



Cora Foundation



Client Case Study

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About The Cora Foundation

The Cora Foundation is a private family foundation established in 1997. The foundation has no paid staff. Day to day management is handled by the founder with other family members.

The Cora Foundation typically receives about 100 grant applications a year and many more inquiries. The foundation accepts unsolicited grant requests through a documented application process, but does focus its grants by geography and program area.

The foundation typically awards about 15 grants per year, each in the \$10,000-\$20,000 range, with an annual payout of approximately \$200,000. To date the Cora Foundation has awarded grants in excess of \$3 million.

Previous Grant Process

In the early days of the foundation, all grant requests were submitted via hardcopy paper packets. Although we provided a detailed application form, the inconsistent format of grant applications made it difficult to extract the information we wanted to see in order to make our grant decisions and a significant amount of time was wasted during the review process. With hardcopy applications, people send lots of additional information (brochures, videos, newspaper articles, etc.) that, although interesting, are not relevant to our grant decision. The amount of paper received was staggering and overwhelming: 4 to 5 feet worth of paper a year, which had to be copied and sent to each board member for review. The foundation was purchasing a new two-drawer filing cabinet every year just to store the paper!

Foundant GLM Implementation

The Cora Foundation implemented Grant Lifecycle Manager (GLM) to help automate the very manual and paper intensive grant application, evaluation, and management process. Deployment involved taking the existing process and forms used by the Cora Foundation and generating their electronic equivalents. This included LOIs, our complete grant application, and detailed evaluation scorecards for individual evaluators as well as a summary scorecard of each evaluators' rankings. As the applications were discussed we were able to keep detailed record of grantees and decisions made. We were also able to make our end-of-year reporting quick and easy with standard reports such as grants awarded, grants denied, and total grant dollars paid.

Why Foundant?

Foundant's Grant Lifecycle Manager (GLM) has eliminated almost all of the tedious inefficiencies associated with managing our foundation. By eliminating wasteful processes, I can now perform more follow-up with grantees, without significantly increasing my time commitment to support the foundation. This will help us make better grant awards and make it easier for us to research our grant giving history, allowing us to identify areas we may want to emphasize or de-emphasize in our future giving. Working through the Cora Foundation to help grantee organizations be more effective in serving their clients is one of the most rewarding activities my family and I participate in, and it's now more enjoyable than ever.

Advantages of GLM

- Eliminated almost all paper, saving about \$500 per year in related costs
- Reduced grant application management time by 70%
- The volunteer executive director saves an estimated 10 days of work per year
- Time to review grant applications was reduced by about 50% for all evaluators
- Board meeting time reduced by 25%