

2025 GRANTEE PERCEPTION REPORT

Prepared for
Overdeck Family Foundation



THE CENTER FOR
EFFECTIVE PHILANTHROPY

About CEP and the Grantee Perception Report

Our Mission

CEP provides **data, feedback, programs, and insights** to help individual and institutional donors improve their effectiveness.

We do this work because we believe effective donors, working collaboratively and thoughtfully, can profoundly contribute to **creating a better and more just world.**

Grantees have **insightful feedback** to share



Power dynamics inhibit candor, so third-party **confidentiality** is key



Receiving a grant is **inherently positive**, so grantee feedback is clustered



Comparative benchmarking allows for meaningful interpretation of results

GPR Methodology and Comparative Dataset



Fielded in May-June 2025

May-June 2023



Surveyed 124 grantees

126 grantees



79 Responses Received

74



64% Response Rate

59%

Previous surveys conducted approximately every two years.



Grantee Dataset

More than 60,000 grantee responses from over 350 funders

Peer Funder Cohort

Arnold Ventures	Imaginable Futures
Ascendium Education Philanthropy	Lumina Foundation for Education, Inc.
Bainum Family Philanthropies	Overdeck Family Foundation
Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies	Raikes Foundation
Crown Family Philanthropies	The Jim Joseph Foundation
ECMC Foundation	The Robertson Foundation
Einhorn Collaborative	The Wallace Foundation
Heising-Simons Foundation	William Davidson Foundation

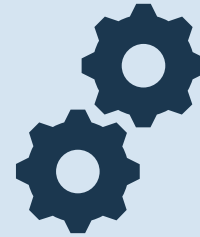
OFF's Goal Areas Emerging from 2023 Results Conversations



**Strengthen
Relationships
with Grantees**



**Continued
Communication
and Mutual
Understanding**



**Deeper Capacity-
Building Supports**

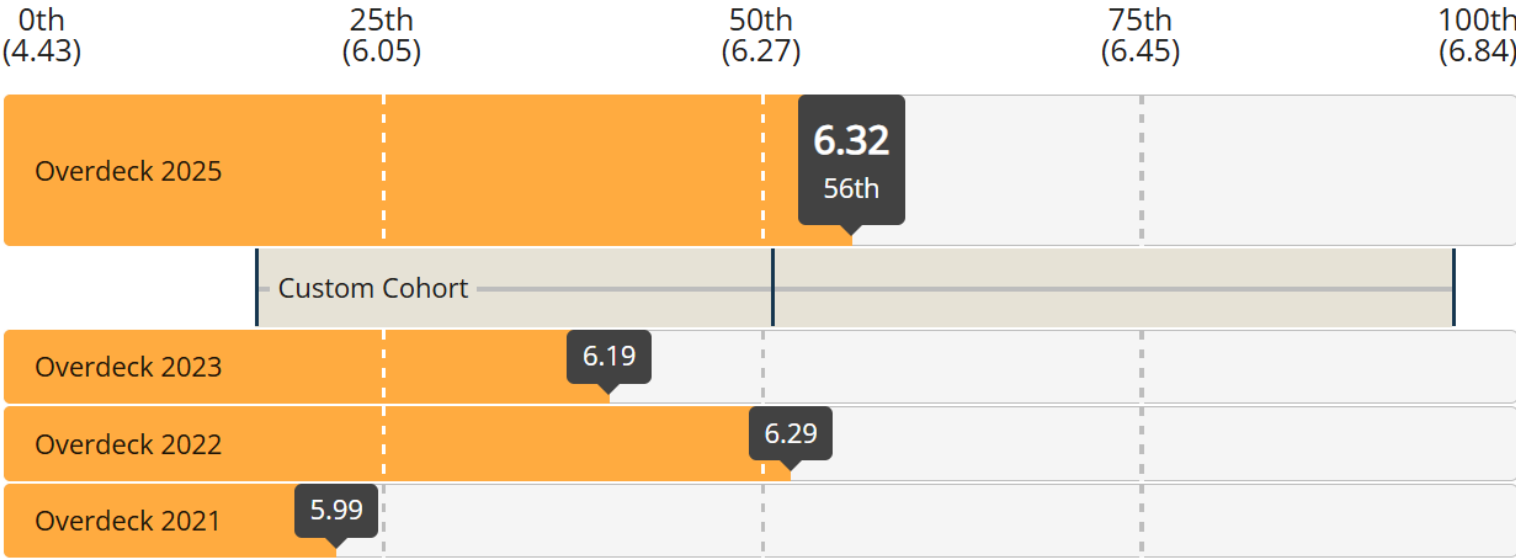


**Process
Streamlining**

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACT

“Overall, how would you rate the Foundation’s impact on your organization?”

*1 = No impact,
7 = Significant positive impact*

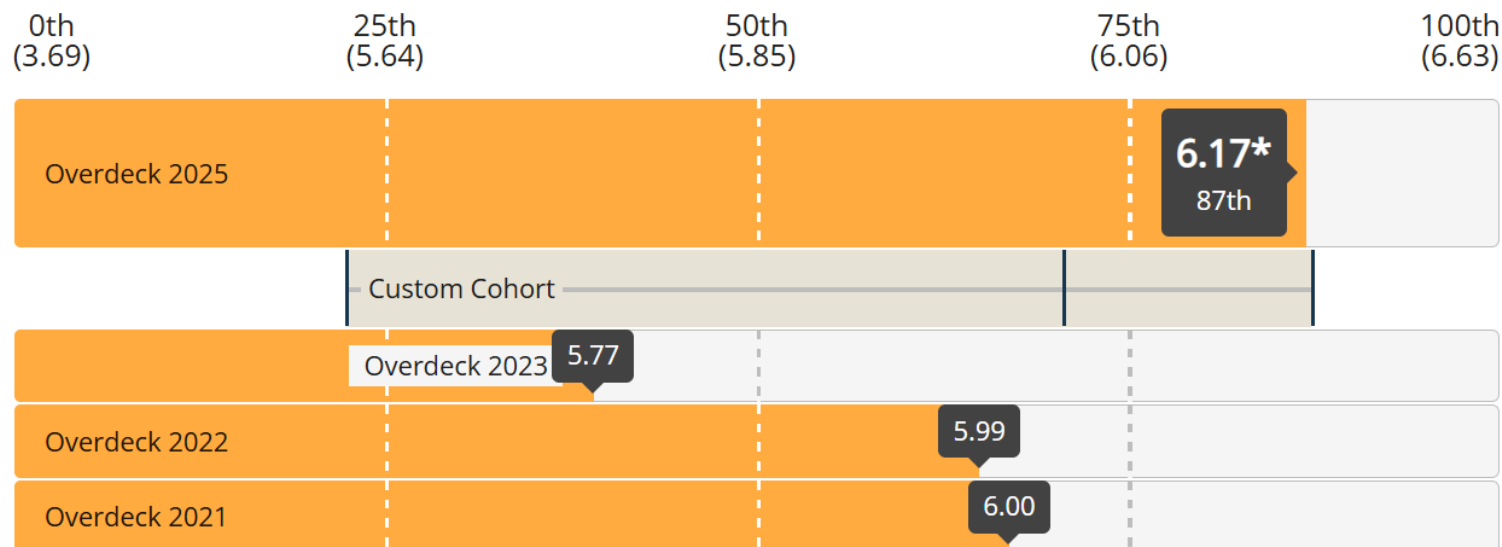


Grantmaking Characteristics

	OFF 2025	OFF 2023	Typical Peer Funder	Typical Overall Funder
% Multi-Year Grants	61%	54%	65%	55%
Median grant size	\$430K	\$427.6K	\$458.8K	\$125K
% Unrestricted grants	38%	49%	28%	32%
Median grantee annual budget	\$11.2M	\$8M	\$5.1M	\$1.7M

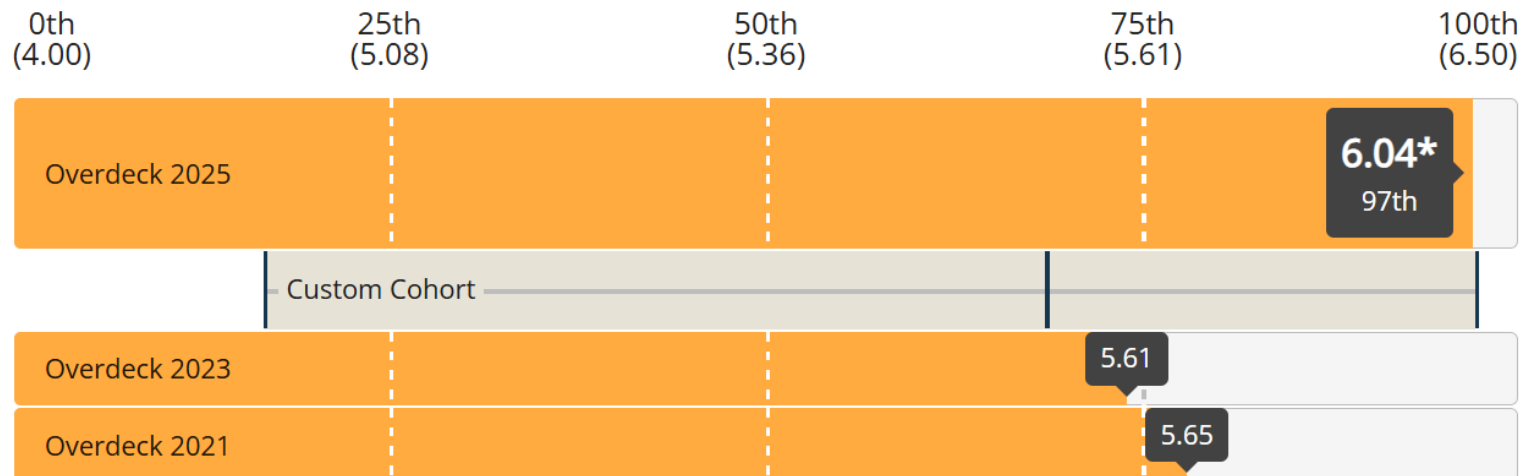
“How well does the Foundation understand your Organization’s strategy and goals?”

*1 = Limited understanding,
7 = Thorough understanding*



“How aware is the Foundation of the challenges that your organization is facing?”

*1 = Not at all aware
7 = Extremely aware*



Assistance Beyond the Grant

87%

vs.

64%

OFF 2025 grantees receive

Grantees at typical overall funder

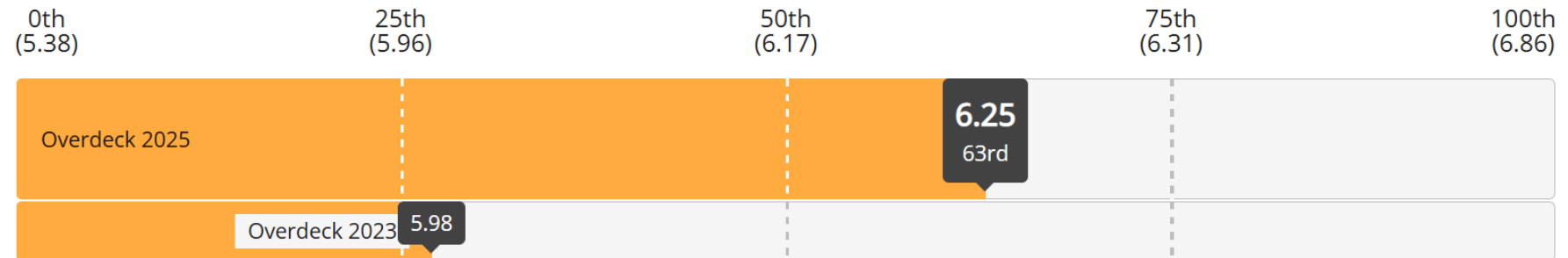
Ratings from those reporting they did not receive assistance *trend lower* than OFF overall on a few measures, including OFF's **impact on and understanding of their organizations**, and the Foundation's thought leadership

“The support I received met an important need for my organization and/or program.”

1 = Not at all

4 = Somewhat

7 = to a great extent

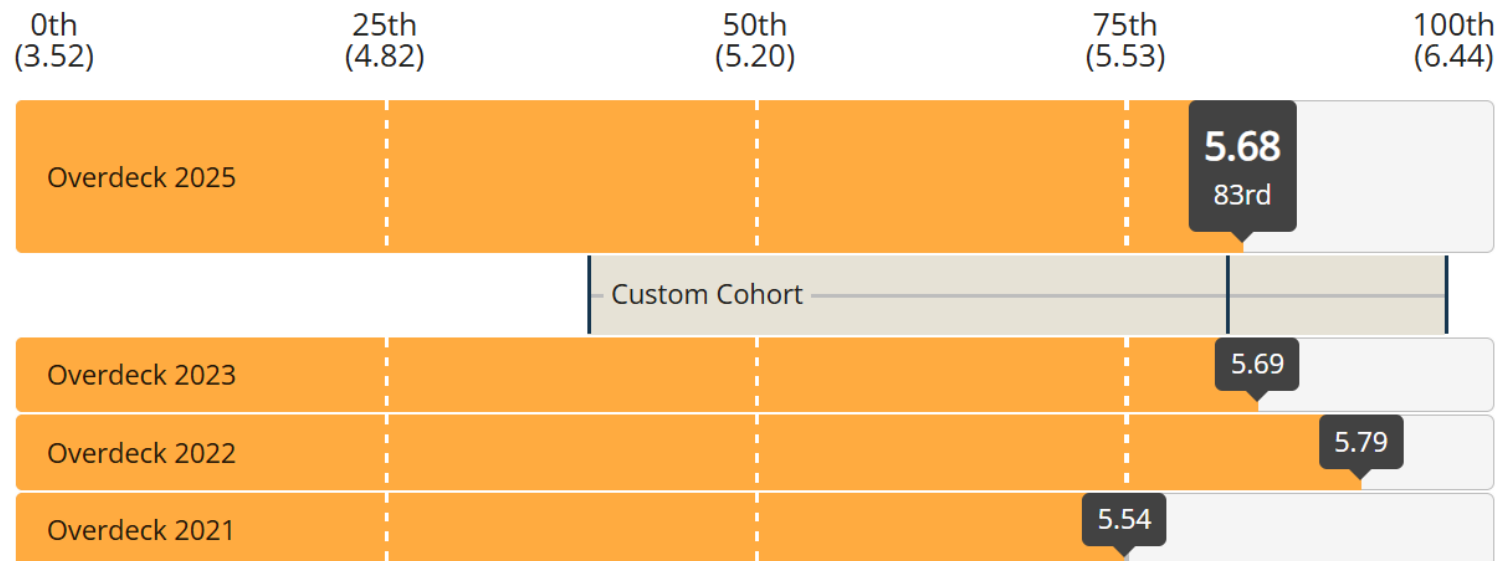


FIELD IMPACT

“To what extent has the Foundation advanced the state of knowledge in your field?”

1 = Not at all

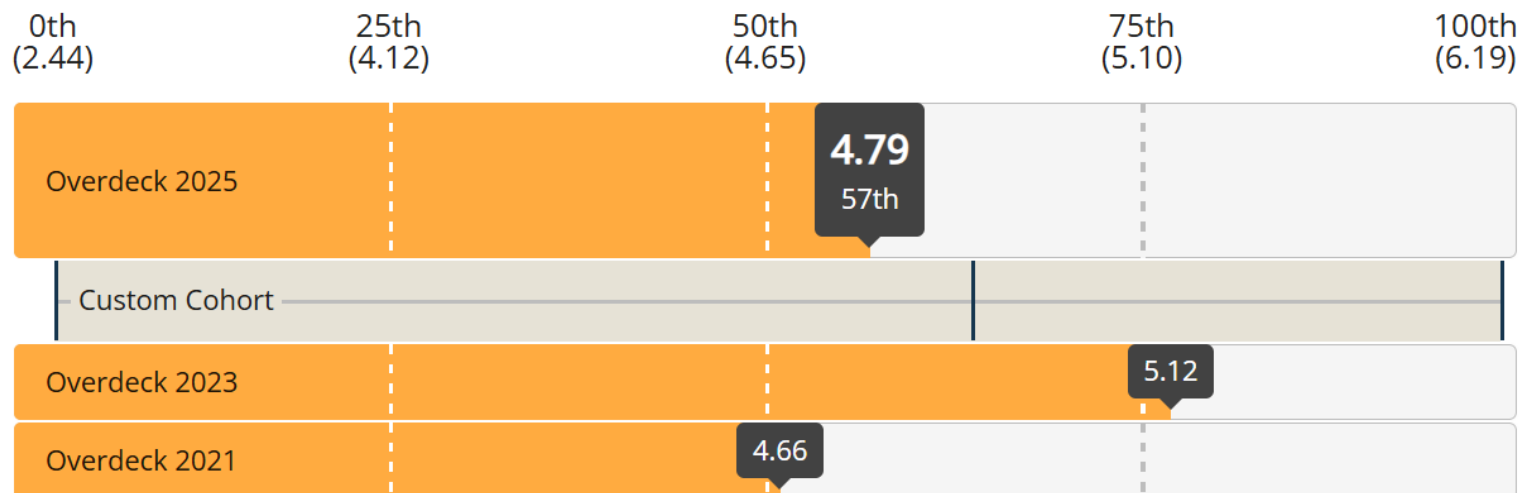
7 = Leads the field to new thinking and progress



“To what extent has the Foundation affected public policy in your field?”

1 = Not at all

7 = Major influence on shaping policy

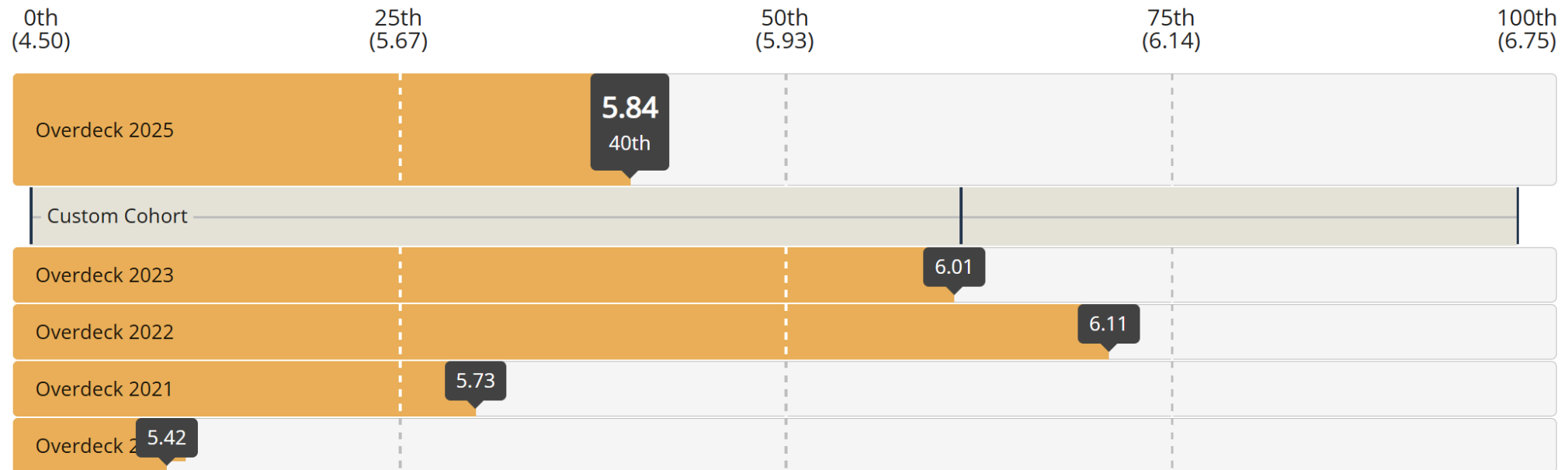


“The Foundation could **use its voice in lobbying the local, state, and federal governments** to invest in many of the projects [it] currently supports.”

“**Speaking at high-visibility conferences, publishing op-eds in widely read outlets, e.g. The 74, Forbes, EdWeek, would be great.**”

“Overall, how would you rate the Foundation's impact on your field?”

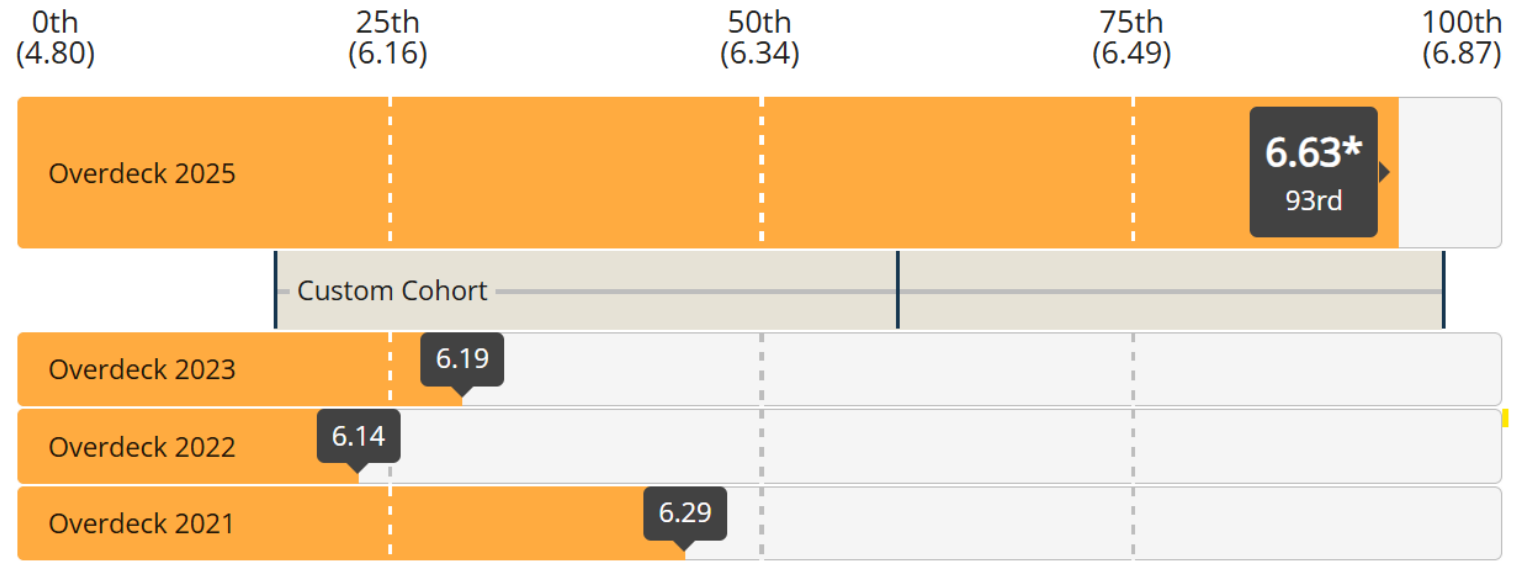
1 = No impact, 7 = Significant positive impact



RELATIONSHIPS & COMMUNICATIONS

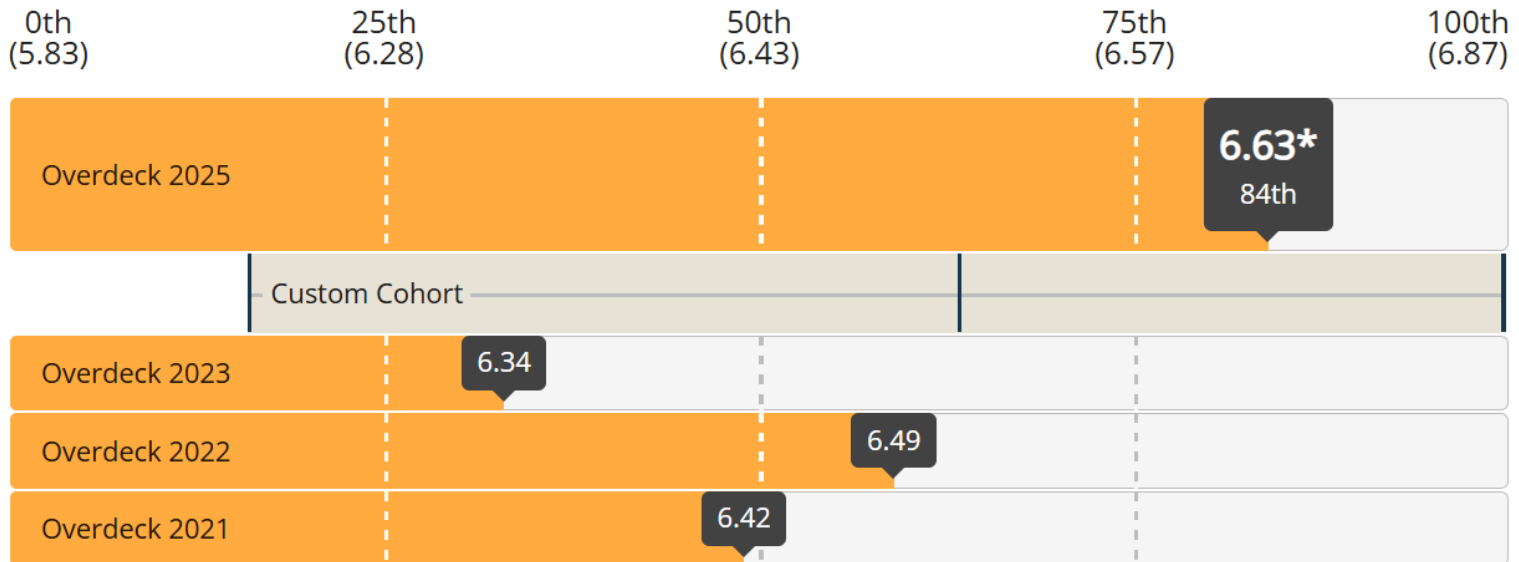
“How comfortable do you feel approaching the Foundation if a problem arises?”

1 = Not at all comfortable,
7 = Extremely comfortable



“To what extent did the Foundation exhibit trust in your organization’s staff during this grant?”

1 = Not at all,
4 = Somewhat,
7 = To a great extent



“I enjoyed an **honest, open and transparent relationship** with my Foundation representative. **I felt heard, believed and considered** in all interactions. **I was able to share honestly about both our wins and our challenges.** I felt supported as a leader and in the direction of our work. Working with [the representative] was a gift and I learned a lot alongside [them].”

Interaction Patterns



Contact with Program Officer Once
Every Few Months or More Often

99% of OFF 2025 and 2023 grantees

94% at Median Peer Funder

81% at Median Overall Funder



In-Person or Virtual Site Visit

35% of OFF 2025 grantees

38% of OFF 2023 grantees

43% at Median Peer Funder

45% at Median Overall Funder



Recent Primary Contact Change

8% of OFF 2025 grantees

47% of OFF 2023 grantees

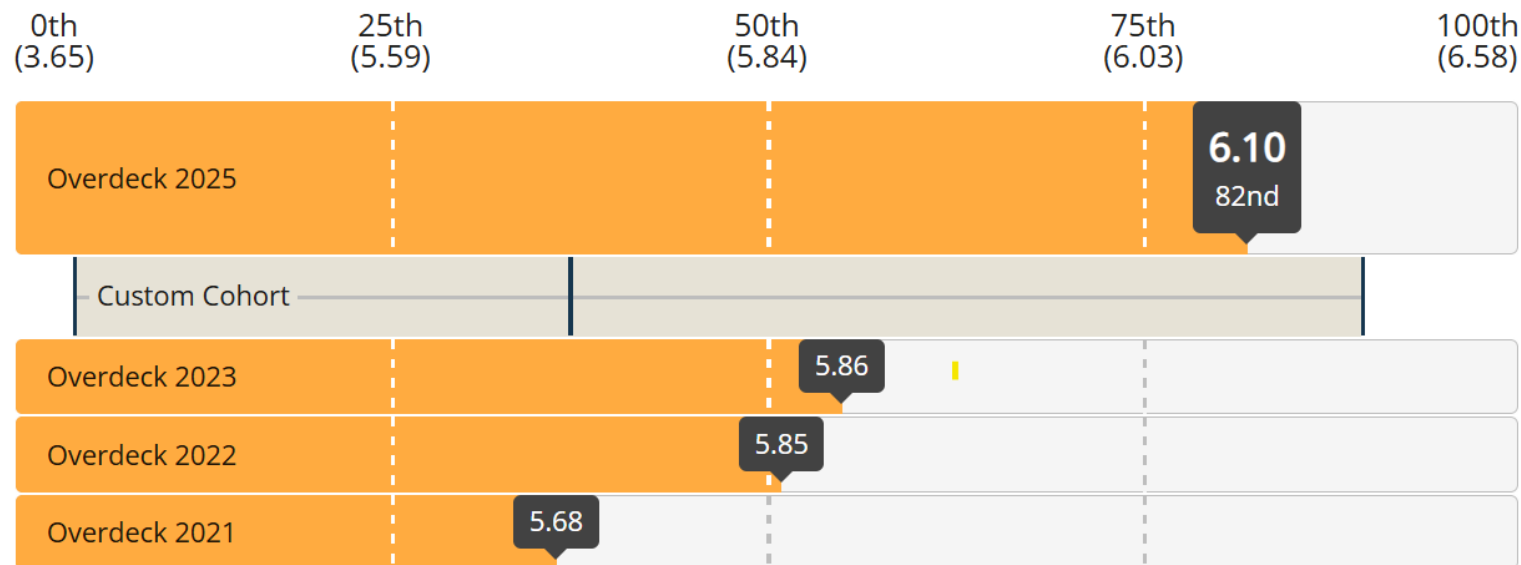
17% at Median Peer Funder

14% at Median Overall Funder

These grantees rate *significantly higher* on **many survey measures**,
including OFF's impact on and understanding of their fields and
organizations, and aspects of OFF's interactions and communications.

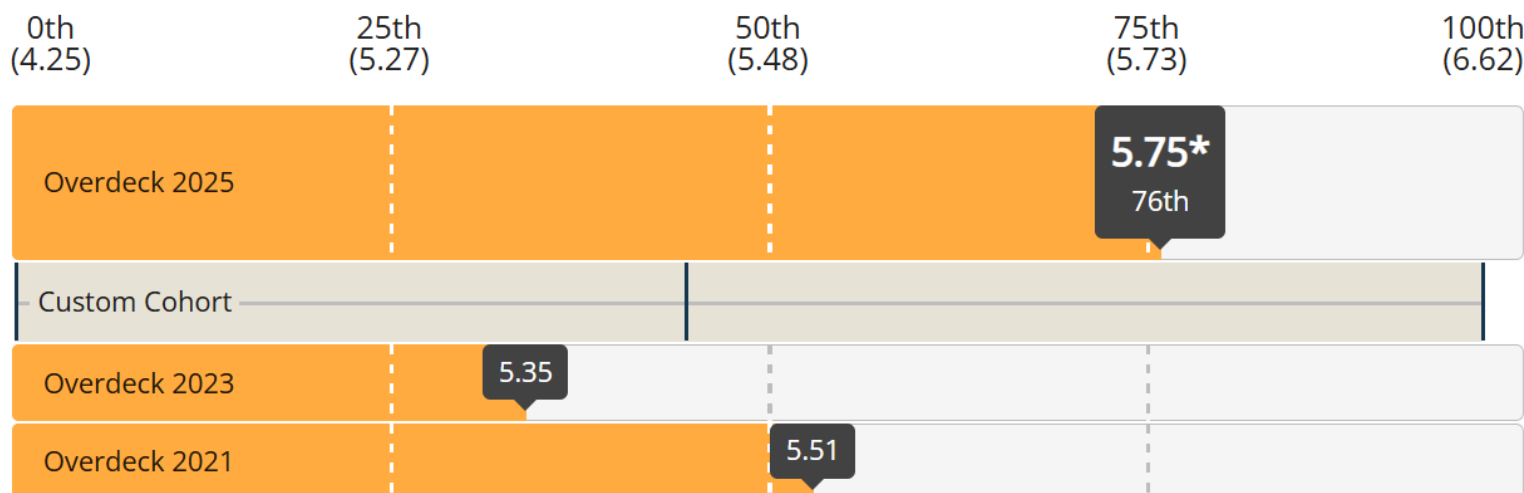
“How clearly has the Foundation communicated its goals and strategy to you?”

1 = Not at all clearly,
7 = Extremely clearly



“How well do you understand the way in which the work funded by this grant fits into the Foundation's broader efforts?”

1 = Limited understanding
7 = Thorough understanding

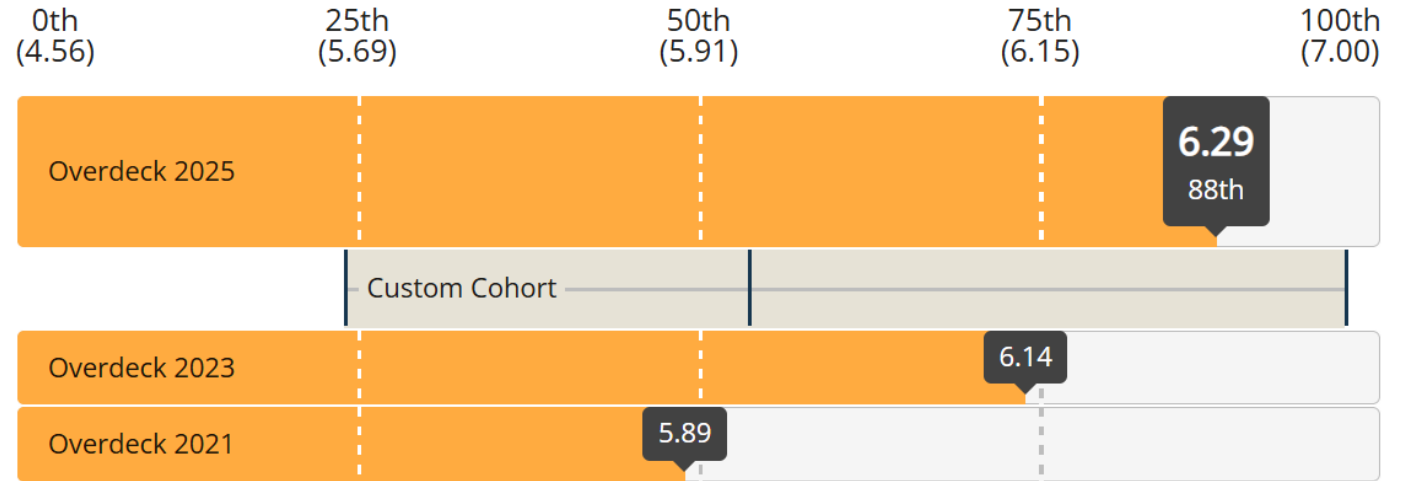


“[Our contact] is an amazing partner. [They’re] **clear about what OFF is trying to accomplish - and takes the time to understand how our interests are aligned.** [They have] been very helpful in thinking through useful objectives that meet our collective needs.”

GRANTMAKING PROCESSES

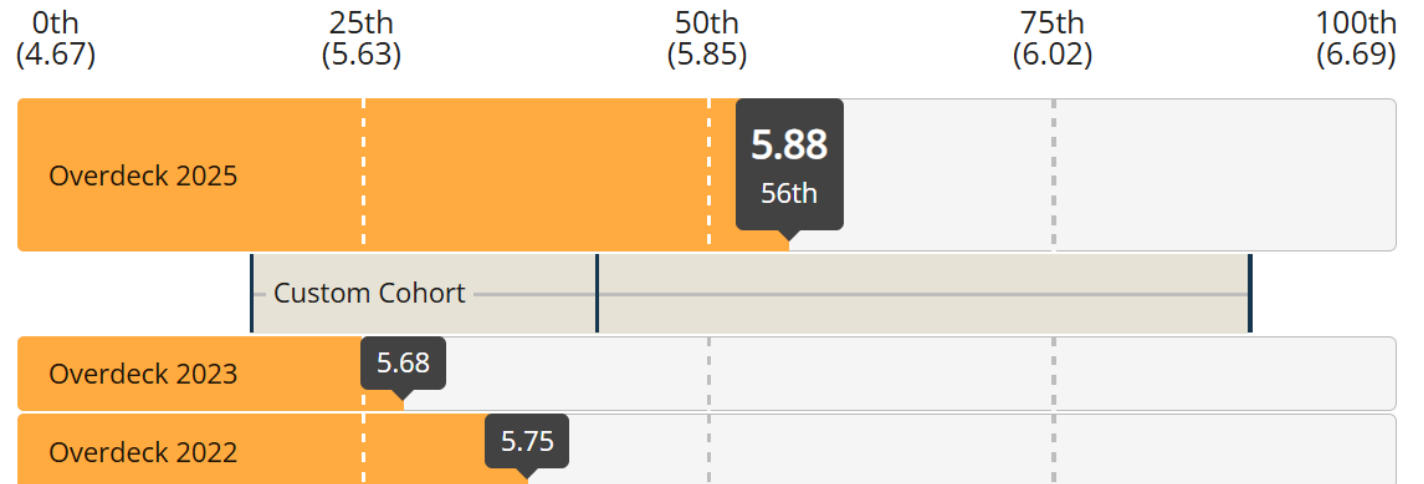
“To what extent....
was the Foundation’s reporting
process a helpful opportunity
for you to reflect and learn?”

*1 = Not at all,
7 = to a great extent*



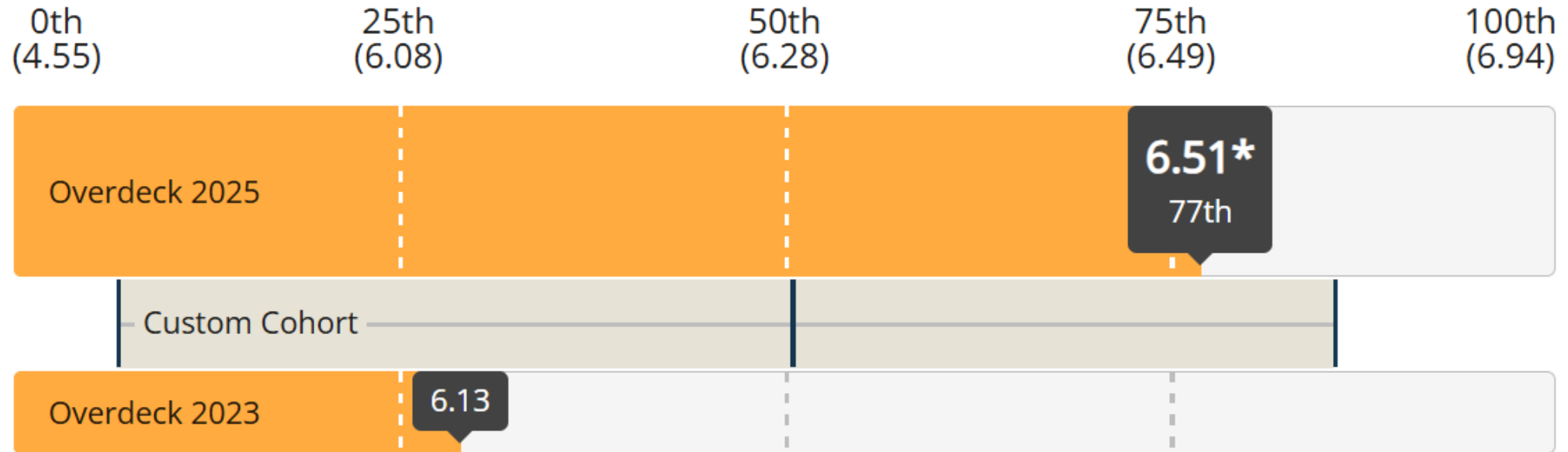
“....was the Foundation's
selection process a helpful
opportunity to strengthen the
efforts funded by the grant?”

*1 = Not at all
7 = To a great extent*



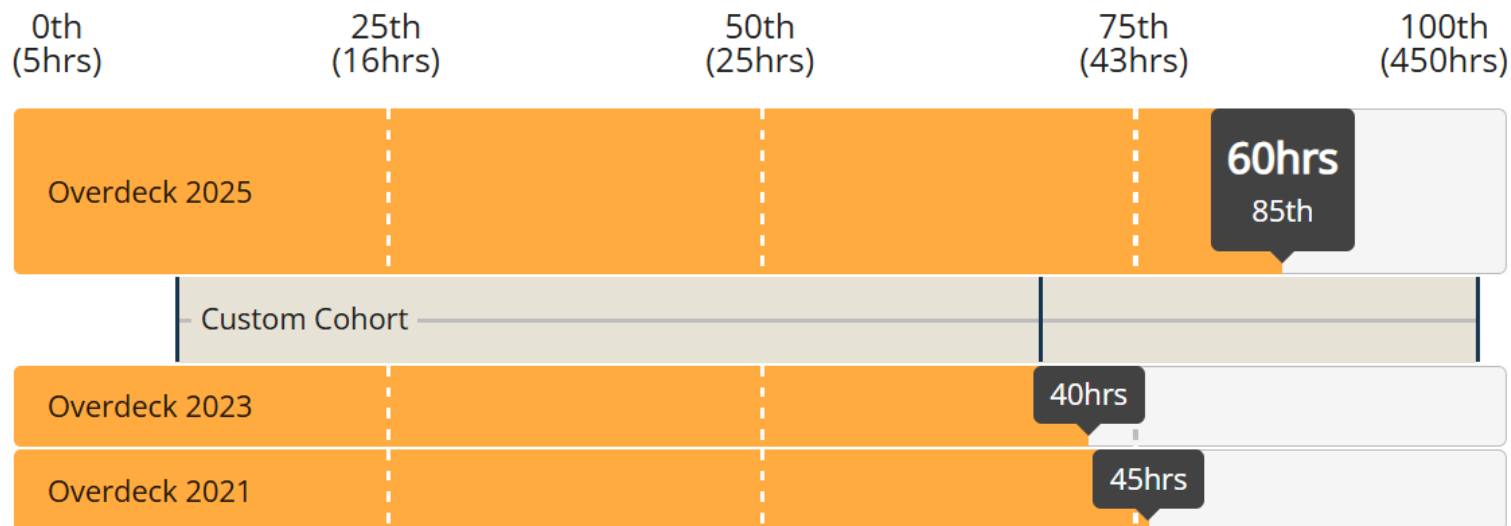
“To what extent was the Foundation clear and transparent about the selection process requirements and timelines?”

1 = Not at all, 7 = To a great extent



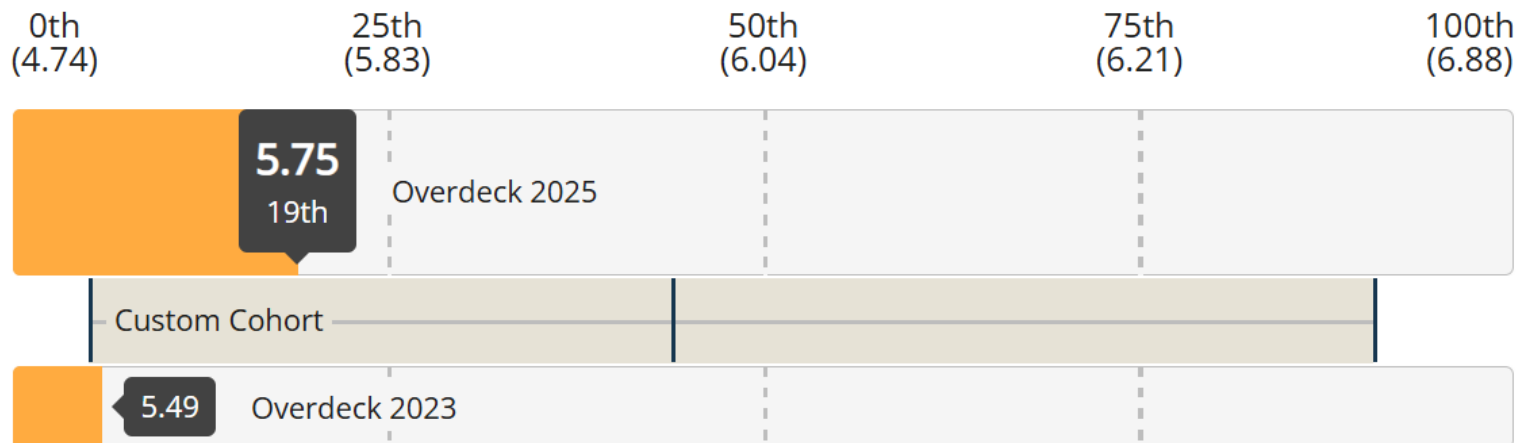
*“I do a lot of work in the foundation and federal space and I can honestly say that the communication and processes for the proposal process and start of the project have been **incredibly seamless**. The proposal process was one of my best experiences – **clear communication, clear questions**, and not a lot of unnecessary fluff. I also appreciated that some guidelines were **articulated clearly online on the OFF website**.”*

Median hours spent by grantees on funder requirements over grant lifetime



“To what extent was the Foundation's selection process an appropriate level of effort given the amount of funding received?”

1 = Not at all
7 = To a great extent





Thank You