



COMMUNITY LED DEVELOPMENT

10 tips to help Funders



TOP TEN TIPS FOR FUNDERS FROM THE TODD FOUNDATION - covering off ideas and suggestions in support of increasing trust, learning together, and adapting as you go.

1.

LEVERAGE RISK AND LEARN TOGETHER.

Consider partnering with others if you're new to CLD.

2.

PROGRESS OVER PERFECTION.

Contribute resources towards enabling healthier 'systems' instead of an unrealistic end state.

3.

GIVE COMMUNITIES SPACE.

Allow time for communities to tell you their priorities and timelines.



4.

INCREASE TRUST, DECREASE BUREAUCRACY.

As you decide to trust and partner with a community, reduce application processes at every step along the way.

5.

INCREASE YOUR UNDERSTANDING.

Find out what the community see as important assets, and who they perceive as key local leaders. Find out what the community is already doing well.

6.

ADAPT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Ask the community when it's best to visit and learn from their project's impact. Try not to hold onto pre-determined reporting times which is often out of whack with milestones.

7.

MORE THAN MONEY.

Be aware of all the other things you can provide to local initiatives where required/ requested (i.e. time, networking, input/feedback.)

8.

EVIDENCE IS IMPORTANT.

It's also important to acknowledge that evidence only provides part of the answers.

9.

STAY CALM AND CARRY ON.

Be ok about messy projects, some things may not work along the way. This is quite normal when exploring new ideas aiming to fix old and reoccurring problems.

10.

STICK WITH THEM.

It's often not until the 4th or 5th iteration of a project that clarity and impact starts to emerge and learnings turn into wisdom. Interestingly, by then our funding relationships have often moved on to something else.....
