Education and health benefited from the largest shares of foundation grant dollars

Among major areas of activity, education, health, human services, and public affairs/society benefit captured the largest shares of grant dollars awarded by all sampled foundations in 2009. By number of grants, human services continued to rank first, with sampled funders allocating 27.3 percent for this area.

In the wake of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, overall grantmaking declined 2.1 percent from 2008 to 2009. Among the foundations comprising the Foundation Center’s grants sample, however, the decline in grantmaking appears much steeper. Grant dollars awarded by a matched set of 502 funders\(^1\) fell 14.2 percent in 2009. In large part, this is due to the fact that the Foundation Center’s grants sample primarily represents new grant authorizations, rather than actual grant payments, many of which may have been authorized in earlier fiscal years. (See “Grants Paid vs. Grants Awarded” for more details.) Eight of the 10 major fields showed declines in funding, with the steepest declines reported for the environment and animals and the social sciences. In contrast, education and public affairs/society benefit posted modest gains.

\(^1\)See Appendix A in the full report for more details on the matched set of grantmakers.

Foundations awarded 186 grants of $10 million+ in 2009

Source: The Foundation Center, Foundation Giving Trends, 2011. Based on all grants of $10,000 or more awarded by a sample of over 1,000 larger foundations.

\(^2\)Figures include grants of $10 million or more.
CHANGE IN GIVING, 2009
- Giving by a matched set of grantmakers declined 14.2 percent*
- Number of grants decreased 6.6 percent for a matched set of grantmakers
- Total number of grants of $10 million or more fell to 186

*Comparatively, total giving for all U.S. grantmaking foundations declined 2.1 percent between 2008 and 2009.

GIVING BY SUBJECT FOCUS
- Eight of the 10 major fields showed decreases in grant dollars in 2009 among a matched set of grantmakers
- The environment and animals, social sciences, and science and technology showed the largest decline in funding among a matched set of grantmakers
- Education and health benefited from the largest shares of grant dollars
- Human services led by share of number of grants

General Foundation Funding Patterns, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Dollar Amount</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>No. of Grants</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts and Culture</td>
<td>$2,332,162</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>20,685</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>5,149,553</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>30,108</td>
<td>19.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment and Animals</td>
<td>1,648,717</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>10,452</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>5,004,410</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>20,702</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Services</td>
<td>2,909,215</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>42,289</td>
<td>27.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Affairs, Development, and Peace</td>
<td>1,224,952</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>3,934</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Affairs/Society Benefit¹</td>
<td>2,612,555</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>17,603</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>451,745</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>5,158</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science and Technology</td>
<td>582,626</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2,404</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>205,527</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>1,224</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>16,095</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$22,137,556</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>154,664</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Foundation Giving Trends, 2011. Based on all grants of $10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,384 larger foundations. Dollar figures in thousands; due to rounding, figures may not add up.

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

INTERNATIONAL GIVING
- International giving by sampled foundations fell to $5.3 billion in 2009
- International support accounted for 23.7 percent of overall grant dollars
- Funding for international programs decreased 19.6 percent in 2009 for a matched set of grantmakers

GIVING BY TYPES OF RECIPIENT ORGANIZATIONS
- Grants in the 2009 sample benefited 60,088 unique recipient organizations
- The largest share of funding targeted educational institutions
- Human service organizations benefited from the largest share of number of grants

2009 Sampling Base
The Foundation Center’s circa 2009 grants database includes all grants of $10,000 or more awarded by 1,384 of the largest U.S. foundations—including the 15 largest funders in nearly every state—and reported to the Center between October 2009 and September 2010. Grants were awarded primarily in 2009 or 2008. These grants totaled $22.1 billion and represented nearly half of total grant dollars awarded by all U.S. independent, corporate, community, and grantmaking operating foundations.

The 2011 edition of Foundation Giving Trends also includes a matched set analysis of year-to-year changes in giving by sampled grantmakers, which reduces distortions in grant dollars and grants awarded due to fluctuations in the sample size. See Appendix A for more detailed sampling information.

Education and health accounted for the largest shares of foundation grant dollars in 2009; human services led by share of grants

Source: The Foundation Center, Foundation Giving Trends, 2011. Based on all grants of $10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,384 larger foundations. Due to rounding, figures may not add up.

²Includes civil rights and social action, community improvement and development, philanthropy and voluntarism, and public affairs.
GIVING BY TYPES OF SUPPORT

◆ Over half of 2009 grant dollars provided program support
◆ General support increased to 21.7 percent of giving
◆ Capital support’s share of grant dollars slipped to 13.5 percent

GIVING FOR SPECIFIED POPULATIONS

◆ The economically disadvantaged benefited from the largest share of grant dollars and grants
◆ Support for single parents increased 81.7 percent in 2009 for a matched set of grantmakers
◆ Support for ethnic or racial minorities increased 20 percent in 2009 for a matched set of grantmakers

International giving accounted for close to one-quarter of foundation grant dollars in 2009

Source: The Foundation Center, Foundation Giving Trends, 2011. Based on all grants of $10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,384 larger foundations representing approximately half of total giving by all U.S. foundations.

The economically disadvantaged benefited from the largest share of grant dollars and grants in 2009

Source: The Foundation Center, Foundation Giving Trends, 2011. Based on all grants of $10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,384 larger foundations representing approximately half of total giving by all U.S. foundations. Chart includes selected beneficiary groups representing at least 1 percent of grant dollars. Figures represent only grants awarded to recipient organizations 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.

*Excluding the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the nation’s largest foundation, Western foundations also awarded the largest share of grant dollars to education.*

GIVING BY FOUNDATION TYPE

◆ Independent foundations prioritized giving for health, education, and human services
◆ Corporate foundations prioritized giving for education, human services, and public affairs/society benefit
◆ Community foundations prioritized giving for education, human services, and health

GIVING BY FOUNDATION REGION

◆ Led by the Gates Foundation, Western foundations provided the largest share of grant dollars awarded
◆ Northeastern, Midwestern, and Southern grantmakers favored support for education; Western foundations awarded the largest share of their grant dollars for health*

For more information on this report, published in September 2011, contact Reina Mukai, at (212) 807-2485 or rkm@foundationcenter.org. “Highlights” of Foundation Giving Trends can be downloaded at foundationcenter.org.

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Foundations in the Northeast, Midwest, and South favored education in 2009; funders in the West prioritized health

**NORTHEAST**
- Total Dollars = $5.9 billion
- Education 22%
- Health 20%
- Human Services 11%
- Arts and Culture 14%
- Environment and Animals 8%
- International Affairs 5%
- Science and Technology 2%
- Religion 2%
- Social Sciences 2%
- Public Affairs/Society Benefit 1%

**SOUTH**
- Total Dollars = $4.1 billion
- Education 25%
- Health 18%
- Human Services 21%
- Arts and Culture 11%
- Public Affairs/Society Benefit 10%
- Environment and Animals 7%
- International Affairs 3%
- Science and Technology 2%
- Religion 3%

**WEST**
- Total Dollars = $7.8 billion
- Education 31%
- Health 23%
- Human Services 9%
- Environment and Animals 9%
- International Affairs 8%
- Public Affairs/Society Benefit 8%
- Arts and Culture 7%
- Science and Technology 4%
- Religion 1%
- Social Sciences 1%

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**Program support accounted for half of foundation grant dollars in 2009**

- Percent of Grant Dollars
- Percent of Grants

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**About Foundation Giving Trends**

*Foundation Giving Trends*, 2011 Edition, documents the grantmaking patterns of a sample of the largest private and community foundations in 2009 and tracks changes in funding trends since 1999. The report examines giving (based on grant authorizations when available) by subject focus, recipient type, type of support, population group served, and geographic focus. It also details differences in funding trends by foundation region and type. *Foundation Giving Trends* is part of the *Foundations Today Series* of annual research reports on foundation growth and trends in foundation giving.

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Source: The Foundation Center, *Foundation Giving Trends*, 2011. Based on all grants of $10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,384 larger foundations representing approximately half of total giving by all U.S. foundations. Due to rounding, figures may not add up.

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

2Excluding the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (accounting for $3 billion in grants awarded), education ranked first among the funding priorities of Western foundations (25.1 percent), followed by health (14.7 percent), environment and animals (14.2 percent), human services (13 percent), arts and culture (12.2 percent), public affairs/society benefit (9.6 percent), science and technology (5.8 percent), international affairs (3.5 percent), religion (1.7 percent), and the social sciences (0.7 percent).

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Source: The Foundation Center, *Foundation Giving Trends*, 2011. Based on all grants of $10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,384 larger foundations representing approximately half of total giving by all U.S. foundations.

1Includes endowment funds.