The record-setting expansion of the U.S. economy along with the continuing stock market boom have 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 1998 grants sample, grant dollars and grants showed dramatic gains benefiting nearly every field and discipline.

**Foundation Giving Trends, 2000 Edition**, examines the grant-making patterns of a sample of larger U.S. foundations from 1980 through 1998. 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 health care conversion 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 1,009 leading foundations and reported to the Foundation Center between June 1998 and July 1999. Grants were awarded primarily in 1998 or 1997. These grants represented half of total grant dollars awarded by all U.S. independent, corporate, community, and grantmaking operating foundations.

For more information on this report, contact Steven Lawrence, Director of Research, at 212-620-4230, or e-mail, sal@fdncenter.org. **Foundation Giving Trends** “Highlights” are also available at [http://www.fdncenter.org](http://www.fdncenter.org).

**Growth in Giving, 1998**
- Giving by sampled foundations grew by 22.2 percent to $9.7 billion between 1997 and 1998
- Number of grants increased by 12.8 percent to over 97,000
- Record 350 grants of $2.5 million or more reported in 1998

**Giving by Foundation and Recipient Region and State**
- Northeastern foundations provided largest share of grant dollars in the sample
- Southern recipients accounted for biggest share of dollars received
- 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**
- Consistent since the early 1990s, nearly nine out of ten grant dollars focused on domestic issues and programs
- Majority of international funding supported U.S.-based programs
- Foundations provided $416.1 million to nonprofits overseas, up 21.2 percent

Arts and culture, environment, and education were among areas that experienced fastest growth in foundation grant dollars between 1997 and 1998*.

---

*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.
### Giving by Subject Focus

- Among major subject categories, arts and culture, environment and animals, and education experienced fastest growth in grant dollars in latest year
- Public/society benefit, environment and animals, and the social sciences realized fastest growth in number of grants
- Education accounted for largest share of total funding, followed by health
- Human services continued to receive largest share of grants

### Giving by Recipient Organization Type

- Museums, colleges and universities, and human services agencies experienced fastest growth in support
- Colleges and universities received largest share of funding, although share of grants continued to decline
- Human service agencies ranked second by share of grant dollars but first by share of grants

### Giving by Types of Support

- Program support represented more than two-fifths of grant dollars
- Across subject areas, at least one-third of dollars provided program support
- General support accounted for largest share of number of grants reported since 1994
- Consistent with last year, nearly one-quarter of grant dollars provided capital support
- Share of support for research reached highest level reported since 1991

### Giving for Special Populations

- Children and youth continued to account for largest share of support
- Grant dollars benefiting the economically disadvantaged, minorities, women and girls, and men and boys showed biggest increases
- African-Americans benefited from year’s largest grant
- Women and girls and men and boys realized highest shares of grant dollars on record

---

**Percent of Grant Dollars**

- Education 24%
- Health 17%
- Human Services 15%
- Arts & Culture 15%
- Social Science 3%
- International Affairs 3%
- Science & Technology 4%
- Environment & Animals 6%
- Public/Society Benefit 12%

**Percent of Number of Grants**

- Education 21%
- Human Services 24%
- Arts & Culture 15%
- Science & Technology 3%
- International Affairs 3%
- Religion 3%
- Environment & Animals 6%
- Health 12%

---

**Northeastern foundations awarded largest share of grant dollars in 1998 sample; Southern recipients benefited from biggest share of dollars**

Source: Foundation Giving Trends, 2000. Based on a sample of 1,009 larger foundations.

¹A total of 4.3 percent of grant dollars was provided to overseas recipients.

---

Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100.

¹Includes civil rights and social action, community improvement, philanthropy and voluntarism, and public affairs.
Giving Trends of the 100 Largest Foundations

- Giving by the 100 largest grantmakers increased faster by both grant dollars and number of grants than smaller foundations in the set.
- Health, international affairs, and the social sciences were among fields that received bigger shares of support from larger foundations.
- Larger foundations allocated more than half of their funding for special programs; three-tenths share reported by smaller funders.
- 100 largest foundations were more likely to direct giving to named groups.

Giving Trends of Independent, Corporate, and Community Foundations

- Independent foundations targeted bigger shares of funding for the environment and animals, international affairs, and the social sciences.
- Corporate foundations directed larger shares for education, public/society benefit, arts and culture, and science and technology.
- Community foundations reported higher shares for health, religion, and human services.
- Independent foundations allocated largest share of grant dollars for program support; corporate foundations gave largest share for general operating support.
- Community foundations targeted bigger share of grant dollars to benefit specified population groups than other foundation types.

Support for specific programs and projects represented more than two-fifths of foundation grant dollars in 1998*

Children and youth accounted for largest share of funding for named groups in 1998*

Nearly nine out of ten foundation grant dollars provided support for domestic purposes in 1998*

Children & Youth  Economically Disadvantaged  Minorities  Women & Girls  Disabled  Men & Boys  Aging

Source: Foundation Giving Trends, 2000. Based on a sample of 1,009 larger foundations.

*Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100.
Giving Trends of Family Foundations

The 1998 grants sample included 192 larger family foundations—one out of four independent foundations in the sample.

- Larger family foundations awarded $2.2 billion in latest year or close to one-quarter of grant dollars in sample
- Family foundations allocated larger shares of funding for science and technology and religion compared to foundations overall

Giving Trends of Health Care Conversion Foundations

The 1998 grants sample included eight private health care conversion foundations with giving totaling $126.8 million. This support accounted for roughly two-thirds of giving by all active, private health care conversion foundations.

- Three-fifths of health care conversion foundations’ giving targeted health, while more than one-quarter of funding supported human services
- Health care conversion foundations accounted for more than one out of five grant dollars in the sample awarded for public health

Health care conversion foundations allocated over half of their grant dollars for public health and human services in 1998*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percent of Grant Dollars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Services</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitals &amp; Medical Care</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reproductive Health Care</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General &amp; Other Rehabilitative</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care Financing</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Diseases</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Research</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (non-health)</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: *Foundation Giving Trends, 2000*. Based on a sample of eight private health care conversion foundations accounting for roughly two-thirds of giving by all private health care conversion foundations.

*Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100.

Note: General & Rehabilitation subcategory accounts for 52 percent of giving; subcategories include Public Health, Hospitals & Medical Care, Health Care Financing, Reproductive Health Care, and General & Other Rehabilitative.

Independent and corporate foundations favored education, while community foundations awarded slightly larger share for human services in 1998

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percent of Grant Dollars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Culture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment &amp; Animals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Affairs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public/Society Benefit¹</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science &amp; Technology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: *Foundation Giving Trends, 2000*. Based on a sample of 1,009 larger foundations.

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

Ordering Information

The *Foundations Today Series, 2000 Edition*, includes four reports and one update available exclusively through annual subscriptions. Orders may be charged with Visa, Master Card, 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. RR, 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.