



**NYS HEALTH**  
FOUNDATION

*Improving the state of New York's health*

# Funding Strategies for Food Ed Organizations

Bronwyn Starr, MPH  
Senior Program Officer  
New York State Health Foundation

August 26, 2020

# Background

## **Our Mission:**

To improve the health of all New Yorkers, especially the most vulnerable.

## Areas of Giving:

- 1) Building Healthy Communities
- 2) Empowering Health Care Consumers

## Other focus areas:

Veterans' Health  
Special Projects Fund

[www.nyshealthfoundation.org](http://www.nyshealthfoundation.org)

## NEWS

### John D. And Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Goes On Wild Endowment Binge

5/15/02 3:00pmSEE MORE: BUSINESS

CHICAGO—The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation went on a wild endowment binge last weekend, recklessly giving away more than \$170 million in grants and fellowships in a 48-hour span.



# The Funder's Perspective

- Need/Response
- Opportunity to create change
- Timely
- Sustainability
- Build the case for public funding/policy change
- Leverage (financial and relationships)

# How do funders create a more pleasant environment for grantees?

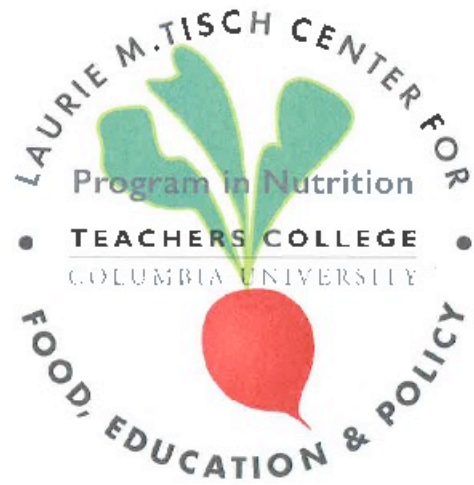
- Create an environment where grantees can learn from each other's strengths, weaknesses, challenges and successes to enhance their own leadership development and organizational capacity
- Be flexible
- Share power and responsibility (grantees are the experts, not the funders)
- Strong connectivity and relationship-building

# In a perfect world, funders would:

- Catalyze, but not force relationships
- Offer core support and flexible, long-term funding
- Provide necessary resources to support and enable collaboration
- Make it easy! Streamline applications and reporting
- Invest in “beyond the check” activities” TA, grantwriting, communications, to free up more funding for the actual work and build skills of the organizations
- Welcome feedback

# The importance of criticizing philanthropy

- Important to remember our place of privilege/be mindful of power dynamics.
- Many foundations came from corporations that literally earned their wealth from being slave owners, by degrading the environment, or displacing people they are now seeking to help.
- Some would argue we need to look more internally:
  - how can we shift power in our decision making, for example, from boards to experts?
  - What is the make up of staff, the board?
  - Should we make ourselves obsolete?



Tisch Report

## **A is for Apple:** The State of Nutrition Education Programs in New York City Schools



March, 2018