NCRP's Theory of Change (updated Spring 2022)

IF NCRP frames the sector debate with high standards AND creates or leverages accountability opportunities AND movement groups employ advocacy approaches to funders THEN funders will feel sufficient pressure to build, share and wield power.
Preview of the New Member Inquiry Form

To be an NCRP member, your organization must meet the following requirements (please check off all that apply and provide additional information where warranted):

- Have 501c3 or 501c4 status (fiscally sponsored organizations are welcome too)
- Have an executive director or CEO who’s engaged with NCRP and excited about NCRP membership
- Center people in your work who are from directly affected/impacted communities *
- Desire to fundraise from and/or shift foundation grantmaking and high net-worth donor grantmaking
- Desire to increase funding going to the most marginalized within movement ecosystems
- Take an intersectional approach to social justice and be committed to intersectional racial equity**

* Definition: Organizations that work to center directly impacted communities and people demonstrate through their choice of focus areas for research, campaigns and advocacy; an active commitment to use their platforms to create space for impacted communities to tell their own stories in their own words; and the explicit naming and acknowledgement of the way structures, programs, policies and/or practices have disproportionate or differentiated impact depending on different intersectional identities.

*Example: A thinktank such as the Center for American Progress (CAP), which is not led by and does not represent directly impacted people, meets this criteria by producing research that names and analyzes structural inequity and by creating platforms for impacted groups to share their experiences and how they relate to the larger systems and structures (for example through panel discussions or through partnering with organizations representing these communities).
**Definition** of "intersectional approach and commitment to intersectional racial equity": Organizations that “take an intersectional approach to social justice” may not work on every single social justice issue or center all marginalized communities, but they explicitly name/acknowledge the connections between their core issue/focus population and other structural oppressions and marginalized identities.

**Example:** United We Dream is an immigrant justice group that focuses on a subset of impacted people within that movement (Dreamers) and regularly and consciously includes a discussion of the unique barriers and challenges faced by the most marginalized populations within that subset, such as LGBTQIA migrants and/or Black migrants.

Your organization must also be active in work that can be categorized as either structure organizing, inside game or alternatives as defined by the Ayni Institute movement ecosystem model.

- **Structure Organizing**
  Definition of a structure organizing group works to build an organized base of people to pressure decision makers around certain demands. This base could be any constituency, including people living in a certain neighborhood or city, young people, people of faith, women, Latinos, or any other groups.
  **Examples** of structure organizing include mass protest movements and community organizing.

- **Inside Game**
  Changemakers in this area leverage their proximity to powerful decision makers and use expert knowledge to lobby for reforms. Inside-game players may be vying for seats of power themselves, or they may be working closely with people already in power in order to influence decisions. Their focus is on using the established channels of change such as elections, the legal system, and the current bureaucracy rather than external pressure or changing the channels themselves.
  **Examples** of the inside game include working with legislators to craft better policy, negotiating with corporate leadership, or using legal action.

- **Building Alternatives**
  Alternatives are institutions and cultures that offer a new vision for the future, by experimenting with new ways of doing and being.
  **Examples** of alternatives include worker and consumer cooperatives, credit unions, feminist bookstores, urban gardens, cultural spaces, and restorative justice programs.
Values Statement for the nonprofit membership program:

NCRP commits to intersectional racial equity and strives to be accountable to impacted communities. Though we are not led by people who are directly affected/impacted by all the issues we work on, we demonstrate deference and preference to people directly affected. We know that within movement ecosystems there are sometimes disagreements about tactics and priorities and recognize that it is not NCRP’s role to adjudicate these differences. However, NCRP does strive to prioritize the perspectives, needs and goals of the most marginalized and/or impacted people and groups and we are committed to engaging them consistently in guiding our work.