

United Way of North Central New Mexico

Trust-Based Philanthropy 2023

Why is UWNCNM embracing Trust-Based Philanthropy in our grant making?

As the name suggests, Trust-Based Philanthropy (TBP) is grounded in building trust with our nonprofit grantees. The traditional philanthropic approach has centered compliance over trust, and we know that in order to fulfill our mission to equitably improve lives and strengthen communities, we need to deepen our relationships with our grantees, and the foundation of deep, transformational relationships is trust. The values of TBP resonate with the values of UWNCNM, and that translates into the support our nonprofit grantees' need for meaningful change.

What is TBP?

TBP utilizes trust-based values to guide [four key dimensions](#) of an organization's work: [culture](#), [structures](#), [leadership](#), and [practices](#). Those guiding values become meaningful when put into practice. To review the suggested practices and to learn more about how TBP can be woven into an organization's work, we suggest: <https://www.trustbasedphilanthropy.org/>

How will adopting TBP change how grant-giving is done?

UWNCNM is stepping into changes that better reflect our desire to incorporate the suggested practices of TBP. In 2023, our annual Community Investment granting will adopt these new activities:

- The Financial Standards Review will occur after the selection of prospective awardees. (The FSR process will not change this year, only the timing.)
- Grants will provide for general operating dollars for Impact and Basic Needs grants moving forward.
- There is a simplified application.
- We will conduct a staff review of applications for alignment. In addition, we will endeavor to include those with lived experience on panels.

What else is important to know about this transition?

This is not a new idea at all – grantees have been asking for these changes from funders for years. TBP.org greatly assisted this movement by organizing the principles into a website for easier understanding for philanthropists. This approach still involves rigorous data collection, reporting and measuring – just more of the work is conducted by the funder than the nonprofit staff who are providing critically needed services on the frontlines. We know this is a successful and better model as many funders, including many other local United Ways and local Albuquerque/New Mexico funders, have been doing this for a while.