

## Miriam L. Shark

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### Bio Sketch

Miriam Shark is an independent consultant working from Portland, Maine to help organizations clarify and achieve their visions of excellence. She helps them assess and align their strategies to make the biggest contributions they can, individually and in partnership with others. She helps organizations effectively position themselves, their issues and their work in ways that increase impact, expand influence and build financial support. In so doing, she draws deeply on her knowledge, experience and relationships across the philanthropic and nonprofit sectors. Clients and partners note the acute ear, insightful analysis, freshness and humor she brings to the work.

Her clients reflect her deep roots in philanthropy and her growing connections to Maine and Northern New England. Representative of these are the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the John. T. Gorman Foundation, the High Meadows Fund, the Maine Philanthropy Center and the Downeast Fisheries Partnership. Miriam currently serves on the boards of Health Care Without Harm, Coastal Enterprises, Inc. and Coastal Ventures, Inc.

### Experience

Over a twenty-five-year career at the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Miriam assumed wide-ranging management and programmatic responsibilities across issue areas of family, community and opportunity. She also functioned as an internal consultant to help programs achieve greater impact and was deployed to support mission-critical external organizations in reaching, engaging and mobilizing target audiences. She conducted scans and analyses to advise leadership on strategic opportunities, risk mitigation and problem resolution. She used the full gamut of philanthropic tools to achieve results, including messaging and communications, peer learning, capacity building, collaboration, scaling, systems change, impact investing and grantmaking. Often, her work involved new frontiers for Casey. Among these were the creation of the Rural Family Economic Success (RuFES) portfolio and the launch of Casey's two-generation approach to reducing poverty. Her most recent work at Casey was to lead the Philanthropy portfolio, helping staff design investment strategies and build productive partnerships with other funders and philanthropic networks. She also provided communications, messaging and speechmaking support to the President and CEO and continues to do so as a consultant.

Prior to joining the Casey Foundation, Miriam was a Director at the Massachusetts Rate Setting Commission where she oversaw health finance. Prior to that, she directed the Child Outpatient Department at Washington County Human Services, a mental health center in Oakdale, Minnesota.

### Publications and Presentations

Miriam is an accomplished public speaker across a variety of topics in large venues and small groups and has written and published on philanthropy and social change. Most recently, she co-authored *A Community Based Alternative to the Youth Prison Model* which was published in October 2016 by the United States Department of Justice and the Harvard Kennedy School.

### Education

Miriam has an A.B. from Washington University in St. Louis, an M.S. and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from St. Louis University and an M.P.A. from Harvard University.