

Building Economic Development Philanthropy

The seminar helped me to think about Economic Development more broadly and to consider the role our Foundation can play. We were fortunate to have three foundations serving our area in attendance, so we were able to join forces, discuss, and plan around a shared issue of concern – how the availability (or lack thereof) of childcare affects the ability of individuals in our region to participate in the workforce. Two major childcare facilities both closed abruptly in recent months in Wood County, and several of the foundations present have been working to explore opening a new facility. Our time together at the seminar gave us the opportunity to think beyond that immediate need, however, and together we committed to looking more broadly at the landscape of childcare services and unmet needs. This will be a great opportunity for several foundations to partner and dig deeper on a critical issue affecting our region.



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