

Grantmakers for Education Impact Groups FAQs and Examples

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Can I participate with more than one impact group? Can more than one member of my organization participate with impact groups?** You or your organization can participate with more than one impact group with the understanding of commitment and cost associated to complete the goals of each group.
2. **What are the time commitments and expectations?** Each group will convene to develop a work plan which will determine the specific expectations and time required for work. Impact groups are expected to develop goals that can be accomplished and evaluated within a school year. GFE will work with each to group evaluate its effectiveness and continuation beyond a 12 month period.
3. **How can I find information about impact groups and sign up?** On the menu on the left of the impact group web pages, you can learn about each current impact group. Additional impact groups may be under development. For more information about proposing or joining a group, contact Letitia Dowling at ldowling@edfunders.org.
4. **How does GFE identify topics and number of impact groups?** GFE will have an annual call for topics of interest and membership recruitment for impact groups. We will not be able to facilitate an impact group for every topic proposed. Annually, we will analyze the topics submitted by a majority of members to determine impact groups and the best support for success.
5. **What are the goals or significance of impact groups?** Impact groups enable funders with common interests to learn and work together towards a specific impact on the field with a variety of tools. By working together in this structured yet flexible format, GFE members can build on the knowledge and resources of many foundations, enabling impact groups to carry out initiatives and generate concrete outcomes not possible on their own.
6. **What are the costs of services for impact groups?** Basic services for impact groups are included in membership fees. [This chart outlines services](#) included and those that will incur additional costs. GFE will work with each group to determine costs and time expectations based upon work plans and identified goals of the group. Below are some examples of specific goals with estimated costs for services and expectations of time.

Impact Group Funding Examples

Example 1
Type: Virtual Learning Community
Cost: No cost beyond membership dues
Time Commitment: approximately 6 hours annually in addition to hours for developing and leading one session
Goal: Host four structured virtual learning sessions for members
Member Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During 2019 annual conference, group plans 4 web-based sessions for 2019-20 school year • 4 members each take responsibility for developing content for one session each • Each member develops session slide deck, enlists guest speakers
GFE Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GFE advertises sessions • GFE offers Zoom webinar platform and Cvent registration • GFE schedules meetings and web sessions

Example 2
Type: Virtual Learning Community
Cost: \$10, 000 (\$1,000 retainer per month for an expert consultant for school year to design a coherent scope and sequence)
Time Commitment: Approximately 15+ hours for planning at conference, check-ins with consultant, and attending ten virtual learning sessions
Goal: Build new 10-session curriculum to advance knowledge on a topic
Member Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group determines general outline for 10-session virtual learning series • Group identifies a few ideal "experts" to present at virtual sessions or be interviewed • Group members attend virtual learning session events
GFE Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GFE advertises sessions • GFE offers Zoom webinar platform and Cvent registration • GFE schedules meetings and web sessions • GFE (expert consultant) lines up speakers (those identified by group as well as others) • GFE consultant coaches speakers in expectations; works with them to build appropriate slide content • GFE consultant identifies others in the membership to recruit for participation in learning series • GFE consultant offers ideas to keep group momentum, build on content that gets a good reception; is a source for new readings, trends, programs in the space

Example 3
Type: In-Person Learning Community
Cost: \$8,000 for reception and event planning support
Time Commitment: Approximately 15+ hours for planning, writing proposals for conference, organizing site visit
Goal: Build prominent representation for topic at GFE conference (including sessions, conference planning input on plenaries, reception and site visit)
Member Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group determines theme, purpose, additional members for outreach • Group members submit session proposals for conference • Group offers ideas for site visit (if possible)
GFE Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GFE provides support in researching, booking and planning site visit • GFE provides support in securing reception • GFE advertises sessions • GFE offers Cvent registration • GFE schedules planning meetings

Example 4
Type: In-Person Learning Community
Cost: \$25,000
Time Commitment: Approximately 8 days planning and attending site visits
Goal: 3-City Study Tour for Deeper Learning on Topic
Member Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group defines a general topic or issue for deeper site-based learning • Group identifies a few ideal "experts" and organizations who have best practices or models related to topic or issue • Group identifies three cities with member hosts
GFE Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GFE advertises sessions • GFE offers Cvent registration • GFE schedules meetings and web sessions • GFE (expert consultant) confirms sites (those identified by group as well as others) • GFE consultant works with sites to determine agenda, content, objectives and speakers for site based learning • GFE consultant identifies others in the membership to recruit for participation in site based learning • GFE consultant works with sites to plan event (logistics, lodging, dining, etc.) • GFE promotes and advertise events • GFE manages and tracks registration for events with Cvent • GFE coordinates and schedules meetings with groups for collaboration, status updates and debriefing

Example 5
Type: Capacity and Field-Building Community
Cost: \$40,000
Time Commitment: Approximately 20-30 hours over the year
Goal: Joint report to drive action in the field
<p>Member Role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group narrows topic of common interest and goal to publish joint report and position paper on topic. • Group checks in regularly with consultant to refine direction, contribute to framing of report, add knowledge and connections
<p>GFE Role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GFE consultant establishes and refines agendas for a series of meetings to help define and refine strategy • GFE consultant does planning and has off-line conversations between meetings to support the work and move it forward toward goal set by group • GFE consultant develops research plan for project and presents it to group for input • GFE consultant undertakes research of defined scope • GFE consultant takes lead on drafting written publication and incorporating feedback of group • GFE supports the editing, design, publication and media strategy for the document • GFE advertises sessions • GFE offers Zoom webinar platform • GFE schedules meetings and web sessions