



POMA Foundation moving to “trust-based philanthropy”

AUGUST 2026 -- With strategic planning set to begin later this year. The POMA Foundation Board of Directors voted Saturday, Aug. 1 to update its grant-making policies based on the tenets of trust-based philanthropy.

Trust-based philanthropy (TBP) is a movement urging charitable grant-making organizations to adopt 6 values: service, transparency, mutual accountability, and equity. There is a lot of emphasis on equity.

For 2026-2027, the POMA Foundation is focusing on 3 particular changes to put TBP values into action.

Multi-year, less-restrictive funding	- Allows grantee to assess and determine where grant dollars are most needed - Allows grantee to support emergent action and sustainability - Indirects help nonprofits break out of the "starvation cycle"
Allowing indirects as part of project budgets is a critical update, recognizing that an organization's operating expenses support project work. Indirects help cover the true cost of completing a project. The new policy allows applicants with annual revenue under \$10 million to include a line item for indirect expenses, capped at 15%. This change supports small nonprofits, which typically have fewer financial resources. We hope to attract a more diverse pool of applicants, strengthen nonprofit partners, and make access to funding more equitable.	
Emergent learning	- Focus on what we learn through the work vs incenting grantees to overpromise outcomes - Reviewers must then not reward applicants for overpromising - Accept targets, ranges, milestones, or directional progress appropriate to the work
By moving away from counting outputs against dollars spent, the POMA Foundation can shift focus from micro-level data to key trends across sectors, gaps analysis, regional or local indicators of progress (portfolio learning). Grantees will identify outcomes appropriate to the size of the budget and length of grant period to show progress toward intended change plus relevance and adaptability.	
Transparency	- The goal is not unlimited disclosure. Transparency ensures applicants know the rules, and reviewers apply those rules consistently. - Review applications only against the published criteria. Do not introduce preferences, requirements, or restrictions that were not communicated to applicants.
The POMA Foundation commits to transparency on what we will fund and what we will not fund. We have updated the Community Enhancing Grants RFP and created policies to backup the RFP with details.	

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