

GARFIELD FOUNDATION

Garfield Foundation Announces New Collaborative Network

It is with great pleasure and optimism that the Garfield Foundation is investing in a new collaborative network that will build upon a proposal by the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, the Breast Cancer Fund, and the Blue Green Alliance to build a *Cancer-Free Economy Network* that aspires to identify, and then advance, a set of interventions and strategies to promote a healthier economy built on safe and efficient technologies, jobs and materials.

John Merck Fund, Marisla Foundation, and the Jenifer Altman Foundation have joined the initiative during this formative period drawn to it by a bold vision combined with a commitment to use systems analysis and research to identify the most strategic leverage points and messages for shifting to a new healthier economy. The emerging network will engage citizens, scientists, businesses, organized labor, advocates, foundations, and government agencies.

“We found the Initiative’s vision to hold great promise: that we wean our economy from dependence on chemicals known or suspected to contribute to cancer and other diseases and shift investment towards products and processes that enhance health and wellbeing” said Jennie Curtis, Executive Director of the Garfield Foundation.

The Garfield Foundation has committed over \$1 million annually and will be funding the network design and implementation including the cost of convenings and their facilitation, systems analysis, identified gap research, and related grant making. Anyone interested in supporting or joining-in this collaborative approach to advancing the cancer free economy is welcome to contact us.

The Garfield Foundation’s decision to invest in the Cancer Free Economy Network is based on its experience initiating and engaging in the successful RE-AMP Network (<http://www.reamp.org/>). RE-AMP, begun in 2003, is now comprised of over 170 nonprofits and foundations across eight Midwestern states working on climate change and energy policy with the goal of reducing global warming pollution economy-wide 80% by 2050.

In 2013, the Garfield Foundation launched its *Collaborative Networks* initiative and invited proposals from advocate and funder collaborators who thought a network approach to problem solving was right for their issue. Garfield received 64 proposals from partnerships representing 800 organizations and 60 foundations. The proposals covered a broad range of critical and complex sustainability issues. Through a deliberative process involving Garfield’s Collaborative Networks team and outside

experts, seven finalists were chosen and presented to the Garfield Foundation board of trustees. Trustees selected the Cancer Free Economy Network for funding.

The Foundation is proud of the successes of RE-AMP and optimistic that the Cancer Free Economy Network will be as impactful. We applaud the vision and actions of the many individuals and organizations engaged in new collaborative approaches to solve complex problems such as this one that will result in significantly improved human health and environmental sustainability.

For more information or to become involved, please contact cn@garfieldfoundation.org