

Starting a Working Group – Planning Conversation Guide

We're excited that you are interested in starting a working group! MCF loves supporting member learning and sharing around important issues in the field and exploring public policy and systems change opportunities with members.

To help determine if a working group is the right vehicle for your interests, please start thinking through the following questions and initiate a conversation with MCF:

- **Who is the target audience for this proposed working group?**
- **People in this proposed working group want (choose one):**
 - To explore issue(s) together from a public policy and systems change angle
 - None of the above

Note: Groups that are not issue-driven and public policy-focused do not fit as working groups in MCF's Collaborative Philanthropy model. They may fit as peer networks, collaborations or affiliated networks.

- **What is the purpose(s) of this proposed working group?**
- **Would this group contribute to MCF's public policy goal of creating a more prosperous, inclusive and equitable Minnesota by eliminating disparities? If so, how?**
- **What topics or agenda items would be of interest to this proposed group?**
- **Which members are asking to pilot this potential working group?** Interest must be expressed from 5+ different member foundations for MCF to consider a pilot. Please list names and organizations below. **Please highlight 1-2 people willing to initially chair the group.**
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.

If a working group seems like the best fit based on a discussion of the above questions, MCF will explore the following questions before making a commitment to pilot the group.

- Can MCF identify 5+ additional people in its membership that would likely be interested in this proposed working group?
- Does MCF have the staff capacity to support a new working group?
- Is this a unique need or interest that doesn't fit within an already existing group on MCF's collaborative philanthropy spectrum?



- Is this group likely to be issue-driven, public policy-focused and in alignment with MCF's public policy goal of creating a more prosperous, inclusive and equitable Minnesota by eliminating disparities?

If MCF can answer 'yes' to the above questions, MCF will organize a pilot meeting. If the audience and interest is sustained after 2-3 successful pilot meetings, MCF will work with chair(s) to formalize the working group by: developing a group purpose and annual activities plan, consulting with government relations and public policy committee to review the group's plan to ensure alignment with MCF's policy goals and determining a strategy for sustaining a liaison relationship between the working group and the government relations and public policy committee.

