Civic participation – the active engagement of people in the decision-making processes that shape their communities and their lives – is critical to a healthy society. In fact, we only realize the full promise of democracy when people participate; when all segments of a community have fair and equal access to institutions of government and meaningful opportunities to voice their opinions about important issues driving the public policy agenda.

Mission

The Funders’ Committee for Civic Participation (FCCP) is an innovative and thought-provoking network that shares an underlying conviction that all people deserve a voice in our democratic process. We serve leaders in the philanthropic community working to further this vision with heightened attention to issues of equity and historically disenfranchised and underrepresented communities. Our members support non-partisan efforts to engage voters, eliminate structural barriers to voting, advance reforms to improve government and electoral systems, and inspire public involvement in civic life.

FCCP provides funders with a community, in which to build connections, a stage for showcasing innovations, a forum for strategic dialogue and collaboration, and a resource for civic participation research and tools. We work to build a more effective network of grantmakers who are passionate about realizing our collective vision of a vibrant and inclusive democracy for all.

Values

FCCP has a particular focus on ensuring that traditionally marginalized communities have equal access to participation and decision-making in the democratic process. We value fairness and equal opportunity. We are inclusive and respect every member’s voice. FCCP models transparency and encourages a diversity of opinions. We base our work on sound research and encourage experimentation to prove impact.

Theory of Impact

In February 2017, FCCP staff and Advisory Board came together to dig into a critical question: how can FCCP be what the field needs in this moment? This prompt, which continued a common thread through previous strategic planning retreats, centers on how it can continue to provide high-quality, educational content and outreach, but move to a more impact-oriented network. Throughout 2017, the organization took multiple steps to become a more modern, professional, and high-impact affinity group, which will better enable it to achieve its long-term goals in subsequent years.

FCCP has worked from an implied theory for many years, but in 2017, the organization made it explicit and transparent. Throughout the first half of 2017, FCCP drew on the experience and collective wisdom of its membership to bolster and evolve the framework. This theory is the second iteration and incorporates extensive feedback provided at our 2017 convenings via focus groups and one-on-one conversations with members. Learn more about our Theory of Impact here.

Member Organizations

FCCP is a Council on Foundations-recognized philanthropic affinity group with nearly 90 institutional members and dozens of additional philanthropic colleagues who regularly participate in its programming. We welcome all grantmaking institutions that are interested in democratic change issues or civic engagement strategies and who have demonstrated through their grantmaking that their values align with our mission.

- Access Strategies Fund
- AFL-CIO
- Aga Fund
- AL Advisory
- Amphitheat Foundation
- Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Arabella Advisors
- Arca Foundation
- Arthur Foundation
- The Audrey Institute
- Avina Foundation
- Baum Foundation
- Brett Family Foundation
- Brisco Fund
- California Endowment
- California Donor Table
- California Wellness

- Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr Fund
- Ford Foundation
- Foundation for Civic Leadership
- Giga Fund
- General Service Foundation
- Georgia Alliance
- Education Fund
- Groundswell Fund
- The Grove Foundation
- Houston Endowment
- Hull Family Foundation
- Irvine Foundation
- Imagine North Carolina First
- Irving Harris Foundation
- James Irvine Foundation

- Media Democracy Fund
- Metz Gilmore Foundation
- Minneapolis Foundation
- Minnesota Council on Foundations
- Movement Resource Project
- Nathan Cummings Foundation
- National Education Association
- Needham Foundation
- NED Philanthropy
- New Community Fund
- New Media Ventures
- Northwest Health Foundation

- Saperaro Foundation
- S beams Foundation
- Silicon Valley Community Foundation
- Stollbridge Foundation
- Sterling Family Foundations
- Summer Fund II
- Thomeburg Foundation
- Tides Foundation
- Unbound Philanthropy
- Usherbrook University
- Vested Program at Shelter Rock
- Voge
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- Wallace Global Fund
- Wallace H. Coulter Foundation
History

FCCP sprang from the visionary efforts of a small group of grantmakers that began gathering in the early 80s to
discuss how to boost voting among America’s most
disenfranchised communities. What began as the “Ad Hoc
Grantmakers’ Committee for Voter Registration and Education”
soon crystallized into the Callen Committee for Civil
Participation when the organization was officially founded in
1983.

Since those early days, FCCP has served as a critical
infrastructure of philanthropy’s growing civic engagement community. Our network has advanced effective voter
registration efforts in the 80s, supported campaign finance reform in the 90s, and invested in new voting
technologies and election-administration reforms in the 2000s, a time when it also popularized year-round
“integrated voter engagement” as a winning strategy for building power and achieving policy impact. In the 10s,
FCCP mobilized funders around the census, redistricting and building state-based civic engagement
infrastructure. Today, we serve a mature and diverse community of grantmakers committed to working more
strategically together to address the systemic inequities that keep marginalized communities from having a
lasting voice in our democracy.

Through our member-driven and field-informed programming, FCCP keeps its network of grantmakers
educated, connected and equipped to make smart funding decisions. Always nonpartisan, our signature
programs for grantmakers include an annual convening, monthly “First Monday” and other virtual discussions
working groups that focus on range of key issue topics and member-only meetings. FCCP adapts its
programming year-to-year to respond to the needs of its evolving network and the field’s election cycles and
trends in civic engagement.

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Open Society Foundations

Ethan Frey
Ford Foundation

Connie Mallory
The James Irvine Foundation

Evan Bacalao is a program officer
with the Special Initiatives
and Partnerships unit of the Open
Society Foundations. Read More.

Ethan Frey is part of the Ford
Foundation’s Ideas and Impact team.
Read More.

Connie was appointed portfolio
director at The James Irvine
Foundation in February 2016 as part
of its evolving focus. Read More.
Employment

FCCP Request for Consultancy Support

Objectives and Scope

The Funders’ Committee for Civic Participation (FCCP) seeks consultants to assist FCCP with two projects to foster greater understanding of the current civic engagement landscape at the national and state level. As foundations are increasingly involved in learning how to incorporate civic engagement strategies in their overall grantmaking, we are looking to develop resources which can help provide additional insights into the field. Proposals are due by 12 PM ET on Wednesday, May 8. Our goal is to choose a consultant to begin this work by May and complete the project by August 30, 2022. You can choose to submit an application for one of the two projects, or both projects combined, depending on which is a better fit for your consultancy practice.

Report Project: A Typology of Civic Engagement

Case Study Project: Understanding the Typology of Civic Engagement at the State-Level

Please find more details and instructions for applying here.

Contact

FIRST NAME
LAST NAME
ORGANIZATION

JOB TITLE
EMAIL
PHONE

YOUR MESSAGE

CAPTCHA

I'm not a robot