually started to leverage existing partner events to share information on brain health.

Granite State Organizing Project (N.H.) Older Adults

Granite State Organizing Project hired a full-time organizer dedicated to and from the Upper Valley region of New Hampshire. This consistent presence has expanded networks, built new relationships, especially with law enforcement and municipal leaders, and strengthened allyship for and trust with disinvested communities. GSOP revitalized involvement with local congregations in the Upper Valley, which includes many older adults. This has led to deepened member engagement in local zoning conversations around affordable housing, increased participation in active bystander and de-escalation trainings and older members naming civic engagement as a meaningful tool to combat loneliness.

Real Access Motivates Progress (RAMP) (R.I.) Community Building

Systems change is advanced through legislative wins, city ordinances, business engagement, and deliberate shifts in how accessibility is understood (e.g., RAMP stamp of approval). Collectively, these relationships help shift mental models and norm changes in relation to accessibility.

- iii. **Grantees share that their work has directly contributed to improvements across the communities they serve — including increased access to benefits and services, greater stability in basic needs and safety, improved health and stronger civic participation.**

MA Food Systems Collaborate (Mass.) Older Adults

The Massachusetts Food System Collaborative leads the statewide Campaign for HIP Funding to ensure that the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP), which provides fresh, healthy, local fruits and vegetables for SNAP recipients, receives increased state funding to meet demand, operates year-round, and adds new farmers to fill gaps in program coverage. After significant cuts were made to the state HIP budget, MAFSC rallied nearly 300 farmers, farmers markets, nonprofit agricultural and food system organizations and businesses, faith institutions, healthcare institutions, individuals with lived experience with food insecurity to restore HIP to its intended benefit levels on Sept 1, 2025. About 50% of HIP users are older people.

Louis D. Brown Peace Institute (Mass.) Community Building

The organization played a key role in developing Boston's homicide response protocol, working closely with the Boston Police Department and Suffolk County DA's office to ensure a coordinated, equitable, and consistent response for families affected by homicide.

Southside Community Land Trust (R.I.) Community Building

The organization maintained operations and distribution levels despite funding uncertainties. They continued to deliver healthy food to communities, especially in food deserts like Providence, Central Falls, and Pawtucket, serving between 24,000 and 26,000 people.

Maine Women's Lobby Education Fund (Maine) Older Adults

Maine's Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) was passed in 2023 with an

implementation timeline that concludes in spring 2026. In the two years since PFML passed, those opposed have worked to undermine or dismantle the program. Although the Maine Women's Lobby Education Fund (MWLEF) continues to focus on implementation, much of its work over the past few years has been to address the backlash from groups looking to oppose this life changing program for family caregivers and older adults. The funding from Point32Health Foundation equipped MWLEF with the resources needed to continue to focus on implementation and protect Maine's PFML program. The team has responded to frequent media inquiries, updated Maine Paid Leave Coalition's resources and the website, worked to counter misinformation during the program's initial contribution phase and successfully defeated 12 bills and many amendments to undermine or rollback Maine's PFML program.

iv. The Foundation's funding frequently helped unlock additional resources

Senior Connection (Mass.) Older Adults

The seed funding of \$50,000 from Point32Health Foundation has been a significant catalyst for Senior Connection in Worcester County, allowing the organization to scale operations and influence broader conversations regarding rural health equity. Because of this initial investment, Senior Connection was able to demonstrate the viability of its mobile health model, which directly led to securing additional funding from the Next50 Foundation. Furthermore, the success and innovation of the Care Express program was recognized on a national level, receiving the John A. Hartford Foundation Business Innovation Award Runner-Up. Foundation funding also helped the organization influence state-level policy and strategy, as the Care Express model was featured in the Commonwealth's application as a primary example to support mobile rural health via the Rural Health Transformation Fund. The organization is helping shift the narrative around how healthcare is delivered to older adults in rural areas, demonstrating that by prioritizing the most vulnerable populations, as legally required under Title III of the Older Americans Act, and utilizing a grassroots outreach strategy, organizations can successfully bridge the gap in care and advance equity in aging.

The Equality Fund, The Latino Fund and the Asian Community Fund at The Boston Foundation (Mass.) Movement Maker Grantees

The three movement maker funds that the Foundation supports at The Boston Foundation shared that they secured a five-year investment from Eastern Bank Foundation due to the five-year commitment made by Point32Health Foundation.

Somali Bantu Community Association (Maine) Community Building

Somali Bantu Community Association said the Foundation grant provided flexible matching for federal USDA applications and was pivotal when they tried to assemble and piece together project budgets for restricted funding opportunities. SBCA also noted that the third-year extension from its previous grant was a huge relief, helped build trust between our two organizations and maintain staff stability, uplifting staff as a critical resource.

V. The Foundation’s trust-based approach is widely viewed as an enabling condition for impact, increasing grantees’ ability to focus on their core mission and adapt to changing conditions.

The Democracy Fund (N.H.) Movement Maker

The New Hampshire Democracy Fund shared that Point32Health Foundation acts as a validator, connector and convenor. The organization highlighted that being able to connect with other grantees and peers from other states has been valuable in strengthening their network, learning new approaches and not feeling so isolated in the work. The Foundation’s five-year investment in the mission of the organization enabled the team to adopt a more coordinated, integrated coalition strategy: dividing geographic focus so groups cover the state without duplicating efforts and capitalize on unplanned but high-impact opportunities such as developing a trusted-messenger cultural partnership with the Latino Vibe radio station that boosted voter turnout in Manchester.

Health Equity Solutions (Conn.) Community Building

Shared that multi-year general operating support enabled the organization to cover core organizational needs—such as staffing, benefits, infrastructure, insurance, and operations—rather than being limited to narrowly defined program activities. Additionally, multi-year general operating support enabled their organization the ability to plan, build reserves, diversify revenue (including social enterprise work), and avoid constant vulnerability to political or philanthropic shifts.

Appendix B. List of grantees included in the analysis

Community building <i>(intermediaries in bold)</i>	
Name	State
AMOR	R.I.
Asian American Civic Association	Mass.
Boston Women's Fund	Mass.
Centro Latino de New Hampshire	N.H.
Fairfield County's Community Foundation	Conn.
Gardening the Community	Mass.
Hartford Votes	Conn.
Haymarket People's Fund	Regional
Health Equity Solutions	Conn.
Latino Equity Fund	Mass.
Lawyers for Civil Rights	Mass./N.H.
Louis D. Brown Peace Institute	Mass.
Maine Association for New Americans (MANA)	Maine
Maine Community Foundation	Maine
Maine Initiatives	Maine

Maine Wabanaki REACH	Maine
New England Grassroots Environment Fund	Regional
New Hampshire Democracy Fund	N.H.
New Hampshire Center for Justice and Equity	N.H.
Partners in Health	Mass.
Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust (PPLT)	R.I.
Sista Fire	R.I.
Somali Bantu Community Association	Maine
The Asian Community Fund	Mass.
The Equality Fund	Mass.
United Way of Rhode Island	R.I.
Women's Fund of Western MA	Mass.

Improving conditions impacting older adults	
Name	State
ABLE NH	N.H.
Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut	Conn.
Alzheimer's association of MA and NH	Mass.
Association for Autism and Neurodiversity	Mass.
CHAPA	Mass.
Granite State Organizing Project	N.H.
Healthy Peninsula	Maine
Legal Services for Maine Elders	Maine
LifePath	Mass.
Massachusetts Food System Collaborative	Mass.
Maine Women's Lobby Education Fund	Maine
Massachusetts Association for Mental Health (MAMH)	Mass.

Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired	Mass.
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless	Mass.
NAMI New Hampshire	N.H.
New Futures	N.H.
New Hampshire Hunger Solutions	N.H.
Progreso Latino	R.I.
RAMP Real Access Motivates Progress	R.I.
Senior Connection	Mass.
Southside Community Land Trust	R.I.
The Arc Connecticut	Conn.
The Boston Project Ministries	Mass.
The Carroll Center for the Blind	Mass.
Village Common of Rhode Island	R.I.
Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness	Maine

Access to healthy food	
Name	State
Gather	N.H.
Maine Organic Farmers Association	Maine