

Determine Your Readiness

What is it?

A first step for any foundation looking to increase their local impact, **Determine Your Readiness** helps foundations assess their focus areas, assets, grants and governance to identify and strategize next steps for moving towards local impact investing. The assessment process marries the review with board and staff engagement to develop personalized local investment scenarios to both earn the foundation a financial return and achieve greater impact. At the culmination of the process, LOCUS presents the results via webinar and makes available matched experts to answer foundation questions about moving forward.



What value does it provide?

The Determine Your Readiness process is **designed to help foundations take the best next step towards local investing**. The tool combines LOCUS's deep experience working with place-focused foundations across the United States with our CDFI-bank technical know-how to offer expert guidance tailored to the unique circumstances and priorities of the foundation. Once completed, the foundation will have a menu of paths for pursuing local investing as well as a list of suggested strategies for moving down each path.

When is Determine Your Readiness the right solution?

Determine Your Readiness is **perfect for place-focused foundations with a desire to do more, a curiosity to explore new tools, and a willingness to rethink traditional grantmaking**. For most foundations new to local investing, this will be an ideal place to start. Through interviews, the process engages both board and staff in discussions about priorities. It also helps identify easy-to-implement local investment strategies that will build the foundation's skill, confidence and ability to use local investing as a strategy to achieve community impact.

How has it been used most effectively?

Undertaking local investing is a complex process that requires a foundation's program, finance and development teams to be on the same page. Determine Your Readiness helps a foundation identify early steps to take that can increase the likelihood of success. In most cases, LOCUS's Determine Your Readiness will be the most important first step for any place-focused foundation considering local impact investing.

How can I learn more about LOCUS?

To learn more about LOCUS' solutions and tools, please contact **Sydney England** at sydney@locusimpactinvesting.org or at 804.793.0985.