

NARRATOR:

The Disability & Philanthropy Forum presents Patrick Cokley, Senior Program Officer, Equity & Social Justice Partnerships at Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

PATRICK COKLEY:

Something that we've even heard from partners in philanthropy who say, "We want to be engaged, we want to have more knowledge, we want our grantees to be the diversity of the country." And yet there's often a fear, because our organizations that might have Black disability identity are not large.

They're tiny organizations and folks say, "Well, it's risky to fund something that small." It's like, "But they have the expertise that we need." So it begs a very interesting question of how do we get them to say, "Hey, these things that you say that are important, inclusion and access and getting the knowledge directly from the people, will also come with a little bit of risk"?

Or how do we communicate that that risk is not as big of a deal as you might think it is? And I'm not quite sure always how we get to do that or how we can communicate that effectively. There's also an opportunity too for how do we make sure that our colleagues with that knowledge base know how to engage and work with philanthropy as well?

And I think there's a real good chance for us to get out there.

NARRATOR:

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