From the early 1990s through 2000, the number of foundations issuing publications designed to inform the public about their giving activities and interests grew consistently. Yet this growth lagged behind the dramatic gains in number of foundations in the late 1990s, resulting in a decreased share of grantmakers issuing print publications. Moreover, in 2001, the actual number of foundations issuing publications declined. Although the number rebounded in 2002, it remained below the record-high figure of 3,419 foundations tracked in 2000. Still, the number of foundations releasing annual reports—the most detailed form of public reporting—continued to grow, and more grantmakers than ever provided information via the Internet.

Foundation Reporting, 2002 Edition, provides the most comprehensive information available on the number of U.S. grantmaking foundations issuing annual reports and other print publications or maintaining Web sites. This report serves as an ideal starting point for understanding differences in public reporting patterns based on foundation size, period of establishment, regional location, and type. Foundation Reporting is part of the Foundations Today Series of annual research reports on foundation growth and trends in foundation giving.

Findings presented in Foundation Reporting are based on information from the Foundation Center’s annual surveys of the top 20,000 private and community foundations by giving, all other corporate and community foundations, and larger newly established foundations. Information on foundation reporting also reflects actual foundation publications and Web information that have been provided directly to the Foundation Center.

To maintain consistency with historical Foundation Center data on public reporting, this analysis limits its scope to those 20,002 foundations in the 2002 survey with at least $100,000 in giving or holding assets of $1 million or more. Of this sample, 3,258 foundations indicated that they issued publications in 2002. These reporting foundations represented only a small share (5.8 percent) of the nation’s nearly 56,600 active grantmakers but accounted for close to two-thirds (64.4 percent or $312.8 billion) of total foundation assets and three-fifths (60.2 percent or $16.6 billion) of overall foundation giving in 2000—the latest year for which fiscal data are available.

Overview of Foundation Reporting

- 3,258 foundations issued publications in 2002, up slightly from 3,239 in 2001
- Number of foundations issuing publications was more than two-fifths higher than in 1992
- Reporting foundations accounted for fewer than one-in-six surveyed grantmakers
- Close to 1,500 foundations published annual reports, up slightly from 2001
- Since mid-1990s, growth in foundation reporting via publications has fallen behind boom in number of foundations
- 1,269 surveyed foundations maintained Web sites, up by nearly 200 from prior year

Number of surveyed foundations issuing publications in 2002 was more than two-fifths higher than in 1992

Source: Foundation Reporting, 2002. Figures based on annual Foundation Center surveys or public reporting of foundations with at least $1 million in assets or making grants of $100,000 or more.

For more information on this report, contact Josie Atienza, Research Analyst/Coordinator of the Foundations Today Series, at 212-620-4230, or e-mail, jsa@fdncenter.org. Foundation Reporting “Highlights” are also available at www.fdncenter.org.
Foundation Reporting by Asset Range

- Larger foundations were more likely to issue publications, including annual reports
- More than seven out of ten foundations with assets of $100 million+ issued publications
- Fewer than one-in-twelve foundations with under $5 million in assets issued publications
- Foundations issuing annual reports provided close to half of all giving
- Larger foundations were more likely to maintain Web sites

Foundation Reporting by Region

- Midwestern and Western foundations were most likely to issue publications
- Midwest reported largest proportion of foundations issuing annual reports
- Northeast held highest number of foundations issuing publications
- West reported largest share of foundations with Web sites

Foundation Reporting by Foundation Type

- Community foundations were most likely to issue publications, followed by corporate foundations
- Close to nine out of ten community foundations issued publications
- Independent foundations accounted for over seven out of ten foundations issuing publications
- Community foundations reported highest share with Web sites

Source: Foundation Reporting, 2002. Figures based on Foundation Center survey or public reporting of 20,002 foundations with assets of at least $1 million or making grants of $100,000 or more.

Growth in the number of foundations issuing publications lagged behind rapid growth in number of surveyed foundations between 1992 and 2002

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Surveyed Midwestern and Western foundations were most likely to issue publications in 2002

Close to nine out of ten surveyed community foundations issued publications in 2002

Source: Foundation Reporting, 2002. Figures based on Foundation Center survey or public reporting of 20,002 foundations with assets of at least $1 million or making grants of $100,000 or more.

*Figures exclude one foundation based in U.S. territories that issued publications.