

OCB Flexible Fund Grant: Targeted Consultation

The Retirement Research Foundation (RRF) supports the efforts of Chicago-area nonprofit organizations to improve management and governance and recognizes that nonprofit organizations may require outside expertise to address these areas.

Through RRF's OCB Flexible Fund, organizations may apply for Targeted Consultation. The Fund provides short-term, tailored technical assistance to address a capacity-related issue or an unanticipated change. The focus of a consultation is based on an organization's specific needs and interests. Examples may include: budgeting and accounting to accommodate cash flow challenges, human resource considerations for adjusted staffing, exploration of mergers or strategic collaborations, or other issues that would benefit from external expertise.

OCB Flexible Fund Grants are available to nonprofit organizations (located in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, or McHenry County, Illinois) that provide services to the elderly and intentionally give a high priority to this population. The length of time for an OCB Targeted Consultation generally ranges from two to six months; the maximum grant amount is \$5,000.

Resources

The following list represents a sample of well-known resources in the Chicago nonprofit community that fit within the OCB Flexible Fund's parameters and have agreed to work with RRF grantees. However, RRF recognizes that organizations may want to use their own process to select a different consultant. Feel free to contact RRF to discuss potential consultants for your OCB project.

- ***Axelson Center*** – Axelson Center offers a variety of capacity building assistance for RRF grantees and provides short-term consultations combined with customized trainings in several nonprofit management areas, ranging from strategic partnerships, to financial management, to change management.
 - Phone number: 773-244-5747
 - Website: www.northpark.edu/Centers/Axelson-Center-for-Nonprofit-Management
- ***Donors Forum*** – Donors Forum offers Clinic Time for project or issue-specific consultation. You may meet with a consultant one-on-one for two-hour blocks of time to get professional feedback.
 - Phone number: 312-327-8948
 - Website: <http://www.donorsforum.org>
- ***Executive Service Corps of Chicago (ESC)*** – ESC offers a variety of short-term technical assistance services that are available to RRF grantees at reduced rates, ranging from support managing staff to emergency succession planning.
 - Phone number: 312-580-1840 x324
 - Website: <http://www.esc-chicago.org>
- ***Independent Consultants*** – RRF has identified a number of independent consultants who are available to work with RRF grantees through targeted consultations. These include consultants with expertise in human resources, workplace operations, fundraising, and board development.

In addition to the resources listed here, RRF may refer you to other technical assistance providers who may be able to meet other needs.