

Margaret O'Bryon Learning Journey Fund

Grant Type: Dollar and nondollar

Grant Amount: \$29,177 in grants; unspecified nondollar amount for board and staff learning journey

Organization: Consumer Health Foundation



What was the objective of your grant or initiative?

The Consumer Health Foundation created the Margaret O'Bryon Learning Journey Fund in recognition of our founding president's support for learning and innovation. The fund seeks to support small groups of individuals who will use the learning journey as a tool to advance their work.

These learning journeys are opportunities for grantees and their partners in the community to:

- Meet leaders from different communities and fields of practice.
- Learn about and explore the physical environment, local institutions, and relationships among people of other communities.
- Discuss challenges, accomplishments, and lessons learned from each other's work.
- Share stories and experiences.
- Develop collective capacities that will help build a specific field or issue area.

What was your approach?

At the Consumer Health Foundation, we try to develop new ways of learning that will help grantees, partners, and board and staff members understand more deeply and connect with the experiences of people who live and work in low-income communities and communities of color.

- Deeper understanding of the following areas of work: organizing, policy reform, effective coalition building, media strategies and more
- Development of capacity of grantees to learn from partner organizations and adapt the learnings in their work

What were the outsized results?

Last year, the foundation awarded six grantees small grants of up to \$5,000 to undertake their learning journeys, with the following results:

- Participation of diverse individuals from different races and ethnicities, income levels, education, and occupations
- Affirmation that the voices of those affected by the issues are heard and are engaged in advocating for their families and communities

In addition to grantees, the foundation's board and staff members also undertook our own learning journey hosted by a local community organization representing low-income and immigrant families. We walked with residents in their neighborhoods, listened to their experiences, and saw some of the problems they were facing, all of which resulted in a stronger connection between the foundation and community residents, and a deeper understanding of the relationship between health and the factors affecting it.

