



Identifying the Tools of Resilience

“This process helped us focus at a time of crisis” - CEO participant organization

2020 was a year of shifts and changes. From navigating the IT challenges that came along with remote work, to a shift to virtual celebrations, conferences and fundraising events, we have all had to embrace a new way of working.

Together, with more than a dozen partners, PPCF also shifted how we implement philanthropic investment, launching the Resiliency Through Innovation (RTI) Initiative in late 2020. This foundation collaborative comprised of lead partners: [Bloom Foundation](#), [GE Johnson Foundation](#), [Chapman Foundations](#), RNR Foundation, [The Anschutz Foundation](#); and contributors including: [Bee Vradenburg Foundation](#), Celebration of Life Fund, Inasmuch Foundation, [Moniker Foundation](#), [The Lane Foundation](#), [The Leighty Foundation](#), [J.H. Edmondson Foundation](#), Ent Credit Union, [Spur Philanthropy](#), and Strub Heer Fund, agreed upon funding nonprofit partners differently – encouraging the examination of organizational business practices to bolster resiliency by assessing financial health as well as Board and staff capacity.

Working with a multidisciplinary team of professionals, led by BKD advisors, nonprofits reviewed financial accounting statements, assessed board member engagement, organizational benchmarking, and conducted scenario planning to identify organizational health and pain points. The RTI report provided nonprofit partners a deeper understanding of their strengths and how to address operational gaps, alongside the organizational pivots that the pandemic created.

What the CEO's of participating organizations have shared:

“The report will give us long term benefit – it will set us up for future success, much differently than a grant would have.”

“This process took [our organization] to a different place! We looked at our Mission, programs, entire organization and that helped us re-focus for 2021.”

“Having an outside perspective helped us take a TRUE critical look.”

“Yes! This was absolutely more valuable than a cash grant, and the timing was critical.”

Early themes from RTI reports are that nonprofits, regardless of size, will benefit from technical support and capacity building in the form of ongoing comprehensive financial strategy, communications and marketing plans, CEO peer support, Board training, and updated strategic planning.