The record-setting expansion of the U.S. economy in the late 1990s and the stock market boom that continued into early 2000 contributed to unprecedented growth in giving by the nation’s largest foundations. Among the more than 1,000 larger private and community foundations included in the Foundation Center’s 1999 grants sample, grant dollars and grants showed dramatic gains benefiting every field and discipline. Overall, more than 44,500 organizations received 108,169 grants.

Foundation Giving Trends, 2001 Edition, examines the grant-making patterns of a sample of larger U.S. foundations from 1980 through 1999. The report explores changes in giving interests by subject focus, recipient type, type of support, population group served, and geographic focus. It also details differences in funding trends by foundation size and type, and includes special analyses of giving by larger family foundations and “new health” foundations. Foundation Giving Trends is part of the Foundation Today Series of annual research reports on foundation growth and trends in foundation giving.

The sampling base for Foundation Giving Trends includes grants of $10,000 or more awarded by 1,016 leading foundations and reported to the Foundation Center between June 1999 and July 2000. Grants were awarded primarily in 1999 or 1998. These grants represented half of total grant dollars awarded by all U.S. independent, corporate, community, and grantmaking operating foundations.

Growth in Giving, 1999

- Giving by the 1,016 sampled foundations grew 19.2 percent to $11.6 billion between 1998 and 1999
- Gain in actual dollars surpassed record 1998 increase
- Number of grants increased by 11.3 percent to over 108,000
- Record 413 grants of $2.5 million or more reported in 1999

Giving by Foundation and Recipient Region and State

- Northeastern foundations provided largest share of grant dollars in the sample
- Organizations in four states—California, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas—and the District of Columbia received close to half of larger foundations’ support

Domestic vs. International Giving

- Nearly nine out of ten grant dollars focused on domestic issues and programs, unchanged since early 1990s
- Majority of international funding supported U.S.-based programs
- Foundations provided $430.1 million to nonprofits overseas

Giving by Subject Focus

- Among major subject categories, environment and animals, human services, and health experienced fastest growth in grant dollars in latest year
- Human services, arts and culture, and public/society benefit realized fastest growth in number of grants

Number of foundation grants of $5 million+ nearly quadrupled between 1990 and 1999


For more information on this report, contact Robin Gluck, Research Associate, at 212-807-3673, or e-mail, rgg@fdncenter.org. Foundation Giving Trends “Highlights” are also available at http://www.fdncenter.org.
Education accounted for largest share of total funding, followed by health.

Human services continued to receive largest share of grants.

**Share of Foundations Funding in Major Subject Areas**
- Roughly nine out of ten foundations gave for education, human services, arts and culture, and health.
- At least one-third of foundations in sample funded in all major subject areas.

**The Role of Small Grants**
- Across subject areas at least half of grants were for $50,000 or less.
- By share of grant dollars, larger awards favored education and health; smaller awards targeted human services and education.

**Giving by Recipient Organization Type**
- More than 44,500 recipient organizations were identified in 1999 sample.
- Educational support agencies, community improvement organizations, medical care facilities, and human services agencies experienced fastest growth in support.
- Colleges and universities received largest share of funding.
- Human service agencies ranked third by share of grant dollars but first by share of grants.

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**Source:** Foundation Giving Trends, 2001. Based on a sample of 1,016 larger foundations.

*Includes subject areas accounting for at least 5 percent of grant dollars or grants.

1Includes civil rights and social action, community improvement, philanthropy and voluntarism, and public affairs.

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**Education ranked first by share of foundation grant dollars in 1999; human services led by share of grants.**

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**Source:** Foundation Giving Trends, 2001. Based on a sample of 1,016 larger foundations.

*Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100.

1Includes civil rights and social action, community improvement, philanthropy and voluntarism, and public affairs.
Giving by Types of Support

- Program support represented more than two-fifths of grant dollars
- Across all subject areas, at least one-third of dollars provided program support
- Nearly one-quarter of grant dollars provided capital support
- Share of support for research reached highest level reported since 1991
- More than one-in-four grants awarded on a continuing basis

Giving for Special Populations

- Children and youth continued to account for largest share of support
- Share of grant dollars for the economically disadvantaged reached highest level recorded
- Women and girls and men and boys reached highest shares of number of grants on record

Giving Trends of the 100 Largest Foundations

- Giving by smaller foundations in the sample between 1998 and 1999 increased faster by both grant dollars and number of grants than among 100 largest grantmakers
- Environment, international affairs, science, and the social sciences and economics were among fields that received bigger shares of support from larger foundations
- Larger foundations allocated more than half of their funding for special programs; one-quarter share reported by smaller funders
- Smaller funders were more likely to provide continuing support
- 100 largest foundations were more likely to direct giving to special population groups

Giving Trends of Independent, Corporate, and Community Foundations

- Independent foundations targeted bigger shares of funding for education, health, human services, and arts and culture than other foundation types
- Corporate foundations directed larger shares of grant dollars to education, arts and culture, public/society benefit, and science and technology than other foundation types

At least half of foundations in the sample awarded grants in seven of the ten major subject areas in 1999

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Human Services</th>
<th>Arts &amp; Culture</th>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Public/Society Benefit</th>
<th>Environment &amp; Animals</th>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Science &amp; Technology</th>
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Nearly nine out of ten foundation grant dollars in the sample supported domestic purposes in 1999, an unchanged share since the early 1990s*

International-Overseas Recipients 3.7%
International-U.S. Based Recipients 7.6%
Domestic 88.6%


*Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100.
• Community foundations reported higher shares for human services and religion
• Independent, corporate, and community foundations each allocated largest share of their grant dollars for program support
• Community foundations targeted bigger share of grant dollars to benefit specified population groups than other foundation types

Giving Trends of Family Foundations

The 1999 grants sample included 414 larger family foundations—more than half of the independent foundations in the sample.

• Larger family foundations awarded over $4.2 billion in latest year or more than one-in-three grant dollars in sample

Giving Trends of New Health Foundations

The 1999 grants sample included ten private “new health” foundations (created following nonprofit health care conversions) with giving totaling $195.1 million. This support accounted for roughly two-thirds of giving by all active, private new health foundations.

• Three-quarters of new health foundations’ giving targeted health, especially public health and hospitals and medical care, while more than one-sixth of funding supported human services
• New health foundations accounted for more than one out of three grant dollars in the sample awarded for public health

Funding for specific programs and projects accounted for more than two-fifths of foundation grant dollars in 1999*

Children and youth benefited from largest share of foundation support for named groups in 1999*

ORDERING INFORMATION

The Foundations Today Series, 2001 Edition, includes five reports available exclusively through annual subscriptions. Orders may be charged with Visa, MasterCard, or Amex by calling our toll-free number, 800-424-9836 (in New York, call 212-807-3690); by using our on-line order form at http://www.fdncenter.org; or by mailing orders to the Foundation Center, Dept. SN, 79 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10003-3076. Prepayment of $95.00 is required. Discounts are available for multiple-subscription orders. Please call 800-424-9836 for details.