

Description of Services and Supports

Service or Support	With Community	With Nonprofits & Foundations
<p>Bring together stakeholders</p> 	<p>Community Engagement</p> <p>TSG uses different strategies to engage community members in important dialogue and planning efforts to improve conditions in communities. Strategies such as network weaving can be used to bring together residents and organizations in productive and ongoing work to solve pressing community problems.</p>	<p>Facilitation and Convening</p> <p>TSG senior consultants are skilled facilitators, meeting planners, and conveners. Whether the planned event requires careful adherence to a script, or must accomplish a specific set of objectives, or is a causal community dialogue, staff bring exceptional attention to detail and a successful opportunity to engage with stakeholders.</p>
<p>Become more strategic</p> 	<p>Theory of Change – Strategic Thinking</p> <p>TSG leaders are proficient in helping communities develop project plans and strategic approaches using Theory of Change and Logic Models. We have facilitated the process used to develop both for many organizations and community initiatives. The process results in a Theory of Change and action plan for your community change effort.</p>	<p>Theory of Change – Strategic Thinking</p> <p>After or during strategic planning, TSG has experience helping foundations and nonprofits take new or existing strategic plans and facilitate the development of new or revised Theories of Change. Have a new investment and need a way to articulate the theory behind it – Theory of Change works well.</p>
<p>Create an outcome measurement framework and Learning System</p> 	<p>Outcomes Measurement Framework</p> <p>Going after a grant or want to be more successful getting funding; or, want to be able to describe your outcomes and how you will measure them, collect data, and summarize the findings – an outcome measurement framework is needed. MSG has Ph.D. trained research and evaluation staff able to facilitate the process, build data collection tools, and analyze results.</p>	<p>Measurement System Design</p> <p>TSG consultants are research and evaluation leaders and have designed measurement systems, executed multi-site, evaluations, and crafted evaluation frameworks and foundation learning systems. MSG staff can conduct turn-key evaluations of programs, portfolios, single grants, multi-year initiatives, and large system-wide change efforts.</p>
<p>New Approaches to Leadership</p>	<p>Community Leadership Roles</p> <p>Leading a community change effort with multiple organizations and volunteers is very different from being a leader in an organization. Roles and relationships differ. Understanding how to help senior leaders lead differently and how to grow emerging leaders with a network mindset is the focus of our coaching and support.</p>	<p>Good to Great Nonprofit Leaders</p> <p>Expanding the capacity and influence of good nonprofit leaders to have an outsized impact via advocacy and public policy as well as by adopting a system lens to create new community-led solutions to pressing social, health, economic, and educational problems. New models of leadership unleash the potential of leaders</p>

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<p>Assessments of Inequitable Conditions, Inclusion, Bias and Cultural Competence</p> 	<p>Assessment of Social and Racial Justice Issue(s)</p> <p>TSG is an organization committed to social justice and equity for all people. Toward that end TSG and our partners assist communities and organizations to identify and address unintentional or implicit sources of bias, inequities in practice and policy, and barriers that create the unequal access of vulnerable populations to all the resources and opportunities communities offer.</p> <p>Using community research methods such as focus groups, key informant interviews, policy analysis, census reports, and community surveys, TSG consultants and partners provide a detailed description of community neighborhoods, vulnerable populations, common experienced barriers and inequitable conditions.</p>	<p>Equity Action Planning and Assessment</p> <p>TSG and our partners have worked with foundations and nonprofits interested in beginning or adapting their current strategy to be more equity-focused. For example, a member of our team led the Aspen Institute’s Roundtable on Community Change’s Racial Equity Leadership Development Project and co-directed the Institute’s project on structural racism. She also led a large community-based effort to build the capacity of nonprofits to understand and implement strategies addressing racial inequities. Another team member guided a health foundation to become more equity-focused and create an intentional theory of change to make health equity the top-line goal of the Foundation. Another has worked with hundreds of nonprofits and several foundations to bring an intentional strategic focus and orientation to organizations serving vulnerable youth populations.</p>
<p>Strengthen organizational and community capacity</p> <p>network weaver</p>  <p>Community Innovation Network Framework</p>	<p>Community Capacity Building and Engagement</p> <p>TSG works with your group or community to build and support a community culture of collaborative work. This is a central focus for community capacity building around which the necessary conditions can exist for successful and sustained community change. Using different community engagement strategies, supporting leaders to take on new roles, and expanding the network of passionate volunteers and organizations TSG builds the skills and tactics to effectively make changes to improve your community.</p>	<p>Community and Organizational Capacity Building</p> <p>Whether the focus is on a community, a portfolio or grantees, or a single organization, TSG consultants have deep experience in conducting or facilitating capacity building assessments to target resources and supports designed to strengthen the effectiveness of nonprofits and coalitions. TSG consultants are working with The Deaconess Foundation in St. Louis to build multi-year capacity building plans for two prominent advocacy/policy nonprofits in Missouri and Illinois.</p>

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<p>Planning and Executing a Rural Community Improvement Initiative</p> 	<p>Rural Community Engagement</p> <p>For rural communities to have a sustainable future, they need to find innovative approaches to engaging residents, leveraging civic resources, and attracting investors and businesses. The TSG team has had success in helping rural communities improve the quality of life, attract new investments, become healthier places to live, and create the network of resources and supports needed to sustain a new vision for rural life. Members of the TSG team recently completed a multi-county 5-year capacity building initiative to help communities increase access to health care and healthy lifestyles. One of these counties recently received the prestigious RWJF Culture of Health prize.</p>	<p>Rural Community Engagement</p> <p>For rural communities to have a sustainable future, they need to find innovative approaches to engaging residents, leveraging civic resources, and attracting investors and businesses. The TSG team has had success in helping rural communities improve the quality of life, attract new investments, become healthier places to live, and create the network of resources and supports needed to sustain a new vision for rural life. TSG is currently working with the St. David's Foundation in Austin, TX to plan a significant new health investment in multiple rural counties in their service area.</p>
<p>Starting and Expanding Your Community Change Network</p>  <p>network weaver</p>	<p>Intentional Social Change Networks</p> <p>Models such as the <i>Community Innovation Network Framework</i>, developed by TSG consultants, for building community capacity and engaging community to solve problems, identify innovations and solutions to pressing issues can be adapted to your community. A range of supports are available to facilitate and advance your community work. From turn-key full-service project design, management, and execution to single learning opportunities for your staff and volunteers delivered on-site or via webinar-based training and coaching are available on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Network Weaving • What is a network and how is it different than a collaborative or coalition? • What is network mapping and how can it help your initiative? • Redefining the role of the backbone for networks • How leadership looks different in a network approach • The four roles of network leaders and how leadership teams need to operate in a Community Network • How to stimulate innovation and community engagement? • Creating an effective communications eco-system • Self-Organized Workgroups – where the real action happens! How workgroups are different than typical committees in a local initiative or project <p>A wide variety of other training topics and learning modules are available. Please contact us if you wish to learn more about networks.</p>	