



Building a Shared Data Future for Philanthropy

About PDC

The Philanthropy Data Commons (PDC) is a sector-wide initiative that connects the systems, organizations, and data that philanthropy runs on. It provides a shared infrastructure that allows funders, nonprofits, and the ecosystem partners they already use to share information on their own terms.

At its core, the PDC provides:

- An interoperable data model so information about organizations, grants, and funding flows can be understood across different systems.
- A consent-based framework that lets organizations share their data securely, only with the parties they choose and for the purposes they approve.
- Shared feedback mechanisms so the infrastructure serves the field rather than any single platform or vendor.

The PDC isn't a new platform to adopt. It's the connective layer that makes the tools you already use work together.

“The Philanthropy Data Commons will change how we all work and provide more equitable access to resources and data, lessen the power imbalance in philanthropy, reduce administrative burdens, and enhance data sharing.”

- John Palfrey, President, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Why this matters

Philanthropy generates an enormous amount of data about organizations, funding flows, and community needs. Yet much of that data remains siloed across systems, funders, and formats.

This creates real challenges:

- Nonprofits are asked to enter the same information again and again
- Funders make decisions without a full picture of where resources are going
- Coordination across organizations takes more time and effort than it should

The PDC is building toward a future where this work becomes simpler, more connected, and more transparent.

When data cannot move, resources cannot move as effectively, and important needs can go unmet.

Better Decisions. Faster Funding. Less Duplication.

Exchange is the PDC's first live application - a web-based tool designed to support more informed and coordinated funding decisions. Through Exchange:

- Funders can explore standardized grant proposal data by issue area, geography, or population served
- Identify potential co-funding opportunities
- Coordinate responses to emerging needs outside of formal grant cycles

At the same time, nonprofits gain visibility to aligned funders year-round - not just when a funding opportunity is open. The result is simple: both funders and nonprofits can move faster, with better information and less duplication.

Join Us

The PDC is building shared infrastructure for the philanthropic sector - and its value grows as more organizations participate. There are meaningful ways to engage:

Funders

Whether you are ready to share grants data, explore coordinated funding through Exchange, or support this work through grant funding, there is a role for you.

Participation can help:

- Reduce burden on your applicants
- Increase visibility for your grantees
- Identify aligned funders and opportunities for collaboration

Ecosystem Partners

For data platforms and infomediaries who are building tools for the philanthropic sector, you do not have to solve the data infrastructure challenge alone. The PDC provides a shared foundation so you can:

- Integrate with a broader ecosystem
- Deliver more value to your users
- Build on infrastructure designed for the sector as a whole

Nonprofits

For Nonprofits and Changemakers, the PDC is designed to reduce repetitive work and increase visibility.

By participating, you can:

- Share your information once and reuse it across funders
- Connect with funders aligned to your work
- Spend less time on paperwork and more time on your mission



Learn More



philanthropydatacommons.org



info@philanthropydatacommons.org

Last Updated Apr22.2026