

greater rochester  
**Health** foundation

Dear Partners,

In the Spring of 2023, we engaged the [Center for Effective Philanthropy](#) to conduct the field-leading [Grantee Perception Report \(GPR\)](#) for comprehensive feedback from our grantee partners.

This is the second time we've fielded the GPR, offering **insight into progress** since our first survey in 2020. Results benchmark our performance relative to all foundations with GPR data as well as a sample of a dozen foundations most similar to ours.

The Greater Rochester Health Foundation has shown that great things happen when you focus on the right things ..the approach they have tried, through community responsiveness, is working and will work if people trust communities and community organizations to truly care about people rather than to just do paperwork about things we are expected to care about.

GRANTEE SURVEY RESPONDENT

As we share these findings with you (**access the key findings and full report at the end of this email**), we want you to know that we are committed to listening and learning from your feedback as we **strive to be more than a funder, but a thought partner, amplifier, and connector**. We are grateful to our many partners who took the time to respond to the survey.

## COMMITMENT TO RACIAL & HEALTH EQUITY

Our grantees gave us our highest ratings – from the 98 to 100th percentile – on our **organization and staff commitment to racial and health equity, diversity and inclusion as well as our commitment to combating racism**. *As equity is our core value*, we are proud and encouraged by these results, and thank our grantees for recognizing the intentional steps we've been taking. At the same time, we recognize that **we must continue to learn and grow on our own organizational equity journey, one inseparable from our work to help realize equity across our communities**. To this end, we are excited to share that our Board of Directors has formed an equity committee to deepen our commitment and further embed this core value in our organization's DNA.



## IMPACT ON GRANTEES' COMMUNITIES & FIELDS

Genuine community partnership is a core objective across our organization so we're thrilled to be rated above the 90th percentile on our **compassion for and understanding of the people and communities served by our grantees**. Our grantees had a positive view of our overall impact on their communities (86th percentile), although we had lower impact scores from our grantees outside of Monroe County. We realize that building trust and developing relationships are the main ingredients to community understanding and impact, and are humbled by the following sentiment shared by a survey respondent:

“The Foundation has shifted in its approach over the past few years to be truly IN community, to listen to the voices of the community and focus on addressing the most critical needs – NOT just what the Foundation ... decided community needs are.”

GRANTEE SURVEY RESPONDENT

We recognize we have not come as far with our rural communities, and that we need to show up and be present, listen, and commit more time and resources. Specifically, we'll look to **build on our learnings and relationships with rural partners** -- including through our asset-based, resident-led neighborhood health improvement work -- while growing relationships and investment throughout our region.

Our ratings for understanding and contributions to grantees' fields (45th - 60th) presented another growing edge where we showed strong progress and room to grow. To improve in this area, we'll continue convening partners to exchange knowledge and ideas, and **do more to share what we and our partners are learning**. We recently launched [Impact Stories](#), a series for highlighting the innovation and impact of our grantee partners working in particular fields and communities, as well as a blog -- [Reflecting and Reimagining](#) -- to share more around the learning journeys of our staff.

## RELATIONSHIPS WITH & IMPACT ON OUR GRANTEE PARTNERS



As partnership is another key Foundation value, we are gratified that our grantees rated us highly (89th-94th) for our understanding of their goals, strategies and challenges, and the overall impact on their organizations -- all improvements since 2020 that likely reflect our efforts to devote more time and space to connecting with our grantee partners.

**Our grantees continue to feel comfortable approaching us** when a problem arises and consider us open to their ideas. We will continue to lean into trust-based practices while offering capacity-building resources and supports, as our grantees have found them helpful and encouraged us to do more. On this note, we recently launched a [Beyond the Grant Learning Series](#). Stay tuned for upcoming workshops!

Importantly, our scores for communication including overall responsiveness (60th) and consistency across different sources/materials (35th) leave room for improvement. To address this, our team will work to **better coordinate and ensure clear, efficient procedures, and to better share consistent information** on grant opportunities across our various funding areas.

## GRANT PROCESSES

Since 2020 we've significantly increased the proportion of our grants that are unrestricted and multi-year—one important way we demonstrate trust in our grantees and commitment to their work. We'll continue efforts to **increase flexibility** in our funding, while balancing multi-year investments with the opportunity to be responsive to immediate needs and requests for shorter-term grants.

We're encouraged that grantees are finding our submission process helpful (93rd), and feeling low pressure (reverse-scale 21st) to modify their priorities. We've also made progress **streamlining** -- reducing total hours required of our grantees, especially relative to the size of the grant. As requested, we'll continue working to make our application, reporting and other processes more efficient and appropriate to the size, duration and type of grant, and to be **transparent and clear** about the process. We're also looking forward to fully deploying and gathering feedback around our new grant management system, [Submittable](#), which should provide a more streamlined and user-friendly experience for our grantees.

## FORGING AHEAD

We are extremely grateful to our grantees for your time and thoughtful feedback, and for **your inspired and innovative work that changes lives in our communities**, moves us toward equity, and improves the health of our region.



We'll continue to draw on your feedback as we forge ahead on our journey of centering equity and **shifting from a transactional to a transformational approach** that builds trust and shares power with our grantees and the people and communities they serve. We'll continue our efforts to ensure our practices are responsive, streamlined, and helpful, while we strive to add value beyond dollars and work to **deepen our presence and investment in our rural counties**.

We'll continue to conduct the GPR every few years to monitor our progress and performance over time, and keep you informed along the way. Of course, we welcome and appreciate your feedback on how we're doing and how we can do better, at any time. Please feel free to reach out to Health Foundation [staff](#) with any questions, ideas, or concerns.

With Gratitude,

The Greater Rochester Health Foundation

[KEY FINDINGS SUMMARY](#)

[FULL RESULTS REPORT](#)

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*Centered in equity, the mission of the Greater Rochester Health Foundation is to pursue and invest in solutions that build a healthier region where all people can thrive.*



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