

Grantee and Applicant Perception Survey

Schumann Fund for New Jersey

Final Report
August 2022

Executive Summary

Overview of the Survey Process and Who Responded

We asked survey respondents 21 multiple choice questions on a scale of one to five, one meaning they strongly disagreed with the statement, and five meaning they strongly agreed with the statement. We also asked survey respondents to respond to eight open-ended questions.

The Schumann Fund for New Jersey distributed the survey to 65 grantees and received a 49% response rate (32 respondents).

Analysis of the Multiple-Choice Questions

Summary of Strengths

- How committed is the Schumann Fund to racial equity? We define racial equity as, "The systematic fair treatment of people of all races that results in equitable opportunities and outcomes for everyone." Average score: 4.72
- The Schumann Fund demonstrates collaboration with other funders. Average score: 4.69
- Interactions with the Schumann Fund during the grant application process were helpful. Average score: 4.65
- Interactions with the Schumann Fund during the grant application process were professional. Average score: 4.62

Areas for Improvement

- The Schumann Fund's website and online materials are clear and easy to navigate. Average score: 3.96
- The Schumann Fund's decision-making process appears fair and appropriately transparent. Average score: 4.27
- The Schumann Fund demonstrates collaboration with grantees. Average score: 4.27

Key Themes and Learnings from the Open-Ended Responses

During the open-ended question portion of the survey, grantees named many qualities they value about the Schumann Fund including:

- The Fund is a leader in its community and funding areas
- The Fund shows a genuine interest in providing support to those in need
- The Fund stays well-informed, sharing links to resources that enhance grantee work
- The Fund supports racial equity work

Topics for Discussion and Action

Disaggregating the multiple-choice data by the type of grant, primary focus area, and primary strategy illuminated some initial topics for discussion.

- Does the Schumann Fund **communicate its goals, strategies, and funding areas** as clearly and consistently as possible?
- Are there ways the Schumann Fund could **reduce the amount of effort required to complete the grant application** process or increase the size of grants?
- Can the Schumann Fund **make the application process clearer**?

- Are there opportunities to **make the Schumann Fund’s online materials clearer?**

Grantees also offered a lot of feedback while answering the survey’s open-ended questions. The Schumann Fund’s board and staff would benefit from taking the time to discuss these topics and ideas:

- Defining the Fund’s current and future priorities, and creating space for an open dialogue with new leadership
- Bringing together grantees more formally to encourage cross grantee learning and collaboration
- Simplifying the application and reporting processes
- Communicating more regularly and publicly uplifting grantee work
- Considering multi-year grants, general operating support, and pooled/increased funding
- Offering more training, convening and community engagement around diversity, equity and inclusion
- Supporting parent engagement, community organizing, and policy advocacy

Conclusion

After analyzing the quantitative and qualitative data collected in the Grantee and Applicant Perception Survey, it is clear that the Schumann Fund for New Jersey has strong relationships with its grantees. While the Schumann Fund received mostly positive marks from its grantees, there are still opportunities for improvement.

The Schumann Fund for New Jersey can build on this positive feedback and input by continuing to listen to grantees and integrating their feedback into your work. Listening to grantees in as many ways as possible, through future convenings, grantee reports, informal conversations, reading and research, or structured opportunities like this, provides valuable insights and opportunities to learn.