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Fund for YOUNG ADULTS

GMA Funder Community Participant Guide

Purpose: Unlocking economic self-sufficiency for 17-to-25-year-olds

The 17/25 Fund for Young Adults will dig into innovative and effective strategies to support young adults in Greater Boston and Gateway Cities through their transitional years. This age group has received proportionately little philanthropic investment and is experiencing a crisis of untapped potential.

Much of philanthropy is dedicated to the younger years, positioning children and youth for later success as adults, usually through a college or career pathway. Despite significant progress, that pathway is not working for all, particularly not for young adults with inadequate support systems. In 2021 only 52 percent of Boston Public School graduates enrolled in college; just over half of enrollees finished a degree within six years. The percentage of [youth neither working nor in school rose sharply](#) during the pandemic, after decades of decline.

The Fund will center on direct interventions that empower people to thrive, starting with guaranteed income. We expect to explore other direct aid, such as guaranteed housing or work, in the Fund's future years. Considerable innovation is underway in all three areas, so there is opportunity for creative investment.

Strategy: Support young adults with a guaranteed income

Dozens of cities across the country are piloting guaranteed income programs with positive effects on low-income families, according to research shared by the 100-strong [Mayors for a Guaranteed Income](#) and in a [recent New York Times article](#). In Massachusetts, exemplary programs have emerged, spurred by the pandemic. The cross-sector partnerships [Cambridge RISE](#) and [Chelsea Eats](#) provide monthly cash allotments on debit cards for participants to spend as they wish. Researchers at Chapin Hall are vigorously evaluating direct cash transfers, including the Cambridge-based [BAY-CASH project](#), as a tool for bringing youth out of homelessness.

In 2023, the 17/25 Fund will explore how guaranteed income programs can empower young adults to succeed.

Explore: Join other funders in learning and giving

GMA's six-month pooled giving and comprehensive learning experience is now accepting grants from donors eager to identify and fund community-driven solutions to a large-scale problem affecting young adults across the country. The participant-directed Fund will award a few significant grants to exemplary organizations in the Greater Boston area that model ways of helping young adults achieve economic self-sufficiency and thrive.

In a slight modification from past practice, funds pooled in 2023 will be awarded through multi-year grants over a span of two to three years.

Benefits of Participation

GMA has established the Funder Community to leverage our combined knowledge and giving capacity and to tap into the potential we see in groups of funders with overlapping missions and goals. Four 90-minute interactive gatherings held virtually, are at the core of the Fund's learning and offer participants the opportunity to:

- collaborate with peer funders who share a sense of urgency
- speak directly with practitioners and innovators who are experts on this issue
- identify the role of philanthropy in supporting young adults to achieve success

We expect that the grants, made with peers, will have a multiplier effect on recipients and contribute to growing awareness of the issue and to powerful solutions.

Fund Partner

GMA Foundations, Inc. ("GMA") has established the Fund under the fiscal sponsorship of Philanthropy Massachusetts, a Section 501(c)(3) public charity. Through the two entities' agreement, the fiscal sponsor provides general financial management and extends charitable tax-exempt status to the Fund, which operates for charitable purposes. GMA is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Fund. The full amount of a contribution made to the fund is charitable and is not refundable.

Terms of Participation

Participation in the GMA Funder Community is open to private foundations, corporate giving programs, donor advised fund accounts, and individual donors. Each funder entity will be registered for curated learning, networking, and discussion sessions. Multiple people representing the funder may participate, though the entity will have one vote in grant decisions.

Program Budget & Timing

The GMA Funder Community has set a goal of \$250,000 for this fund which will launch with a minimum total contribution commitment of \$150,000. The Fund will be responsible for fiscal sponsorship fees and expenses associated with curriculum development, program management, and administration. GMA is making an in-kind contribution to expenses associated with program development. We anticipate that 80 percent of the Fund balance will be distributed in grants.

Three topic-based events will be held from September to October 2023. In November, funders will meet for a fourth time to discuss and vote on multi-year grants to some exemplary organizations.

Join Us

Senior Program Officer [Heidi Heinlein](#) will lead the Fund's activity; she has broad experience developing grantmaking strategies in the fields of health and human services.

Please contact GMA's Director of Grantmaking, [Phil Hall](#), by email phall@gmafoundations.com or phone 617-391-3097 to discuss your participation in [the GMA Funder Community](#).