

Know Your Life-Cycle Stage

Gauge your readiness to achieve your mission using a life-cycle lens. Find the qualities that fit you best, and start a board conversation about the future. This shared vocabulary may help you define what it will take to reach your goals. Your readiness may belie your chronological age!



Prepare for successful transitions

GMA Foundations' life-cycle framework gives donors and trustees a vocabulary for exploring common experiences in philanthropy and discussing their own upcoming transitions.

The life cycle is a useful lens for anticipating when outside expertise may be beneficial in navigating transitions. Increase the likelihood of embarking on the right project and finding the right consultant fit by talking about your stage of development.

Reflect (flip this card over for ideas)

- What best describes our life-cycle stage?
- What milestones are on the horizon?
- What are our primary goals and main concerns?

Define the foundation's needs

- Understand common consultant engagement points
- Articulate where we want to be in five or ten years
- Draft priorities for the coming year

Find the right consultant fit for your life-cycle stage

- Skills
- Experience
- Personality

Read about the framework at:

www.gmafoundations.com/family-foundation-life-cycle

"I'd advise foundation boards to have a conversation about working together in decision making roles in their startup stage, rather than wait until the foundation is in the midst of a board transition."

-Executive Director, Family Foundation