

New BNGP/POINT Entity FAQ

January 2022

General

Why is a new nonprofit needed to support this work?

Leaders of the partnership carefully evaluated a variety of structural options, including fiscal sponsorship. Ultimately, we concluded that the scale of the work and infrastructure required to effectively steward this evolution of the partnership calls for an independent entity. The partnership also incorporated the strong response from nonprofits, partners, and individuals that more is needed than grantmaking. There is a need for advocacy, changing the narrative of poverty and system-level work that could be done more effectively and urgently through a single entity.

How will this benefit our nonprofit?

One of the primary goals of creating the new entity is to streamline operations. Nonprofits will apply to and communicate with staff situated in a central entity throughout the grant cycle. While the work will be centrally coordinated, decisions will be guided by strong local networks that include people most directly impacted by economic inequality across the region. The composition of decision-making bodies will prioritize an expansive view of “leadership experience” that includes those closest to the work and traditionally underrepresented voices, leading to decisions that are grounded in an understanding of local community needs and lived experience. We will also continue to prioritize flexible funding that allows nonprofits to respond in real time to emerging community needs.

We anticipate that current grantees will see themselves in the new framework. While continuing to focus on local community granting, it will be clearer that projects are part of an interconnected, region-wide effort, leading to more integration and partnerships. The learning, action groups, and advocacy work of the new entity (formerly known as POINT programming) will be more closely tied to its grantmaking, sparking increased alignment and collaboration across the region.

What’s the high-level timing of changes?

The new entity will be launched in July, with a transition period and strategy implementation to roll out gradually over the following year.

What happens with POINT action group and learning session work?

We will continue the work of POINT action groups and learning sessions under the new entity in the interest of building capacity, fostering shared learning, and spurring collective action and advocacy that advances equity and economic well-being across the region. Learning Sessions have been on hiatus since COVID, however, once safe for larger in-person gatherings we envision these regional gatherings to continue. The Action work has continued to evolve and be responsive to near-term challenges (due to COVID) with long-term systems and process change as the long-term goal. The work continues in various ways via the POINT Jobs Action

group, The Greater Fox Valley Child Care Alliance, and support of the Community Alliance for Trauma Informed Care. If you have questions about the POINT work, please contact Lynn Coriano at lcoriano@usventure.com.

How will this affect my role as a grants committee member?

We are deeply grateful to the committed grant committee members who have dedicated their time and talent to the partnership. For now, the current grant committees will remain in place. Moving forward, we will be reviewing and revising the grant committee structure to ensure that it remains fully aligned with the intended impact of the partnership. While there will be changes to the structure and membership, there may be opportunities for current committee members to continue their service. All changes will be clearly communicated once those decisions have been made.

Current Grantees

How will this affect our organization's current multiyear grant?

All multiyear grant commitments will be honored in accordance with the terms laid out in grant award letters. If there are any changes in where the awarded grant dollars come from (e.g., regarding how grant payments are transferred), grantees will be notified directly in advance. In short, your current multiyear grant is not impacted.

Future Grantmaking

How will this affect future granting?

A strategic framework will be announced to focus on advancing **thriving, equitable communities** across Northeast Wisconsin. The initiative will continue to support efforts that align with our purpose to advance equity and economic well-being for everyone. This includes work to address basic needs, advance economic prosperity, and promote belonging and connection within communities and throughout the region. Further details about each of these areas will be shared as the transition proceeds.

Will the grant priorities change?

The strategic framework is intended to add more clarity and focus to the partnership. We will maintain a commitment to economic prosperity and equity. Specific grantmaking priorities may be announced in future years, with advance notice to allow organizations to plan accordingly.

Is there anything you will no longer fund?

The partnership will continue to support efforts that align with our purpose to advance equity and economic well-being for everyone. While there is never a guarantee of ongoing funding, we anticipate that current grantees will see themselves in the new framework. We are committed to clear and transparent communication with our nonprofit partners and will share new information as it becomes available.

Who will be my primary contact for future grant requests?

For now, your contact will remain the same. Once operational, grant requests will be directed to the appropriate staff at the new entity. Nonprofits will be kept informed about the timing of any changes, as further information is available. Activities related to the transition are being coordinated with the staff of each of the Community Foundations, so your current contact can share the most current information.

How is the grant application process changing?

For now, the grant application process will not change. We are committed to ensuring that the future application process is transparent, accessible, and grounded in strong relationships with our nonprofit partners. Further information about changes to the application process will be shared as soon as it becomes available.

Will you be accepting grant requests through the transition?

We anticipate continuing to accept grant requests through the transition. Transition-related activities are being coordinated with the staff of each of the Community Foundations, so your current contact will be able to share the most current information about any changes. We are committed to keeping our nonprofit partners informed about the timing of any changes with as much notice as possible.

Partners/Donors

How does this impact my partnership/donation to the U.S. Venture Open?

At this time, we don't anticipate any changes to the partnership/donation. Broad communication will be distributed when 2022 U.S. Venture Open registration opens in the Spring.