Homelessness is a solvable problem.

Our society has more than adequate economic capacity to invest in the housing and provide the services that can eliminate homelessness anywhere in America.

Government agencies and officials, must be at forefront of efforts to end homelessness, investing significant resources in housing and service programs that lead to individual and family independence.

All that is needed to eliminate homelessness in America is the political will to do so.
Established in 1990

Largest U.S. funder focused solely on ending homelessness

Focus funding in three priority areas: Housing, Health & Support, Income

Investments of $7-$8M per year

Based in Connecticut our funding is approximately 50% CT and 50% National

Program staff of three & communications manager

Focus on funding systems change

Invest in approaches that focus on

- strengthening relationships between people and between organizations
- improving ways of working together,
- cultivating civic and political will,
- and building the leadership needed to make change happen.
The mission of the Center for Effective Philanthropy is to provide data and create insight so philanthropic funders can better define, assess, and improve their effectiveness – and, as a result, their intended impact.
# Survey Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey Period</th>
<th>Year of Active Grants</th>
<th>Number of Responses Received</th>
<th>Survey Response Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February and March 2016</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>75%</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length of Funding</th>
<th>Number of Responses</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-5 years</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-10 years</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 10 years</td>
<td>16</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Grantee Comparative Dataset

*Nearly 300 foundations*

*More than 40,000 grantee responses*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Custom Cohort</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut Health Foundation, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCune Charitable Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melville Charitable Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pork Bros. Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Casper Graustein Memorial Fund</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Themes

Impact on Fields

Impact on Organizations

Relationships

Selection Processes
Impact on Fields

We are seen as having a very strong understanding of the field in which we work and a strong overall impact on our field.

“To what extent has the Trust affected public policy in your field?”

1 = Not at all, 7 = Major influence on shaping public policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0th (1.82)</th>
<th>25th (4.20)</th>
<th>50th (4.61)</th>
<th>75th (5.01)</th>
<th>100th (5.99)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Melville 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>5.81</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melville Custom Cohort</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>5.88</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-5 years</td>
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<td>6-10 years</td>
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<td>5.88</td>
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<tr>
<td>More than 10 years</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>6.57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“The Trust is the **leading foundation in the area of homelessness**, and increasingly important in the area of housing. It has influenced philanthropy in the field. Through strategic funding, it has *influenced media to cover the issues involved*. It has provided sustained support to policy and communications strategies that have had an impact. Homelessness, especially among people with disabilities, has gone down in the United States. The Trust has made a **major contribution** to this progress.”
Impact on Organizations

Our longer-term grantees (six years or more) rate us well on the impact we’re having on their organizations.

“How well does the Trust understand your organization’s strategy and goals?”

1 = Limited understanding, 7 = Thorough understanding
Relationships

We were disappointed that we rated below 50% of funders for transparency.

“How clearly has the Trust communicated its goals and strategy to you?”

1 = Not at all clearly, 7 = Extremely clearly
Selection Processes

We learned that we are very “involved” in our grant processes! Too much??

“How involved was the Trust staff in the development of your proposal?”

1 = No involvement, 7 = Substantial involvement
“The Trust is a "serious" funder; they are involved in the development of a proposal (unusual for most funders) and are diligent in monitoring the work they fund. Because of this oversight there is not much room for "out of the box" kinds of ideas or suggestions. They are clear on their goal of ending homelessness and the grants they fund reflect that focus and approved strategies to move toward that end.”
Looking Ahead

- Consider expanding our “non-monetary” support of grantees (convenings, collaboration support, communications assistance, etc.).
- Consider more multi-year grants and general operating support for key grantees (vs. year-by-year program grants).
- Clearly and consistently communicate our goals, funding guidelines, and processes for selection.
  - Communications staff, new website, newsletter
- Ensure grantees and applicants feel they are being treated fairly and do not feel pressured to modify their organizational priorities to meet ours.
- Develop formal and informal ways of getting input from grantees, providers, and people with lived experience about what is and isn’t working.
- Share what we’re learning and what we’ve tried that has and hasn’t worked.
- Schedule another GPR!
Contact information

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ahendrigan@melvilletrust.org