

Arsht Research on Ethics and Community Grant

The “SPEC Check” II: Ethical-Reflective Community Practice in Human Service Funding

2010-2011

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Abstract

The purpose of this project is to: 1) To gain an accurate picture of funding alignment with SPEC principles in the 2009-2010 funding cycle at The Children’s Trust. 2) To assist The Children’s Trust in applying this knowledge and SPEC framework to their 2010-2011 “call for proposals” and subsequent review of proposals and funding decisions. The central research question of the project is: Does the current community investment portfolio of The Children’s Trust reflect a SPEC (Strength based - Preventive - Empowering - Community change) orientation and if not, how can they “shift the balance”?

The proposed project will expand on our current research as part of a larger three-year action research project, contribute to building theory in this area of study, and promote changes in funding priorities at the Trust. This project utilized an original reflective practice tool called the SPEC Check - a participatory, competing values process that allows program personnel to reflect on their current program practices through the SPEC lens. This action research process and tool was developed, tested and implemented in partnership with four local organizations as part of a three-year action research project and supported under a 2009-2019 Arsht Grant.

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