

Community Initiatives 2025

As part of our mission to Strengthen our community through philanthropy, we support nonprofit leaders and organizations by building capacity, convening, and fostering collaboration. Below is an overview of the community initiatives currently supported by our staff and leadership.

Responsive Grantmaking

Nonprofit Training & Advancement Fund

The Foundation established this fund to offer one-time training grants up to \$1,000 for leadership development, succession planning, and frontline training. Nonprofits complete a simple Google Doc application on a rolling basis. Since its inception in 2021, the Fund has provided 147 grants totaling \$119,719.

Community Impact Support Fund

This fund allows staff to make responsive grants of \$5,000 or less to address unique opportunities, special sponsorships, and community needs as they arise. Since its inception in 2021, the Fund has provided 66 grants totaling \$112,291.09.

Strengthening Capital Region Nonprofits

This initiative focuses on providing capacity-building support beyond grantmaking to help nonprofits increase their organizational effectiveness.

Catalyst for Change Leadership Program

Based on the Nourishing Tomorrow's Leaders program, this is a 10-week board development series designed to increase community representation on nonprofit boards. The program is for up to 15 community members interested in joining a local nonprofit board. After completing the program, participants are connected to nonprofits seeking new board members and join a network of leaders committed to diversity and inclusion on nonprofit boards.

Virtual Workshop Series

This series offers monthly workshops in collaboration with local partners. Workshops cover essential topics such as:

- Board Governance and Development
- Leadership and Organizational Health
- Financial Management
- Strategic Planning
- Fundraising and Marketing
- Legal Compliance and Human Resources

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance includes dedicated, deep-dive workshops and short, informal conversations to help nonprofit leaders develop actionable solutions, align priorities, and build skillsets.

Community Collaborations

Supporting Community Initiatives

The Foundation partners with various community efforts to address pressing issues through grant dollars, technical assistance, and convening stakeholders. Current initiatives include:

- **Saratoga Communities of Excellence:** A collaborative working to advance the well-being of Saratoga County residents.
- **Clean Energy Hub:** Connecting Capital Region residents with clean energy opportunities.
- **Capital Region Indicators:** A joint initiative providing data and interactive visualizations to inform the community on critical topics.
- **Black Chamber of Commerce (ATEAM):** Supporting small business startups through a new educational and mentoring program.
- **The Innovation Collaboration:** An accelerator to support capacity building for local nonprofit organizations.
- **Research and Data Sharing:** Focusing on the impact of chronic kidney disease in the Capital Region.

Capital Region Funders Convening

We facilitate a quarterly meeting with multiple public and private funders throughout the region to foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

Past Initiatives

The Foundation has spearheaded several impactful initiatives, including:

- **The Capital Region IDEA Collaborative** to enhance diversity on nonprofit boards.
- **The Nonprofit Board Inclusion Series** to foster inclusive board cultures.
- **The Emerging Nonprofit Leaders Accelerator** to develop future nonprofit leaders.
- **The Capital Region COVID Response Fund** which provided flexible resources to organizations working with communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.