

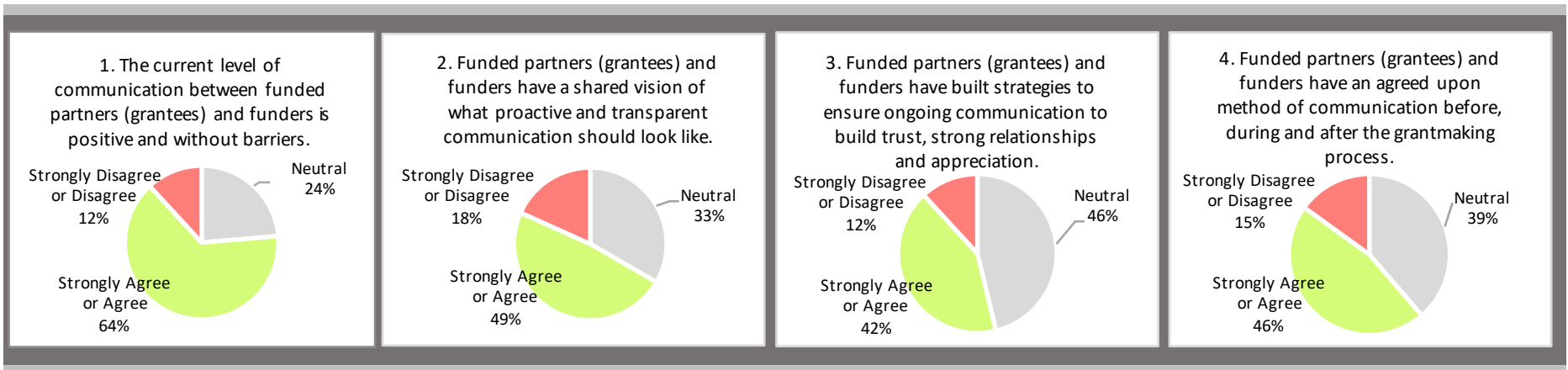
Funded Partner-Funder Engagement Feedback Report

Purpose: The following report represents the consolidation of feedback received via a series of three Waggl polls sent in March 2019 from the St. Louis Funder’s Learning and Evaluation Group’s (FLEG) Grantee Voice Taskforce*. Each poll was sent to 170 local funded partners and funders with the goal to begin the process of identifying practical, meaningful shifts in practice that funders can implement to increase trust, transparency, and efficiency within funded partner-funder relationship.

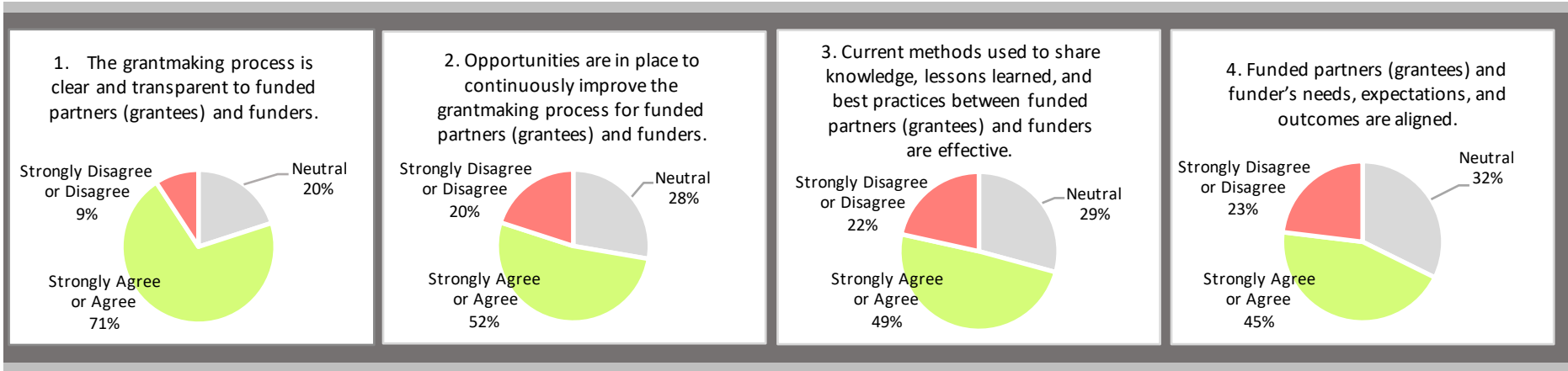
Summary: Predictably, the data collected reflected opportunities for growth in all three areas: communication, grantmaking processes, and relationship. The four metric questions listed below received the fewest positive responses and also aligned with the highest ranking open-ended question responses listed at the end of this report. As a result, these high priority areas will be the primary focus of our Funded Partner-Funder Engagement Workshop in August.

<p>1. Funded partners and funders have built strategies to ensure ongoing communication to build trust, strong relationships and appreciation.</p>	<p><i>"All partnerships benefit from a sense of mutual trust and shared goals. When there is freedom to problem-solve together without fear of negative consequences we can draw from each other's expertise and keep one another apprised of community impacts. This can be tricky to navigate due to power dynamics inherent to the funder/grantee relationship, so it takes intentionality and time to build this sort of relationship."</i></p>	
<p><i>"More clear and thorough information on funders' interests, desires, and deal breakers on an ongoing basis that better paints the picture for organizations to see how they align for funding. Oftentimes you can only draw this out after meeting and getting a lot of time with the funder. Rather, these conversations could go deeper into rationale of need, and subtle changes to an application for improvement, if clear alignment is already established."</i></p>		<p>2. Funded partners and funder’s needs, expectations, and outcomes are aligned.</p>
<p>3. Funded partners and funders have an agreed upon method of communication before, during and after the grantmaking process.</p>	<p><i>"I believe we only communicate with one another during set reporting time frames. It would be nice if there were opportunities to communicate that weren't tied to reporting outcomes or financials. Likewise, this communication is so structured that there isn't opportunity to strategize together outside of the grant parameters. It feels like communication doesn't exist for the sake of learning, but rather for the sake of accountability."</i></p>	
<p><i>"I like some of the ideas shared about funders helping grantees learn from similar grantee organizations. Likewise, grantees often have multiple experiences with different funders, so if the funders asked grantees for insight about what reporting practices were most accurate, descriptive and least disruptive to the flow of work, hopefully both could come together in ways that strengthen the work in the community."</i></p>		<p>4. Current methods used to share knowledge, lessons learned, and best practices between funded partners and funders are effective.</p>

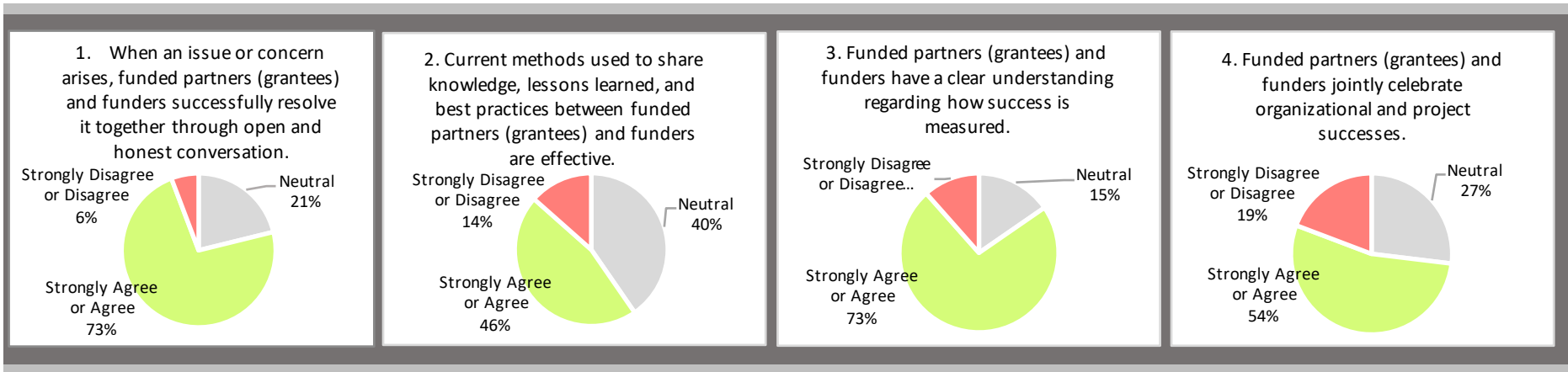
Poll #1 Communication (93 Respondents)



Poll #2 Grantmaking (65 Respondents)



Poll #3 Relationship (52 Respondents)



Open-Ended Questions	Total Answers	Total Votes
What is one thing that you feel could be done to improve communication between funded partners and funders?	88	525
What can be done to ensure funded partners and funders have positive and successful grantmaking experiences?	56	285
What approach could be used to share knowledge, lessons learned, and best practices between funded partners and funders?	39	188

Top 10 Open-Ended Question Response Themes	
1. More frequent, intentional face-to-face meetings between funders and funded partners for relationship-building and knowledge growth (27 responses).	6. Capacity-building opportunities for funded partners, especially trainings and opportunities for funded partners to learn from each other (17 responses).
2. Clear guidance from funders about their expectations and processes (26 responses).	7. Increased application and status feedback during funding cycles (14 responses).
3. A perspective of partnership/collaborative problem solving, rather than punitive or power-oriented communication (22 responses).	8. Agreed-upon communication preferences between funders and funded partners - frequency, manner, etc. (13 responses).
4. More opportunities to provide feedback, especially anonymous feedback tailored to one specific funder, which will be used to make meaningful changes (19 responses).	9. Alignment across funders, while preserving flexibility of funded partners (11 responses).
5. Increased updates/reporting back to funded partners, especially about impact of funding and funder shifts in strategy or priority (17 responses).	10. Online platform for multiple funders and funded partners to share resources, best practices, upcoming deadlines, etc. (11 responses).

* The Grantee Voice Task Force is one of three subcommittees within FLEG. Current members include Steven Brawley (ARCHS), Kristin Cowart (MHB), Trisha Gordon (United Way) and Jenny Lynch (STL County CSF).