

FCP Grantee Survey Report

2013 - 2014

Executive Summary

Background

In August 2013, Drexel University School of Public Health was hired by Foundations Community Partnership (FCP) to evaluate the foundation's grant making after six years. The Foundations Community Partnership Survey was designed to assess 1) grantee experiences and perceptions of grantees in Buck County and 2) the impact of FCP grant(s) on grantees' work.

Methodology

All 180 FCP grantees and grant applicants since 2007 were invited to take the online survey via Qualtrics (www.qualtrics.com). The survey was conducted from early September 2013 through mid-October 2013. Fifty-two grantee respondents completed the survey (28.9% response rate).

- Responses were submitted via the Web.
- Response frequencies and mean ratings on a 5-point scale are shown throughout the report
- All grantee survey responses were anonymous. The Drexel SPH team removed any comments that could potentially identify the respondent.
- Selected grantee comments are shown at the end of the report. This selection of comments highlights the key themes in the data.
- This survey report is part of a larger evaluation project that will include insights from key informant interviews that will be conducted from January to February 2014.

Key Findings

Foundations Community Partnership is rated highly on many measures in the "Foundations Community Partnership Survey". Mean scores of grantee responses were determined for each category and are as follows:

- **Grant Application/Grant Writing Assistance:** The mean score for grantee requests for information or assistance from FCP was 4.78. The mean score for usefulness of FCP resources during the grant application process was 4.40.
- **Grant Application:** The mean score for the grant application process was 4.40 (see Figure 1 for types of assistance provided by FCP).
- **Grant Management:** The mean score for grantee reporting requirements is 4.12. Grantees also rated the frequency that FCP provided grant management support with a mean score of 3.91.
- **Grant Effectiveness and Sustainability:** Grantee respondents agreed that FCP's grant effectiveness and sustainability activities have impacted organizations' work in the community with a mean score of 4.16.

Overall, a majority of FCP grantees strongly agree that FCP has been effective in developing a comprehensive grant making system that supports potential grantees from the pre-application stage to completion of the grant funded project. Within a short span of six years, FCP has made a very significant impact (see Figures 1 & 2) in supporting organizations that promote behavioral health education and research in Bucks County.

Figure 1: FCP’s Primary Types of Impact on Organizations’ Work, 2007 - 2013, n = 47

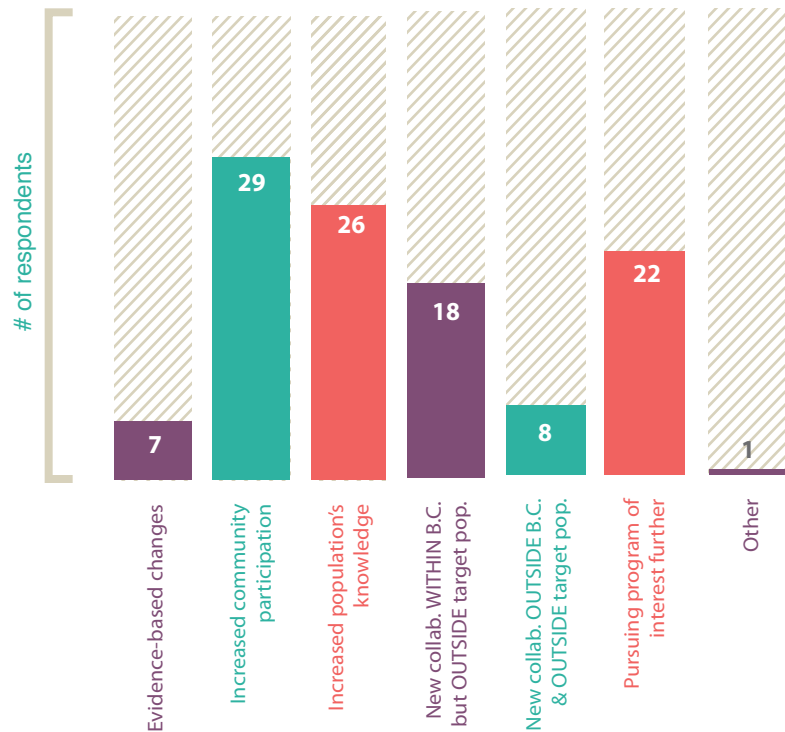
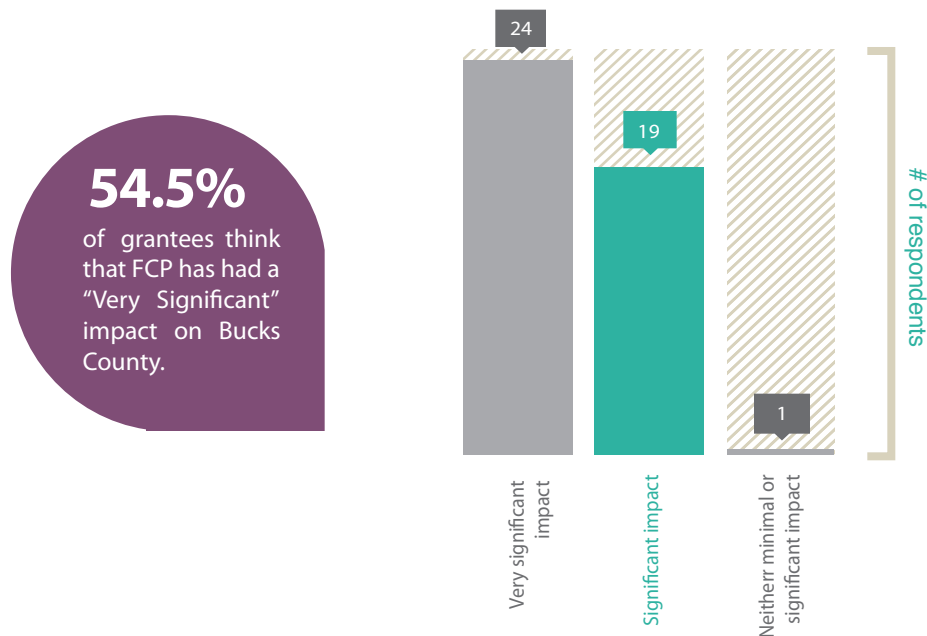


Figure 2: Grantee Perceptions of FCP’s Impact on Bucks County, 2007 - 2013, n = 44



FCP Grantee Survey Full Report

Introduction

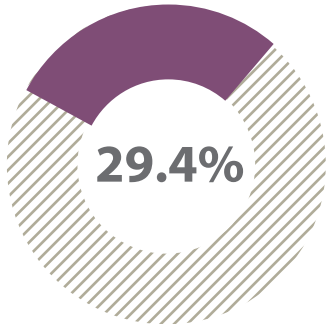
Drexel University School of Public Health was contracted by Foundations Community Partnership (FCP) to evaluate the foundation’s grant making after six years. The Foundations Community Partnership Survey was designed to assess: 1) grantee experiences and perceptions of grantees in Buck County; and 2) the impact of FCP grant(s) on grantees’ work.

The survey was disseminated using the online survey tool, Qualtrics (<http://qualtrics.com/>). On September 9th, 2013, FCP emailed the Foundations Community Partnership Survey link to all of the 180 grantees and grant applicants since 2007. The survey was closed on October 18th, 2013. Two reminder emails were sent out in this period. This survey report is part of a larger evaluation project that will include key informant interviews that will be conducted from January to February 2014. Key informant interviews will expand the focus to gain insights not only from grantees but from other stakeholders who have interacted with FCP through the years.

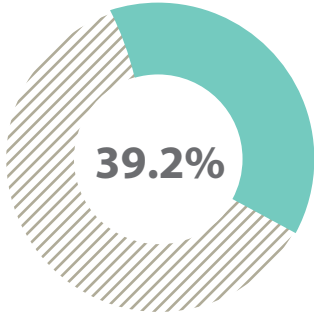
Survey Respondents

Of the 180 individuals who received the Foundations Community Partnership Survey link, 52 (28.9%) grantee respondents completed the survey. Most grantee respondents applied one time for an FCP grant with those applying for two grants a close second (27.5%). The largest group of FCP grantee respondents has received one grant with the majority receiving Partnership in Youth Services (PYS) grants (26) and Bucks Innovation and Improvement grants (25).

A majority of grantee respondents have received grants from other organizations before receiving their first grant from FCP (87%) with one third of respondents learning about FCP through direct interaction with FCP board members and/or staff. Grantee respondents agreed that they were familiar with FCP’s mission (100%) and vision (95.9%).



29.4% of grantees applied one time for an FCP grant



39.2% of grantees received one FCP grant

Organizational Characteristics

As evidenced by Figure 1, a majority of respondents described their organization as a not-for-profit organization. Grantees primarily served youth in Bucks County, but served other populations as well (see Figure 2). Many grantees have been providing services, implementing programs, and/or conducting educational workshops for more than 20 years (71.1%).

Figure 1: How would you categorize your organization?

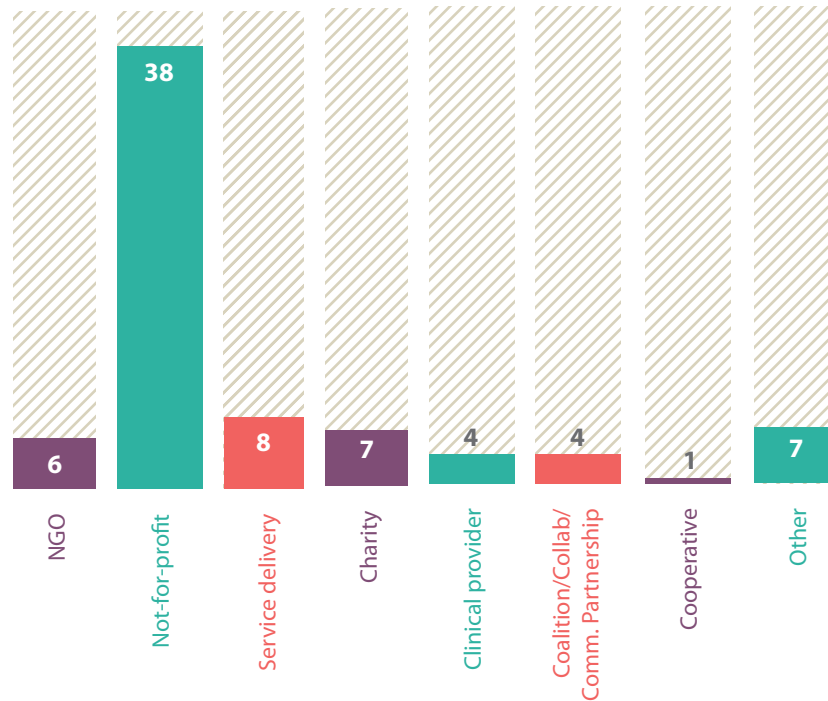
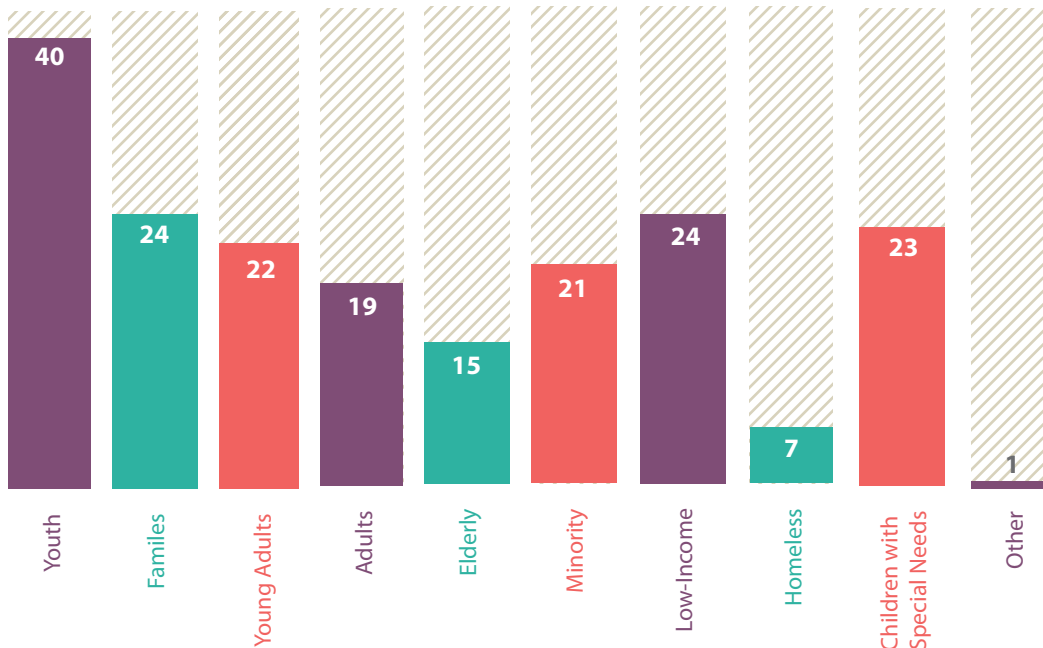


Figure 2: What community or population do you serve?

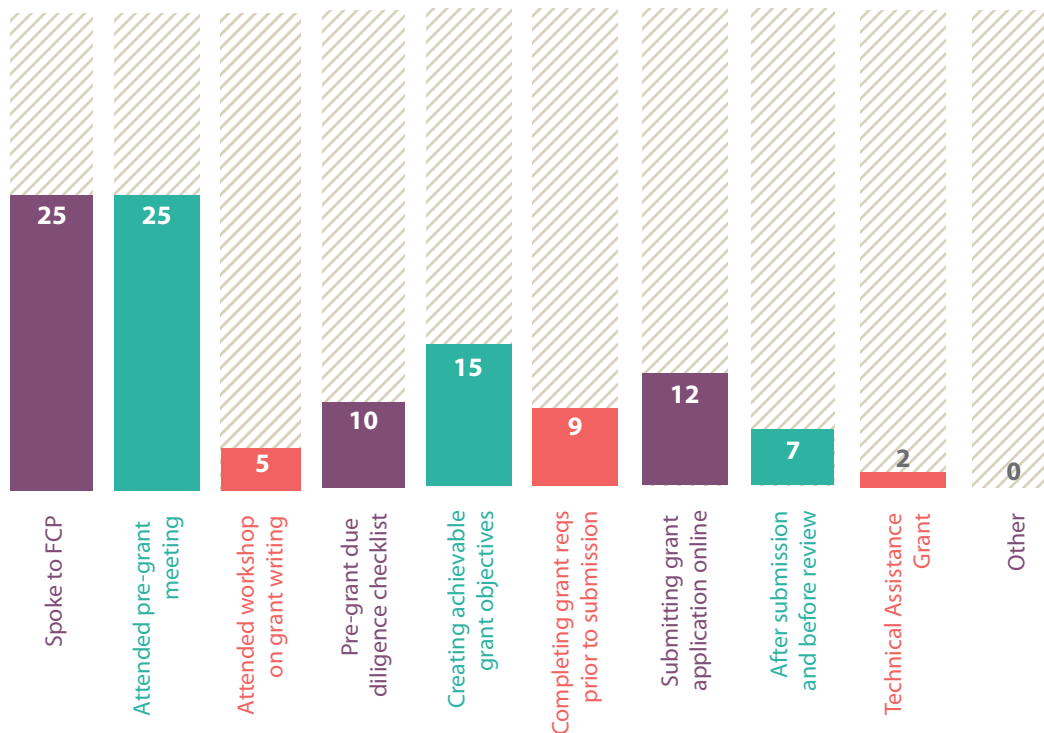


Grant Application/Grant Writing Assistance

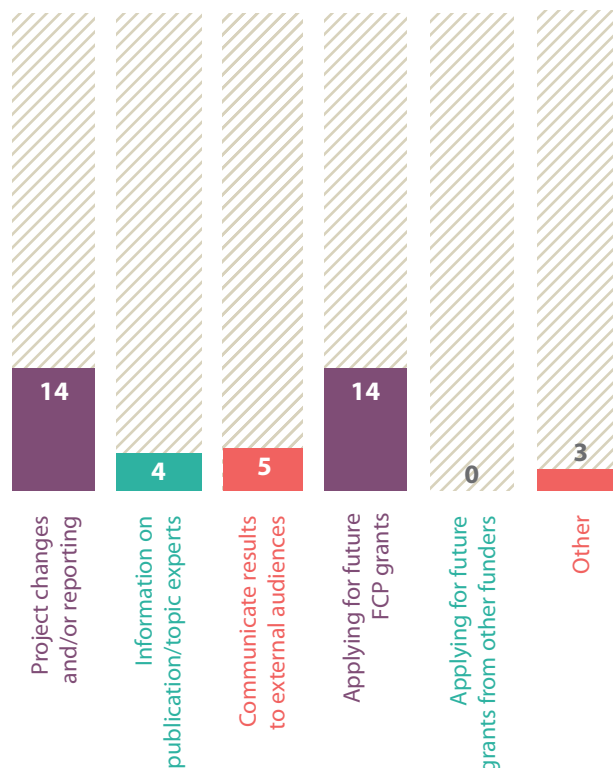
More than half of grantees received assistance from FCP during the grant application process (65.3%). As evidenced by Figure 3, the largest group of grantees received assistance by speaking to FCP staff and/or attending a pre-grant meeting and contacted FCP for assistance 1-3 times (67.4%). Two respondents requested information or assistance 10+ times. A majority of respondents received their FCP grant the first time around (83.7%). About half of the grantees received some kind of assistance from FCP after receiving their grant (51%). Of those who received assistance after receiving their grant, the largest group received assistance in completing project changes and/or reporting requirements and applying for future FCP grants (see Figure 4). The resources that grantees cited as being most useful were staff time/responsiveness (mean score = 4.80*) and information on grant opportunities (4.68*).

* mean score based on a 5.00 scale, 1 = not at all useful, 5 = extremely useful

**Figure 3: FCP Assistance During Grant Application Process
2007 - 2013, n = 47**



**Figure 4: FCP Assistance After Receiving Grant
2007 - 2013, n = 47**



For the most part, grantee experiences with requests for information or assistance from FCP were rated as “Very Good” or “Excellent” **. Grantees rated their overall satisfaction with assistance with a mean score of 4.82. One grantee rated adequacy of follow-up as “Poor” and one grantee rated their overall satisfaction with assistance as “Fair”.

** mean score based on 5.00 scale, 1 = poor, 5 = excellent

Grant Application

Respondents, in general, strongly agreed*** that the grant application was easy and accessible. One respondent disagreed that the grants page was easy to navigate, one respondent neither agreed nor disagreed that uploading or submitting the grant application instructions were easy to read and clear, and three respondents neither agreed nor disagreed that the application instructions were easy to read and clear (see Figure 5).

*** mean score based on 5.00 scale, 1 = strongly disagree, 5 = strongly agree

Figure 5: Mean Ratings For Grant Application Process, 2007 - 2013, n = 47

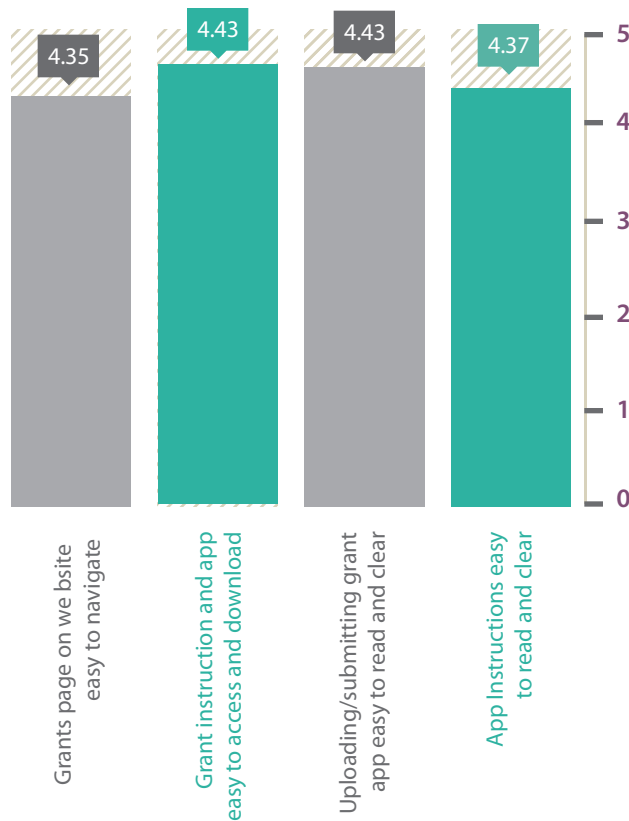
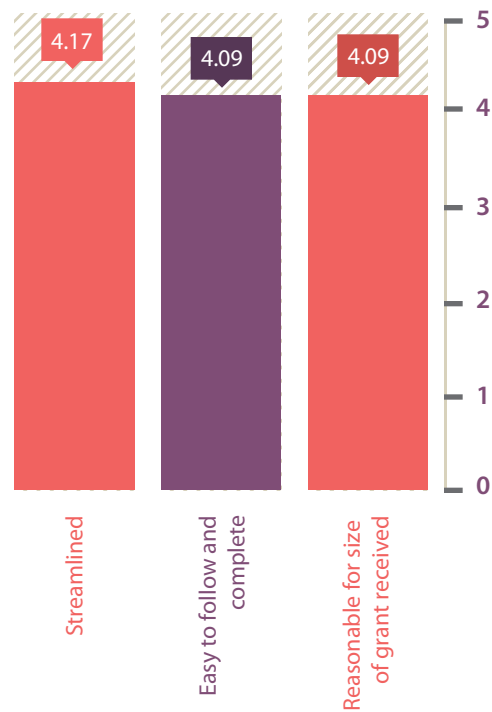


Figure 6: Mean Ratings For Grant Reporting, 2007 - 2013, n = 47

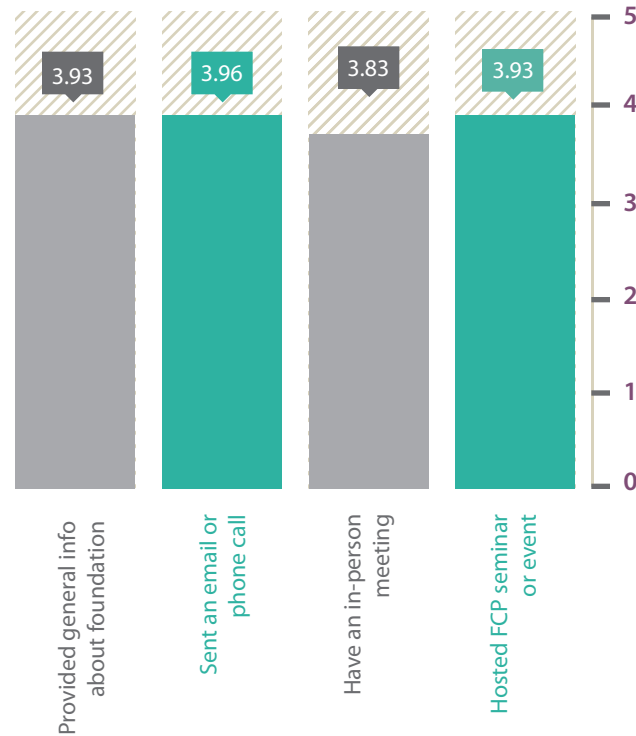


Grant Management

Responses were more varied in terms of grant management. In Figure 6, a majority of respondents agreed that reporting requirements were streamlined. However, four respondents neither agreed nor disagreed with this statement. The largest group of grantees agreed that reporting requirements were easy to follow and complete as well as reasonable for the size of the grant received. Two respondents disagreed that reporting requirements were easy to follow and complete. Two respondents disagreed and five respondents neither agreed nor disagreed that the reporting requirements were reasonable for the size of grant received.

As evidenced by Figure 7, grantees generally rated the frequency of contact among the respondents and staff at FCP as very good**. Two respondents rated frequency of providing general information about the foundation and frequency that FCP sent an email or phone call as “Fair” and 11 rated these categories as “Good”. Three respondents rated frequency that FCP has in-person meetings as “Fair” and 13 rated this category as “Good”. One respondent rated the frequency of FCP seminars/events as “Fair” and 13 respondents rating this category as “Good”.

Figure 7: Mean Scores for Frequency of Communication with FCP, 2007 - 2013, n = 47



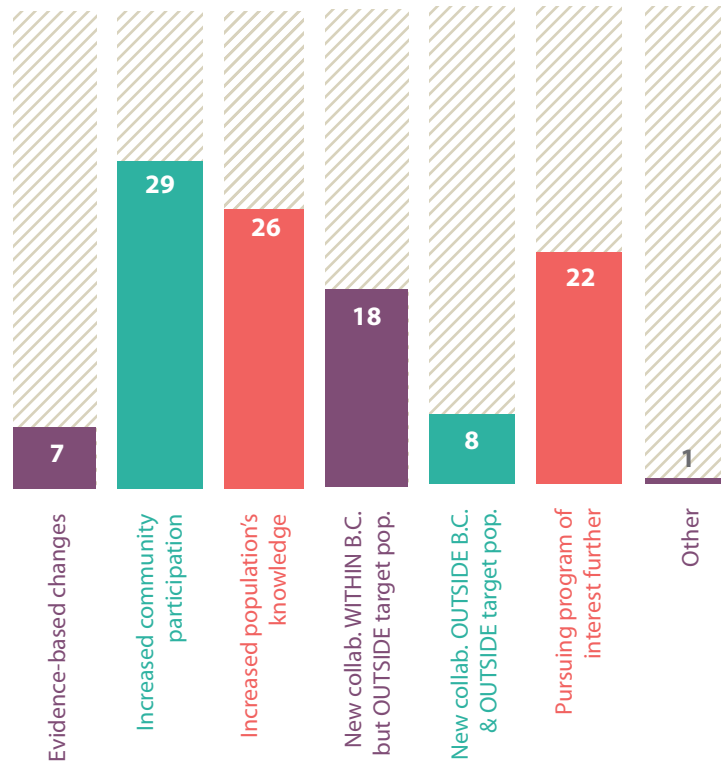
Grant Effectiveness and Sustainability

The top three types of impact reported by grantees as a result of receiving FCP grant funding were 1) increased community participation, 2) increased target population's knowledge on topics specific to the implemented program and 3) participation in the FCP grant process stimulated interest in pursuing the program area of interest further (see Figure 8).

The largest group of respondents strongly agreed*** (mean = 4.45) that the FCP grant helped their organization reach more clients and/or provide more services. Two respondents disagreed that the FCP grant helped them reach more clients. Grantees also agreed that the FCP grant helped improve the sustainability of their program (4.27). Five respondents neither agreed nor disagreed with this statement. In terms of leveraging more funding from other funding sources, the largest group neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement (mean = 3.75). Two respondents disagreed that the FCP grant leveraged more funding from other sources.

The FCP grant has led to development of some products or activities based on the grant. Most prevalent activities involved development of a press release (20 of 44 respondents),

**Figure 8: FCP’s Primary Types of Impact on Organizations’ Work
2007 - 2013, n = 47**



a print story (18 of 44 respondents), and an invitation to collaborate with others (16 of 44 respondents).

Many grantees have recommended other colleagues to contact FCP for information or to apply for a grant (69.6%). Of the 46 respondents, 76.1% have applied to other grant making entities for additional funding to support their work.

Overall, respondents rated (mean = 4.49) FCP “Excellent” with its ability to meet its mission and vision, to foster an image of integrity and trustworthiness in the community (4.71), on its quality of staff (4.71), knowledge on working with non-profits (4.62) and experience with working with non-profits (4.64). Respondents also generally rated FCP “Excellent” on its grant making strategy and performance (4.62), leadership in the community (4.60), ability to make an impact on the community (4.71), and transparency of grant making (4.56).

The largest group of respondents rated FCP's impact on the Bucks County community as having a "Very Significant Impact". The second largest group rated FCP as having a "Significant Impact" with a mean impact score of 4.52. One respondent rated FCP as having "Neither minimal or significant impact".

Selected Grantee Comments

The following are verbatim comments by grantee survey respondents reflecting the key themes found in the responses:

How can FCP improve services in the future?

- *Greater dissemination of information regarding summer internship program; bring non-profits together for discussion and/or collaborations*
- *Continue to have the annual luncheon and providing leadership for the non-profit community.*
- *Bring the non-profit community together for community needs assessment activities*
- *Keep reaching out. As our small organizations are squeezed by reduced staff numbers, it is easy to forget deadlines and opportunities while putting out our local fires.*
- *Not sure there is an answer for improving something that works great already!*
- *A mentor group for smaller not for profits, a roundtable type of initiative would be very helpful. Maybe once every 6 weeks we meet to share resources, learn, network, collaborate, etc.*

General comments and/or suggestions?

- *FCP's staff always make us feel like they are committed to seeing this organization succeed! They are invested and we feel it. The personal calls and visits make a big difference.*
- *Explore option of some general operating funds. Continue the variety of types of grants that are available. Great to have a foundation that cares about the non-profits and sees the value of small grants that are available through the Partnership Grants. Have always found the foundation staff to be responsive and helpful through the years.*
- *Enjoy your great reputation for making a difference for so many non-profits!*

- *FCP is clearly a first-class grant-making organization. We have been deeply appreciative of the support and assistance they have provided to our nonprofit organization over the past several years.*
- *Please keep doing what you do. You are a great and much needed community resource.*
- *This survey is too long and/or cannot be saved, give amount of time it takes prior to starting, I am thankful for the grant and want to give feedback but I need to know ahead of time to set aside 30 minutes.*
- *You are doing extremely helpful work as more and more government sources of grants are restricted.*

Conclusion

Survey results suggest Foundations Community Partnership has accomplished a lot within a short span of six years. Data from the survey suggests that a majority of grantee respondents strongly agree that FCP has been effective in developing a comprehensive grant making system and guidelines that support potential grantees from the pre-application stage to completion of the grant funded project. FCP has also made an impact supporting organizations that promote behavioral health in Bucks County, and enabled these organizations to achieve significant impacts of their work in the populations they serve.

Suggested Citation: Brion, T., Sax, R., & Carroll-Scott, A. (2013). 2013-2014 Grantee Survey Report. Drexel University School of Public Health.