

The Ford Institute for Community Building plays a key role in achieving The Ford Family Foundation’s mission of “successful citizens and vital rural communities.” The Ford Institute works to create and support vital rural communities. Across rural Oregon and Siskiyou County, Calif., its intent is to affect progress in four areas of community building:

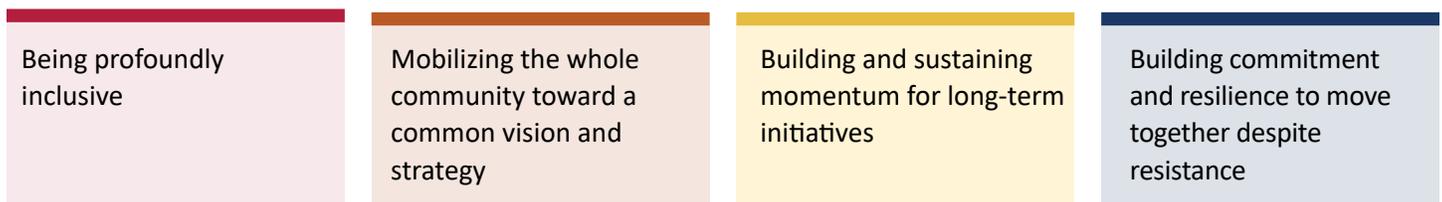


The evaluation findings below target the Ford Institute’s Community Building Approach work since 2015 building on 12 previous years of leadership development.

The data show the Ford Institute’s Community Building Approach work is:

 Growing community relationships  Strengthening partnerships  Increasing involvement across sectors	 Skilling people up  Tapping into strengths  Maximizing the potential of people	 Helping people take initiative  Unleashing people to take action  Catalyzing planning efforts	 Increasing hope and pride  Nurturing civic responsibility  Connecting people to what’s important
<p><i>“The Community Building Approach has resulted in unexpected people working together.”</i></p> <p>Interviewee Quote</p>	<p><i>“The support and training has provided a platform for groups to talk to each other. This feels new.”</i></p> <p>Interviewee Quote</p>	<p><i>“We can take it on ourselves. We can figure it out. We are up to any challenge.”</i></p> <p>Interviewee Quote</p>	<p><i>“People are starting to believe that things can be different.”</i></p> <p>Interviewee Quote</p>

And yet key challenges include:



The data revealed 10 causal factors that catalyze the Ford Institute’s work in communities



- Volume of support
- Sustaining momentum
- Sparking action
- On-going support
- Making steps real
- Encouraging what is emerging
- Elevating the conversation
- Celebrating progress
- Bringing people together to learn
- Affirming and validating work



IMPACT: BY THE NUMBERS

ABOUT THE EVALUATION PROJECT



3 out of 4

community builders report the Ford Institute has had “quite a bit” or “very much” impact in their ability to...

- have energized and inclusive community events
- exchange ideas across groups of people with different perspectives, backgrounds and beliefs
- initiate multiple active collaborations and partnerships
- get community building work done
- community planning turns into action
- take action

CONNECTIONS

80% say the Ford Institute has significantly helped them work well together as a community.

85% say the Ford Institute has significantly helped them build relationships across differences in their community.

CAPACITY

90% say the Ford Institute has given them substantially more tools for community building.

COMMUNITY-LED ACTION

88% say they are significantly more actively involved in community building in practical ways because of the Ford Institute.

88% report they are significantly more committed to community building because of the Ford Institute.

CULTURE

80% say the Ford Institute has significantly helped them feel more optimistic and hopeful about the future.

60% report the Ford Institute makes a significant difference in the ability of the community to have a shared vision for their community.

Ford Institute for Community Building staff and community partners designed and implemented an evaluation to understand the kind and quality of the Institute’s impact in rural Oregon and Siskiyou County, Calif.

The team (a) developed and refined its ideas of intended impact and indicators; (b) designed and implemented a mixed-methods (qualitative and quantitative) evaluation study; (c) analyzed and identified impact finding; and (d) considered the implications of the findings for strategy moving forward.

The Ford Institute evaluation team collaboratively designed the survey and interview protocol and selected a stratified sample that purposefully included geographic, linguistic, age and gender diversity. Interview and survey data were collaboratively analyzed for themes. Participants included community collaborators over the last three years of the Ford Institute’s community building work.



59 in-depth interviews

- 15 men
- 44 women
- 5 conducted in Spanish



60 survey responses

- 18 men
- 38 women
- 4 undesignated
- 3 completed in Spanish

Learn more about the Ford Institute’s Community Building Approach: www.tfff.org/FICBCBA

Read the full version of this report: www.tfff.org/FICBResources

The Ford Institute for Community Building is one of five departments of The Ford Family Foundation.



Ford Institute for Community Building

Children, Youth and Families

Community Economic Development

Postsecondary Success (including scholarships)

Visual Arts