

## Readiness Questions

	Questions to ask
<b>Mandate and Values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does an expanded role in poverty fit with our mandate?</li> <li>• Are the values of our community foundation compatible with this strengthening of poverty emphasis?</li> </ul>
<b>Knowledge and Expertise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do we have the knowledge about poverty that we need?</li> <li>• Do we have the knowledge we need about community change or collective action?</li> <li>• Are we willing to engage in learning and commit to continuous learning at the board and staff levels?</li> <li>• Do we have the skills and expertise we need for a new kind of activity - for example convening or evaluation?</li> </ul>
<b>Financial and Other Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What resources (e.g. time, money, materials, space, equipment) will be required? Are they available or can we get them?</li> <li>• What human resources (staff, volunteers, community stakeholders) are available?</li> <li>• How much time will it take for our staff/volunteers, and will that time compromise other activities of the organization? If so, how can we address that issue?</li> </ul>
<b>Community Partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who are the groups that have credibility in poverty work?</li> <li>• Who are the other important stakeholders?</li> <li>• Does the community foundation have the ability to bring them all to the table together?</li> <li>• Does the foundation have the credibility and respect to bridge differences between the various groups?</li> <li>• How will we include the voice of people living with poverty?</li> </ul>
<b>Profile in the Community and Risk</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are we well-enough known to bring this issue to the forefront in the community?</li> <li>• Is our reputation strong enough to weather controversy?</li> <li>• Is there a reason not to be doing this?</li> <li>• If there is risk involved, to our reputation or to the success of our initiative, is the Board and staff willing to accept that risk?</li> </ul>
<b>Leadership and Timing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does our current leadership have the background, knowledge, and skills necessary to lead this kind of initiative effectively?</li> <li>• Do we anticipate changes in leadership soon, and if so, are successors ready, able and willing to follow this through?</li> <li>• Is the timing right in the community and for the foundation?</li> <li>• Do we need to go "full-throttle" on this? Or are there ways we can experiment or pilot this initiative?</li> </ul>