



Results

Evaluate Your Nonprofits

How can your charities be more effective?

The Cochran Foundation loved the mission and potential of ACTS Housing. But the Foundation wanted to know how ACTS Housing could get *better* before the next gift helped them get *bigger*. So the Foundation hired Excellence in Giving to perform a comprehensive nonprofit evaluation.

Rigorous Research with Clear Deliverables

Our research team gathered years of operational data to assess the strengths and weaknesses of ACTS Housing’s leadership, strategy, finances, and impact. Analysts combed through 3 years of Board minutes and finances, org charts, annual reports, and more. We toured the neighborhoods where they worked, interviewed staff at every level, and compared patterns of execution to “Best Practices” in the sector.

98
Projects

In-depth evaluations,
topical research, and
impact measurement

We categorized the strengths and weaknesses of ACTS Housing and identified the next 11 improvements the organization should make. In the final 27-page report, our clients got a clear understanding of how confident they could be in the organization’s future success. The

charity itself got a 2-year roadmap for how to improve their weaknesses while capitalizing on strengths.

Results: Smarter Donors. Better Nonprofits.

The perfect charity does not exist. The best charity is a learning organization, and preferably an organization that learns fast.

ACTS Housing has demonstrated strong leadership by rapidly implementing our Recommended Improvements. The imprecision in the scope of their mission and values has been resolved. Performance evaluations have been standardized. New Board members from the neighborhood have been added. An outsourced Grant Writer was hired. And client services are now better coordinated so ACTS Housing can provide maximum value to each new homeowner. The strategic plan and global performance dashboard are next.

The ACTS Housing CEO says, “Excellence in Giving’s evaluation confirmed our strengths, made us reckon with the weaknesses we knew were there, and now keeps us focused on what to do next.”

The Cochran Foundation now sees a clear path forward to greater impact that warrants ongoing investment. Their giving is smarter to a nonprofit that got better.

“The Evaluation clarified how ACTS Housing can tackle the challenges and opportunities on the path to greater impact. Our Foundation now has concrete opportunities for how to be strategic investors in that journey.”

- Foundation Client in D.C.

