



Grassroots Grantmaking: Putting Community in Community Foundations

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Grassroots Grantmaking

A grantmaking strategy that:

Addresses local priorities

helping people tackle the challenges they define as most important.

Values civic engagement

helping people practice and grow active citizenship.

Builds community

helping individuals come together to improve quality of life where they live.

Grassroots Grantmakers

- ✓ **Invest** in resident-driven programs
- ✓ **Work** with groups of neighbors, urban or rural
- ✓ **Develop** local leaders
- ✓ **Encourage** an asset-based approach to community engagement
- ✓ **Know** that small grants can have big impact
- ✓ **Provide** a vehicle for local solutions



Who are Grassroots Grantmakers?

Community foundations

Battle Creek Community Foundation

Private foundations

The Hamilton Community Foundation

Family foundations

The Denver Foundation

City of Orlando

Corporate funders

The Vancouver Foundation

Local governments

Jacobs Family Foundation

The Woods Fund of Chicago

Other private and public grantmakers

The Calgary Foundation

The Seattle Foundation

The Cleveland Foundation

Central Indiana Community Foundation

The path to greater impact

Small grants



Small grants +

Off the rack



Tailor made

Special project



Ongoing activity

Stand-alone activity





Part of a larger strategy

A program



A platform

The Strategy of Grassroots Grantmaking: Think Layers, Not Ladders

	Focus	Tools	
 Institutional Commitment	3. Supporting citizen-centered change	Community Organizing Deliberation Training Leadership development Small grants Technical assistance Convening Recognition/Celebration	 Resource requirements
	2. Building community capacity, strengthening resident voice	Deliberation Training Leadership development Small grants Technical assistance Convening Recognition/Celebration	
	1. Stimulating and supporting active citizenship	Small project grants Technical assistance Convening Recognition/Celebration	

Grassroots Grantmaking

Impassioned people change their communities, and community involvement changes people.

Call it the hopeful cycle of public progress.

The Silicon Valley Community Foundation

We strengthen and connect funders
who *strengthen and connect residents*
where they live.



grassroots
GRANTMAKERS