

# Exercise: Bad News and Your Board

## Instructions

Use this exercise to think through how you will frame discussions of bad news at your next board meeting.

In the first column list the bad news itself. In the second column, assess the issue. Did it already happen? Is it happening now? Or is it on your future radar?

In the third column, write how you would like your board to participate and support you on this one item. For example, if it has already happened, this will mostly be you informing your board of what happened, how you are responding, and any preventative measures you're taking for the future.

If it is happening now, or is on your future radar, the board's role could be to help you brainstorm about it and develop a strategy to navigate or prevent the issue.

You may be asking the board for resources, advice, or their support or approval for a specific course of action. It helps them if you have a defined "ask".

By practicing intentional bad news discussions with your board, you will get better at it, and you and your board will deepen your understanding of each other and how you approach problems.

## Example:

What is the bad news?	Past, present, or future?	What role do I invite my board to play?
<i>One of our key funders is considering pulling our funding and giving it to a different organization in the community doing similar but not identical work.</i>	<i>Future</i>	<i>Discuss whether to approach the other organization and form a partnership and approach the funder together. Discuss the risks/pro's and con's. I would need to provide the board with background on the overlap between our organizations, and the unique areas and info on the amount of funding and the timeline for the funder's decision.</i>

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