2022 Impact Report
Doing good work. Better.
Welcome!

This is the 2022 Impact Report of the Center for Nonprofit Excellence at the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois (CFECI). We are committed to helping East Central Illinois nonprofits and their boards be as effective as possible. This year, we have taken measurable steps to expand our offerings that strengthen our local nonprofit sector and enhance the quality of life in East Central Illinois.

Highlights of 2022 include:
- Hosted 4 Board Bootcamp sessions attended by 135 board members and executive leaders
- Coordinated our first Foundational Fundraising program, “Go To Tips for Getting Grants,” attended by 45 grant seekers
- Facilitated 11 sessions of the Executive Director Leadership Network, attended by an average of 16 local nonprofit EDs/CEOs per meeting
- Welcomed 4 new and emerging nonprofits as the newest members of our Community Solutions Incubator
- Improved information-sharing by establishing and moderating new Facebook groups, followed by 90 nonprofit staff and board members
- Conducted our first-ever nonprofit needs assessment survey, in partnership with a Gies College of Business Action Learning class, completed by 58 nonprofit leaders
- Launched a new Nonprofit Capacity Building Grant cycle, awarding $50,000 to 14 nonprofits for capacity building needs

We invite you to check out this impact report, and join us as we work together to help East Central Illinois nonprofits do good work, better. We hope this report inspires you with the strength and resilience of our social impact sector.

With appreciation,

Genevieve Kirk
Center for Nonprofit Excellence Director
Central question: What are actionable steps CFECI can take to maximize its resources through the Center for Nonprofit Excellence to best serve the nonprofit community?

Nonprofit Needs Assessment

Last spring, CFECI partnered with a Gies College of Business Action Learning class to administer its first ever Nonprofit Needs Assessment. We received 58 responses from nonprofit executive directors, board members and staff located in our service area. Respondents identified their top key challenges in these areas:

**OPERATIONS & GOVERNANCE:**
- Training and/or developing the board
- Undertaking strategic planning
- Improving management skills

**HUMAN RESOURCES:**
- Board training
- Recruiting/keeping effective board members
- Recruiting/keeping effective and reliable volunteers

**PROGRAMS AND PLANNING:**
- Evaluating or assessing program outcomes or impact
- Attracting new members/clients
- Assessing community needs

**MARKETING:**
- Enhancing visibility/reputation of organization
- Developing targeted communications to community

**RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT:**
- Obtaining funding or other financial resources
- Expanding the donor base
- Securing foundation or corporate support
Nonprofit Leaders Need Help...

- Developing a realistic fundraising strategy.
- Grant writing skills needed.
- We need to diversify our funding...
- Mission/Vision/Values and strategic plan work, funding to obtain a consultant to assist our organization with this.
- Securing financing to increase staff.
- I need to bring fundraisers onto my board, and for my current board to learn about and engage in fundraising.
- Increasing the skills of board members to participate in the fundraising.
- We need some IT assistance.
- Feedback on budgeting and projective budgets would be helpful.

How CFECI is responding

1. We are incorporating capacity building and technical assistance needs into existing programming: Board Bootcamp sessions and Executive Director Leadership Network meetings.
2. We are developing new educational opportunities to address challenges: a Foundational Fundraising series to launch in 2023, including building endowments, running capital campaigns, and comprehensive fundraising training.
3. We are increasing capacity building grantmaking through a new grant cycle.
An initiative of CFECI launched in 2017, the Community Solutions Incubator believes in the power of social innovation and creativity to address our community’s most significant challenges.

This year, 4 new and emerging nonprofit organizations were selected from a pool of 12 applicants to join our 2022 incubator cohort of 10 organizations, and accessed the following benefits:

- Hands-on mentorship and guidance
- 8 educational seminars / 3 social networking opportunities
- A well-resourced co-working space at CEFCI’s office location
- Access to our growing incubator alumni group

In addition, members were matched 1:1 with seasoned community professionals with nonprofit leadership experience for hands-on mentoring, enhanced accountability, and assistance accessing resources.

CSI Mentoring Team

Chris Schroeder  
Director (retired)  
Centric Consulting Group

Valeri Werpetinski  
Associate Director for Entrepreneurial Education  
UIUC

Adelaide Aime  
Former Executive Director  
RACES

Mike Royse  
CFECI Trustee

Rebecca McBride  
Founder, 4-Osprey

Collin Carlier  
CEO, Royse + Brinkmeyer

Cassie Carroll  
Marketing & Outreach  
Program Manager, SEDAC

Wynne Korr  
CFECI Trustee & CSI  
Leadership Team Chair

Angie Hatfield Marker  
President & CEO, CFECI

Genevieve Kirk  
Center for Nonprofit Excellence Director
Community Solutions Incubator 2022 Cohort

- Business Elevator CU
- Champaign County Environmental Stewards
- The Family Room
- Haley's Harvest Farm
- Luella's Lodge
- Prairie Dragon Paddlers
- Remind to Shine
- Rising Sprouts
- Tech Ed 4 Kids
- THRIVING: Families

“The Community Solutions Incubator has provided the knowledge and support that made forming and operating CCES possible!”

- Susan Monte, Founder
  Champaign County Environmental Stewards
Executive Director Leadership Network

This monthly forum provides local nonprofit EDs/CEOs with a unique opportunity to come together for peer-to-peer connections and support. Participants share experiences, challenges and solutions during facilitated discussions that also include resources and best practices provided by CFECI.

2022 Meeting Discussion Topics included:
- Why raising funds should not be the primary goal of fundraising
- Strategic planning & growth strategies
- Wellbeing & self-care for nonprofit leaders
- How to get the most impact out of UIUC student projects at your organization
- HR for nonprofits: salary & benefits discussion
- Tech resources for nonprofits
- Volunteer management best practices
- Demographic data resources
- Developing targeted communications and increasing brand awareness
CFECI expanded its Board Bootcamp trainings for local board members from twice a year to a full quarterly series offered in hybrid format. 2022 sessions are listed above!

**Quarterly Board Bootcamp Series**
Nonprofit Capacity Building Grants

In celebration of its 50th anniversary and in response to feedback received on the Nonprofit Needs Assessment, CFECI launched a new grant cycle in fall 2022 and awarded $50,000 in grants to strengthen the nonprofit sector as part of its vision of raising the quality of life throughout the region it serves.

Congratulations to the 2022 Capacity Building Grant Recipients:
- Champaign County Environmental Stewards
- Champaign Urbana Jewish Federation
- Community Choices
- Crisis Nursery of Champaign County
- East Central Illinois Refugee Mutual Assistance Center
- Family Service of Champaign County
- Four Osprey
- Grand Prairie Friends Land Trust
- Illinois Amish Information Exhibits
- MAYC Foundation
- Rape Advocacy, Counseling & Education Services
- RISE Behavioral Health & Wellness
- Sola Gratia Farm

Capacity Building Activities Funded

- Leadership Development
- Strategic Planning
- Data & Financial Management
- Fundraising Development
- Marketing Strategy
- Technology Consultation
"Thank you again for the informative presentations (at Board Bootcamp). The fiduciary duties breakdown (duty of care, duty of loyalty, duty of obedience) will be particularly helpful to my board. Best wishes, with appreciation for all the good work that you do."

-William Weber, Charleston, IL

"Excellent (Executive Director Leadership Network) meeting and discussion. One of the best I have attended. Thanks."

-Jim Jones, The Reading Group

"Thank you all for your time and this information. I didn't know about all the resources the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois provided and I look forward to learning more from you. Thank you!"

-Christine Leeb, Founder & Executive Director
Real Life Families

"Thanks so much, such a great presentation (on Board Roles & Responsibilities). I think this helps each member recognize their responsibilities."

-Pamela Bigler, Senior Vice President, Carle
Clinical Partnerships & Programs