

## Consulting and Technical Assistance: SUPPORT FOR FOUNDATIONS AND FUNDER AFFINITY GROUPS

The Finance Project provides customized technical assistance to individual foundations in developing strategic investment plans around programmatic and policy goals as well as support to funder affinity groups in identifying collaborative investment opportunities and supporting collective action among funding partners.

### Services offered by The Finance Project

The Finance Project works with funders to identify the key decisions on which it will need to focus, design the decision making process to accomplish that goal, and create a workplan to ensure discussions stay on track. Decision making typically includes:

- Reaching agreement on a **common vision** for the foundation's investments and the **results** it seeks to achieve;
- Determining the **core investment strategies** the foundation intends to support, such as investments in direct service, capacity building, systems reform, evaluation, research and communication, and partnerships and co-investment;
- Considering the **internal structure** required to managed and connect these investments effectively; and
- **Identifying key partners** within the foundation, advocacy, and research communities with similar and/or overlapping agendas who can help extend the reach of the foundation's investments.

### Examples of Our Work

- [Foster Care Work Group \(FCWG\)](#). The Finance Project provides staff support for the FCWG, a working group of the Youth Transitions Funders Group. This includes support for an intensive planning process to develop an ambitious [co-investment plan](#) as well on ongoing support to help members clarify workgroup priorities, support collaborative decision making processes, planning and facilitating in-person meetings and conference calls, and developing a variety of information resources and policy tools.
- [Grantmakers Income Security Taskforce \(GIST\)](#). The Finance Project provides staff support for GIST including planning and coordinating regular GIST meetings; coordinating monthly Steering Committee conference calls; planning and hosting an annual in-person Steering Committee meeting; maintaining a GIST website and listserv; continuing other supports for GIST members; and collaborating with other grantmaker affinity groups.
- [Investing in the Sustainability of Youth Programs: An Assessment Tool for Funders](#). This brief and accompanying assessment tool was developed to help foundation leaders address the challenges of sustainability. The brief begins with a framework for thinking about sustainability, introduces an assessment tool funders can use in a variety of ways to support sustainability in their grantmaking, and concludes with guidance on how to use and adapt this tool for particular purposes.

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