

Starting a Peer Network – Planning Conversation Guide

We're excited that you are interested in starting a peer network! MCF loves supporting peer learning and stronger connections in the field.

To help determine if a peer network is the right vehicle for your interests, please start thinking through the following questions and initiate a conversation with MCF:

- **Who is the target audience for this proposed peer network?**

- **People in this proposed peer network would (choose one):**
 - All work at the same foundation type
 - All have similar job responsibilities
 - All have a shared social identity
 - None of the above

Note: Issue-focused groups do not fit as peer networks in MCF's Collaborative Philanthropy model. Issue-focused groups could be working groups, collaborations or affiliated networks.

- **What is the purpose(s) of this proposed network?**

- **What topics or agenda items would be of interest to this proposed network?**

- **Which members are asking to pilot this potential peer network?** Interest must be expressed from 5+ different member foundations for MCF to consider a pilot. Please list names and organizations below.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.

If a peer network seems like the best fit based on a discussion of the above questions, MCF will explore the following questions before making a commitment to pilot the network.

- Can MCF identify 10+ additional people in its membership that would likely be interested in this proposed peer network?
- Does MCF have the staff capacity to support a new peer network?
- Is this a unique need or interest that doesn't fit within an already existing group on MCF's collaborative philanthropy spectrum?

If MCF can answer 'yes' to the above questions, it will organize a pilot meeting. If the audience and interest is sustained after three successful pilot meetings, MCF will formalize the peer network.

