

How You Can Support Our Work

Seek Common Ground (SCG) is a network of state-based advocacy coalitions dedicated to the proposition that all kids should have access to a high-quality public education. We work together to build social capital through coalition building across the ideological spectrum, being innovative and flexible in achieving outcomes, and holding ourselves accountable for results. Our work and the support we offer to Network coalitions – as outlined below – is made possible through funding from organizations like yours.

The Support We Provide

Our Network is currently 12 state coalitions strong – and our goal is to expand to 20. SCG provides financial support to participating coalitions, leveraging national funders with local support to deliver on national-level outcomes through locally directed efforts. Coalitions in the Network receive the following support from SCG:

- Strategic guidance, coaching, and advice;
- Baseline funding;
- Access to the Edison Fund (competitive project-specific funding);
- Institutional and grassroots funding guidance and support;
- Training and technical support opportunities (e.g., advocacy tactics, communications, and stakeholder engagement trainings);
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion coaching;
- Network-wide convenings (three per year, which includes one focused on equity);
- Online networking and information sharing;
- Monthly webinars;
- Regular site visits from SCG staff and advisors;
- Monthly check-in calls to measure progress and calibrate strategy;
- Professional development and engagement opportunities; and
- External research and evaluation support.

In return, coalitions agree to identify a full-time leader, engaging that person through a non-profit fiscal agent; to fully engage with the Network, participating in the range of activities and taking advantage of the suite of services provided by SCG – as well as sharing their lessons learned and findings across the Network; and to be held accountable for mutually determined results.

The Edison Fund

I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work. – Thomas Alva Edison

We will also host a pooled, competitively awarded idea incubation fund to generate projects that can be measured and replicated in coalition and non-coalition states – the Edison Fund. The Edison Fund has supported parent home visit and family engagement projects; communications and advocacy training; and projects that provided opportunities for coalitions to deepen engagement with students, higher education leaders, policymakers, and employers across their states.

Our Staff

One of the expert resources available to SCG Network members is SCG staff itself. Our team has over 60 years of combined experience in effective policy development, coalition building, stakeholder engagement, and network management. We have provided (and will continue providing) guidance on a myriad of issues, ranging from research and evaluation best practices to preparing for legislative hearings to conducting community meetings. Coalition leaders rely upon us not only for support, but for guidance and coaching.

Our Online Portal

We also maintain an online portal to share resources. Our current portal is a means by which coalitions can post resources and queries to share across the Network. As we expand SCG, we will broaden our digital presence as well, making information currently closely held within the Network more widely available to advocates across the country.

Reaching Beyond the Network

SCG intends to share successes and lessons learned beyond the Network, so that any advocate or coalition in any state or community can learn from our experiences. Materials – including profiles of SCG coalitions and their work – will be available at www.seekcommonground.org. SCG staff, coaches, and coalition leads will also hold webinars and look for opportunities to share our knowledge with the field.

How You Can Support Us

We need your help to provide our Network coalitions with the support – funding, resources, and staff expertise – they need to have a positive impact on social change.

To support our work, please contact Claudia Quintero at claudia@seekcommonground.org.

