

Catalytic Consulting

Part of LZF's Catalytic Community Building Program and Approach

What it is:

Good quality, tailored, affordable consulting is hard to come by for most nonprofit organizations. For SBCBs (small, grassroots organizations with limited staffing and budgets), consulting may often be a largely unattainable luxury. The Lenny Zakim Fund strives to provide access to a variety of high quality resources for our grantee partners, including quality consulting hours across a number of topics.

Each of LZF's current grantee partners will have **access to up to four (4) hours per grant year of paid consulting time** with a consultant of your choice, and on a topic of your choice. LZF has put together (and will be consistently updating) a list of trusted consultants who have experience working in and/or alongside SBCBs.

If you or your organization have identified a consultant to work with your organization who is not included on LZF's list of trusted consultants, LZF is still happy to pay for up to four (4) hours of your time with them. The rate we're able to offer is \$175 per hour.

Some examples of how you might utilize this resource for your organization:

- You/your organization have a template for an employee handbook and would like the support of a consultant in customizing the template to fit your organization's unique needs.
- You/your organization are looking to build a strategic plan, and would like the support of a consultant to identify initial steps and key priorities before launching the planning process.
- You/your organization are feeling generally challenged by financial management, and would like the support of a consultant to identify a few key entry points to address issues and minimize overwhelm.

How it works:

- 1) You/your organization have self-identified an area of need – OR – through conversations with LZF staff or others, an area of need is co-identified, for which consulting would be helpful.
- 2) You look at LZF's list of trusted consultants and select one that best fits your needs – OR – you find a consultant from your own network who best fits your needs, and you reach out to them to schedule a meeting.
- 3) Your consultant of choice emails Aditi Dholakia (adholakia@thelennyzakimfund.org) to inform LZF of the number of hours you worked together, and to invoice LZF for up to four (4) hours of time with you/your organization.

We're excited about this program and have secured funding for **up to 25 current grantee partners to receive four (4) hours** of consulting time this year. **Up to five (5) former grantee partners will also have access to four (4) hours** of consulting time this year. We're offering these hours on a first come, first served basis with the understanding that not all of our grantee partners may be in the position to best utilize and take advantage of this offering at this time.

We'd love your feedback about what you are able to gain in the available time, and whether you would use more time if we could secure additional funding. As a public foundation, LZF fundraises every year to provide our grants and services. Unlike many private foundations, we do not draw upon an endowment to fund and support our work. It's important for us to hear from you about what's beneficial and what isn't, so that we can make the most of our resources in service of our grantee partners.

For questions, please contact Aditi Dholakia, Deputy Director, at adholakia@thelennyzakimfund.org.