Community Change
Power in Places

2021-2023 Learning and Evaluation Project
The Community Change Power in Places (PiP) learning and evaluation project is a joint project of Community Change and Innovation Network to document, tell the story, and demonstrate the value of base-building.

**Purpose of the learning project**

- To support PiP organizations and Community Change to **deepen organizing practice** and grow the field.
- To provide PiP organizations with **spaces to have real conversations** about organizing.
- To **document and tell the story** of how organizing helps organizations to expand their bases and build power.
- To **demonstrate the value** of Power in Places and community organizing to the rest of Community Change, funders, other intermediaries, and evaluators. Black, Brown, and immigrant power and base building must be a priority.
- To continue **building and nurturing the relationships** between Innonet, Community Change, and the PiP organizations.

**Principles guiding this learning project**

- The **PiP organizations are at the center** of this project. This project will be grounded in and responsive to their work, experiences, interests, and priorities.
- This is about community organizing and everything that comes with that. We are **ground-truthing organizing practice** and getting at the “big experience” and “real truth” of organizing.
- Strong **relationships** between Community Change, Innovation Network, and the PiP organizations are the key to the success of this work.
- The evaluation process should be **energizing, useful, and not burdensome** to the partners.
- Innovation Network and Community Change will be **open and vulnerable** in our learning and remain **nimble** to respond to changing learning needs and interests.
Learning Questions & Approaches

1. What are the practices and conditions that enable the PiP organizations to sustain, grow, and strengthen their bases?
2. How can Community Change best support PiP organizations to sustain, grow, and strengthen their bases?
3. What is the relationship between base building and state and local governing power?

**APPROACH 1**
Advisory committee of 6-8 partners

**APPROACH 2**
Annual survey

**APPROACH 3**
Stories of practice

**APPROACH 4**
Organizer co-operative calls

**APPROACH 5**
Power building metrics and indicators research project

- July to Dec 2021
- Jan 2022 to June 2023
Advisory Committee for the Power in Places Learning Project

Help co-create a learning project that is useful, generative, and not burdensome.

Description

What is the advisory committee?
The goal of the Power in Places (PiP) learning project is to document and tell the story of the base-building practices of the organizations in the Community Change PiP cohort. The advisory committee of 6-8 representatives from PiP organizations will work with Innovation Network to co-create concept definitions and data collection tools that will allow us to gather information and learnings about the base-building practices of the cohort. The advisory committee will play a critical role in grounding the learning project in the experiences, wisdom, and needs of the community organizing groups in the PiP cohort. The advisory committee will explore questions like:

• What is base-building?
• What are the spectrum of base-building practices?
• How can we understand and track the progress and success of base-building?

Who can join the advisory committee?
We are looking for staff at PiP cohort organizations who have the energy and interest to shape the Power in Places learning project. No evaluation experience is needed. For this project to be successful, we need to bring together Innovation Network’s expertise in evaluation with your expertise and experience in organizing and base building.

Logistics

What is the time commitment?
Advisory committee members will engage in three sessions/workshops with Innovation Network between September-November 2021. Estimated time commitment is 12 hours (about 4 hours per month), including:

• 1 hour to respond to scheduling requests
• 2 hours for meetings prep
• 6 hours for reflection meetings (2 hours/meeting for 3 meetings)
• 3 hours to review and provide input on definitions, concepts, and tools

How will committee members be compensated?
Advisory committee members will receive a $3,000 stipend paid to your organization.

Interested in joining? Need more information?
If you are interested in joining the advisory committee, let your Community Change staff contact know or send an email to Virginia at vroncaglione@innonet.org.