**Signals Improve Decisions & Donations**

Amanda Johnson, Howe Community Resource Center

 In the spirit of full transparency, I participated in the Envision training due to its novelty and unique approach, unlike any other training I had previously encountered. Initially, I approached it with a degree of skepticism, and, admittedly, as Garry delved into discussions about blockchain technology, my interest waned. At that moment, I questioned the value of my attendance. However, what subsequently transpired fundamentally shifted my perspective and fueled my curiosity.

I departed from the training with a resolute understanding that our agency cannot afford to overlook the imperative of proactive future envisioning. Failure to heed the signals and capitalize on emerging potential could ultimately jeopardize the very existence of our agency. While the workshop did not specifically ignite my interest in blockchain and cryptocurrency, it furnished me with a comprehensive framework to initiate this essential endeavor.

The most significant insight I've acquired pertains to the strategic practice of signal searching. Initially, this concept resembled my routine internet browsing habits. However, delving deeper into its intricacies revealed its profound significance. Over time, I've refined this skill set to discern and extract the most pertinent, timely, and actionable signals. Although I concede that my engagement in this endeavor has been sporadic due to time constraints, I endeavor to conduct it on a monthly basis at least.

Through this process, I've come to recognize the indispensable role of filters, crucial for sieving through the inundation of extraneous information. Upon completing my search, I organize the gleaned insights into a designated folder for future reference.

The outcomes of my signal-searching endeavor have had profound implications, notably influencing the strategic decisions made during board meetings and program planning sessions. Moreover, it has been instrumental in enhancing donor stewardship efforts. Thanks to the insights garnered through signal-searching, I've been empowered to enact changes that were previously beyond my purview, and I am confident I will see the positive and agency-sustaining impact of those changes.