Current Grantees

How will this affect our organization’s current multi-year grant?
All multi-year grant commitments will be honored in accordance with the terms laid out in grant award letters. If there are any changes from 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 multi-year grant is not impacted.

Future Grantmaking

How will this affect future granting?
Our strategic framework will focus on advancing **thriving, equitable communities** across Northeast Wisconsin. The Basic Needs Giving Partnership (BNGP) 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 BNGP. 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 BNGP 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?
Through early 2023, your contact will remain the same. After an extended transition period, 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 recent 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 recent 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.

How will grant decisions be made during the transition?
During the transition period, decisions will be facilitated locally with community foundation staff remaining as your primary point of contact.

General

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 BNGP (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?
Lynn Coriano will now be leading this evolution of the Basic Needs Giving Partnership. The transition period and strategy implementation will roll out gradually over the next 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 BNGP 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, 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

Why is a new nonprofit needed to support this work?
Leaders of the partnership carefully evaluated a variety of structural options. Ultimately, concluding that the scale of the work and infrastructure required to effectively steward the evolution of the partnership called 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 regional entity.