

# Welcome to the Catalyzing Communities Learning Collaborative Fall 2024 newsletter!

Hello Everyone,

**The Learning Collaborative** is a network of coalitions, practitioners, and partners who are passionate about addressing negative child health outcomes through systems level change.

This newsletter is a way to help us stay connected and build community in this important work! In this issue, you'll **meet one of the Catalyzing Communities community partners** and **find tips, tools, and resources to elevate your grant game**. We hope you enjoy it!

Feel free to forward this newsletter to others in your community who might be interested!

~The Catalyzing Communities Team



## A SUCCESS STORY FROM THE FIELD

The Tucson Child Health Working Group, led by Activate Tucson and the University of Arizona College of Public Health explored the current Public School Tax Credit policy and system. This helped determine how to make the policy and system more equitable for schools in need of additional support for programs that address healthy lifestyles and weight. A policy brief with recommendations along with an implementation guide and an evaluation were created to inform and advocate for changes that would improve the current policy and system. The team is now in conversation with local and state representatives to discuss change, and continuing to work with local tax professionals to educate their clients in order to increase donations directed to underfunded schools.



Catalyzing  
Communities  
A ChildObesity180 Initiative

**Tufts**  
UNIVERSITY

Gerald J. and Dorothy R.  
Friedman School of  
Nutrition Science and Policy

# Tips and Tools

Is it time to write a grant proposal for your organization or coalition? Consider these 5 tips from professional grant writing consultant, Carolyn Owens:



1. **Follow the directions carefully** - answer questions in the same order, use the same headings, definitions and buzzwords, make sure you do not exceed page limits, follow formatting, etc.
2. **Make clear links** between the grant/funder priorities and how your program supports it
3. Can a layperson understand what you are saying? **Don't assume reviewers are experts**
4. **Less is usually more**, be succinct in all narrative
5. Make sure reviewers can quickly and easily **understand WHO you are, WHAT you do, WHERE you are, and HOW and HOW MANY** are served/impacted

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As you're thinking about applying for grants, we've got a great new tool for your "toolbox"! The Grants Decision Matrix tool gives you a place to think about key elements within the core components of decision making: Organizational Level, Financial, and Programmatic. The grid layout aims to support your decision making when assessing your organization's readiness in applying for a grant. Thanks to Jess Wood, Senior Director of Institutional Giving at the Chicago YMCA, for sharing her innovative tool with us! Access the tool **HERE**.



# Resources

- **Forefront** is a Chicago-based association that offers a diverse array of services designed to address the complex needs of nonprofit and grantmaker organizations. Services include peer skill share, financial consulting, assessment and planning tools, and more.
- **Bridgespan** is a global nonprofit committed to helping social change leaders find solutions to socio-economic barriers that perpetuate inequities. Their services include strategy consulting and advising, sourcing and diligence, and leadership team support.
- **The Grantsmanship Center** is a philanthropic partnership that helps nonprofits by helping organizations plan programs, write logical, compelling grant proposals, secure and manage grants, and create earned income opportunities.

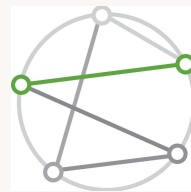
If you have resources and/ or tools you would like to share for us to include in our next newsletter, please email us at [CatalyzingCommunities@tufts.com](mailto:CatalyzingCommunities@tufts.com)

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## Keynote Speaker Coming this Fall!

To receive updates about our keynote speaker events, email us at [CatalyzingCommunities@tufts.com](mailto:CatalyzingCommunities@tufts.com)



**Catalyzing  
Communities**  
A ChildObesity180 Initiative

Catalyzing Communities is a research initiative, at Tufts University, aimed at helping communities across the U.S. identify, implement, and sustain evidence-based strategies to equitably promote child health and reduce disparities.

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