



KEY INITIATIVES

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Communities of Impact

Central to SIE's strategy are Communities of Impact (COIs), diverse cross-sector networks that work collaboratively to shift key dynamics in a system to affect significantly improved outcomes at a population level. They will be formed around specific issues where there is shared interest. The COIs will address complex problems by identifying a limited set of intervention points in the systems they are trying to change that are believed to have the highest potential impact. While the size of COIs will vary, they will include foundations, philanthropists, corporations, government, and other stakeholders (e.g. nonprofits, thought leaders, etc.). They will create deeper engagement among a broader group of cross-sector stakeholders and stronger collaboration within networks of funders.

SIE is moving forward to implement COIs in health and education and serves as the backbone organization that helps coordinate the collaborative networks that are established emerge, and will facilitate the due diligence for scaling initiatives.

We hope you will be part of this exciting work. Please contact Alex Rossides, arossides@growthphilanthropy.org or Toni La Belle tlabelle@growthphilanthropy.org if you are interested in learning more about cross-sector COIs.

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Social Impact 100 (S&I 100)

Communities across America are struggling to overcome pressing problems in education, health, and poverty alleviation. Demand continues to grow while resources have become increasingly limited. At the same time, donors are seeking greater assurance that their charitable giving will make a difference. Studies have found that donors want third-party information about nonprofits' impact, financials, and legitimacy, yet they do not always have the time or specific expertise to do the research.

The **S&I 100** gives donors confidence that they are contributing to organizations that consistently deliver impact.



The **S&I 100** is the first broad index of U.S. nonprofits that offer both evidence of their impact and a plan for growth. This web-based platform shows donors which nonprofits consistently deliver impact — featuring more than 100 top-performing nonprofits and over 16,000 local affiliates that are implementing their solutions. The index allows donors to leverage the knowledge and practices of leading philanthropic experts.

A Wealth of Expertise, at Your Fingertips

- ▶ Nonprofits in education, health, poverty and youth development located across the U.S.
- ▶ Rigorous selection process developed and conducted by broad network of leaders from across the social sector
- ▶ Evidence of impact and rigorous plans for growth
- ▶ Information that facilitates decision making, including evaluation studies, growth plans, financial audits, and more
- ▶ Ability to support the local communities and issues donors care about with one easy online resource: www.SI100.org



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Learning Community

Over the past 18 months, the Social Impact Exchange has developed and implemented a model of providing funders with structured, rigorous learning opportunities related to theory, research, and practice in scaled impact. Piloted with a group of education funders, the Learning Community has had the following objectives:

1. To increase participants' awareness, knowledge, and interest in the theory, research, and practice related to scaled impact in education
2. To support participants' confidence and ability to execute their professional roles in the following areas:
 - a. The development of their foundation's grantmaking strategy related to achieving scaled impact in education
 - b. Their practice and decision-making as grantmakers as they consider investing in specific scaling initiatives or broader systems change efforts
 - c. The strategic advice and non-monetary resources provided to grantees
3. To facilitate stronger professional relationships among participants that, combined with their increased knowledge and interest in scaled impact in education, will lead to more active support of collaborative funding opportunities, that might include the following:
 - a. Increased interest and knowledge of others' funding strategies
 - b. New joint nominations of high-potential initiatives
 - c. Increased member collaboration and joint funding in common areas of grantmaking
 - d. Promotion of the broader concept of funding scaled impact to colleagues

The concepts of "systems," systems change, and their role in achieving scaled impact have been central considerations in all Learning Community convenings.

Sessions typically last 1½ days and have combined presentation of current theory, research and cases with facilitated discussions that consider how theory and research can (or cannot) be used to help actual grantmaking design, practice, and implementation. Each convening has included presentations from leading experts in the arenas of scale and social impact. Particular attention is paid to providing participants with structured opportunities to consider how to apply what is shared during presentations to their own grantmaking practice.