

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT CULTURAL COALITION

**Cultural Summit on Grants
October 7, 2014 at Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, Waterford**

SUMMARY

Panelists:

Jennifer O'Brien of Community Foundation of Eastern CT
Nancy Bulkeley of Dominion Nuclear CT
Shaun Formica of Charter Oak Federal Credit Union
Harry Colonis of Chelsea Groton Bank
Kathryn Lord of The Edward and Mary Lord Foundation

Attendance

65 people attended representing 52 organizations

Discussion topics, highlights and notable areas of interest:

Each panelist shared the history, focus and priorities, timeline, review process and scope of their organization. Larger and multi-year grant requests are both trends. Partial or full funding grant award decisions are particular to the funder, not trend-related. Funders tend to prefer program support, but operating support is also available. All panelists urged attendees to do their due diligence prior to applying (guidelines, eligibility, instructions, checklist, etc.). Grant reports are critical to funders, especially future additional grant requests. Thank you notes and gestures of appreciation are greatly appreciated and noted. Today, there is more collaboration among nonprofits and also among funders. Funders want to be aware of nonprofit community activities, economic factors, priorities and needs and what other donors are hearing and seeing across the region.

Outcomes:

- Survey sent to all attendees soon after the summit. Survey requested feedback/suggestions for the Coalition and feedback/comments for the panelists.
- SCCC received 22 responses with overwhelming satisfaction of summit. Twelve (12) 5-star ratings; Three (3) 4-star ratings; One (1) 3-star rating; Six (6) did not rate.
- Positive comments about location of summit, host facility, format of summit, panelists included, questions asked and information given. A few comments to improve future summits included technical components and increased time for networking with other attendees and panelists.
- Feedback for panelists was positive as well with expressions of gratitude for participating and sharing the ins and outs of their organization's grant process. Feedback was forwarded to panelists.
- Survey responses forwarded to committee for review and incorporation into future summits planning.
- Follow up/summary e-blast sent to entire contact list. Panelists' foundations were featured with a link to websites. Click-through rate (contacts that clicked a link in email) was 18.6% for two of the foundations (standard industry rate is 8.7%).

Metrics to follow:

- Increase in number of grant applications received by featured foundations in fall 2014 and 2015 cycles.