



Resourcing Rural Organizing Infrastructure: Assessment and Toolkit

*This three-part funder toolkit, developed by NFG's Integrated Rural Strategies Group, is designed to support funders in expanding their grantmaking to support rural organizing. Whether you are a national or place-based funder or whether you are looking to initiate funding to rural communities or deepen your existing rural grantmaking to build organizing capacity, **this toolkit is for you.***

1 Self-Assessment

The Rural Organizing Funder Assessment was created to help foundations **assess the degree to which their funding strategies and practices align with the needs of rural organizers.** The Assessment consists of 30 questions and can be used for self-reflection, as a grantmaking program assessment, or as a 360-degree review across various stakeholder groups such as your board, staff, and grantees. This tool is a direct response to rural organizers' needs and feedback to the philanthropic sector, as captured in our report: [Resourcing Rural Organizing Infrastructure: A New York Case Study.](#)

2 Action Planning Guide

The Rural Organizing Funder Action Planning Guide is a tool to help funders proactively plan to deepen their impact. Using the Guide, funders can identify **specific actions that can be taken over 3-month, 1-year, and 3-year timeframes** to improve the Foundation's grantmaking strategy and operational practices when funding rural organizing.

3 Resource Library

Available on NFG's website, the Rural Organizing Funder [Resource Library](#) is intended to become a one-stop-shop for **resources, case studies, program models, and learning opportunities for funders** who support rural community organizing in their grantmaking. The Resource Library will serve as a centralized repository of IRSG's learning over time as our members increase their work in resourcing rural organizing.

“A benchmark and quantitative tool to measure the holistic impact of your grantmaking and investment strategies in rural communities. A good warm-up exercise for funders new to rural grantmaking looking for a helpful continuum to map growth and interventions to strengthen both your impact and relationships with partners in rural places.

Olivia Trabysh | *she/her*
Program Officer, Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation



“The toolkit is helpful to support conversations among staff in different roles at the foundation to think holistically about what it means to fund in rural communities – especially if you are not based in a rural area. Really helpful to take a look at all practices and ground conversations.

Vicki Walsh | *she/her*
Program Officer, Mertz Gilmore Foundation



“A useful and thorough introduction to approaching supporting organizing in rural communities, built on deep feedback from organizers on the ground.

Michael Parkhurst | *he/him*
Housing Opportunities Program Officer
Meyer Memorial Trust

