



# How **Modern Grantmaking** helped the Civic Power Fund: a Case Study

## The goals

[Civic Power Fund](#) (CPF) is a new fund for grassroots community organising. It provides targeted long-term funding in key geographies across the UK. CPF's Executive Director Martha Mackenzie was keen to analyse its early approach to grantmaking so that it could make improvements for both grantseekers and grantmakers, prior to any new funding programmes being developed.

## Our approach

We worked with Martha to enable the team to review the organisation's grantmaking process to identify any strengths, weaknesses and gaps. This process yielded a prioritised list of improvement actions, as well as clear owners for those actions. Following on from this initial review we then worked with the CPF team over several months to progress some of these key actions, specifically relating to data and learning.

We also provided a number of one-to-one coaching sessions for the Executive Director of CPF to support her to explore key strategic choices.

We worked with CPF to co-design an interactive grantmaking process review workshop that would give all team members the opportunity to analyse the fund's grantmaking approach, end-to-end. During this workshop, team members identified strengths in the current process that should be retained in future grantmaking as well as weaknesses and gaps that should be addressed. This workshop resulted in CPF agreeing a new action plan that included a realistic number of practical improvements that a small team could make within a twelve-month period.



After the grantmaking process review workshop, we continued to support CPF to progress two particular actions, 1.) to enable CPF to articulate a solid first version of its internal and external needs that may relate to or require the collection of data, and 2.) to design and deliver a learning session to explore what worked well or didn't work well with The Community Action Fund so that this learning could be incorporated into the development of new funding initiatives.

To support progress in relation to CPF understanding and being in a position to articulate its data needs, we developed and facilitated a bespoke data needs analysis session. This session resulted in a written document that clearly detailed CPF's data needs.

### **The impact**

*"We were so grateful to work with Modern Grantmaking. Their guidance and support helped us strengthen and streamline our grantmaking processes and narrow down a clear and actionable list of priorities.*

*What we appreciated most was the robust grantmaking knowledge and skills that Gemma and Tom brought, whilst also helping us stay true to our values and centre the communities we serve. We were so grateful for Modern Grantmaking's combination of deep knowledge and sensitivity to our cause and approach.*

*Following our work with Gemma and Tom we were able to secure a grant for a new grantmaking system rooted in our values. We'll be delivering this in partnership with an aligned intermediary.*

*We also published detailed learning around our experience of our first open and participatory grantmaking round. This has not only given us a clear framework for what we will do next, it has started to influence other funders around how to do this work in a way that is rooted in grassroots communities.*

*Thank you Gemma and Tom!"*

**Martha Mackenzie, Executive Director, Civic Power Fund**