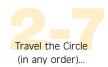


QUESTION 1:

Catalyst?

Identify your motivation for doing this work.

What is the catalyst that is motivating you to do RDP program and grantmaking activity? What energy and shape does that give to your effort?



Where?

Choose a rural place in which to work.

What particular rural region or set of places do you want to target with your RDP program and grantmaking effort?

Which resources and how much?

Determine the source, type and amount of resources you can/will commit.

What staff, board, program, operational and grant resources will you commit to your RDP effort? What resources from your funding or action partners can you bring to the rural effort or leverage from inside or outside the region?

How long?

Choose a period of time over which you plan to sustain the effort.

What is the length of time to which you will commit funding and support for your RDP program effort?

For whom?

Choose a rural people/population to target for impact.

What, if any, specific economically distressed rural population do you want to target for special impact through your RDP program or grantmaking?

What?

Choose a rural development approach or strategy.

What particular change will improve the economic security of low-income rural people and the viability of their communities in your region?

With whom?

Choose an institution(s) to work with.

With whom will you work to help produce and deliver the goods—that is, to help make sure your program and grantmaking meets its goals?

Question 8:

Coming Full Circle

So what?

Determine your specific realistic outcomes, how you will track indicators of those outcomes, and the process by which you will reflect and act on your learning.

Based on the design that emerges from your journey around the Circle, what are one or two realistic short- or medium-term outcomes that you are driving to achieve for rural communities and families through your RDP program or grantmaking effort? What indicators would tell you you are getting there? Who and how will you measure them? What process will you use to reflect on your progress? Who will be responsible to apply your learning and correct your course the next time around?

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 (IRCLE BY IDENTIFYING YOUR ROP (ATALYST (QUESTION/WORKSHEET #1), and the influence that catalyst may have on your next steps around the Circle.
- Now start to travel the (IRCLE BY ANSWERING WHICHEVER MIDDLE SIX QUESTION YOU ARE MOST (ERTAIN YOU (AN 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 (LEAR, 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 weighting and making (Hoices on the unanswered augmental), 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.
- (OMPLETE THE (IR(LE (AND COME FULL (IR(LE) 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.