Highlights of the Foundation Center’s

FOUNDATION REPORTING

Through 2000, the number of foundations issuing annual reports and other publications designed to inform the public about their giving activities and interests, grantmaking guidelines, or the work of their grantees 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. Compounding this trend has been a decline in the actual number of foundations issuing publications in 2001. Still, the number of foundations releasing annual reports—the most detailed form of public reporting—continued to grow, and more grantmakers provided information via the Internet.

Foundation Reporting, 2001 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 the 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 private and community foundations awarding at least $50,000 in giving or holding assets of $1 million or more. To maintain consistency with historical Foundation Center data on public reporting, this analysis limits its scope to those 18,942 foundations in the 2001 survey with at least $100,000 in giving or holding assets of $1 million or more. Information on foundation reporting also reflects actual foundation publications and Web information that have been provided directly to the Foundation Center.

Overview of Foundation Reporting

• Over 3,200 foundations issued publications in 2001, down from roughly 3,400 in 2000
• Despite recent decline, number of foundations issuing publications represented a 50 percent increase over the 1991 total
• Reporting foundations accounted for roughly one-in-six surveyed grantmakers
• Close to 1,500 foundations published annual reports, up slightly from 2000
• Since mid-1990s, growth in print foundation reporting has fallen behind boom in number of foundations
• 1,072 surveyed foundations maintained Web sites, up by more than 200 from prior year
• Internal Revenue Service Form 990-PF served as only source of information on activities of most smaller foundations

Foundation Reporting by Asset Range

• Larger foundations were more likely to issue publications, including annual reports
• Close to three out of four foundations with assets of $100 million+ issued publications

Despite recent decline, number of surveyed foundations issuing publications grew by half since 1991

Source: Foundation Reporting, 2001. 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.

1Figures include foundations that issue annual reports.

For more information on this report, contact Robin Gluck, Research Associate, at 212-807-3673, or e-mail, reg@fdncenter.org.

Foundation Reporting “Highlights” are also available at http://www.fdncenter.org.
Fewer than one-in-ten foundations with less than $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**

- Western foundations were most likely to issue publications, followed by Midwestern funders
- Midwest reported largest proportion of foundations issuing annual reports
- Northeast held highest number of foundations issuing annual reports or other publications
- West reported highest share of foundations with Web sites

**Close to nine out of ten surveyed community foundations issued publications in 2001**

Source: *Foundation Reporting*, 2001. 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.

**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

**Western foundations were most likely to issue publications in 2001, followed by Midwestern funders**

Source: *Foundation Reporting*, 2001. Figures based on Foundation Center survey or public reporting of 18,942 foundations with assets of at least $1 million or making grants of $100,000 or more.

*Figures exclude one foundation based in the Caribbean that issued publications.*

**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. KX, 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.

Growth in number of foundations issuing publications lagged behind gains in number of surveyed foundations between 1991 and 2001

Source: *Foundation Reporting*, 2001. 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.