

CASE STUDY

MICHIGAN HEALTH ENDOWMENT FUND ACHIEVES MISSION WITH MORE EFFICIENT GRANT REVIEW PROCESS

RESULTS BY THE NUMBERS



2,000

HOURS SAVED

over the life of 205 grants

2X

AS FAST

Time it takes to review a grant cut by half

1 to 2

HOURS

Time saved on each step in the grantmaking process

“We needed a single source of truth, rather than relying on spreadsheets and emails that are hard to find and inevitably get misplaced.”

— MEGAN MURPHY | GRANTS
MANAGER, MICHIGAN HEALTH
ENDOWMENT FUND



BACKGROUND

The mission of the Michigan Health Endowment Fund is to improve the health of Michigan residents and reduce the cost of healthcare with an emphasis on the health and wellness of children and seniors. The Health Fund, created from a 2013 law which requires Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan to contribute up to \$1.56 billion over 18 years, granted \$23 million in 2016.

THE CHALLENGE

Soon after the Michigan Health Endowment Fund was founded in 2014, it became clear that the foundation needed a grants management system to help increase its efficiency and effectiveness. Or as grants manager, Megan Murphy put it, “we needed a single source of truth, rather than relying on spreadsheets and emails that are hard to find and inevitably get misplaced.”

The review process was particularly painful for the foundation and reviewers alike. Before using the Fluxx reviewer portal, the Health Fund had to send reviewers PDFs of all the project proposals. Keeping track of all the reviewer comments, ratings, and back-and-forth emails soon became untenable for the foundation. A change was needed.

SOLUTION

With Fluxx, Murphy and the 10-person Health Fund team could easily navigate not only the review process but all of the complex interactions and points of collaboration that accompany each grant through the pipeline.

Any given grant may “change hands” dozens of times – from grantee to grants manager, back to the grantee, along to a reviewer, then to program staff, and finally, in some cases, to the board. Fluxx Grantmaker’s easy-to-use portal and streamlined grants management system would allow Murphy and her team can keep tabs on where a grant is at all times and know who needs to take action, and what the estimated time to payout would be. What’s more, all the relevant data associated with the grantee is easily accessible along the way.

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— MEGAN MURPHY | GRANTS MANAGER,
MICHIGAN HEALTH ENDOWMENT FUND

“Having a system to streamline our workflow and ensure that we’re hitting all the steps that we need to is extremely helpful and makes us much more efficient grantmakers,” Murphy said. “The reviewer portal especially has been wonderful.”

RESULTS

With each round of funding the Health Fund has been able to save time on its grantmaking processes and save critical business hours as the foundation learns what Fluxx is capable of and takes advantage of new features. The foundation has trimmed one to two hours off of each of their grantmaking steps, ultimately resulting in significant times savings over 650 applicants since 2015.

“Our review process specifically has improved immensely since we started using the Fluxx Reviewer Portal,” Murphy said. “We’ve cut the time spent coordinating and compiling reviewer responses by half, which has saved us countless hours of re-reading or searching for comments when responding with feedback to applicants who were declined.”

In aggregate, all of the time savings on processes has allowed the foundation’s team to spend more time on driving strategy and “greatly improve upon their own decision-making processes,” Murphy said.

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