



A Brief History of C.Q.®

C.Q.® was initially created to assist Unity Foundation in fulfilling its mission to assist sustainable, high-performance nonprofits, or those with the willingness to be so. Unity Foundation's staff believed that such an instrument already existed - but this was not the case. There are many instruments currently available to nonprofits; however, few, if any, define capacity-building and measure it quantitatively.

Over a period of 30 months, Unity Foundation staff designed the C.Q.® instrument relying on input from nonprofit expertise and scholarship in finance, fundraising, law, accounting, technology, marketing, communications, program management and human resources. The instrument has a Board-driven focus working in conjunction with Executive Staff. The instrument is reviewed regularly to ensure its continuing effectiveness.

Unity Foundation has worked with several Maine-based and national funders on C.Q.® Initiatives around the country. In response to the needs of these funders, the Readiness Section was added to the instrument and the Benchmarks Analysis Report was created to assist in the review process.

Since 2004, more than 300 organizations (about 4000 Board and Staff members) in 26 states have utilized the instrument. In 2006 a Debriefing was created to help nonprofit organizations understand the report and facilitate its use as a capacity-building tool.

Should you have questions about C.Q.® please contact Unity Foundation at 207-948-6489 or info@unityfdn.org