

COMPETENCIES FOR

Chief
Executive Officers
of
Private
Foundations



COUNCIL *on* FOUNDATIONS

VISION

The Council's vision for the field is of

A vibrant, growing and responsible philanthropic sector that advances the common good.

We see ourselves as part of a broad philanthropic community that will contribute to this vision. We aim to be an important leader in reaching the vision.

MISSION

The Council on Foundations provides the opportunity, leadership and tools needed by philanthropic organizations to expand, enhance and sustain their ability to advance the common good.

To carry out this mission, we will be a membership organization with effective and diverse leadership that helps the field be larger, more effective, more responsible and more cooperative.

By common good we mean the sum total of conditions that enable community members to thrive. These achievements have a shared nature that goes beyond individual benefits.

By philanthropic organizations we mean any vehicle that brings people together to enhance the effectiveness, impact and leverage of their philanthropy. This includes private and community foundations, corporate foundations and giving programs, operating foundations, and public foundations, as well as emerging giving and grantmaking mechanisms involving collective participation.

STATEMENT OF INCLUSIVENESS

The Council on Foundations was formed to promote responsible and effective philanthropy. The mission requires a commitment to inclusiveness as a fundamental operating principle and calls for an active and ongoing process that affirms human diversity in its many forms, encompassing but not limited to ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, economic circumstance, disability and philosophy. We seek inclusiveness in order to ensure that a range of perspectives, opinions and experiences are recognized and acted upon in achieving the Council's mission. The Council also asks members to make a similar commitment to inclusiveness in order to better enhance their abilities to contribute to the common good of our changing society.



COUNCIL *on* FOUNDATIONS

1828 L Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20036-5168
202/466-6512 • cof.org

© 2006 Council on Foundations Inc.

All rights reserved. Data from this report may not be cited or reproduced without attribution to *Competencies for Chief Executive Officers of Private Foundations* and the Council on Foundations.

Forward

Today, more than 64,000 U.S. private philanthropic foundations play a constructive role in promoting social, cultural, economic and environmental innovation and in building and sustaining valuable institutions and organizations that benefit society at home and abroad.

PRIVATE FOUNDATION CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS (CEOs), in partnership with their boards, have a pivotal role in the fiscal and program success of their foundation's goals. At the same time, they help to shape public issues, enliven and inform public debate, and convene community leaders on matters of public concern.

THESE LOFTY CEO RESPONSIBILITIES, however, have only been loosely defined. For example, CEOs are often expected to creatively expand ways to leverage their foundation's resources with nonprofit sector know-how, be strategic in their funding choices, demonstrate deep understanding of the foundation's programmatic areas, evaluate the impact of their funding and make very difficult decisions about priorities, investment strategies, program architecture and sector alignment. Yet these expectations, with all their contradictions and high aims, are more akin to an anthology of hope than to a definition of role. They do not make up a coherent and realistic position profile.

RECOGNIZING THIS NEED TO BETTER DEFINE THE CEO'S ROLE and other needs related to CEO leadership development, the board of directors of the Council on Foundations charged the Advisory Committee for Executive Programs (ACEP), made up of current and former foundation senior executives, to help support Private Foundation CEO leadership development. Research by ACEP in 2003 and 2004 confirmed that there is a lack of clarity regarding the role of the foundation CEO that creates a structural impediment to effective leadership.

THIS PILOT DOCUMENT ATTEMPTS TO CODIFY THE JOB FUNCTIONS OF THE PRIVATE FOUNDATION CEO (functions) and the skills and knowledge needed to perform these functions, referred to as competencies. ACEP developed this document with input from foundation staff, board members, academics and others.

Explanation of the Functions

THE PRIVATE FOUNDATION CEO job functions in this document are meant to describe the customary charges of private foundation CEOs. ACEP recognizes that every foundation is unique and that any standard listing of functions, including the functions contained in this document, will not fully describe the job of every private foundation CEO. Instead, it is hoped that these functions describe the preponderance of job responsibilities for most private foundation CEOs. To fully and accurately describe a particular private foundation CEO job, the functions may need to be adjusted to fit that foundation's particular context, including the foundation's size, style, culture and stage in its organizational life cycle.

For example, some functions may not apply to certain foundations. Small or highly specialized foundations may choose not to have their CEOs perform certain external leadership functions. CEOs of larger foundations may delegate the bulk of the staff management functions to another executive. Still, the functions (in figure 2) represent the key leadership-level responsibilities that help ensure foundation effectiveness. If a foundation chooses not to include certain functions in the CEO's job description, it should base this choice on solid reasoning and ensure that this omission does not undermine the foundation's effectiveness. Even if a foundation decides to delegate one of the CEO's functions to another staff member, it is still the CEO's responsibility to ensure that that function is performed well. Thus, the CEO must at least perform meaningful oversight relative to that function.

Similarly, some foundations may find that this list of functions does not represent everything that is expected of their CEO. For example, the founders may have charged the foundation with specific expectations that imply additional CEO functions.

Furthermore, many CEOs have operational as well as executive responsibilities. For example, some CEOs may also be program officers or chief financial officers. By definition, however, these functions relate only to the executive responsibilities of the CEO. CEOs who have operational responsibilities will need to add these to the pertinent CEO functions to complete their particular job description.

To make the Private Foundation CEO Functions a more useful executive development tool, ACEP decided to identify the skills and knowledge, or competencies, needed to perform each function. These are presented later in this document.

As with the functions, the unique mission of each foundation will influence the ways the competencies are applied. For example, it might be appropriate for CEOs of large foundations to expect other executive staff to possess the necessary competencies. Similarly, smaller foundations may use external consultants to ensure that key skills and knowledge are reflected at the executive level. Furthermore, some CEOs may need to perform operational functions in addition to their executive functions. Thus, they need to have operational competencies in addition to these CEO-level competencies. In sum, adjust the competencies to the context of your foundation.

At this time, the private foundation job functions do not address additional family-related demands of CEOs of family foundations. ACEP plans to modify the functions and competencies to better include these additional demands in the future.

Explanation of the Competencies

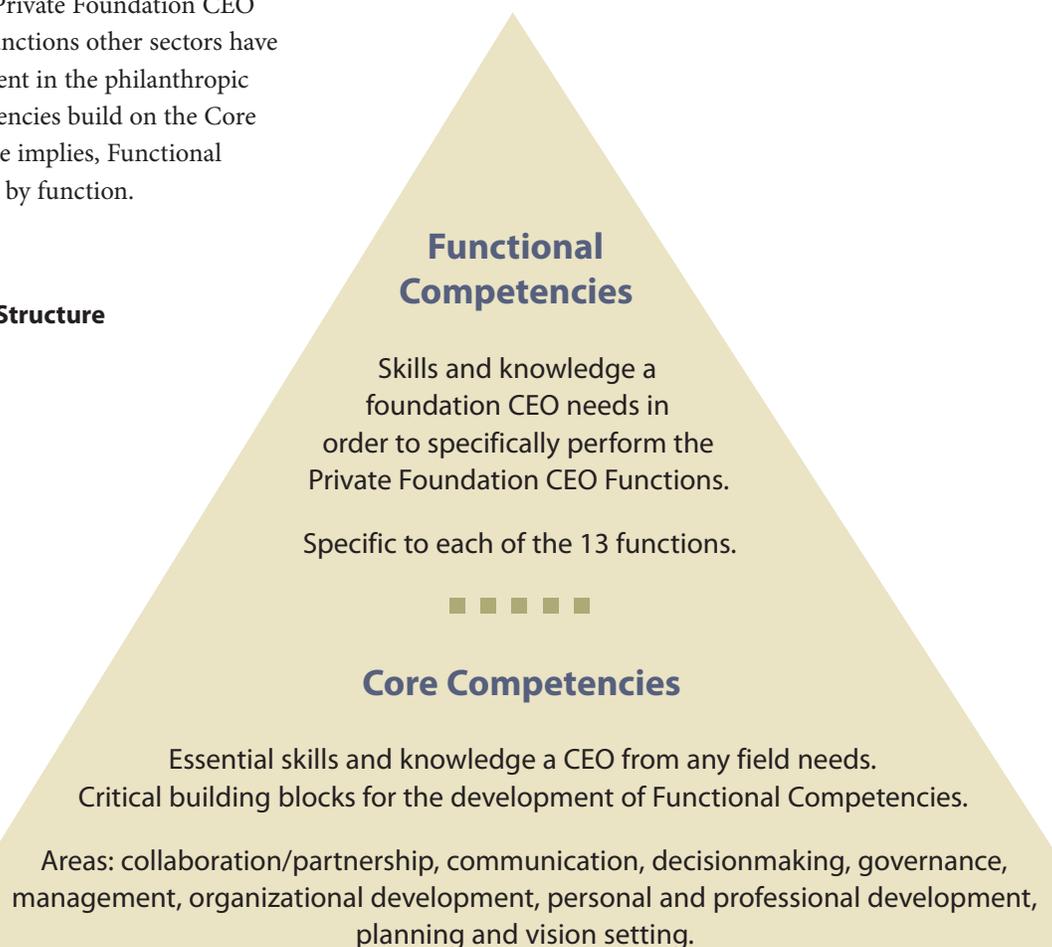
THE COMPETENCIES CONSIST OF the key skills and knowledge that private foundation CEOs need to perform their job functions well. A skill is the personal capacity or capability to do something, such as speak in public or think strategically. Skills can be observed. Knowledge is defined as the information and understanding one needs to be effective, such as the principal laws governing foundations or the principles behind adult learning.

There are two types of competencies. Core Competencies cover the essential professional skills and knowledge that any CEO, regardless of field, needs to master. Each is essential to the performance of many Private Foundation CEO Functions. Functional Competencies are the skills and knowledge needed either to perform specific Private Foundation CEO Functions or to perform functions other sectors have but are substantively different in the philanthropic sector. Functional Competencies build on the Core Competencies. As the name implies, Functional Competencies are grouped by function.

By definition, the Functional Competencies represent the level of personal and professional development necessary for individuals to perform the functions well. Achieving this level does not, however, guarantee actual performance of the functions. An individual may possess all of the necessary competencies to perform a function and still lack the time, resources or interest to do so.

It is perhaps impossible for any single individual to master every one of these skills. Thus, readers should interpret the competencies as an ideal, and not as minimum job requirements.

Figure 1. **Competencies Structure**



Using the Functions and Competencies

Academies and practitioners can use the functions and competencies in the following ways:

- 
- ✓ Help private foundation CEOs self-assess or arrange for an external or 360-degree feedback assessment of their own performance (vis-à-vis the functions).
 - ✓ Help foundation boards arrange for an assessment of their CEO's performance (vis-à-vis the functions).
 - ✓ Help private foundation CEOs identify the knowledge and skills they need in order to develop and strengthen their performance overall or on any given function (by reviewing the competencies).
 - ✓ Help providers of foundation executive education offer effective programs and clearly communicate program content and benefits (by basing them on the functions and competencies).
 - ✓ Help foundation boards and senior executives define the job of CEO and create CEO job descriptions.
 - ✓ Help executive recruiters define the ideal candidate.

Conduct a careful review of your own organization and make any necessary adjustments before applying the functions and competencies to your foundation.

Figure 2. **Job Functions of the Private Foundation CEO**

Internal (Organizational) Leadership

Provide the vision, direction, inspiration and motivation necessary to ensure the foundation's success.

- 1. Mission Stewardship:** Work with the board and staff to define the foundation's mission, communicate it effectively within the foundation, ensure that it serves continuously as an inspiration and guide and execute it.
- 2. Board Relations:** Work with the board to help ensure that it is properly constituted and trained to conduct effective governance.

- 3. Values and Ethical Standards Management:** Work with the board and staff to ensure adoption of and adherence to appropriate values and ethical standards in all foundation business.
- 4. Identity Management:** Work with the board and staff to ensure proper care and development of the foundation's history, culture, reputation and image.

Internal (Organizational) Management

Make decisions that result in efficient and effective foundation functioning.

- 5. Staff Management:** Ensure that staff are properly selected, supported and guided and that their professional development is nurtured.
- 6. Financial Management:** Work with the board and staff to develop asset investment management and financial administration strategies and systems that are effective and aligned with the foundation's vision/mission and ensure that such strategies and systems are implemented well.
- 7. Programmatic Management:** Work with the board and staff to develop programming, grantmaking and grant management strategies and systems that are

- effective and aligned with the foundation's vision/mission and ensure that such strategies and systems are implemented well.
- 8. Legal Issues Management:** Work with the board and staff to develop legal strategies and systems that are effective and aligned with the foundation's vision/mission and ensure that such strategies and systems are implemented well.
- 9. Accountability and Evaluation Management:** Work with the board and staff to establish accountability standards and systems that track the foundation's effectiveness and impact.

External Leadership

Contribute to the dialogue, vision and direction of the pertinent global, national or local communities; for the fields of the foundation's focus areas; and to the field of philanthropy.

- 10. Visionary Leadership:** Contribute to the vision and thought leadership of the field of philanthropy and communicate this vision.
- 11. Partnership Management:** Work collaboratively with other private and/or public funders and grantees for greater social impact.

- 12. Education and Public Engagement:** Help shape the agenda and decisionmaking of government and other external stakeholders.
- 13. Issue-Area Visionary Leadership:** Contribute to the vision and thought leadership in the foundation's focus area(s) and communicate this vision.

Core Competencies¹

Core competencies ensure that CEOs have a solid basis from which to perform all of their executive functions.

Understand the basics of:	Know:	Be able to:
Collaboration/ Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The organization's history of collaboration <input type="checkbox"/> Successful personal approach(es) to collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Guide cross-team and cross-organizational collaboration <input type="checkbox"/> Relate well to a diversity of individuals <input type="checkbox"/> Convene and manage groups <input type="checkbox"/> Work well as a team player
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Priority elements of the organization's vision, values and mission <input type="checkbox"/> The public context in which the organization operates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Constructively challenge those with power and authority <input type="checkbox"/> Speak effectively and compellingly <input type="checkbox"/> Write effectively and compellingly <input type="checkbox"/> Resolve communication problems <input type="checkbox"/> Manage competing interests
Decisionmaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Personal decisionmaking style 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Delegate appropriate decisions and responsibilities <input type="checkbox"/> Ask staff for the amount of information that is appropriate for leadership-level decisionmaking <input type="checkbox"/> Make clear and timely decisions
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The board's style, operations, concerns and aspirations <input type="checkbox"/> The principles of laws applicable to governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Work well with the board, regardless of its composition <input type="checkbox"/> Contribute to board building <input type="checkbox"/> Adhere to clear lines of responsibility and accountability

¹ The content areas of the Core Competencies, shown in the left hand column, are presented in alphabetical order.

Core Competencies (continued)

Understand the basics of:	Know:	Be able to:
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The culture of the organization, including the degree and type of teamwork among staff, and break-downs in teamwork 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Create a positive and productive work environment <input type="checkbox"/> Model proper staff behavior and promote inclusive practices <input type="checkbox"/> Create a sense of shared responsibility/credit for accomplishments and shared responsibility for challenges or failures <input type="checkbox"/> Lead an efficient and effective organizational operation according to best practices, ethical guidelines and fiduciary requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Manage competing requirements and interests <input type="checkbox"/> Use external consultants and experts effectively
Organizational Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Under what circumstances it is productive to use consultants <input type="checkbox"/> A personal approach to change management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Create a work environment in which learning is continuous and staff feel comfortable taking risks to help the foundation meet its mission <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage staff to go outside of their professional duties and into nonprofit life as volunteers, grantees and donors <input type="checkbox"/> Detect changes in the organization's functioning, culture, or dynamics <input type="checkbox"/> Create and maintain organizational culture <input type="checkbox"/> Manage change
Personal and Professional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The Private Foundation CEO Functions and Competencies <input type="checkbox"/> Where and how executives in and out of the field of philanthropy obtain effective executive education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Arrange for a personal assessment of performance of the Private Foundation CEO Functions <input type="checkbox"/> Make and express to the board the connection between professional development and foundation effectiveness <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct ongoing personal and professional development

Core Competencies (continued)

Understand the basics of:	Know:	Be able to:
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> The organization's previous planning initiatives<input type="checkbox"/> The organization's future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Think strategically<input type="checkbox"/> Lead strategic thinking and planning efforts
Vision Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> What can excite the imaginations of staff, the board and pertinent external groups<input type="checkbox"/> Founding documents of the organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Lead the creation of a shared vision for staff, the board and pertinent external groups that is aligned with the organization<input type="checkbox"/> Educate others on the future direction and inspire them to be supporters and advocates<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporate the organization's vision into its programs and operations<input type="checkbox"/> Embody the organization's vision in all work

Functional Competencies²

Competencies for Mission Stewardship

1. Work with the board and staff to define the foundation’s mission, communicate it effectively within the foundation, ensure that it serves continuously as an inspiration and guide, and execute it.

Understand the basics of:	Know:	Be able to:
The Foundation’s External Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ The context, strengths and challenges of the communities the foundation funds and supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Relate well to all key stakeholders
The Foundation’s Organizational History and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ The basic content of the documents that created the foundation ❑ The history of the foundation’s past grantmaking and program activities ❑ Current organization imperatives, priorities and initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Incorporate the foundation’s culture and history in exploring the existing organizational mission and vision, and how these relate to the current work of the foundation ❑ Relate the experience of the foundation and its present-day realities (e.g., changing demographics in regions where the foundation operates) back to the vision/mission and history of the foundation ❑ Detect and overcome weaknesses in the alignment of the foundation’s vision and mission to its current context and future trends ❑ Motivate staff and the board around the mission of the foundation

Critical Core Competencies

Communication, Collaboration/Partnership, Decisionmaking, Management and Vision Setting

² The content areas of the Functional Competencies, shown in the left hand column, are presented in alphabetical order.

Competencies for Board Relations

2. Work with the board to help ensure that it is properly constituted and trained to conduct effective governance.

Understand the basics of:	Know:	Be able to:
Board Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The history of the foundation's board <input type="checkbox"/> The biographies and skills of current and past board members <input type="checkbox"/> The board's recent and current programmatic and governance directions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Facilitate the board's awareness of its development needs and identification of appropriate orientation and training <input type="checkbox"/> Facilitate the board's development of board terms of service and transition policies
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The history of the foundation's governance, grantmaking and program activities <input type="checkbox"/> The strengths and weaknesses of the governance models employed by the current board (consensus, Roberts Rules, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Public policy and trends that could effect foundation governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Work with the board to develop effective written bylaws and processes <input type="checkbox"/> Support and encourage appropriate board functioning and involvement <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage and work well within a system of organizational units (e.g., committees, task forces.) <input type="checkbox"/> Work with the board to create a supportive environment that encourages staff to take appropriate risks in service to the foundation's mission

Critical Core Competencies

Communication, Collaboration/Partnership, Decisionmaking, Personal and Professional Development, Organizational Development, Management and Vision Setting

Competencies for Values and Ethical Standards Management

3. Work with the board and staff to ensure adoption of and adherence to appropriate values and ethical standards in all foundation business.

Understand the basics of:	Know:	Be able to:
Ethics Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Laws, regulations and guidance for foundations that relate to ethics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Work with the board to lead a process to develop the foundation's ethical standards <input type="checkbox"/> Create awareness of ethical issues and encourage a transparent culture in which ethical policies are understood and lived out at all organizational levels <input type="checkbox"/> Prevent and manage ethical breaches as they arise <input type="checkbox"/> Prevent conflict of interest problems <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome and manage public interest in the foundation
The Foundation's Organizational Values, History and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The basic content of the documents that created the foundation <input type="checkbox"/> The history of the foundation's past grantmaking and program activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Relate the experience of the foundation and its present-day realities back to the values of the foundation <input type="checkbox"/> Employ foundation values in everyday operations, such as staff reviews and orientation of new board and staff members <input type="checkbox"/> Work with the board to lead a change management process to develop the foundation's values statement and bring to life such values throughout the foundation

Critical Core Competencies

Communication, Decisionmaking, Management and Vision Setting

Competencies for Identity Management

4. Work with the board and staff to ensure proper care and development of the foundation’s history, culture, reputation and image.

Understand the basics of:	Know:	Be able to:
The Foundation’s Organizational History and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The basic content of the documents that created the foundation <input type="checkbox"/> The history of the foundation’s past grantmaking and program activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Institute and manage a communication plan and system for expressing a powerful and clear image of the foundation in all its work that is consistent with its mission, history and culture <input type="checkbox"/> Lead organizational change
Public Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sector positions on emerging issues in philanthropy and in the field(s) in which the foundation focuses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Represent the foundation effectively <input type="checkbox"/> Develop a work culture and implement processes to ensure that staff represent the foundation effectively <input type="checkbox"/> Manage criticism and controversy effectively <input type="checkbox"/> Work effectively with the media

Critical Core Competencies

Communication, Organizational Development, Planning and Vision Setting

Competencies for Staff Management

5. Ensure that staff are properly selected, supported and guided and that their professional development is nurtured.

Understand the basics of:	Know:	Be able to:
Adult Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The principal tools and resources for identifying personal and professional training programs for foundation staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Create staff self-assessment or other assessment options <input type="checkbox"/> Develop programming and an institutional culture that supports personal and professional development

Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The principal state and federal laws and regulations affecting staffing <input type="checkbox"/> Strategies and tools for hiring new staff and assessing the performance of current staff <input type="checkbox"/> The principal options in technology systems to support staff <input type="checkbox"/> Sector trends that may effect future staffing or benefits requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusive practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Make effective and law- and regulation- abiding decisions in hiring, firing, placement, promotion, termination and compensation <input type="checkbox"/> Direct staff effectively <input type="checkbox"/> Delegate effectively <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure appropriate and fair written human resources policies, including salary and benefits packages <input type="checkbox"/> Support staff giving and volunteerism <input type="checkbox"/> Make decisions about leveraging technology to support staff efficiency <input type="checkbox"/> Actively encourage diverse candidates to assume foundation leadership roles
-----------------	---	--

Critical Core Competencies

Communication, Decisionmaking, Management, Organizational Development, and Personal and Professional Development

Competencies for Financial Management

6. Work with the board and staff to develop asset investment management and financial administration strategies and systems that are effective and aligned with the foundation’s vision/mission, and ensure that such strategies and systems are implemented well.

Understand the basics of:	Know:	Be able to:
Federal and State Laws that Relate to Foundation Finances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The fundamentals in the laws relating to foundation financial systems, such as UMIFA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that board and staff know and adhere to all relevant state and federal laws and regulations <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that the budget complies with legal and fiduciary requirements
Financial Accounting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The fundamental concepts of systems and standards for sound accounting, such as GAAP <input type="checkbox"/> The role of internal controls and audits in foundations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Critically read financial statements <input type="checkbox"/> Establish effective and transparent internal controls and record keeping <input type="checkbox"/> Create and recommend an annual budget that supports the foundation’s vision and/or mission <input type="checkbox"/> Assess the foundation’s financial performance relative to the annual budget <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure and manage periodic external financial reviews and audits <input type="checkbox"/> Identify and manage accounting “red flags”

Competencies for Financial Management (continued)

Understand the basics of:	Know:	Be able to:
Investment and Financial Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Principles and concepts of portfolio management for foundations, including the management of endowments, trusts and institutional investments <input type="checkbox"/> Staffing/management models for portfolio management <input type="checkbox"/> The roles and fiduciary responsibilities of the CEO, the board, the investment committee and financial advisors <input type="checkbox"/> The major restrictions imposed by the Internal Revenue Code, with implications on how these restrictions affect the operations of the foundation <input type="checkbox"/> The principal components of relevant tax laws, such as the Tax Reform Act of 1969 <input type="checkbox"/> The current thinking, trends and benchmark data on appropriate uses of administrative expenses for like-sized foundations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Establish an investment model appropriate to the type and nature of assets <input type="checkbox"/> Gather credible advice <input type="checkbox"/> Work effectively with the investment committee and financial advisors <input type="checkbox"/> Implement the instructions of the board <input type="checkbox"/> Manage financial systems and issues <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure appropriate review, including compliance with reporting requirements in accordance with laws and regulations <input type="checkbox"/> Articulate the strengths and limitations of the latest products with respect to the foundation and the board <input type="checkbox"/> Work effectively with the board, the investment committee, and financial advisors <input type="checkbox"/> Assess accounting and investment performance

Critical Core Competencies

Decisionmaking, Management and Planning

Competencies for Programmatic Management

7. Work with the board and staff to develop programming, grantmaking and grant management strategies and systems that are effective and aligned with the foundation's vision/mission and ensure that such strategies and systems are implemented well.

Understand the basics of:	Know:	Be able to:
Grantmaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The foundation's past grantmaking practices and history <input type="checkbox"/> How the grantmaking program reflects the mission, vision and values and goals of the foundation <input type="checkbox"/> The fiduciary and legal responsibilities for making qualified grants <input type="checkbox"/> Types of grants that are disallowed by the tax laws, such as the Tax Reform Act of 1969 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Understand, communicate with and work well with representatives from grant recipient organizations <input type="checkbox"/> Identify and advocate for the best grantmaking or social investment strategy to meet foundation goals <input type="checkbox"/> Develop transparent processes for grants management and records management, including due diligence and oversight <input type="checkbox"/> Make information technology decisions and manage information technology in a way that supports an efficient and effective grantmaking strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that the grantmaking is aligned with the foundation's mission, values and guidelines <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor grantmaking reporting requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Award, oversee and document grants in a manner that complies with laws, regulations, and foundation ethics <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that grantmaking creates value and incorporates lessons learned <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that grants are evaluated

Critical Core Competencies

Decisionmaking, Management, Organizational Development and Planning

Competencies for Legal Issues Management

8. Work with the board and staff to develop legal strategies and systems that are effective and aligned with the foundation’s vision/mission, and ensure that such strategies and systems are implemented well.

Understand the basics of:	Know:	Be able to:
Federal and State Laws and Regulations Relating to Foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sector benchmarks from authoritative sources on the application of state and federal laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Translate federal and state laws and regulations into foundation systems, policies, and procedures <input type="checkbox"/> Work with legal counsel and the board to identify and manage legal issues <input type="checkbox"/> Assess and manage and/or refer to legal counsel potential conflicts with state and federal laws and regulations
Foundation Guidance and Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Donor’s intent in establishing the foundation <input type="checkbox"/> The legal charter of the foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Convert foundation guidance and bylaws into systems, policies and procedures <input type="checkbox"/> Prevent, identify and manage breaches in foundation guidance and bylaws, including conflicts of interest
Critical Core Competencies		
Decisionmaking and Management		

Competencies for Accountability and Evaluation Management

9. Work with the board and staff to establish accountability standards and systems that track the foundation’s effectiveness and impact.

Understand the basics of:	Know:	Be able to:
Accountability/Program Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The history and current political climate of issues concerning foundation accountability <input type="checkbox"/> The foundation’s past practices in accountability/program monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Work with the board to institute accountability/program monitoring approaches that are most appropriate for the foundation <input type="checkbox"/> Use feedback from accountability/program monitoring systems to improve operations
Performance Measurement and Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The foundation’s past practices in performance measurement and evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Institute the performance measurement practices that are best suited to analyze and adjust grant policies to help carry out the foundation’s goals and that are best aligned with its mission <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that grants and programs are evaluated <input type="checkbox"/> Use feedback from performance measurement and evaluation systems to improve grantmaking and operations <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that the foundation actively seeks to monitor change in the environment and adapt and learn from the change, i.e., become a “learning organization”

Critical Core Competencies

Communication, Collaboration/Partnership, Decisionmaking, Management and Vision Setting

Competencies for Visionary Leadership

10. Contribute to the vision and thought leadership of the field of philanthropy and communicate this vision.

Understand the basics of:	Know:	Be able to:
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The influentials, allies and subject matter experts on philanthropy <input type="checkbox"/> Which state and federal government institutions govern or influence foundations <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging sector issues and the major challenges of the independent sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate with influentials and the public for philanthropy as an important sector of society that promotes the social good and is vital for a civil society
The History and Culture of Philanthropy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The values, challenges and benefits of philanthropy to society <input type="checkbox"/> The history and culture of the philanthropic field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Place the foundation in the context of the history and growth of philanthropy
Critical Core Competencies Communication, Collaboration/Partnership, Planning and Vision Setting		

Competencies for Partnership Management

11. Work collaboratively with other private and/or public funder and non profit organizations for greater social impact.

Understand the basics of:	Know:	Be able to:
Partnership Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The foundation’s recent partnership history <input type="checkbox"/> The priorities and concerns of funding colleagues <input type="checkbox"/> The relevant issues to be addressed potentially in the partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Identify the potential win–win benefits of the partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Assess strengths and weaknesses of potential partners, including organizational, financial and political constraints <input type="checkbox"/> Reach out to connect with colleagues to explore potential collaborations <input type="checkbox"/> Lead a partnership development process
Partnership Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The foundation’s capacities, limitations and culture <input type="checkbox"/> The funding colleagues’ capacities, limitations and cultures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Manage relationships <input type="checkbox"/> Elicit in others the commitment, passion and patience needed to sustain a collaborative enterprise <input type="checkbox"/> Create consensus
Critical Core Competencies		
Communication, Collaboration/Partnership, Organizational Development and Planning		

Competencies for Education and Advocacy

12. Help shape the agenda and decisionmaking of government and other external stakeholders.

Understand the basics of:	Know:	Be able to:
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The influentials, allies and subject matter experts on philanthropy <input type="checkbox"/> The context and positions of the principal stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Identify, generate (or find), package and share the data that government and other sectors need on the field of philanthropy or in the foundation's issue area(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Promote strategic cooperation with governmental and other sectors <input type="checkbox"/> Shepherd nonpartisan public policies through governmental systems that are supportive of philanthropy or the foundation's issue area(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Promote actions in other sectors that support the goals of philanthropy, such as corporate citizenship
Policy Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The climate in which public policies are shaped and how they are developed and executed <input type="checkbox"/> The roles of the public, private and independent sectors and how they effect public life <input type="checkbox"/> The local, regional and national political landscapes related to the foundation's focus area(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Analyze the political marketplace and public policies
Critical Core Competencies		
Communication and Collaboration/Partnership		

Competencies for Issue-Area Visionary Leadership

13 Contribute to the vision and thought leadership in the foundation’s focus area(s) and communicate this vision.

Understand the basics of:	Know:	Be able to:
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The influentials, allies and subject matter experts in the foundation’s focus area(s) <input type="checkbox"/> The issues and trends in the foundation’s focus area(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Bring the issue(s) in the foundation’s focus area(s) to the forefront of the minds of the public and other stakeholders
The Foundation Focus Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The issue area(s) that the foundation funds <input type="checkbox"/> Where to find the most effective resources for more information and new thinking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Distill issues and solutions in the foundation’s focus area(s) into a coherent vision and a compelling message
Critical Core Competencies		
Communication, Collaboration/Partnership, Planning and Vision Setting		

Advisory Committee for Executive Programs (ACEP)

C. David Campbell

President
McGregor Fund
Detroit, MI

Reatha Clark King

Former President and Board Chair
General Mills Foundation
Minneapolis, MN

Barry D. Gaberman

Senior Vice President
The Ford Foundation
New York, NY

Anna Faith Jones

President Emeritus, The Boston
Foundation and Trustee of the
Charles F. Kettering Foundation
Washington, DC

John Kostishack

Executive Director
Otto Bremer Foundation
St. Paul, MN

Martha D. Lamkin

President and CEO
Lumina Foundation for Education
Indianapolis, IN

Sherry P. Magill

President
Jessie Ball duPont Fund
Jacksonville, FL

Penelope McPhee

President
The Arthur M. Blank Family
Foundation
Atlanta, GA

Richard L. Moore

President
Weaver Foundation
Greensboro, NC

Matthew J. Quinn

Executive Director
Jack Kent Cooke Foundation
Lansdowne, VA

Benjamin R. Shute Jr.

Secretary
Rockefeller Brothers Fund
New York, NY

Elizabeth B. Smith

Executive Director
Hyams Foundation Inc.
Boston, MA

Luz A. Vega-Marquis

President and CEO
Marguerite Casey Foundation
Seattle, WA

Colburn S. Wilbur

Trustee and Past President
The David and Lucile Packard
Foundation
Los Altos, CA

Eugene R. Wilson

Former Executive Vice President
Ewing Marion Kauffman
Foundation
Shawnee, KS

Council Staff:

Joanne Scanlan

Senior Vice President, Philanthropic
Leadership

Jennifer Hollahan

Director, Executive Education

Sophie Dunbar

Coordinator, Executive Education

Council Consultant:

Beatriz Boccalandro

President
VeraWorks, Inc.
Waynesboro, PA



COUNCIL *on* FOUNDATIONS

1828 L Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036-5168
202/466-6512 • cof.org