



**SHARPENING
THE EDGE:
A Four-Part
C(4) Learning
Community**

Together for Good

AT-A-GLANCE

This series is intended for private and public foundations that have experience in deploying c(4) funding and share common interests of refining and coordinating their strategies ahead of the 2022 midterm election.

- Cohort will consist of up to 12 teams, each with 2-4 representatives
- Teams should be committed to attend and participate in all four sessions
- Intersession assignments could incorporate other voices and insights into the process.

**Registration will open in
January 2022.**

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

NCG, San Francisco Foundation, and a multi-foundation planning committee are building a time-limited learning community that deepen understanding and application of c(4) status, c(3)'s legal ability to conduct lobbying, investments, and other legal structures that can sharpen philanthropy's advocacy tools for advancing equity. A core premise is that c(4) activity can be helpful in the movement building that is at the center of contemporary equity Grantmaking. The series builds on preliminary conversations about working through the mechanics of c(4) and positions interested foundations to take further action.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

Several outcomes are anticipated from this process, including:

- a cadre of foundations will emerge with strengthened and shared analysis about the mechanics, application, landscape, and potential inherent in the c(4) structures and related advocacy tools.
- efficiencies in training and services will be achieved through shared resources and conversation, reducing redundant R&D on the topic.
- pilots or legal agreements will emerge to test the viability of c(4) resource coordination, strategy and action as a mechanism for advancing equitable policy and legislation.
- a short document that captures the landscape of c(4) philanthropy (via survey), highlights of the learning sessions, and identification of short-term priorities to act

LOGISTICS

The series will launch in mid-February 2022. Each session is spaced 2-3 weeks apart and will run for 2.5 hours each.

The fee for engagement will be \$2,500 per foundation team for the entire series. Teams are encouraged to bring 2-4 participants, including at least one staff person from both the program and operations side of their organization given the nature of the tactics that will be explored during the process. Teams desiring to send more than four participants should contact NCG to explore further.



SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

February 2022

A Closer Look at the c(4) Ecosystem—context, organizations, and opportunity

Participants will expand their understanding of the c(4) ecosystem in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. Alongside researchers, participants will examine the c(4) landscape, identify key allies, and explore the opportunities and challenges to this work. Practitioners will share both statewide and local examples of their experiences utilizing c(4) funding to influence the outcome of local or statewide elections demonstrating the impact of philanthropic support on long-term systems change.

MARCH 2022

The Mechanics of Change—the how and why of c(4) structures and grantmaking

Participants will discuss their journey to c(4) giving navigating the myriad challenges and opportunities. In this session participants will discuss the steps they took and the rationale for getting into the c(4) space. While some practitioners elected to utilize a 501H, others have created separated but connected action organizations with a variety of other strategies in between. Participants will explore different models of giving to maximize utility of c(4) funds.

MARCH 2022

Lessons from the Field—movers and shakers share their wares in the c(4) space

In this session, participants will explore how best to prepare and support movement building groups that balance the ground game with c(3) funds and the air game with c(4) funding. Participants will hear from key community-based leaders and c(4)-oriented organizations central to maintaining or acquiring diverse political leadership that upholds the values of advancing racial equity and social justice in their public agendas.

APRIL 2022

Building a Cohesive Strategy for c(4) Advocacy—opportunities for action and where and how to engage

There are at least two dynamics in play as we face 2022. How do we support the long-term infrastructure and capacity of advocacy organizations, and how do we support them as they take on recalls, midterm elections, and the new political realities. In California we face a number of recall and midterm elections that could potentially put in peril the interests of BIPOC communities throughout the state. As the learning community concludes, participants will explore what is next for their engagement to support local infrastructure, shared capacity and shaping the future of California's political leadership. Looking beyond 2022, participants will build better understanding of how funders can collaborate to support and catalyze the full power of community-based leadership. To achieve a more equitable and just government that prioritizes the needs of historically under-resourced communities, the philanthropic sector must strategically deploy resources with the universal goal of supporting a multi-cultural democracy for all.