



01 Listening and Learning

We recommit to being good listeners, asking more questions during the application process, listening with an eye toward understanding and learning, and not assuming that we have all the answers.



02 Local Context

We commit to investing the time, energy, and resources to deepening our understanding of the communities in which we work – their history, their political, economic, and social context, their local public, private, philanthropic, and civic ecologies. This will involve, among other things, more time on the ground and learning from local leaders.



03 Clear Messaging

We will use more straightforward and consistent language when describing the foundation's grantmaking strategies processes, priorities, and funding opportunities.



04 Grantees Touchpoints

Even as we are gratified that grantees find so much value in the opportunity to engage with program staff, we commit to orchestrating a greater variety of touchpoints with grantees, while being cautious about not causing them to take on undue burdens of time or energy.



05 Nonmonetary Assistance

We commit to being even more creative and resourceful about how to add value beyond funding to our grantee relationships – whether hosting more convenings, strengthening learning networks, or facilitating introductions to other funders. Although grantees rate us highly in this realm and appreciate our efforts, they want us to find ways to do more.



06 Grantmaking Process

We commit to making our grantmaking process more inclusive and transparent. We will review and identify ways to improve our processes, reporting requirements, and timelines. We will also post a sample grant agreement template on our website so that prospective grantees understand our basic requirements before applying for grant funding.



07 Reporting

We commit to a faster turnaround in acknowledging grantee reports, reviewing them, and discussing them with our grantees.



08 Program Officer Transitions

We commit to minimizing program officer transitions where possible, and ensuring a “warm hand-off” for grantees when their Kresge point of contact changes.



09 Declined Applicants

We will provide clearer explanations to grantseekers about why their application was declined. Acknowledging the significant time and effort that goes into applying for a grant, we will make language about funding opportunities as accessible as possible and streamline the process where feasible.



10 Racial Equity

We recommit to advancing racial equity in all dimensions of our work. We are heartened that there is notable alignment between our grantees and the foundation's racial equity agenda. We will not be complacent about working to center equity in our values, operations, and grantmaking, and will actively seek ways to support grantees in their respective equity journeys as we continue ours.