

NC Office of Strategic Partnerships (OSP)

Summary of Results from OSP's 2021 Survey of Philanthropy

Overview:

- The purpose of the survey was to identify what resources, events, and information would be most helpful to philanthropies that invest in North Carolina in order for government and philanthropy to grow meaningful partnerships.
- [OSP](#) conducted the survey between July 21 – August 2, 2021.
- The survey asked questions pertaining to organizational/individual contact information; feedback on OSP's May 27, 2021 "State Government 101" virtual session; potential future learning topics; government-philanthropy partnerships; and experience with and interest in research partnerships.
- Headlines include:
 - *Commitment to Partnerships:* 90% of respondents said they are definitely or possibly interested in partnering with state government in the future.
 - *Interest in Government-Research Partnerships:* 65% of respondents expressed an interest in learning more about opportunities for how philanthropy can be involved with government-research partnerships specifically.
 - *Future Learning Topics:* The top two future learning topics ranked by respondents included "Government-Philanthropy Partnerships: How to Identify and Pursue Opportunities" and "The State as a Grantmaker: Understanding the Various Grantmaking Opportunities within State Government."
- OSP sent the survey to approximately 208 individuals across 78 philanthropic organizations. 60 people responded representing 43 philanthropic entities, including community, corporate and private foundations and representatives of funder networks.

Results:

- I. **Feedback on OSP's May 27, 2021 "[State Government 101](#)" virtual session**
 - 30% of the survey respondents said they attended the session live or listened to the recording.
 - Of those who attended or listened to the session:
 - 94% said they gained a better understanding of how state government operates.
 - 94% said the session was useful to their organization.
 - Several respondents mentioned that their biggest take-aways included learning about the mechanics of state government, where to go to get information about state government, and ideas for government-philanthropy partnerships.

II. Potential Future Learning Topics

The May 27 “State Government 101” virtual session was the first in a series of sessions about state government that OSP plans to host for philanthropy. Survey respondents selected their top five (5) topics for future sessions as follows:

Government-Philanthropy Partnerships: How to Identify and Pursue Opportunities	The State as a Grantmaker: Understanding the Various Grantmaking Opportunities within State Government	Insights from the State Demographer and State Data Center	Hear from Cabinet Secretaries and/or Council of State members about their agencies and priorities	The State of NC’s Infrastructure (broadband, transportation, pipes)
49 (82%)	41 (68%)	37 (62%)	32 (53%)	32 (53%)

The State Budget Process	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility in State Agencies	The Role of Research and Evidence in State Government	Priorities of the NC Community College System	State Government 101: The Legislative Branch	State Government 101: The Judicial Branch
23 (38%)	22 (37%)	19 (32%)	18 (30%)	4 (7%)	4 (7%)

III. Government-Philanthropy Partnerships

- 82% listed “Government-Philanthropy Partnerships: How to Identify and Pursue Opportunities” as a topic they’d like to explore.
- 60% said their organizations previously have partnered with state government.
- 90% said they are definitely or possibly interested in partnering with state government in the future.

IV. Government-Research Partnerships

- 62% said their organizations fund or otherwise support research or organizations that conduct research.
- 65% expressed an interest in learning more about opportunities for how philanthropy can be involved with government-research partnerships specifically.

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For more information about this survey, please contact [Philanthropy Liaison Joy Vermillion Heinsohn](mailto:joy.vermillion@osbm.nc.gov) at joy.vermillion@osbm.nc.gov.

Anyone involved in philanthropy in NC who has not completed this survey is welcome to do so. Please contact joy.vermillion@osbm.nc.gov for more information.

Learn more about the [NC Office of Strategic Partnerships](#).