

My team at Protocol Labs has been doing some analysis on the impact of funding open source. Eventually, we'd like to get to the point where you can take a funding pool like RPGF2 and evaluate its impact on network adoption indicators like active developers and monthly active users - and use those learnings to improve the next round.

Here is a [write-up on RPGF2](#) and a [tweet thread](#) you can check out.

A few of the insights:

- 66/195 were ideal for permissionless impact measurement because they shared both an organization GitHub repo and a payout address with a robust transaction history. An additional 39 projects, which were either solo or team of team initiatives, had an active GitHub and verified address.
- 38/195 projects appeared to have contracts on Optimism, implying most of the impact that RPGF rewards is upstream of sequencer fees.
- Most projects indicated a team size of 2-10 people in their application. Larger teams tended to receive larger grants. However, as projects get larger, the amount of grant funding per contributor becomes less significant. The average funding per contributor declines markedly for projects with more than 10 full-time team members.
- Older projects received more funding – roughly 10,000 OP for every additional year of activity. However, the tendency for more established projects to receive more funding isn't as strong within categories. In education, for instance, newer projects tended to perform better than older ones.
- Projects with what we called “steady” momentum – i.e., consistent activity on their organization's GitHub for over two years – received much larger grant sizes on average than newer, “rising” projects and older projects with “bursty” activity.

We hope the work gets at the potential of bringing more data into the loop, but also some of the limitations due to missing data about projects. We're in the process of deepening the analysis and will provide updates.

In the meantime, we also have some recommendations for getting more structured data into the project application forms that hopefully can be considered in advance of RPGF3. These include:

1. Creating precise entity definitions

such as individuals, organizations, and collections.

1. Verifying eligibility requirements

for each entity type during the application phase. For instance, an “organization” should control a GitHub organization.

1. Requiring entities to link at least one source of public work artifacts

, such as a GitHub repo, a deployer address or list of contracts on OP mainnet, an RSS feed, etc.

1. Requiring entities to share a dedicated address

for receiving grant funds, such as a Safe, splits contract, or ENS.

Last, we had a lot of fun with the analysis and data viz. If anyone has hypotheses they'd like to explore or more visualization ideas, send over a DM!

h/t to [@Jonas](#), [@MSilb7](#), [@chuxin_h](#) for the feedback and ideas they've already provided!