

By Benefiting Funders, SERN Made a Difference for the Field



Benefit to Funders of Investing in SERN



Connection to Impact in the Field

Exposure to fields is constrained by how they and their advisors are situated

SERN deepened and accelerated funders' learning about the field in ways that made them savvier, more equitable investors and better partners to grantees

Effective, equitable resourcing is required to accomplish field-level priorities

Networks are often limited; it can be hard to distill and prioritize funding targets

SERN facilitated funders' exposure to a large, diverse range of actors doing high-quality work; engagement and connections between funders and field actors became more productive

A connected, diverse group of actors working across multiple sectors is needed to advance equitable systems change

Limited resources relative to the scale of population-level problems

SERN recruited a larger pool of resources to invest strategically on a priority issue for funders

A broader pool of funding increases the impact of funders' investments and the potential of the field

Perspectives on field needs and strategy lack the expertise of those working in the field

Through its relationships, SERN assessed systemic barriers and identified needed investments and opportunities to advance the overall field and fill gaps in funders' portfolios

More practical, timely investments lead to greater likelihood of progress toward impact goals

Field actors' experience with funders is not equitably distributed

SERN enhanced the capacity of other actors in the field to engage across silos, including those who would go on to partner with funders

Improved effectiveness and financial well-being of grantees is a precondition for achieving population-level impact

Desire to be more effective, equitable investors

SERN modeled practices that funders could adopt to recruit a more diverse pool of grantees and more effectively support collective learning and impact

Equitable systems change requires field-level learning, coordination, and resourcing work by those closest to the problem