A Trust-Based Framework for Learning & Evaluation in Philanthropy

3 strategies to understand your impact through trust-based learning from

Learning for Accountability

This learning frame helps funders understand grantees’ perception of the foundation’s approach to grantmaking and relationship-building. Key questions:

➔ How well are we living into our values?
➔ Do our partners trust and value our support?

Learning for Decision-Making

This learning frame invites funders to see their role as catalyzing a thriving nonprofit sector. Key questions:

➔ How well are we supporting our nonprofit partners in achieving their goals?
➔ How well are we strengthening the nonprofit ecosystem?

Learning for Long Term Impact

This learning frame takes a long-term view (5-10 years) to assess the extent to which the foundation’s funding is contributing to desired change on leading indicators. Key questions:

➔ What changes are we seeing in policies, practices, and systems over time?
➔ How can partners help us interpret and act given these long-term data?

Special thanks to Brenda Solorzano of Headwaters Foundation who was a key contributor and designer of this approach.

To learn more about how philanthropy can transform its knowledge paradigm, we invite you to explore the Equitable Evaluation Initiative’s (EEI) Equitable Evaluation Framework™.

Keep up with Center for Evaluation Innovation and Trust-Based Philanthropy Project for more insights.