Despite the onset of recession and a declining stock market, the nation’s foundations increased their overall giving in 2001. Among the more than 1,000 larger private and community foundations included in the Foundation Center’s annual grants sample, giving rose in 2001, although at a more modest pace than in the prior year. The continued growth in foundation giving benefited almost every major field. Overall, more than 51,000 organizations received nearly 125,000 grants.

*Foundation Giving Trends*, 2003 Edition, examines the grantmaking patterns of a sample of larger U.S. foundations from 1980 through 2001. 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, region, and type, and includes special analyses of giving by larger family foundations and “new health” foundations. In addition, the 2003 edition includes preliminary information on giving by sampled foundations in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. *Foundation Giving Trends* is part of the Foundations Today Series of annual research reports on foundation giving and trends in foundation giving.

The sampling base for Foundation Giving Trends includes grants of $10,000 or more awarded by 1,007 of the largest foundations and reported to the Foundation Center between June 2001 and July 2002. Grants were awarded primarily in 2001 or 2000. These grants represented more than half of total estimated grant dollars awarded by all U.S. independent, corporate, community, and grantmaking operating foundations.

**Growth in Giving, 2001**

- Giving by sampled foundations grew 11.6 percent to $16.8 billion between 2000 and 2001.
- Gain in actual grant dollars was smallest since 1997.
- Number of grants rose by 5,066 or 4.2 percent.
- Record 659 grants of $2.5 million or more reported.

**Giving by Subject Focus**

- Among major subject categories, Education experienced fastest growth in grant dollars in latest year, followed by Science and Technology and Arts and Culture.
- Science and Technology, Health, and Human Services realized fastest growth in number of grants.
- Education and Health accounted for largest shares of total funding.
- Human Services continued to receive largest share of grants.
- Social Sciences posted highest median grant amount, while Health led in terms of average grant amount.

**Share of Foundations Funding in Major Subject Areas**

- Roughly nine out of ten foundations gave for Education, Human Services, Arts and Culture, and Health.
- In each of the major subject areas, at least one-third of foundations awarded grants.

**The Role of Small Grants**

- At least half of grants were for $50,000 or less in all subject areas except Social Sciences.
- By share of grant dollars, larger awards favored Education and Health; smaller awards targeted Human Services and Education.

**Foundations reported a five-fold increase in the number of grants of $5 million+ between 1992 and 2001, and a seven-fold gain in the number of $10 million+ grants.**


1Figures include grants of $10 million or more.

For more information on Foundation Giving Trends, 2003 Edition (published in February 2003), contact Josie Atienza, Research Analyst/Coordinator of the Foundations Today Series, at 212-620-4230, or e-mail, jsa@fdncenter.org. Foundation Giving Trends “Highlights” are also available at www.fdncenter.org.
Domestic vs. International Giving

- More than eight out of ten grant dollars focused on domestic issues in 2001
- International giving by foundations in the sample increased slightly to $2.5 billion in 2001
- Majority of international funding supported U.S.-based programs
- Foundation giving for overseas recipients decreased to $771 million

Giving by Recipient Organization Type

- 2001 sample included 51,099 unique recipient organizations
- Among major recipient types, colleges and universities, medical care facilities, and museums reported above-average growth in grant dollars
- Colleges and universities received largest share of funding
- Human service agencies ranked second by share of grant dollars but first by share of grants

Giving by Types of Support

- Program support accounted for nearly one-half of grant dollars in 2001
- Across subject areas, over one-third of dollars provided program support
- General operating support represented record share of number of grants
- Environment and Animals and Public Affairs/Society Benefit received highest shares of operating support
- More than one-fifth of grant dollars provided capital support

Education posted fastest growth in foundation grant dollars between 2000 and 2001; Human Services led by share of grants


1Includes Civil Rights and Social Action, Community Improvement and Development, Philanthropy and Voluntarism, and Public Affairs.
• Share of support for student aid reached highest level on record
• One-in-four grants were awarded on a continuing basis

Giving for Special Populations

• Children and youth accounted for record share of grant dollars and grants in 2001
• Shares of grant dollars decreased slightly for women and girls and men and boys
• Giving for offenders/ex-offenders, the disabled, People with AIDS, and single parents showed fastest growth in latest year

Giving Trends of the 100 Largest Foundations

• Giving by 100 largest foundations in 2001 sample increased more slowly than by smaller grantmakers
• Health, Social Sciences, International Affairs, Education, and Environment were among fields that received bigger shares of support from 100 largest foundations
• Arts and Culture, Human Services, Religion, and Public Affairs/Society Benefit received proportionally more support from smaller foundations
• Largest foundations allocated close to two-thirds of their funding for program support, compared to over 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 favored funding for Education, Health, Human Services, and Arts and Culture
• Corporate foundations prioritized support for Public Affairs/Society Benefit—including federated funds—and Science and Technology
• Community foundations provided over two-fifths of their giving for Education and Human Services
• Independent and corporate foundations allocated largest share of grant dollars for program support, while community foundations favored general support
• Independent foundations targeted bigger share of grant dollars to benefit special population groups than other foundation types

Giving Trends of Family Foundations

The 2001 grants sample included 417 larger family foundations—more than half of the independent foundations in the sample.
• Larger family foundations awarded $6.8 billion in latest year or two-fifths of grant dollars in sample
• Family foundations allocated larger shares of funding for Health, the Environment and Animals, and Religion compared to foundations overall

Giving Trends of New Health Foundations

The 2001 grants sample included 16 private “new health” foundations (created following nonprofit health care conversions) with giving totaling $320.8 million. This support accounted for close to nine-tenths of giving by all active, private new health foundations.
• Over seven-tenths of new health foundation grant dollars targeted Health, while about one-fifth supported Human Services
• New health foundations accounted for roughly one-seventh of overall giving for Public Health

Giving Trends by Foundation Region

• Northeastern foundations provided largest share of grant dollars in 2001 sample; the Northeast also accounted for largest share of dollars received
• Northeastern, Midwestern, and Southern grantmakers favored support for Education; Western foundations awarded largest share of its grant dollars for Health
• Foundations in the Northeast provided larger shares of giving for International Affairs and the Social Sciences than funders in other regions

Children and youth benefited from record share of foundation support for named groups in 2001*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Group</th>
<th>Percent of Grant Dollars</th>
<th>Percent of Grants</th>
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<tr>
<td>Children &amp; Youth</td>
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<td>Economically Disadvantaged</td>
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<td>Ethnic or Racial Minority</td>
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<td>Women &amp; Girls</td>
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<td>Disabled</td>
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<td>Aging/Elderly/Senior Citizens</td>
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<td>Men &amp; Boys</td>
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*Chart includes selected population groups representing at least 2 percent of grants. Figures represent only grants awarded to groups that could be identified as serving specific populations or grants whose descriptions specified a benefit for a specific population. These figures do not reflect all giving benefiting these groups. In addition, grants may benefit multiple population groups, e.g., a grant for homeless children, and would therefore be counted more than once.
• Grantmakers in the Midwest allocated bigger shares of support for Education, Human Services, and Public Affairs/Society Benefit
• Funders in the South provided a larger share of giving for Religion
• Grantmakers in the West awarded bigger shares of support for Health, Environment and Animals, and Science and Technology
• Western, Northeastern, and Midwestern foundations provided largest shares for program support
• Southern grantmakers directed largest share for capital projects and for general operating support
• Grantmakers in the West provided largest share of giving for special population groups
• Western funders directed biggest shares of giving for children and youth, the economically disadvantaged, and women and girls
• Across regions, foundations favored children and youth and the economically disadvantaged

Foundations in the Northeast, Midwest, and South favored Education in 2001; funders in the West provided largest share of grant dollars for Health*

*Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100.
1Includes Civil Rights and Social Action, Community Improvement and Development, Philanthropy and Voluntarism, and Public Affairs.
2Figures for the South exclude the District of Columbia. The 19 DC-based foundations in the sample awarded 3,219 grants totaling $189.1 million.