

R. Howard Dobbs, Jr.
FOUNDATION

March 2023

Dear Dobbs Foundation Partners and Friends,

We are in a season of transition at the Foundation and wanted to let you know about important changes impacting our grantmaking in 2023.

Specifically, the Foundation is engaged in succession planning as I have announced I will step down toward the end of 2024 or whenever a successor has been identified. It has been my privilege to serve the Foundation for 16 years. Building on my participation in a fellowship with the National Center for Family Philanthropy during 2023-24, I plan to use the final stage of my career to support philanthropic families, board chairs, and foundation CEOs in pursuit of more effective family philanthropy.

In the service of this transition, our board will hold a series of work sessions in 2023 to assess all aspects of the Foundation's work, identify strategic priorities for the next 3 – 5 years, and plan their search for a successor.

It also happens that the Foundation is working with a smaller grants budget in 2023 due to higher than usual multiyear obligations. After factoring in grants already approved in the first quarter, the Foundation has limited grantmaking capacity for the balance of the year.

As these circumstances converged – planning for our leadership transition and the evolution of a limited grants budget – we recognized a need and opportunity. Specifically, we must adjust our grantmaking by slowing the pace of new work to match the Foundation's budget. This will enable the board to use time typically allocated to programmatic work in the service of succession planning.

In brief, we have suspended our typical LOI process for the balance of 2023 and the Foundation will not accept unsolicited LOIs. Staff will only invite new inquiries following consultation with grantseekers

to confirm exceptionally strong alignment with priorities. It follows that our board will approve fewer new grant awards between now and the end of the year. We anticipate getting back to a more typical pace in 2024.

We recognize the challenge this presents for grantseekers. We regret not having the capacity to review and fund important opportunities as we would normally.

We are still committed to being available for grantseeker conversations. Staff will be glad to schedule conversations with those who are interested. These conversations will help us stay abreast of work happening across the state and support the resumption of normal grantmaking in 2024. If you would like to schedule a time to talk or ask questions, please email Rachel Sprecher at rsprecher@rhdobbs.net.

We will also continue to offer monthly [Open Information Sessions](#) for anyone interested in connecting with staff and learning more about the Foundation. We will use those sessions to provide updates on our movement through this transition period.

We ask for your patience during our transition. We believe the process will serve the Foundation well as our board prepares for new leadership and future service across Georgia.

Sincerely,

David Weitnauer
President