



THE LENS

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Equity in Focus

The Lens is a new offering from MCF that allows its donors to add an increased level of intention to their philanthropy by using an equity framework. This framework can be focused on race, on gender, and more.

The Lens provides a deeper way to examine nonprofit organizations. Using an explicit equity overlay it can assess programs, policies, organizational cultures, leadership roles and more, to uncover disparities and outcomes for defined populations. Understanding this will help donors view challenges - and solutions - with added focus, and structure their giving in a different way.

The Lens can be applied to a current giving strategy, or used to explore new opportunities to create systemic advancements in equity via philanthropy.

If you have clients that might be interested in exploring an equity-centric approach to their giving, connect with MCF to learn more.

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It has 3 pillars, providing donors with the opportunity to engage through giving, investing, and connecting.



GIVING

The Lens provides a deeper way to examine nonprofit organizations. Using an explicit equity overlay it can assess programs, policies, organizational cultures, leadership roles and more, to uncover disparities and outcomes for specific populations. Understanding this will help donors view the challenges - and the solutions - with added focus, and craft giving strategies in a different way.



INVESTING

Through MCF's Venture Impact Program (VIP), donors can invest in private mission-driven businesses, impact funds, and nonprofit organizations to provide specific populations - such as women, or people of color - with access to capital, entrepreneurial support, and the ability to build products and services which have a positive impact. Anywhere in the world.



CONNECTING

MCF will continuously curate learning opportunities, provide access to equity-focused conferences, and develop partnerships with organizations that offer regular gatherings and opportunities to connect.

Applying a Race Equity Lens to Your Giving

The race equity lens acknowledges that there are historically underserved and underrepresented populations and that fairness and equity are needed to guide the provision of opportunities for all groups. Its purpose is to provide donors with the ability to look critically at the organizations they seek to support, via a framework of suggestions and questions to help assess how organizations operate and who they are led by, understand who the nonprofits serve and, most importantly, assess the impacts of programs they implement, using race equity as a guide.

In so doing, donors will be able look at a problem more clearly so that new solutions become visible, have a sharper focus on outcomes and uncover patterns of inequity.

A race equity lens can also be combined with other lenses, to illuminate the intersectionality of race, class, gender, sexual orientation and physical ability.

Applying a Gender Equity Lens to Your Giving

The gender equity lens acknowledges that historical and cultural gender norms – pervasive attitudes, conceptions and behaviors about gender – have fueled inequitable outcomes for women and girls.

Gender equity ensures equal access to resources, power, opportunities and positive outcomes for women, girls and gender-nonconforming individuals. Gender equity looks to examine the root causes for gender biases and norms that lead to discrimination, oppression and violence and to prioritize the experiences and needs of women and girls.

With the gender equity lens framework, donors can learn more about an organization to understand how it serves and benefits women and girls, with a goal of more equitable outcomes for the population.