



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Reframing community data and technology initiatives

An opportunity for community leadership

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Community data and technology initiatives: funding for any hardware, software, or 'data work' that delivers benefit to a community group, and which that community group has the authority to **influence** or **control**.

“To develop a new volunteer management database, building inHope’s capacity to recruit, induct and manage the large numbers of volunteers needed to deliver its services”

Quartet CF funding of £8,200 to inHope

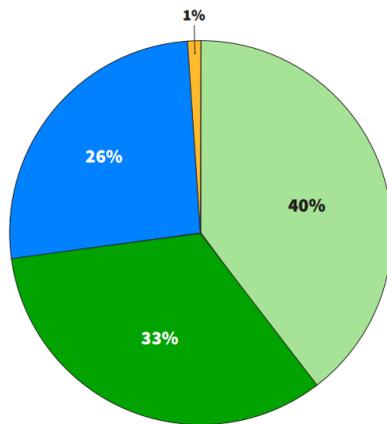
“Development and rollout of a bespoke app (Carers Community) for informal carers living in London (with potential for subsequent rollout across the UK). The remote app will enhance our existing services and facilitate 'stronger connections' with people at high risk of negative impacts of C-19”

London CF funding of £9,272 to Barnet Carers Centre

Why should we fund community data and tech?

- We know that this work is needed, but that accessing funding is a key barrier.

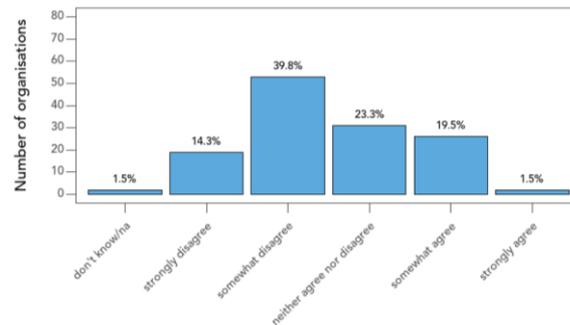
In the last year, would you say your need to access grant funding for digital costs has changed?



Charity Digital Skills Survey 2022



We have the right skills and capabilities to maximise the use of our data



Number of organisations: 133
S1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your organisation?

Why should we fund community data and tech?

- Digital independence is important: against rentierism and 'data imaginaries'



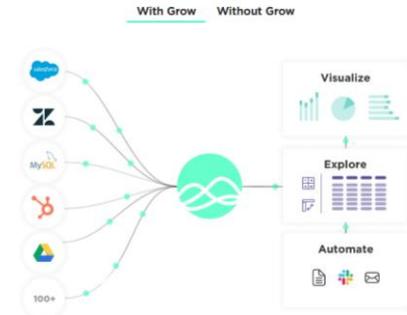
Article

Winning with AI is a state of mind

April 30, 2021 – Companies capturing lasting value from artificial intelligence think differently, from the C-suite to the front line. Here's how to make the shift from opportunistic efforts to a truly AI-enabled organization.

A single source of truth

GET EVERYONE ON THE SAME PAGE LOOKING AT THE RIGHT DATA



Why should we fund community data and tech?

- Local organisations and needs require local solutions and not (always) Big Tech

Policy paper

Government Response to Danny Kruger MP's Report: 'Levelling Up Our Communities: Proposals for a New Social Covenant'

Published 2 February 2022

Recommendation 3

Negotiation with Big Tech firms to finance and co-design new, non-proprietary digital infrastructure for communities.

Big Tech should be persuaded to provide, for free, the wiring of our social infrastructure.

Opinion **Charity**

Andy Haldane: Bring charities out of the technological dark ages

Incentives like a 'digital civic passport' can recognise voluntary action and encourage wider participation in civic service

ANDY HALDANE [+ Add to myFT](#)

We need community leadership...

CFs are able to demonstrate community leadership by:

- having a deep knowledge of the local area
- being non-partisan and value-led
- holding wide-ranging relationships
- having convening power
- possessing flexible resources



Before we reframe how we fund community tech and data initiatives....

Can you think of any reasons why these projects wouldn't get funded? What more do you need to know about these projects to know that they're important?

"We are seeking funding to...

- 1) invest in a booking system to store volunteer details. This will help us match requests for support with their closest volunteers.
- 2) develop a shared data standard and data collection platform with three key delivery partners. This will help us to monitor our impact and demonstrate this to our primary funders.
- 3) run a data literacy training programme with our local members. This will help them to understand the basics of data collection and how to use data in their work."

The barriers to funding community tech and data initiatives...

- 1) it can be boring
 - 2) it can be technical
 - 3) it can be hard to measure impact
 - 4) the solution is already seen to be 'there'
 - 5) the polyphonic community foundation
- Language is key. A reframing is needed.
 - An organisation that crosses systems needs systems-bridging language.



Reframing community tech and data initiatives: the three S's

Strategy: What are the organisation's strategic aims and what's the role of this funding in achieving them?

Stewardship over resources

- Data; time; other funding
- Maintaining resources for use by others
- The earth's resources

Sustainability - serving over time

- Organisations
- Projects and initiatives
- Social fabric and environmental impact

Reframing community tech and data initiatives

Strategy - Stewardship - Sustainability

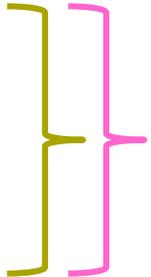
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Reframing community tech and data initiatives

The services and support required means we need to adapt our services to be more intergenerational and offer regular, sustainable support. Working with a wider range of agencies means our client base will continue to increase significantly.

The database system is limited; for the sustainability and diversity of the organisation, we need a new system which can grow with us to enable us to confidently monitor and report performance for our funders.

With a new database or CRM (Customer Relations Management) system, we would be able to confidently record essential information required by funders, and for our organisation, to develop our services and ensure we are GDPR compliant. Recording, storing, monitoring and analysing data is integral to identifying the needs of the community and essential to our resilience in taking our organisation in to the future.



Leeds CF funding of £30,000 to Neighbourhood Elders Team

Practical ways forward for Community Foundations

Working with grantees (grantmaking)

Working with donors (fundraising)

Changing what is valued (community leadership)

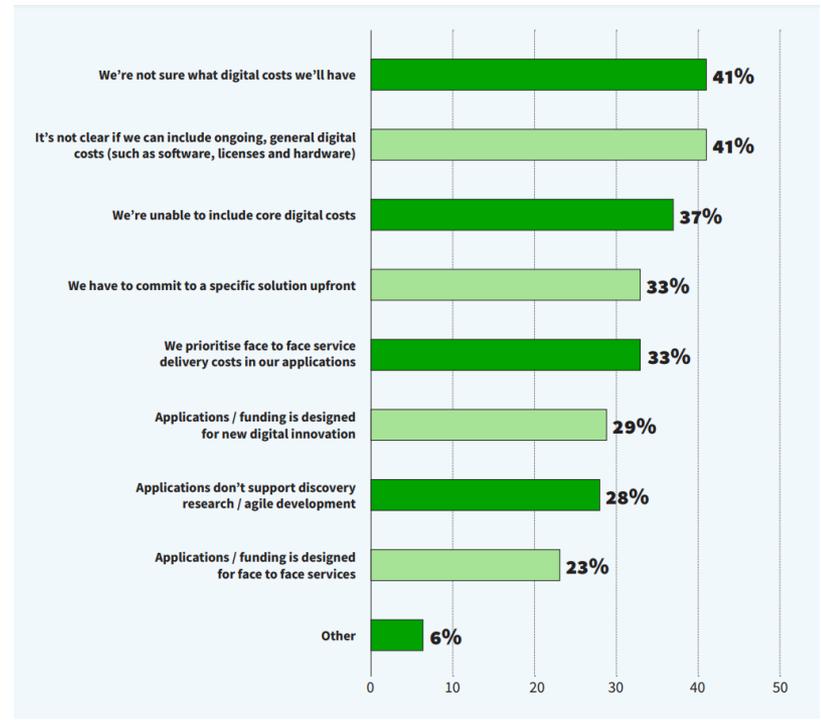
Convening spaces (community leadership)



Working with grantees

- 1) Reshaping applications: Strategy, Stewardship
Sustainability
- 2) What if funding everyday, routine data and tech work *is* innovative?
- 3) Funding data work (gathering and analysis, skills and culture)
- 4) Encouraging applicants to consider long-term data and technology needs. Helping with scoping work.

Do you face any of the following challenges when applying for digital funding?



Charity Digital Skills Survey 2022

Working with donors

1) Incorporating community technology and data initiatives into existing funding rounds

2) Capture the imagination of donors - funding the everyday and the innovative by emphasising

Strategy, Stewardship
Sustainability

3) Use your wide-ranging relationships, including people who would naturally see the benefit of this or feel aligned with it

4) Becoming comfortable with funding people and funding the long-game

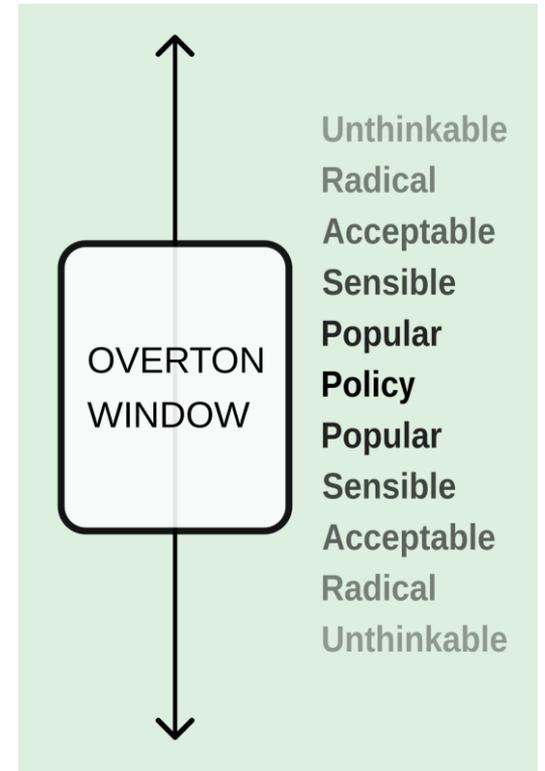


Patrick J
McGovern

FOUNDATION

Changing what is valued (Community Leadership)

- 1) Shift the funding Overton window
- 2) The importance of community **influence** and **control**
- 3) New types of institutions – data trusts, data intermediaries
- 4) A culture of reuse, open and non-proprietary, user-led



Convening spaces (Community Leadership)

- 1) Using your convening power to bring people, organisations and systems into contact with one another
- 2) Supporting other community foundations
- 3) Against consolidation, rather towards **strategic achievements**, **stewardship** and **sustainability**



Demonstrating community leadership by...

Reframing initiatives around **Strategy, Stewardship**
Sustainability

Working with grantees (**grantmaking**)

Working with donors (**fundraising**)

Changing what is valued (**community leadership**)

Convening spaces (**community leadership**)

