CHANGE AGENTS:  
THE GOALS AND IMPACT OF WOMEN’S FOUNDATIONS AND FUNDS

Women’s funds share the broad goal of **advancing women’s philanthropy**; their specific objectives, and the ways in which they pursue them, vary widely. Top objectives of women’s funds:

- **Educate others**
- **Advance women economically**
- **Create broader social change**

Women’s funds have been most successful at having an impact by achieving short-term goals through **empowerment and community-based change**.

"We try...not only to give, but... through advocacy and continued education, best practices, learning from others, and even bringing [others] together... grow and expand our knowledge."

Many women’s funds pursue their organizational goals through grantmaking and **go beyond grantmaking to achieve impact**.

"Social change is the opportunity for people to be as successful and happy and healthy as they would like to be in our community."

Women of color are working a lot of part-time jobs, sometimes two and three, and not getting any benefits... They are working themselves to the bones. We wanted to see that end."

Women’s funds demonstrate intersectionality by incorporating **different lenses and voices** in their pursuit of goals and impact.

"Reflection Questions"

- How does your organization **define success**?
- What challenges do you face in **measuring impact**?
- How are you going beyond grant making to **effect broader change**?

**IUPUI Women's Philanthropy Institute**
Lilly Family School of Philanthropy
Research That Grows Women’s Philanthropy

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