

Rethinking Grantmaking: The Case for Expanding the Bench™

The philanthropic sector invests billions of dollars annually to improve social conditions.

\$22.4 Billion

Amount foundations spend to improve social conditions¹

Turning good intent into desired outcomes requires **effective evaluation**. Evaluation is conducted to provide meaningful and reliable learning that help funders understand the extent to which the solutions they fund are achieving their goals.



257

Number of foundations committed to evaluating their work²

The evaluators' work designing and conducting evaluations significantly impact the questions that are asked, the methods that are chosen, the patterns that are observed and the recommendations that are made.

Disadvantaged communities are frequently the objects of study, yet the investigators are rarely representative of the community being studied:

“race matters in the settings of the disenfranchised.”³

Evaluators tell stories using the data they gather. Engaging ethnically and racially diverse evaluators increases the quality of evaluation design, approaches, measurement tools, and other elements in the learning process.

Shared lived experiences are theorized to contribute to:

- 1** the reduction of outsider bias;
- 2** a more deliberate consideration, by the evaluator, of the evaluation project's cultural context; and
- 3** an enhancement of the ability of the evaluator to articulate culturally-diverse milieus in interpreting results and applying findings.⁴

Without diversity among evaluators, think of all the voices that are missing – all those stories that are left untold.

Increasing the number of and access to ethnically and racially diverse evaluators conducting evaluations and supporting learning in philanthropy will increase the likelihood that foundations will achieve their desired impact.

124⁵

Number of ethnically and racially diverse evaluators and evaluation firms that are members of Expanding the Bench and growing with your support!

Since 2014, Expanding the Bench has identified, recruited, screened, trained and supported evaluators from underrepresented communities. **We would like to work with you to expand the bench of evaluators from diverse backgrounds in our shared determination to improve social conditions.**

Let's Connect

to explore how ETB has the potential to inform your funding approach, change the field of philanthropy and the entire social sector.

Email us at Team@ExpandingtheBench.org to schedule a meeting.



EXPANDING
the Bench

¹Source: Foundation Center 2014. Figure includes all independent and family, corporate, community, and operating foundations that reported giving in 2012. Figure includes issue focused grant-making in the arena of Health, Education, Human Services, Public Affairs and Social Benefit, Arts and Culture, Environment and Animals, International Affairs, Science and Technology, Religion, and Social Sciences.

²Source: Foundation Center 2017. Figure is based on a sample of U.S.-based foundations and a total of 611 survey responses.

³Source: Hood, S. (2001). Nobody knows my name: In praise of African American evaluators who were responsive. *New Directions for Evaluation*, 31-31.

⁴Source: Hood, S. (2001). Nobody knows my name: In praise of African American evaluators who were responsive. *New Directions for Evaluation*, 31-31; Potapchuk, M., Leiderman, S., Bivens, D., & Major, B. (2005). Flipping the script: White privilege and community building. *Center for Assessment and Policy Development (CAPD) & MP Associates; Mertens, D. M., & Hopson, R. K. (2006). Advancing evaluation of stem efforts through attention to diversity and culture. New Directions for Evaluation*, 35-51; American Evaluation Association. (2011). American evaluation association statement on cultural competence in evaluation.

⁵Includes 89 ACE Network Members and 35 LEEAD Scholars.