



TO NAVIGATE THE CIRCLE...

There's no real trick to navigating the Circle—just start with what you know. The best way to travel is to answer *first* the questions for which you *know* the answers. Have your RDP program/grantmaking design team:

- **ENTER THE CIRCLE BY IDENTIFYING YOUR RDP CATALYST (QUESTION/WORKSHEET #1)**, and the influence that catalyst may have on your next steps around the Circle.
- Now start to **TRAVEL THE CIRCLE BY ANSWERING WHICHEVER MIDDLE SIX QUESTION YOU ARE MOST CERTAIN YOU CAN ANSWER**. This becomes Question/Worksheet #2.
- **CONTINUE TO ANSWER THE NEXT MIDDLE SIX QUESTIONS** in the order of your own confidence, taking into account how your answers to the prior questions affect your choices. (In other words, how you answered your first question might limit the options available as answers to #2, and so forth.)
- When you get to any **MIDDLE SIX QUESTIONS FOR WHICH YOU DO NOT HAVE A CLEAR, CERTAIN ANSWER** yet, determine the information you would need to develop and compare some options. Then list the pros and cons related to each option. (Pros and cons can relate to staffing, budget, impact, visibility, your catalyst, board considerations, reach, level of difficulty, leveraging potential, and so forth.)
- Have your foundation's design team begin **WEIGHING AND MAKING CHOICES ON THE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS**, taking into account your pros and cons as well as the impact you wish to achieve. When you answer one question, then move on to another unanswered question, and see if your options there have been affected by your most recent answer.
- **CONTINUE UNTIL YOU ANSWER ALL YOUR QUESTIONS.**
- **COMPLETE THE CIRCLE (AND COME FULL CIRCLE) BY ANSWERING QUESTION 8: SO WHAT?**

Take your final list and use it to detail what it is you plan to do. Once you have done this, *then* consider the various ways you can best **structure a grant** or **use your program or dollars** to make your design happen.