

# A Trust-Based Framework for Learning & Evaluation in Philanthropy

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



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**EVALUATION**  
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## 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.