



Call for Papers

Themed Issue of *The Foundation Review* on Philanthropy Consulting

Abstracts of up to 250 words are being solicited for Volume 7, Issue 1 of *The Foundation Review*. This issue, co-edited with the National Network of Consultants to Grantmakers, will be a themed issue on *philanthropy consulting*. We define philanthropy consultants as individuals and organizations who give professional advice or services to foundations and other donors for a fee, and whose advice and services focus on the programmatic, governance, and operational side of philanthropy.

Philanthropy consultants represent an important segment of philanthropy's total human capital. Yet little attention has been given or research devoted to the ways in which philanthropy consulting supports the field. As a result, ways in which consultants help grantmakers increase impact and enhance success are not yet clearly documented or widely understood.

Papers are invited on topics including, but not limited to:

- **Scope and scale.** To what extent do grantmakers and funder networks retain consultants, and for what purposes?
- **Role.** Why do foundations hire philanthropy consultants? What are the roles of philanthropy consultants? How do roles vary by grantmaker type, size, lifecycle?
- **Value and impact.** What value have grantmakers recognized from engaging philanthropy consultants? What impact have consultants had on the work of funders and the philanthropic sector as a whole?
- **Quality and effectiveness.** What constitutes quality in philanthropy consulting? What are the characteristics of effective consultants and consulting engagements?
- **Capacity.** How does the field of philanthropy support or invest in philanthropy consulting? What efforts exist to ensure diversity within the consulting field and to support career pipelines for future consultants?
- **Trends.** What trends do we anticipate in the field of philanthropy in the U.S. and globally, and how can consultants add value?

Submit abstracts to submissions@foundationreview.org by May 15, 2014. If a full paper is invited, it will be due Aug. 15, 2014 for consideration for publication in March 2015.

Abstracts are solicited in four categories:

- **Results.** Papers in this category generally report on findings from evaluations of foundation-funded work. Papers should include a description of the theory of change (logic model, program theory), a description of the grant-making strategy, the evaluation methodology, the results, and discussion. The discussion should focus on what has been learned both about the programmatic content and about grantmaking and other foundation roles.
- **Tools.** Papers in this category should describe tools useful for foundation staff or boards. By "tool" we mean a systematic, replicable method intended for a specific purpose. For example, a protocol to assess community readiness and standardized facilitation methods would be considered tools. The actual tool should be included in the article where practical. The paper should describe the rationale for the tool, how it was developed, and available evidence of its usefulness.
- **Sector.** Papers in this category address issues that confront the philanthropic sector as whole, such as diversity, accountability, etc. These are typically empirically based; literature reviews are also considered.
- **Reflective Practice.** The reflective practice articles rely on the knowledge and experience of the authors, rather than on formal evaluation methods or designs. In these cases, it is because of their perspective about broader issues, rather than specific initiatives, that the article is valuable.

BOOK REVIEWS: *The Foundation Review* publishes reviews of relevant books. Please contact the editor to discuss submitting a review. Reviewers must be free of conflicts of interest.

Contact Teri Behrens, Editor of *The Foundation Review*, with questions at behrenst@foundationreview.org or 734-646-2874.



*National Network of
Consultants to Grantmakers*
A TIDES CENTER PROJECT

Johnson Center
at Grand Valley State University