



**New Jersey  
Health Initiatives**

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# **Building more equitable and resilient communities**

**Bob Atkins, PhD, RN, FAAN**

Pandemic is opportunity to  
ask the right questions?

Rich Besser, President  
and CEO of the Robert  
Wood Johnson  
Foundation, March 5,  
2020 in *Washington  
Post* Op-Ed

“Even when structural failures could imperil every American, the greatest strains will fall on certain demographics because of their economic, social or health status.”

How do we prepare for  
the next crisis and make  
our communities more  
resilient and equitable?

NJ Pandemic Relief and Response Funds—there will be redundancies and gaps



Who are we  
missing?  
(Where's  
Willingboro?)



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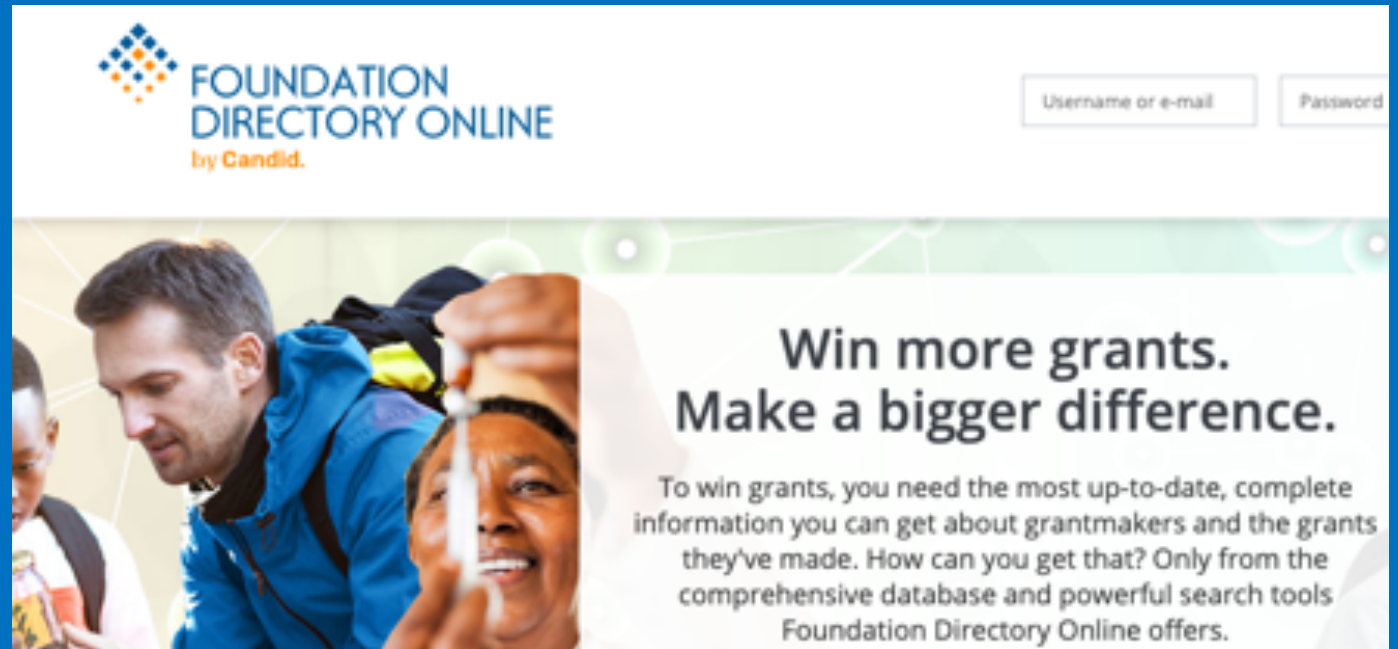
Why are we missing  
communities of greatest need  
in our grantmaking?

Human and  
organizational  
capacity of  
communities  
of greatest  
need





Getting  
grants takes  
capacity



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Size of grants





Squeeze not  
worth the  
juice

Circularity  
problem

$$(\text{circularity}) = \frac{4\pi A}{l^2},$$



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Most disadvantaged  
communities fall further behind

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What can we do?

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Making the invisible **visible**.