6 Practices from Grantmakers

Emerging Practices in Funding Nonprofit Tech

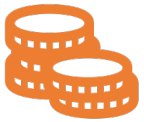
"Strategy, Skills, Tools" Framework

Providing Direct Services

Cohort-Based Learning

Inviting Existing Grantees

Adding 10% for Tech



Pooled Funding

Chantal E. Forster, Executive Director, Technology Association of Grantmakers
tagtech.org/fundingtech

Have any of these happened to you?

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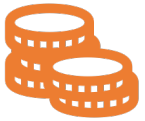


Pooled Funding

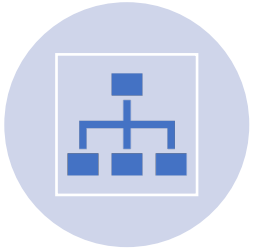
“I think we're very close to critical mass on funder support for nonprofit tech funding... I don't think that we're at critical mass yet — we’re still in that early adopter phase. But it's important to pause and hear from the early adopters so that it's easier to reach critical mass.”

https://www.insidephilanthropy.com/home/2023/9/1/what-will-it-take-to-reach-critical-mass-on-nonprofit-it-funding

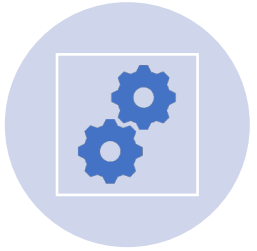
PRACTICE #1

Use of a "Strategy, Skills, Tools" Framework

EVALUATE EXISTING TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY.



ASSESS THE LEVEL OF DIGITAL SKILLS WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION.



IDENTIFY THE TECHNOLOGY TOOLS REQUIRED TO THRIVE IN THE DIGITAL LANDSCAPE.

PRACTICE #2

Providing Direct Services

Either directly or through intermediaries, providing various dimensions of technology implementation and capacity-building, including:

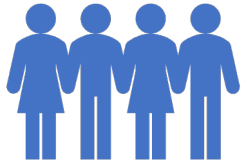
- IT-related assessments
- strategic advice
- use of fractional Chief Information Officers (CIOs)
- tool provisioning
- skills development
- bundled services from managed service providers (MSPs)

TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION of GRANTMAKERS

PRACTICE #3

Cohort-Based Learning

professional development



peer learning community

built-in support network

PRACTICE #4

Inviting Existing Grantees to Apply for Tech Grants

1. Streamlines the application process.
2. Prompts nonprofits to assess their technological landscape.
3. Foundations can forge stronger partnerships with their nonprofit grantees.

PRACTICE #5

Adding 10% for Tech

"Allocating 10% for tech is incredibly important because it creates a path for necessary technology investment and support for all grantees, regardless of their project or program work… Including technology-related budget in all grants acknowledges the often- invisible work nonprofit staff do every day to make their programs successful and even their grant reporting possible."

Amy Sample Ward CEO, NTEN

PRACTICE #6

Pooled Funding

Pooled funding is rooted in systems change thinking, which recognizes that to achieve philanthropy's social change goals, funders must commit to working with one another, as well as other sectors.

What Will It Take to Reach Critical Mass on Nonprofit IT Funding?

Dawn Wolfe | September 01, 2023

EXERCISE: Pain Point Mapping & Strategy Alignment

01

Identify your top 3 pain points.

02

Share and consolidate as a group.

03

Report out.

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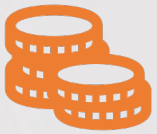

Pooled Funding

01

Pick 1 pain point.

02

Explore which 1-2 funding strategies would help most. Why?

03

Explore how to make the ask.

Are some of these more flexible than others?

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Which are most beneficial for nonprofits? Short-term? Long-term?

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