CEP ADVISORY SERVICES

Understanding Community Needs

CEP offers rigorous, confidential surveys to foundations interested in collecting information on and understanding community members' needs, challenges, and perspectives. Engaging in a community needs survey may be part of a philanthropic community's collective efforts to learn how to better partner with a region or field.

Over the past two decades, CEP has built a reputation based on credibility and trustworthiness with hundreds of organizations that utilize our grantee, staff, donor surveys, and our customized advisory engagements.

CEP's community needs surveys and accompanying reports provide funders with feedback on areas such as regional or field priorities, nonprofit organizations' suggestions to the funding community, and community members' perspectives on funder best practices. The data-rich report provides comprehensive analysis and recommendations, based on the gathered feedback.

Survey Question Topics Include:

Effective foundation practices: Philanthropic practices that best support organizations to reach their goals and mission

Community or field priorities: Nonprofit organizations' perceptions of where funding needs are being met, and where gaps remain

Funder understanding and impact: Perceptions of funders' collective influence, impact on, and understanding of communities and issues

Sample of Community Needs Survey Users:

- The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations and Northeast Florida regional funders
- Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties and Palm Beach regional funders
- Community Foundation Sonoma County and Napa Valley Community Foundation

Partnering with CEP

CEP makes the partnership process easy. We can work with your organization to develop and prioritize survey themes, we handle all survey administration and communication, and we share the results in an interactive online report that allows your organization to see how different groups of nonprofit organizations. We summarize our analysis of quantitative and qualitative responses in a memo of key findings and recommendations and can work with leadership teams and staff to help you act on the results.

"CEP was an invaluable partner in creating a regional adaptation of the Grantee Perception Report in collaboration with six funders in Northeast Florida, adeptly using their expertise and creative problem-solving to thoughtfully craft this custom survey. At every stage of the process, CEP was more than willing to listen to and incorporate the ideas and feedback from each funder involved, and maintained a commitment to ensuring survey results would be comprehensive and actionable."
– The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations

For more information about engaging with CEP on a community needs survey, please contact:

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