

Examples of How Arizona Philanthropy Can Partner with Government

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Developing Plans for Action – Funders often play a role in developing a plan of action for moving the community forward on critical issues. For example, the Flinn Foundation developed the **Arizona Biosciences Roadmap** a decade ago, outlining policy and investment priorities for Arizona to grow the biosciences sector. The impact associated with this action plan include a 45% increase in bioscience sector jobs, a 31% increase in bioscience firms and an economic impact of \$28.8 billion in total annual revenue.

Leveraging Dollars - Funders are often able to leverage dollars from both public and private sources to address community goals. For example, LISC, St. Luke's Health initiatives, the Arizona Community Foundation, and Raza Development Fund have joined together with representatives from state and municipal housing and transportation agencies, community-based organizations, and representatives from the cities of Phoenix, Mesa, and Tempe to form the **Sustainable Communities Collaborative**. This effort is aimed at fostering systems approaches to transit-oriented development along the light rail. As part of this effort, funders such as LISC and Raza have pooled private dollars for predevelopment work in an effort to help leverage federal and other dollars for sustainable development in these urban areas. The results to date include the construction or preservation of over 550 market rate, affordable, and workforce housing units connected to the light rail corridor that will be on line by 2014. This loan capital is leveraging over \$70 million in additional financing.

Another example of leveraging dollars is the launch of **Educare Arizona** - a private-public collaboration spearheaded by the Whiteman Foundation, Ibis Foundation of Arizona, the Steve Nash Foundation and Buffett Early Childhood Fund. Working in partnership with the Balsz School District, and Southwest Human Development, the collaboration built a brand new educational facility offering state of the art educational programs/services to both children and parents in a low-income Phoenix neighborhood.

Another example of leveraging dollars is the **Prevent Child Abuse License Plate Collaborative fund** and grant cycle that is led by AZ Republic Charities. Private philanthropy dollars are pooled to match funds from a portion of the sales of the AZ "It shouldn't hurt to be a child" license plate. The fund is managed by the AZ Community Foundation and there are several foundations contributing. Over the last 10 years over 7 million has been distributed to Arizona nonprofits addressing primary prevention strategies against child abuse.

Developing New Strategies – Funders sometimes look to ways that they can partner with government to identify and implement new strategies for achieving shared public policy goals. For example, the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust is partnering with the Arizona Department of Education and others by **investing in a full-time literacy director** to lead state and local early literacy planning efforts. The literacy director will connect existing public and private early literacy programs and create strategies to increase grade-level reading proficiency by the end of third grade. Piper Trust is also actively involved in discussions with public officials and other stakeholders on how the state might best assess young children's literacy readiness and literacy needs when they begin kindergarten. These conversations include consideration of how public and private resources (such as foundation support) could be used to conduct such assessments.

Improving How Government Works – Funders often support innovations aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of government. For example, St. Luke's Health Initiatives supported the development of an **electronic application for health coverage for AHCCCS** which has helped improve the agency's ability to serve its customers and reduce errors and costs associated with processing applications.

Sponsoring Research – Arizona grant makers often **sponsor research** on important public policy issues. For example, Arizona Foundation for Women working with VSUW and AARP provided information to the Governor's Office and state legislators on the harmful impact of payday loans on women, the poor and the elderly. This research along with other educational efforts led to ending of a harmful industry practice in our state.

Increasing Public Awareness – Grant makers sometimes support **communications or public awareness efforts** aimed at achieving public policy goals. For example, Helios Education Foundation, the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust and the Arizona Community Foundation have sponsored an effort called **Expect More Arizona**, aimed at involving parents, educators, students, business leaders and community members in making education a top priority so that students are prepared to succeed in college, career and life.

The Piper Trust and Helios Education foundation also commissioned a report, ***Dropped? Latino Education and Arizona's Economic Future***, which, focused on the economic impact and projected future of the state if Arizona fails to address its Latino educational attainment gap.

Evaluating Programs – Funders can also play a critical role in **evaluating the effectiveness of existing public policy efforts or government programs**. For example, SLHI produced a report evaluating which outreach strategies were most effective nationally and in Arizona in educating and assisting eligible families about the benefits of enrollment in available government insurance programs.

Gathering Data and Information – Arizona grant makers sometimes serve a critical role **in collecting and analyzing data**. For example, St. Luke's Health Initiatives sponsors a survey of over 8,000 Arizonans, asking them questions about their health and related needs. The data is used to help inform needs assessments and community planning statewide. Piper Trust commissioned the **Visiting Nurses Services of New York and Westat** to survey Medicare recipients in Maricopa County to understand the needs and the challenges of the county's older adult population.

Convening Stakeholders – Funders often play a role as **"neutral convener"** to help the community discuss important public policy topics. For example, in 2009 Valley of the Sun United Way (United Way) and champion business leaders launched an initiative to end chronic homelessness through permanent supportive housing. In 2010 following a strategy successful in other communities, United Way created a public/private advisory council to provide a governance infrastructure for the initiative. Through the leadership of Doug Parker, President of US Airways, and Mike McQuaid, local real estate developer and homeless advocate, the Advisory Council has brought the county and several municipalities, along with the Regional Behavioral Health Authority and the business community to the table. The Arizona Department of Housing and local public housing authorities have all changed housing policies to affect the completion of permanent supportive housing efforts. Nearly 700 units are live or in development to the goal of 1,000 units. United Way provides the backbone supporting activities including staffing, convening, ensuring continuous communication, and tracking measurements.

Garnering Public Input – Foundations sometimes serve as a conduit for **collecting public input to help shape public policy**. For example, St. Luke's Health Initiatives recently worked with the Arizona Department of Health Services and AHCCCS to garner input from health providers and people with serious mental illnesses on what an integrated care model for delivering both behavioral health and acute care services might look like. The input that was gathered helped shape the state's recently released RFP for a regional behavioral health provider ("RBHA") for Maricopa County.

