TLDR

Med may actually be best, Protocol Guild got underfunded as did my project so this is against my interests vs using av, but its done really well for other bs/garbage/scams. brings up a few smaller projects but think this was cause of lists and apathy.

The Paradox of Funding in RPGF: A Look at Vote Patterns and Impact Assessment

Introduction

The Retroactive Public Goods Funding (RPGF) initiative by Optimism aimed to reward projects based on their impact, with the community voting on the allocation of tokens to various contributors. However, an analysis of voting patterns reveals a concerning trend: the distribution of funds may not be as impact-focused as intended.

Standardized Allocations and the Illusion of Impact

An examination of the most common vote amounts – 50,000 and 100,000 – indicates a standardized approach to voting. This raises the question: Are these allocations truly reflective of each project's individual impact, or are they the result of voters following a predetermined script?

For instance, the top two most common allocations were 50,000 (1737 votes) and 100,000 (1652 votes), with other standard amounts such as 10,000 and 25,000 following suit. A closer look at the data suggests a large number of projects received similar funding, not because of a measured impact but likely due to the influence of lists, which aggregated suggested funding amounts for badgeholders (voters) to follow.

The Influence of Lists and Voter Apathy

Lists are meant to guide badgeholders in their voting, but they seem to have led to a uniformity that undermines the principle of impact-based funding. The phenomenon of badgeholders advertising themselves on social media and the fact that around 30% of the top 100 projects all received the same allocation points to a systemic issue within the RPGF mechanics.

Top 100

[

1b3d1aa0-c45d-497e-99e3-56753bc4e532

3259×2180 449 KB

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Bottom 100

[

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1920×1382 154 KB

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The reliance on lists has perhaps inadvertently caused voter apathy, where badgeholders vote for as many projects as possible, often without due diligence, simply to meet the voting threshold. This method of voting could be seen as an attempt to fulfill the quorum rather than a genuine effort to evaluate the merit and impact of each project.

Vote dist

[

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1686×1101 46.3 KB

](https://global.discourse-cdn.com/business7/uploads/bc41dd/original/2X/0/06e424bb45da0c089f556b7cb160f28a4bbaac90.png)

Top 10

[

73b75ae2-8a2a-40ba-8167-5ef245b98830

2979×3980 385 KB

](https://global.discourse-
cdn.com/business7/uploads/bc41dd/original/2X/e/e479c8dc9a47ca428e86007a9cd54681be1e274a.png)

every 50th

[

1dcefdd3-ab41-45aa-b9a6-ebbc5eff4cec

1920×5666 332 KB

](https://global.discourse-
cdn.com/business7/uploads/bc41dd/original/2X/3/3d4f274a5cb5bcdc8544110e37fabaf33431f055.jpeg)

The Homogeneity of Funding

An analysis of vote distributions shows that a significant proportion of the top 100 projects received similar funding amounts. This homogeneity suggests that badgeholders (voters within the RPGF) may not be individually assessing the impact of projects. While intended to streamline the process and provide expertise, lists may have resulted in a form of 'voter apathy'—where badgeholders vote uniformly across many projects, influenced by the collective rather than personal judgment. The badgeholder problem is highlighted by the lack of differentiation in funding—can it be that an overwhelming number of projects all deserved exactly 100,000 in impact value? Or is this a reflection of a list-based voting mechanism that oversimplifies the complexities of project impact?

** The Median Trap and the Push for Quantity**

The RPGF voting structure uses median values to determine final funding amounts, which could lead to a clustering of votes around central figures. This 'median trap' means projects tend to receive an amount close to the middle of the distribution, irrespective of their actual impact. Combined with a voting threshold that compels badgeholders to vote on as many projects as possible, this system may dilute the quality of funding decisions, rewarding mediocrity while penalizing standout initiatives.

Median Versus Average Funding: The Metrics of Misalignment

The debate between using median or average funding as a more accurate measure of project impact is complex. While the average might seem a fairer assessment, it can be skewed by outliers. The median, on the other hand, could underrepresent projects that require more substantial funding to achieve their impact. Notably, high-impact projects like Protocol Guild received less than their due, while other less impactful projects were overfunded.

Proposals for a Fairer Funding Model

To align funding with impact, several changes to the RPGF voting process are recommended:

- Implement tiered limits for funding allocations, ensuring a more nuanced distribution with smaller med threshold.

10k requires 5/20 ballots

50k requires 10/20 ballots

200k requires 15/20 ballots

- Assign a specific number of badgeholders to evaluate a select group of projects, rating their impact on a scale from 0 to 100.

- Average out the impact scores among the assigned badgeholders to mitigate extremes.

- Introduce public commentary on proposals, increasing transparency and community involvement.

- Adjust ballot requirements based on funding tiers to ensure a more rigorous assessment for higher allocations.

ethereum-optimism/op-analytics/blob/main/rpgf/rpgf3/results/anonymized_project_votes.csv
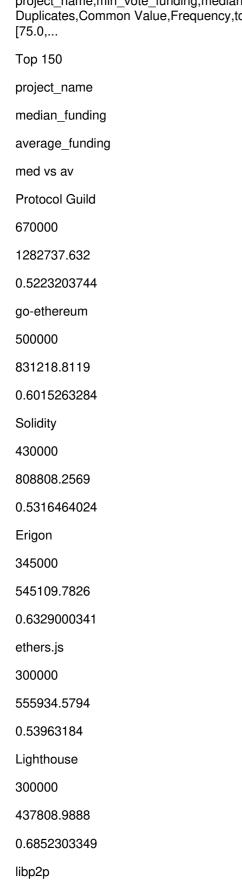
My data

docs.google.com

[

full_project_statistics

full_project_statistics

project_name,min_vote_funding,median_funding,average_funding,max_vote_funding,med vs av,raw,high max,Total Duplicates,Common Value,Frequency,top 100,med,av Protocol Guild,75,670000,1282737.632,5000000,0.5223203744,[75.0,...

Top 150

project_name

median_funding

average_funding

med vs av

Protocol Guild

670000

1282737.632

0.5223203744

go-ethereum

500000

831218.8119

0.6015263284

Solidity

430000

808808.2569

0.5316464024

Erigon

345000

545109.7826

0.6329000341

ethers.js

300000

555934.5794

0.53963184

Lighthouse

300000

437808.9888

0.6852303349

libp2p

300000

413224.7059

0.7259972498

Hardhat

290000

494267.3267

0.5867270287

Test in Prod

275000

489542.8571

0.5617485701

ETHGlobal

260000

615601.1111

0.4223514144

DefiLlama

250000

518453.7634

0.482203077

Account Abstraction - ERC-4337

250000

503835.2941

0.4961939009

Vyper

250000

447062.8866

0.559205444

OpenZeppelin Contracts

250000

405774.1935

0.6161062088

Remix Project

250000

403500

0.6195786865

Nethermind

250000

400820.5128

0.6237205732

Lodestar

250000

380001.1905

0.6578926758

Web3js

250000

343945.5556

0.7268592251

Dappnode

250000

340611.4943

0.7339740561

BuidlGuidl

235000

540795.4545

0.4345450725

Ethereum Attestation Service

230000

431655.914

0.5328318055

IPFS

230000

394157.1429

0.5835236128

beaconcha.in

225000

364861.7021

0.6166720121

Agora

215000

386375

0.5564542219

Lattice (OPCraft & MUD)

200000

522633.8235

0.3826771077

L2BEAT

200000

495778.7879

0.4034057222

Wagmi / Viem

200000

481921.5909

0.4150052701

foundry

200000

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Blockscout Block Explorer

200000

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Sourcify

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Nimbus

200000

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revm

200000

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0.5896480331

Snapshot

200000

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Gitcoin

180000

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Otterscan

180000

309273.7374

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ZachXBT

155000

314391.6667

0.4930156122

rotki

150000

347420.4301

0.4317535384

Giveth

150000

263457.6923

0.5693513774

OP Reth

150000

260092.3077

0.5767183249

Revoke.cash

150000

243377.7778

0.6163257852

Mirror

140000

222479.4521

0.6292715966

TrueBlocks / Unchained Index

140000

214287.1429

0.6533289778

Ethereum on ARM

135000

221558.3333

0.6093203445

Department of Decentralization

130000

324887.0968

0.4001390061

Immunefi

130000

270303.7736

0.4809403815

Ethereum Cat Herders

130000

258134.6667

0.5036131012

Frame

130000

226646.8354

0.5735795946

TypeChain / DethCode

130000

190620

0.6819851012

Open Source Observer

130000

167714.2857

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Slither

125000

162530.8824

0.7690846084

Small Brain Games

120000

345247.3684

0.3475768709

BasePaint

120000

344929.8246

0.3478968516

Aerodrome Finance

110000

428627.451

0.2566331199

CharmVerse

110000

248701.7544

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Kwenta

105000

301458.6957

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Velodrome

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0.1560997761

Synthetix

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0.304549616

Kernel

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Metagov

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Zuzalu

100000

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eth.limo

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Fe

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245094

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Optimism Translators

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Lyra Finance

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239277.5

0.4179247944

Ronan Sandford

100000

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Ipsilon

100000

226575

0.4413549597

CryptoZombies

100000

220272.8571

0.4539823985

ApeWorX LTD

100000

219501.5873

0.4555775711

Gitcoin Passport

100000

214586.6667

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RainbowKit

100000

204337.9747

0.4893852949

Ultra Sound Relay

100000

202154.7619

0.4946705141

EthereumETL

100000

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0.511315908

ZORA

100000

193764.4237

0.5160906119

Tally

100000

190264.6154

0.5255838023

Vectorized

100000

188918.0556

0.5293300299

Yearn

100000

186888.8889

0.5350772889

StreamETH

100000

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P256Verifier

100000

172419.6721

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Cannon

100000

172150

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Synpress

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0.5882290029

EthernautDAO

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The Ethernaut

100000

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Blocknative

Web3 Onboard

100000

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Optimistic Indexer

100000

134070.4545

0.7458764896

Waffle

100000

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0.7526640345

Coordinape

100000

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0.7729928201

Sushi

100000

126284.2105

0.7918646328

Guild.xyz

100000

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0.7944643772

Candide

100000

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0.7952506889

Support NERDs

100000

125268.2927

0.7982866044

Secureum

100000

125127.7778

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Blobscan

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UseDApp

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Soul Wallet

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Wallet Abstraction

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Optimism Ambassadors

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Aestus Relay

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Pairwise

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WhatsABI

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Hypercerts Foundation

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Prettier Solidity

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Funding the Commons

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Splits

93000

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OP Governance Analytics Dashboard

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90500

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Zero Knowledge Podcast

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draper

90000

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0.5497081007

Conduit

90000

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Galxe

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PatrickAlphaC

85000

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ETHSafari 2023

83000

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Keccak hashing

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EthStaker

82500

155000

0.5322580645

Sonne Finance

82500

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Hats Protocol

80000

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LexDAO

80000

161444.4444

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Holograph

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Alloy

78000

188500

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AW House/Komorebi's Hacker House

77000

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Tenderly

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Endaoment

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Sassal.eth

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Rainbow Wallet

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ethOS

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Gelato

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ChainList

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RabbitHole

77000

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Beam Wallet LLC

77000

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Socket

77000

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DappRadar

77000

99094.44444

0.7770364972

ERC4337 Smart Accounts Dune Dashboard

76000

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WASD

75000

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NiceNode

75000

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Umbra

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roll-op

75000

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Pyth Network

75000

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BrightID

75000

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JiffyScan

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Clave (formerly Opclave)

75000

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Alchemy

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The Red Guild

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Forum

75000

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Crust Network

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Paco Bytes

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Impersonator

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polynya

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NumbaNERDs

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Commons Stack

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Karma

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Edge & Node / The Graph

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0.754030016

Hardhat Tracer

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104932.3529

0.6385066009

PR0

66000

87414.28571

0.7550253309

Vote Amount Frequency 0 50000.0 1737 1 100000.0 1652 2 10000.0 1253 3 25000.0 1075 4 5000.0 894 5 200000.0 766 6 20000.0 723 7 150000.0 696 8 75000.0 675 9 250000.0 630 10 0.0 610 11 77000.0 562 12 15000.0 542 13 500000.0 536 14 2000.0 512 15 30000.0 357 16 1000000.0 315 17 300000.0 307 18 39000.0 256 19 130000.0 232```