



Flex Fund Webinar Series

October 15, 2025

Webinar #3: Collaborative Approaches to Sustain Flex Funds

COMMUNITY
SOLUTIONS

Today's Facilitators



Michelle Valdez
Consultant and Advisor
Seattle, WA



Megan Klenke-Isgriggs
Strategy Lead
Community Investments
Built for Zero
St. Louis, MO

What is Flexible Funding?

Flex Funds Definition: Unrestricted dollars communities can utilize **to address individuals' unique barriers** to housing and effectively promote stability and prevent individuals from becoming or remaining homeless.

Flex Funds Core Principles

Structured for effective, efficient use with minimal funding restrictions

Adaptable to immediate needs

Designed to address immediate, individual barriers/resource gaps that other resources cannot cover

Maximized with a clear approach and strategy

Flex Fund Implementation Stages

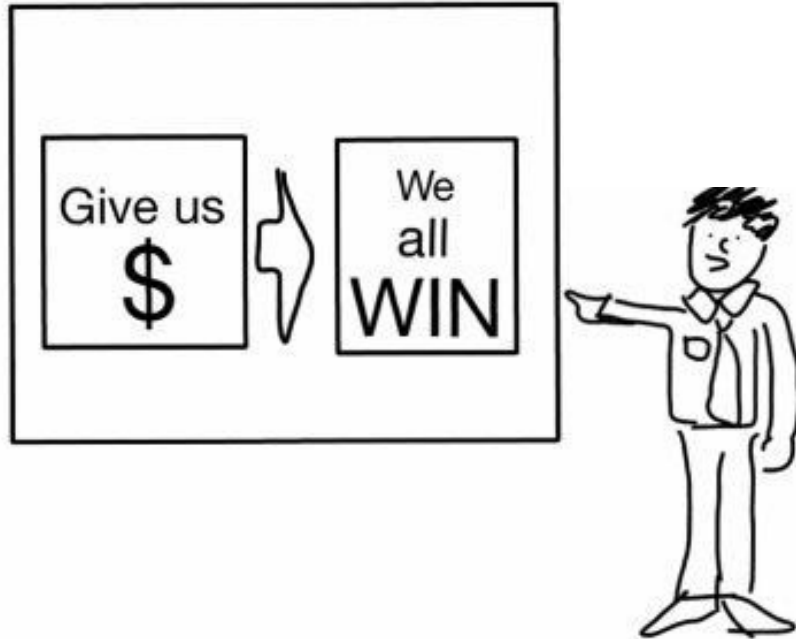
- **Planning for Flexible Funding:** Bringing flexible funding into your community is a key step in enhancing your efforts to address homelessness. Developing a clear strategy and plan for this funding early - even before applying for funding - is crucial, regardless of whether this is a new approach or one your community is already utilizing.
 - **Preparing for Implementation:** Once you have determined the “what” (need) and the “who” (target population) and you’ve secured flexible funding, you need to figure out the “how.” Implementation planning should include identifying a Fiscal Agent, building an outreach plan, and determining how to reach the intended audience. It should also include determining who will provide services and engage with participants, what specific needs are most likely to emerge, what limitations need to be set, and what communication strategy is needed.
 - **Implementation: Putting Your Community Flex Fund to Work:** Your community flex fund is established, it's time to put it into action! Implementation is where you begin testing your hypotheses on how flexible funding can have the greatest impact on individual and system outcomes. At the time of implementation, it is important to establish a means for continuous improvement, ensuring that your data collection and decision-making processes are utilized to support informed adjustments as you go.
- **Understanding & Amplifying Impact for Ongoing Sustainability:** Thinking about long-term success, start planning for ongoing funding and sustainability early on. Track your progress and share your learnings and outcomes as you go.

Today's Webinar

- **Explore multiple ways to sustain Flex Funds through collaborative approaches.**
- **Create space for peer learning and consultation.**
- **Consider sustainability approaches that could be effective in your own.**

The Big Question:

How will you sustain your Flex funds?



Understanding & Amplifying Impact

Measure Impact

- Track your progress from the start
- Individual indicators: Number of people, dollars, individual outcomes
- System-level impact: Consider changes to BFZ Metrics, changes to policy, procedures, ways of working, new resources

Understand Impact

- Consider qualitative data in addition to the quantitative
- Collect testimonials, focus groups or satisfaction surveys
- Use the data to tell the story of your Flex Fund

Amplify Impact

- Share your learning and outcomes early and often
- Highlight specific outcomes to community and funding partners that demonstrate impact and drive additional resources
- Use storytelling and data visualization to celebrate and share successes

**You don't have to go
down the sustainability
path alone...**



**CONSIDER COLLABORATIVE
FUNDING APPROACHES!**

What is Collaborative Funding?



Pooled Resources

Multiple funders contribute to a shared pot of resources



Central Fiscal Agent

A single organization carries out the financial operations including receiving and awarding funds



Backbone Partner

A designated entity oversees the place-based effort, IDs funding gaps, coordinates funding purposes



Shared Goals & Outcomes

Contributing funders, agree to support investments that align with the place-based goals



Grantees / Recipients

Orgs + Providers receive funds to carry out key activities to achieve the collective goals

Why Collaborative Funding Now?

01 Resiliency in a changing funding landscape

02 Leverage and coordinate government funding

03 Align and maximize private resources

04 Impactful funding that follows best-practice

05 Grantmaking efficiency for funders and potential grantees.

Three Collaborative Funding Tales

	Broomfield, CO	Adams County, CO	Nashville, TN
Funders	Churches Individuals	State Individuals Corporate Partners	Community Solutions Corporate & Philanthropic Partners
Backbone	City of Broomfield	Adams County	BFZ Lead NPO
Fiscal Agent	Community Foundation	TBD - Non-Profit Agency	Community Foundation
Fiscal Agent Role	Decision-making partner, cuts direct checks to individuals	TBD - RFP Pending	Reimburses agency as funding is utilized
Funding Purposes	• Flex Funds for individuals • Open to expanding to other purposes	• Grants to organization to fill funding gaps • Limited Flex Funds to orgs to administer	• Flex Funds for individuals • Exploring other purposes

Key Challenges

Enough \$\$ to get started

Securing a “big enough pot” to attract other funding, while using the funding to demonstrate success

Getting clear on expectations for funders

Ensuring funders are 100% aligned with the shared funding purposes

Time investment on planning and funder outreach

Planning, outreach materials and relationships with potential funders take time, as does setting up the infrastructure to receive, award and track impact of the funding

Overcoming programmatic funding silos

This is not a typical program or organizational funding, communication across community partners to make clear the funding is untitled, more opportunities for collaboration

Equitable marketing and communication across the system to ensure

Ensuring that agencies/individuals across the system have access to the funds, developing policies that ensure equitable access

IDing new needs and adjusting funding accordingly

New needs emerge and gaps are filled, changing course and being nimble in the face of new needs

Design Session: Collaborative Funding for Your Community

Your Community....

<i>Funders</i>	Who are like-minded sources of funding you haven't explored before? What is their stake in ending homelessness?
<i>Backbone</i>	What agency is close the community goals? Who are the key collaboration partners?
<i>Fiscal Agent</i>	What entity has the fiscal flexibility to receive and deliver funding? What entities are willing to/are already connected to the communities' BFZ goals?
<i>Fiscal Agent Role</i>	What role do you want them to play?
<i>Funding Purposes</i>	Flex Funds for individuals What else?
<i>Anticipated Challenges</i>	What unique attributes of your community/infrastructure would you be mindful of?

Shameless Learning Session Plug!

Come to the System-Level Resourcing Learning Session Breakout!

Thursday, November 6

12:30-1:30 pm

We'll talk more about system-wide sustainability and coordinating resources!