

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GRANTMAKERS

- ✓ Fund early so organizations can work at scale in the lead-up to the election.
- ✓ Support capacity-building efforts that increase organizational leadership, expertise and permanent infrastructure.
- ✓ Support efforts that encourage collaboration among organizations.
- ✓ Ensure civic engagement organizations have access to technologies such as voter file tools and communications support.
- ✓ Provide opportunities for ongoing training and technical assistance.
- ✓ Support organizations' nonpartisan efforts to communicate with and mobilize the voters they have previously registered.
- ✓ Maintain an emphasis on strategic new voter registration and mobilization.
- ✓ Fund and encourage experiments that identify best practices.
- ✓ Monitor new trends and support pilot projects.
- ✓ Fund and encourage grantees to integrate evaluations and assessments into their work.

## INGREDIENTS FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SUCCESS



### STRONG CAPACITY

Resources that build expertise, leadership and infrastructure of nonpartisan nonprofits make a long-term impact on civic engagement organizing. Investments in organizational capacity provide opportunities for groups to marry voter engagement and issue work with year-round organizing, base building, and holding public officials accountable.



### COLLABORATION & SHARING

Organizations that coordinate and share information, innovations, and access to new technologies work more efficiently, avoid duplicative efforts, and greatly improve their civic engagement work. Collaborations - such as state tables and coalitions - allow for larger experiments and the rapid distribution of findings and best practices within c3 networks.



### ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

Online voter registration and communications (e.g. the Voting Information Project), and access to affordable voter file technologies (such as VAN and Catalyst) have had a major impact on nonprofit civic engagement efforts. Technology is also making evaluation of organizing experiments more scientific and useful by providing real data to organizations.

# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT HELPS YOUR CAUSE!

Jobs. Social justice. The environment. Regardless of the issues that move you, nonpartisan civic engagement is a powerful tool that can help any organization build a more effective base to advance their mission. Activities such as voter mobilization, election protection and leadership development are among the varied approaches to civic engagement that organizations can – and should – be adding to their community organizing toolbox. When combined with advocacy, communications, research, and coalition building, year-round civic engagement offers a potent approach to gaining power for underrepresented communities and making change on every quality of life issue.

*With disappointing voter turnout in 2010, new laws that suppress voting, and the increasingly corrosive influence of money on our political system, there is a vital need for philanthropy to support communities actively involved in the 2012 elections and beyond. By investing in organizations that are serious about informing and building an engaged electorate on the issues they care about, grantmakers can help to build a more vibrant and inclusive democracy for all.*

## TAKE ACTION

### ✓ KNOW THE LAW

Supporting nonpartisan civic engagement work is both necessary- and legal! De-mystify the rules for funding voter registration, education and ballot campaigns with FCCP's indispensable and updated guide for grantmakers. Download it from the FCCP homepage in early October at [funderscommittee.org](http://funderscommittee.org).

### ✓ LEARN MORE

Learn the key ways that Integrated Voter Engagement programs differ from traditional voter engagement work and read case studies of organizations that have used this strategy to increase voter participation, build community power and affect policy change. Download *Integrated Voter Engagement: A Proven Model to Increase Civic Engagement* from the Featured Resources section of the FCCP homepage at [funderscommittee.org](http://funderscommittee.org).

### ✓ SPREAD THE WORD

Are there foundations in your area that could benefit from learning how nonpartisan civic engagement activities can help advance the work of their grantees? Consider hosting a workshop/briefing featuring local work with support from FCCP.

**CONTACT FCCP TO EXPLORE HOW WE CAN HELP INFORM AND STRENGTHEN YOUR GRANTMAKING!**

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