

# Methodology

Over the course of 2025, representatives from nine grantees of Siegel Family Endowment participated in interviews about their perspectives about philanthropy and their relationship with Siegel Family Endowment.

Siegel's Grants, External Engagement, and Knowledge and Impact teams selected these respondents as collectively representative of Siegel's grantees as a whole. All portfolio areas were represented and the participants had received varying levels of funding from Siegel Family Endowment and included organizations with long relationships with Siegel as well as newer grantees.

Interviewees were typically organizational leaders, though some focused on program development or fundraising specifically. More than one person from a single organization participated in six of the nine interviews.

The nine interviews were conducted over video conference as an addendum to an interview used to construct a Siegel Family Endowment case study or Q&A.

Questions were standardized according to a loose interview protocol (see [below](#)), but the interviewee was permitted to drive the conversation. In a few instances, the interviewer added questions that were specific to the individual grantee or that pressure-tested views expressed in other interviews. The philanthropy-focused interview lasted between 15 minutes and 30 minutes and Siegel Family Endowment staff were not present.

Interviewees were assured that their responses would remain confidential and that any quotations would be anonymized. They were also told that they would be notified when there was a public-facing report similar to those released in [2022](#), [2023](#), and [2024](#). Alternatively or in addition, an anonymized version of the report that resulted from the research could be shared with participating grantee organizations.

The interviewer compiled and coded all the responses across the nine interviews in order to produce this report. Anonymized notes and coding of interviews are available [here](#).

## Loose Interview Protocol for Philanthropy-Related Questions

Siegel Family Endowment is interested in understanding how leaders of grantee organizations perceive the role of philanthropy generally and their working relationship with the Siegel Family Endowment, in particular. I am working on putting together an anonymized, internal report for Siegel's leaders that summarizes themes around philanthropy from these interviews.

1. Could you tell me your ideal working relationship with philanthropic funders?
2. Are there ways in which philanthropy is ineffective or should change its practice?

3. What elements of your working relationship with Siegel Family Endowment have been beneficial for you? Which elements have been less successful?
4. [*Asked only of grantees who had engaged with the K&I team*] In particular, we are interested in your experience with Siegel's Knowledge & Impact team. How would you describe your working relationship with the Knowledge & Impact team? How has the K&I team supported or impacted your work? In what ways could the working relationship with the K&I team be improved?
5. [*Asked only of grantees who had experienced this inquiry-driven approach*] Siegel takes an inquiry-based approach to our grantmaking, co-designing questions with our partners, linking grant activities and measurement to those questions, and iterating on them throughout the grant term. How did this question co-design process inform your grant? How has the inquiry-based framing impacted your work, if at all? How do questions show up in your work more generally?