Executive Summary

The Grantee Perception Report by the Center for Effective Philanthropy considers four key components:

- Grant Processes – proposal, post-grant reports
- Relationships – open, clear, consistent communications
- Organization Impact – do Fund grants help the grantee organization?
- Community Impact – do Fund grants help the community?

Grantees continue to rate The Clowes Fund higher than typical for its grant processes, their relationships and the extent to which the Fund understands their context and the needs of their intended beneficiaries. However, ratings are now similar to those of the typical foundation for the Fund’s understanding of and impact on grantees’ communities, and its impact on grantees’ organizations.

In general, grantees’ perceptions of the Fund’s style and communications continue to rank better than typical, but some measures trend lower from results in 2010, and unlike 2010, ratings do not differ consistently when they are segmented by region. In the past, we had recognized differences among regions, but the variations were consistent; Indiana received the highest rankings, followed by Seattle and then New England. Not surprisingly, internal confusion about the Fund’s commitment in Indiana led to external confusion.

The Fund ranks near the top in grantee relationships, though lagging a bit behind 2010. When segmented by region, the responses to some of the questions pertaining to relationships show that New England lags compared to Indy and Seattle – New England has experienced the highest program officer turnover; where Indy and Seattle have had consistency. We are committed to staff retention and confident that we now have the expertise in place to serve our New England grantees well.