**SUMMARY COMMENTS:**

What do you want to accomplish with your software?

Do you want fund development software?

This is entirely about money.

Starting out, what are your priorities?

Eventually, I recommend you have your own back office.

It is essential that you create very good records from day one. Regardless of which way you go.

As a start up you need your data to be kept secret (integrity of data).

Your decision depends on your business model. If you are mostly grant making, then be affiliated with a community foundation. If it is more a matter of dollar in/dollars out, you should probably do it in house.

What role does your board want to play in fund raising? Most want to focus more on programmatic efforts than back office (investments, funds, management, etc).

There is not wrong decision. Make one and give it some time.

This is an asset-driven decision.

It depends on your goals and staffing plans.

You need to find a community foundation that sees this as a business

What’s the donor going to think?

You need to look at the comparative case for both options

Don’t be too focused on “good fund raising systems = good fund raising”. I would trade our Raiser’s Edge for three more big money raisers on our board

What do you gain with either option?

They all have idiosyncrasies

Look at the cost and the ability to justify the outlay. Consider the resources options will require

There is no right or wrong decision. Both have consequences.