

Methodology

Interviews

Over the course of 2024, representatives from six grantees of Siegel Family Endowment participated in interviews about their perspectives about philanthropy and their relationship with Siegel Family Endowment. In addition, representatives from one non-grantee partner organization composed written responses to prompts.

Siegel's Grants and Knowledge and Impact teams selected these respondents as collectively representative of Siegel's grantees and partners as a whole. All portfolio areas were represented and the participants had received varying levels of funding from Siegel Family Endowment and included organizations with long relationships with Siegel as well as newer grantees.

Interviewees were typically organizational leaders, though some focused on program development or fundraising specifically. In some cases, two individuals from an organization participated in the interview. In other cases interviewees shared perspectives that they had gathered from other staff members, particularly development officers.

The six interviews were conducted over video conference. Five interviews were conducted as an addendum to an interview used to construct a Siegel Family Endowment case study or Q&A. One was conducted as a standalone call independent of a case study or Q&A. The one written response was received over email.

In all but one case, questions were standardized according to a loose interview protocol, but the interviewee was permitted to drive the conversation. In a few instances, the interviewer added questions that were specific to the individual grantee. The philanthropy-focused interview lasted between 15 minutes and 30 minutes and Siegel Family Endowment staff were not present. In one case, the interviewee addressed philanthropy-related questions throughout the interview and Siegel Family Endowment staff were present during those remarks.

Interviewees were assured that their responses would remain confidential and that any quotations would be anonymized. They were also told that they would be notified when there was a public-facing report similar to those released in [2022](#) and [2023](#). Alternatively or in addition, an anonymized version of the report that resulted from the research could be shared with participating grantee organizations.

The interviewer compiled and coded all the responses across the seven interviews and written responses in order to produce this report.

Loose Interview Protocol for Philanthropy-Related Questions

Siegel Family Endowment is interested in understanding how leaders of grantee organizations perceive the role of philanthropy generally and their working relationship with the Siegel Family Endowment, in particular. I am working on putting together an anonymized, internal report for Siegel's leaders that summarizes themes around philanthropy from these interviews.

1. Could you tell me your ideal working relationship with philanthropic funders?

2. Are there ways in which philanthropy is ineffective or should change its practice?
3. What elements of your working relationship with Siegel Family Endowment have been beneficial for you? Which elements have been less successful?

End-of-Year Survey

Siegel Family Endowment's Knowledge and Impact team conducted an annual end-of-year survey among grantees during the fall of 2024. It received 55 responses for the standard survey. The survey was not anonymous.

While it was beyond the scope of this project to conduct a thorough analysis of survey responses, the independent researcher scanned the survey responses and included a few survey data points that provided further insight or contrary perspectives on some of the themes identified in the interview data.