

Mainstream Philanthropy vs. Trust Based Philanthropy:



1. Mainstream philanthropy refers to the traditional approach to charitable giving that is commonly practiced and widely accepted within established systems and structures. It often operates through large foundations, nonprofits, and organizations that have established protocols and practices for grantmaking. Mainstream philanthropy typically focuses on addressing social issues through strategic initiatives, measurable outcomes, and rigorous evaluation processes. It may prioritize funding programs that align with specific goals and objectives, and often relies on metrics and data to guide decision-making.
2. On the other hand, trust-based philanthropy is a more recent approach that emphasizes building relationships, trust, and mutual respect between donors and grantees. Trust-based philanthropy recognizes the expertise and knowledge of the organizations and communities it aims to support. It shifts power dynamics by providing flexible funding and minimizing burdensome reporting requirements, allowing nonprofits to allocate resources based on their own assessments of need. Trust-based philanthropy encourages open and honest communication, actively listening to the perspectives and experiences of those working on the ground, and being responsive to their feedback and recommendations.
3. While mainstream philanthropy operates within existing systems and structures, trust-based philanthropy seeks to challenge and disrupt traditional grantmaking practices. It recognizes the limitations and potential inequities of conventional approaches and strives to create more equitable and collaborative relationships between funders and grantees. Trust-based philanthropy aims to foster long-term partnerships and provide the necessary resources and support for organizations to effectively carry out their missions and create sustainable impact.

** By embracing these principles, trust-based philanthropy aims to foster more equitable and respectful relationships between funders and nonprofits, empowering communities and supporting effective, sustainable change. LEARN MORE: Examining Disparities in Environmental Grantmaking: Where the Money Goes, March 2023, DOI: [10.13140/RG.2.2.10106.36801](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.10106.36801), Yale University, <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/369261149> Examining Disparities in Environmental Grantmaking Where the Money Goes*