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anchor institutions:

A closer look at an emerging
field

THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

Casey's Interest in Anchors

- 20+ years investing in place-based work
- Historically underutilized set of resources
- Encouraging results from investments and partnerships

Casey's Role in the Anchor Space

- Convene and catalyze partners
- Support network development and field-building
- Advocate for public policies
- Support demonstrations via grants and program-related investments
- Commission research

A Look at the Field

- More institutions are using anchor framing
- Partnerships are developing in older industrial cities and beyond:
 - Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Newark
 - Albuquerque, Denver, Minneapolis/St. Paul, New Orleans
- National and local ecosystems are evolving
 - Intermediaries, consultants, communities of practice, learning exchanges, researchers etc.
- Interest is growing among local governments and the philanthropic community

Anchor Partnerships

Investment types:

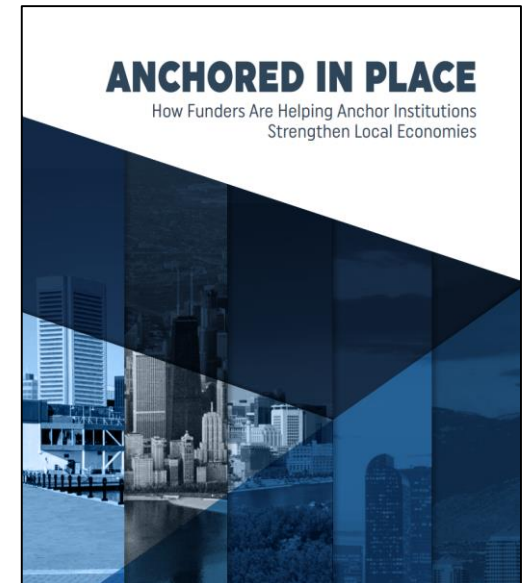
- Operations, programs, network-building, TA, research, learning, program-related

Topical areas:

- Economic inclusion, workforce development, community revitalization, civic engagement, arts and culture, housing

Anchor networks:

- Anchor Institutions Funders Group, Living Cities



Keys for Effective Anchor Partnerships

- Clear purpose
- Common/shared goals
- Member readiness
- Skin in the game
- Dedicated facilitation/backbone
- Long horizon

Big-picture Lessons

- Anchor institution strategies are means, not ends
- Institutional self-interests can't be ignored, but it doesn't end there...
- Committed leadership is key
- It's important to mind your footprints
- Engagement is a two-way street
- It's about communities, not community
- Documentation and measurement are critical