



FOUNDATIONAL QUESTIONS FOR COLLECTIVE IMPACT FOR GRANTMAKERS

Catalyst

- How do we know this is the topic to focus on right now? How will we measure success for this topic?
- What drew our interest to this topic?
- What knowledge, resources, and value do we feel that we can uniquely bring to this topic?

Theory Of Change

- How does this topic fit into our theory of change?
- How rigid is our theory of change? Are we willing to re-examine our theory of change?
- How comfortable are we redefining the problem and/or the solutions with in collaboration with other stakeholders?

Organizational Culture

- What is our comfort level with collaboration in general?
- What is our comfort level collaborating with stakeholders who have different perspectives?
- What is our comfort level with not knowing, being wrong and/or changing course?
- What is our organization's attitude towards process versus outcome?

Risk

- How comfortable are we being a part of something we can't solely control?
- How many resources, and which resources, are we comfortable putting towards something that we can't solely control?
- What are our desired levels of strategic and operational control? Why?

Fundraising/Branding

- How do we feel about fundraising for a process (relationship and movement building) versus well-defined program outcomes?
- How can we tell the complex story of this collaboration to our donors in a way that matters to them?
- How much ownership/credit do we want? How much are we willing to share?

Timeline

- How comfortable are we in engaging in multi-year, and potentially multi-decade, initiatives?
- For what timeframe are we able to commit resources (time, staff, financial, etc.) to?
- What exit strategies, if any, do we need to be in place before we engage?
- How will we know when we are done?