

A FUNDER'S GUIDE TO

Elevating Community Voices in Policy and Research

At the core of any research or policy topic, there are communities living that topic as their reality.

People with **lived experience** are often unrecognized experts.

When funders and their awardees engage communities and experts with lived experience, everyone can be good stewards of funds.



Why fund community engaged work?

- Support ethical and rigorous practices
- Fund what matters most to communities
- Uplift the expertise and experiences of communities most often left out
- Build community trust and capacity
- Make sustainable impact by establishing community buy-in

What do we mean by community engagement?

We mean involving people impacted by research or policy as partners in the design, implementation, and dissemination of that work.

How Can Funders Elevate Community Voices?

- ★ Start internal conversations about where engagement fits in your work
- ★ Provide planning grants to support community conversations
- ★ Provide (or attend) training on effective community engagement
- ★ Encourage use of Advisory Groups that include those most impacted
- ★ Require findings be shared through accessible reports and meetings
- ★ Ensure time is built into workplans for meaningful outreach and engagement
- ★ Encourage community partners to assume roles as Co-Leads and Sub-Awardees
- ★ Require budgets include funds to support engagement, including community incentives and accommodations

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Ready to start but need more support?

Check out the [Aging PCOR Learning Collaborative](#) to find more resources for **funders** and **researchers** looking to engage communities.