



Catalytic Philanthropy Readiness Assessment

This assessment is designed to facilitate a discussion within your organization about your readiness for strategic planning and engagement on complex social issues. Should you need additional background, we invite you to browse our resource library to learn more about [catalytic philanthropy](#).

Strategic planning might make sense for you if:

- You have had a **recent change in staff or board leadership** and you want to create a new, unifying strategic direction.
- You would like to **inspire your board to consider new ways of investing in transformative change** beyond writing checks in response to community requests.
- You are interested in devoting a portion of your grantmaking and resources **to proactively addressing a specific issue** (e.g., affordable housing), but you need to “get smart, fast” on the key challenges in this area, current nonprofit practitioners, best practices in the funding community, and existing funding streams.
- You have traditionally played a fairly isolated role in your philanthropic investments, and you would like to take advantage of your resources by **taking a more collaborative approach** with other key stakeholders.
- You **see value in investing in the system** in which you work, in addition to individual players, and you want to identify high-leverage opportunities (e.g., enhancing data, encouraging stronger connections among actors through convenings).
- You are working (or intending to work) on **complex problems or within complex systems**, and you want to better understand how to:
 - Work with multiple people or organizations or with whole ecosystems (e.g., education or health systems).
 - Address issues in your work that are interrelated with other social challenges.
 - Capitalize on new opportunities or react to unexpected obstacles.
 - Better navigate uncertainty in order to be more flexible and adaptive.
 - Overcome organizational barriers that might hinder real time “probing, sensing, and adapting.”
 - Invest time and resources to sense trends, engage with unconventional partners where needed, and rapidly iterate and course-correct on strategy.

Contact

For more information on FSG’s catalytic philanthropy and strategic planning services, visit www.fsg.org or contact Patty Russell at Patty.Russell@fsg.org.