

# What Philanthropy Wants Working in Partnership with State Government

April 2024

In this session at the NC Office of Strategic Partnerships (OSP) Learning Forum, held April 11, 2024, at the NC Museum of Art, representatives from North Carolina philanthropies discussed the philanthropy sector's interest in working with state government, opportunities to collaborate, ways to leverage each other's resources, and critical elements of engagement and relationship-building.

## Speakers

**Whitney Davis**, Program Officer, Foundation for a Healthy High Point

**Juli Kim (facilitator)**, Philanthropy Liaison, OSP

**Adam Linker**, Vice President of Programs, Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust

**Ted Lord**, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Golden LEAF Foundation

**Meka Sales**, Director of Special Initiatives, The Duke Endowment

## Discussion Topics

Following is an overview of topics discussed during this session. Timestamps denote the beginning of topic discussions for ease of access to specific segments of the recording, which is available [here](#).

1. Speaker and foundation introductions – background information about the speakers' respective philanthropy, including their history and philanthropic focus areas (1:55)
2. Reasons why philanthropy should collaborate with state government and vice versa (16:14)
  - Foundations vary in their funding interests and geographic areas of focus, which presents various opportunities for collaboration with state government
  - Collaboration presents an opportunity for state government and philanthropy to combine and leverage their respective strengths and resources for greater impact
3. Limitations of philanthropy (35:16)
  - Governance, strategic priorities, geography
  - Existing partnership commitments
  - Ways to work with and develop a collaborative relationship within limitations that a philanthropy may have
4. Collaboration opportunities for philanthropy and state government (47:02)
  - State government and philanthropy partnership examples to model
  - Tips and strategies for state agencies to develop relationships with philanthropies that facilitate collaboration
3. Audience Q&A (1:03:52)

## Resources

### [The Duke Endowment](#)

The Duke Endowment was established in 1924 to help people and strengthen communities in North and South Carolina by nurturing children, promoting health, educating minds, and enriching spirits. Located in Charlotte, NC, the Endowment also seeks to continuously adapt to meet tangible, real-world needs in the Carolinas that extend beyond the focus of its charter, particularly through its strategic emphasis on early childhood and other emerging issues. The [All Things OSP Highlights](#) features an interview with Meka Sales, Director of Special Initiatives for the Endowment, who participated in this breakout session.

### [The Foundation for a Healthy High Point](#)

The Foundation for a Healthy High Point works with partners to improve conditions that impact the health and wellbeing of Greater High Point residents by focusing investment and community engagement on addressing key social determinants of health, or the non-medical conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age (e.g., education, food insecurity, unemployment, and housing). Executive Director Curtis Holloman is featured in this Monthly Connect, [The Many Roles of Philanthropy in Government-Philanthropy Partnerships](#).

### [The Golden LEAF Foundation](#)

Golden LEAF was established in 1999 to increase economic opportunity in NC's rural and tobacco-dependent communities through leadership in grantmaking, collaboration, innovation, and stewardship as an independent and perpetual foundation. This [OSP resource](#) features an interview with Golden LEAF Senior Vice President and General Counsel Ted Lord, who participated in this breakout session.

### [The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust](#)

The Trust works for equitable access to quality health care, education, and economic opportunity for every resident of Forsyth County and across NC. The Trust was created in 1947 to improve the quality of life of people with low incomes in Forsyth County and to improve health care around the state. This [OSP resource](#) features an interview with Dr. Laura Gerald, President of the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, and former State Health Director and director of the Health and Wellness Trust Fund.

### [NC Office of Strategic Partnerships \(OSP\)](#)

OSP develops, launches, and enhances partnerships between state agencies and NC's research and philanthropic sectors. This includes elevating state government's internal capacity to use and generate evidence in its policy and programmatic functions. As part of this work, OSP develops resources about cross-sector partnerships. Examples include:

- [Agency Contacts for Partnerships and Research](#): A list of state agency representatives who are designated as an initial point of contact for partnerships such as research projects, grant proposals, and other collaborative opportunities.
- [Highlights e-news and resources](#): A monthly communication that includes information on events, partnership opportunities, resources, internship opportunities, and more. [Subscribe to Highlights](#).
- [North Carolina Project Portal](#): A tool for sharing state agency research opportunities and needs and for people to express interest in partnering on those opportunities.
- [Strategic Partnerships Monthly Connect](#) – OSP's Monthly Connect virtual panel discussions highlight cross-sector partnerships addressing a range of topics relevant to North Carolina partnerships among state government, research, and philanthropy.

**OSP Philanthropy Liaison**: OSP and philanthropy partners co-created the Philanthropy Liaison role to support both government and philanthropy. A unique role nationally, the Philanthropy Liaison focuses on educating the two sectors about each other; facilitating connections related to mutual interests; and supporting cross-sector partnerships and collaborations.