



# GEO 2025 Learning Conference

May 5-6, 2025

Held in Partnership with North Carolina Network of Grantmakers  
The Westin Charlotte in Charlotte, NC

GEO's 2025 Learning Conference, held in partnership with North Carolina Network of Grantmakers, is designed to expose participants to cutting-edge practices in equity-informed, community-driven grantmaking while giving them the knowledge and tools to apply learning in all aspects of their work. The conference will offer a range of perspectives and new ideas to go beyond the basics and support grantmakers in engaging in more intentional learning practices both inside and outside of their organizations.

## Reasons to Attend:

- Hear cutting-edge examples and ideas from leaders in the field about advancing equity-centered and community-driven philanthropic culture and practice
- Gain tools and resources that will help you shed processes that do not serve nonprofit partners, change your practice and advance equity-centered and community-driven philanthropy
- Meet, connect and collaborate with others in the field who you can work with to address common challenges

## Participants include:

- Program Staff / Officers
- CEOs
- Evaluation Staff
- Grants Management Staff
- Trustees / Board Members
- Communication Staff
- And more!

50% participants are first-time participants  
75-90% are GEO members

## Participate In:

- Welcome Reception / Happy Hour
- Networking Breakfasts
- Short Talks
- Plenary Sessions
- Breakout Sessions
- Spark Conversations
- Community Building Events
- Active Hours / Mindfulness Moments

"Thank you for creating such a welcoming and courageous container for this community. I am leaving feeling more connected with people who share my true North and nourished so I can keep working to get there. "

— 2023 Learning Conference Attendee

## About GEO

GEO is a community of funders committed to transforming philanthropic culture and practice by connecting members to the resources and relationships needed to support thriving nonprofits and communities.

We envision courageous grantmakers working in service of nonprofits and communities to create a just, connected and inclusive society where we can all thrive.

## Our Conference Partner

NCNG is North Carolina's only statewide forum for sharing information and promoting cooperation among North Carolina's grantmakers. We are committed to helping private foundations, corporate giving programs, donor advised fund holders, and community foundations strengthen their impact and effectiveness. We are your resource for networking, news and information on philanthropy.



## Interested in Supporting GEO's 2025 Learning Conference?

As a supporter of the GEO 2025 Learning Conference, you are helping to:

- Invest in real change for the philanthropic sector and support 500+ grantmakers on the journey to transform philanthropic practice and culture in service of thriving nonprofits and communities.
- Cultivate community through peer networking events, social events, welcome receptions and lounge spaces.
- Ensure equitable compensation for all plenary speakers, short talk speakers and other talent.
- Foster accessibility through the use of technology, interpretation, large print programs and more.
- Support participant well-being and learning through healing spaces, active hours, and off-site excursions.

### Doing sponsorship differently.

To move away from hierarchical models of philanthropy and to reflect our vision of creating an inclusive society where all can thrive, we are shifting away from a traditional sponsorship model based on tiered benefits. We know that traditional sponsorships can not only at times feel transactional but that they can also unintentionally perpetuate power imbalances relating to differences in giving amounts. We recognize that though our supporters have different giving capacities, we all share a common desire to help the sector transform philanthropic practice and culture. All gifts work toward that goal and deserve to be recognized as such.

We encourage all interested supporters to give at the level that feels most appropriate based on your organization's giving priorities, financial capacity and trust in GEO as an organization.

*All supporters will be recognized for their contributions in print and online materials including but not limited to the GEO conference webpage, on-site signage, printed program book and at key sessions throughout the event.*

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If you are interested in supporting the GEO 2025 Learning Conference, please complete the form below or send an email to Development Manager Lauren Gentry at [gentry@geofunders.org](mailto:gentry@geofunders.org).

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select a suggested giving amount from below or write in your preferred amount:

\$100,000

\$55,000

\$25,000

\$12,000

\$5,000

Giving Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Instructions

- Please check here if you would like us to send you an invoice:
- For payment by check, please make check payable to Grantmakers for Effective Organizations and mail to GEO, 1310 L Street NW, Suite 650, Washington, DC 20005
- For direct deposits, GEO banking information will be provided by request.
- If a sponsorship or grant application must be completed, please send application directly to Lauren Gentry at [gentry@geofunders.org](mailto:gentry@geofunders.org).



## Listed Questions and Answers

### **Where is the list of benefits for each sponsor level?**

To reflect our vision of creating an inclusive society where all can thrive, GEO is intentionally moving away from a sponsorship model that includes extrinsic benefits and instead focusing on the benefits your sponsorship has for our community.

This means that all sponsors will be recognized similarly with written recognition in print and online materials, including but not limited to the GEO conference webpage, on-site signage, printed program book and at key sessions throughout the event. If you have specific interests or needs that you would like to discuss as it relates to supporting the conference, please contact us directly at [gentry@geofunders.org](mailto:gentry@geofunders.org).

### **Why the change?**

We want to focus on the impact of our supporters.

Tiered sponsorship benefit models detract from the gift of support that organizations like yours make to our community. We believe that support of GEO's conference is not a transaction but rather a step toward meaningful change in the nonprofit and philanthropic sector.

### **What is community-driven fundraising exactly and how does it relate to this change?**

GEO defines "community-driven philanthropy" as an emphasis on participation, engagement and shared power in the fundraising space.

As part of our goal to create shared power in the community, we believe that it's important to eliminate any illusions of positional power based on giving amount. This means that GEO is no longer tiering its sponsor lists based on giving amount so that we better recognize that support goes far beyond monetary contribution. All conference supporters will be recognized equitably for their gifts of time, thought, and financial resources.

### **How many complimentary tickets will I receive as a supporter?**

Each supporter who makes a commitment of at least \$5,000 will receive a promotional code good for one complimentary registration as a small token of our gratitude for their support. The fair market value of the complimentary registration is equal to the regular non-member registration rate.

All supporters will also receive access to our membership pricing and earlybird registration period regardless of their current membership status.

### **Do I receive a complimentary ticket as a member of the Host Committee?**

No, Host Committee members do not receive a complimentary ticket. However, the vast majority of Host Committee organizations are also conference supporters, which means your organization will likely receive a promotional code good for one complimentary registration as a small token of our gratitude.