IN 2012
A SUBSET OF THE NATION’S
LARGEST FOUNDATIONS
AWARDED NEARLY
27% OF GRANT DOLLARS
IN SUPPORT OF
INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Geography.** The vast majority of U.S. foundations focus their giving on the communities in which they are located. Some also focus their grantmaking at the regional or national level. At the same time, a number of the nation’s largest foundations—as well as a few smaller foundations—engage in international grantmaking, whether directly to organizations in other countries or through support for international programs conducted by organizations based in the United States. As the many thousands of newer foundations established by younger, more globally focused donors come of age, the number of foundations that incorporate an international focus in their work will undoubtedly continue to grow.

### Did You Know?

**Domestic**
- Organizations located in California received the most domestic foundation grant dollars ($2.4 billion).
- Massachusetts-based Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund was the top recipient of domestic grant dollars.

**International**
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has been the top international funder since 2004.
- The Switzerland-based World Health Organization was the top recipient of international grant dollars.

### Geography

**Geographic Focus**

- **Sub-Saharan Africa:** 24% $1.4 B
- **Asia and the Pacific:** 20% $1.2 B
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:** 11% $658 M
- **Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Russia:** 7% $426 M
- **North Africa and the Middle East:** 5% $292 M
- **Total:** 100% $5.9 B

**Top Funders**

- **International**
  - Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation $2.6 B
  - Ford Foundation $1.7 B
  - Open Society Institute $1.5 B
  - Ford Foundation $1.1 B
  - Andrew W. Mellon Foundation $1.1 B
  - Ford Foundation $1.0 B

- **Domestic**
  - Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation $2.9 B
  - Robert Wood Johnson Foundation $2.5 B
  - Ford Foundation $2.4 B
  - Walton Family Foundation $2.1 B
  - Lilly Endowment $2.1 B
  - Silicon Valley Community Foundation $2.0 B
  - Andrew W. Mellon Foundation $2.0 B
  - Wells Fargo Foundation $1.9 B
  - Simons Foundation $1.7 B
  - Foundation to Promote Open Society $1.6 B

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11 Public Affairs/Society Benefit (Domestic): Includes civil rights, economic and community development, philanthropy, and public affairs.

12 Public Affairs/Society Benefit (International): Includes grants for public affairs, philanthropy, and general grants to promote civil society. Some civil society grants are captured in other categories, such as human rights and international development.

13 Funding may support local, regional, or national projects.

14 International grants often benefit a specific country or region. However, as grants with a focus on multiple regions do not specify the share of support that targets each region, the full value of these grants is counted in the totals for each specified region. In addition, foundations made human rights grants not reflected in this graphic focused on “developing countries” and on providing a global benefit (21% and 31% of the number of international grants awarded, respectively).