



Navigating Uncertain Times

The new year has brought with it new complexities and increased uncertainty for our communities, our environment, and our country. Philanthropic families, their grantees, and those across the social sector are parsing the unknowns, contending with confusing and shifting landscapes, and are determining the most effective and timely ways to advance their efforts under increasing threats.

And yet, family philanthropies are uniquely positioned to take bold action. You have power, influence, and the ability to move nimbly and take risks that others can't. As stewards of public funds and as families who aim to create positive change in the world, you have the privilege and responsibility to resist outside pressures and even double down on your mission to protect the communities and advance the issues you care about.

The National Center for Family Philanthropy remains steadfast in our embrace of the core principles that guide effective family philanthropy: **accountability, equity, reflection and learning, and relationships.** We view these principles as holding true for guiding practices within a family as well as with staff members, grantees, and community partners. They are also the principles that will enable you to chart your direction even in times of extreme uncertainty.

Putting these principles into practice means grounding yourself in the *why* of your philanthropy and the values that drive you. It means stating those values clearly and aligning your efforts with those values. It means examining how you adapted to unexpected complexities in the past and the lessons you wish to carry forward. Most crucially, it means listening to what your community and grantees need today and what long-term support they may need.

We know this isn't easy, but we also know that there are a few fundamental things you can do:

Act: Continue to fund the issues and organizations that matter to you. Proactively reach out to your grantee partners to hear from them what they need most, including support that goes beyond funding such as sharing the strength of your networks.

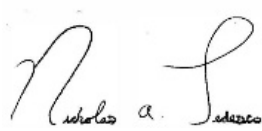
Connect: Draw upon the expertise of your peers. The family philanthropy network is a community of funders who are generous with their time and willingness to share insights and resources. We will

continue to highlight their experiences, and to provide opportunities to connect our members to each other in our programming and through personal introductions.

Learn: Look to the experts. Our colleagues in the field, especially those who have expertise in the policy and legal implications of the new orders and polices, are also here to help. [Independent Sector](#), [National Council of Nonprofits](#), [United Philanthropy Forum](#), and others are tracking the latest developments and providing interpretations of what they mean for you, your grantees, and your communities.

As always, we are here to support you, your families, and your staff members as you navigate the challenges you may face. As the philanthropic landscape shifts, we will continue to source and share resources and guidance on effective practices and encourage you to reach out with questions and to share your own experiences. We remain grateful for your tireless commitment to making the world a better place.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nicholas A. Tedesco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Nicholas A. Tedesco

President & CEO

National Center for Family Philanthropy