KEY FACTS ON COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

Outlook for Community Foundation Giving

Community foundations account for 1 percent of all U.S. grantmaking foundations but about 10 percent of giving. Despite the worsening economic climate, community foundations raised their giving by an estimated 6.7 percent in 2008 to a record \$4.6 billion. (Adjusted for inflation, giving rose 2.7 percent.) This increase surpassed the rate of growth reported by independent and corporate foundations and, for the first time on record, community foundations gave more than corporate foundations. Community foundations have benefited in recent years from strong increases in the value of their existing assets and from new gifts and bequests from donors.

Undoubtedly, community foundations will be forced to reduce giving in 2009, along with independent and corporate foundations. Close to three-fourths (74 percent) of community foundations responding to the Foundation Center's annual forecasting survey expect to decrease their giving this year.¹ Nonetheless, one factor that may work in favor of community foundations in the current economically challenging environment is that their donor-advised funds can be seen as a less costly alternative to maintaining a separate, endowed institution.

¹For more details see S. Lawrence and R. Mukai, *Foundation Growth and Giving Estimates: Current Outlook*, The Foundation Center, New York, 2009.

Nearly three out of four surveyed community foundations expected to decrease giving in 2009

Note: A total of 1,141 foundations responded to this question. Due to rounding, figures may not add up to 100 percent.

\$4.6 billion

Estimated giving
by community
foundations in 2008

6.7%

Estimated increase
in community
foundation giving
between 2007
and 2008

717

Number of grant-
making community
foundations
in 2007

43%

Share of community
foundations reporting
more than \$1 million
in giving in 2007

10%

Community
foundation giving
as a share of all
foundation giving
in 2007

Inflation-adjusted community foundation giving has increased close to sixfold since 1990

Note: Figures estimated for 2008.

Accounting for inflation, community foundations reported the fastest cumulative growth in giving since 1990

Note: Figures estimated for 2008.

¹Percent change in constant 1990 dollars based on annual average Consumer Price Index, all urban consumers (Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of March 2009).

Since 1990, community foundations have increased their overall share of foundation giving

Note: Figures estimated for 2008; due to rounding, figures may not add up to 100 percent.

Community Foundation Giving Patterns, 2007

The larger community foundations included in the Foundation Center's 2007 grants sample¹ were more likely than independent and corporate foundations to provide funding for the arts, education, human services, and religion. They were less likely to provide funding for health and science and technology.

By target population group, community foundation giving primarily benefited children and youth and the economically disadvantaged—consistent with independent and corporate foundations. By types of support, community foundations favored program support, followed by general operating support.

¹The Foundation Center's 2007 grants sample database includes all of the grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by 1,339 of the largest U.S. foundations, including 134 community foundations. The overall sample accounted for roughly half of grant dollars awarded by the more than 75,000 grantmaking U.S. foundations.

Education and human services were the top priorities of community foundations in 2007

Note: Based on a sample of 134 larger community foundations. Due to rounding, figures may not add up to 100 percent.

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

²Includes 0.6 percent of community foundation grant dollars awarded for the social sciences.

Community foundations provided larger shares of their funding for the arts, education, and human services, than other foundations in 2007

Note: Based on a sample of 1,339 larger foundations, including 134 larger community foundations. Due to rounding, figures may not add up to 100 percent.

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

Community Foundation Giving Patterns, 2007, continued

Community foundations prioritized giving for children and youth and the economically disadvantaged in 2007

Note: Based on a sample of 1,339 larger foundations, including 134 community foundations. Chart includes selected beneficiary groups representing at least 1 percent of community foundation grant dollars. 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.

Community foundations allocated a larger share of their grant dollars for operating support than did foundations overall in 2007

Note: Based on a sample of 1,339 larger foundations, including 134 community foundations. Approximately 39 percent of community foundation grant dollars could not be identified by type of support.

¹Includes endowment funds.

Summary 2007 Statistics for Community Foundations

Change in Community Foundations, 2006 to 2007

	2006	2007	% Change
No. of Foundations	717	717	0.0
Total Giving	\$ 3,596,222	\$ 4,347,985	20.9
Total Assets	\$49,941,820	\$56,680,021	13.5
Gifts Received	\$ 6,033,373	\$ 6,232,385	3.3

Note: Dollars in thousands.

Community foundation giving represented about one-tenth of total foundation giving in 2007

Note: Based on total giving by 75,187 grantmaking private and community foundations. Due to rounding, figures may not add up to 100 percent.

Summary 2007 Statistics for Community Foundations, continued

Top 25 Community Foundations by Total Giving, 2007

Foundation	State	Total Giving ¹	Assets	Gifts Received	Fiscal Date
1. Silicon Valley Community Foundation ²	CA	\$243,245,861	\$1,943,885,894	\$292,209,148	12/31/2007
2. California Community Foundation	CA	216,019,934	1,257,906,849	151,855,783	6/30/2008
3. Greater Kansas City Community Foundation	MO	192,905,943	1,183,724,020	189,014,176	12/31/2007
4. New York Community Trust	NY	166,053,450	2,135,691,023	175,657,416	12/31/2007
5. Chicago Community Trust	IL	115,544,031	1,841,684,803	93,605,251	9/30/2007
6. Columbus Foundation and Affiliated Organizations	OH	110,778,929	1,045,016,666	119,108,453	12/31/2007
7. Foundation For The Carolinas	NC	106,345,459	801,483,218	260,989,062	12/31/2007
8. San Francisco Foundation	CA	96,511,000	1,017,024,000	120,361,000	6/30/2008
9. Community Foundation for the National Capital Region	DC	91,206,281	383,114,303	121,252,502	3/31/2008
10. Tulsa Community Foundation	OK	87,148,870	3,740,241,151	371,970,177	12/31/2007
11. Cleveland Foundation	OH	78,915,972	2,183,913,190	30,907,324	12/31/2007
12. Boston Foundation	MA	78,664,000	923,736,000	112,984,000	6/30/2008
13. Communities Foundation of Texas	TX	76,888,000	754,453,000	47,201,000	6/30/2008
14. Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta	GA	74,491,445	771,651,441	103,945,713	12/31/2007
15. Arizona Community Foundation	AZ	70,383,000	511,573,000	35,120,000	3/31/2008
16. East Bay Community Foundation	CA	65,176,217	386,256,663	149,431,401	6/30/2008
17. Denver Foundation	CO	65,127,294	559,026,450	71,703,891	12/31/2007
18. Marin Community Foundation	CA	60,802,431	1,180,106,202	45,546,790	6/30/2008
19. Greater Houston Community Foundation	TX	58,380,000	268,957,643	81,305,000	12/31/2007
20. Omaha Community Foundation	NE	57,627,570	471,122,114	61,081,665	12/31/2007
21. Seattle Foundation	WA	57,603,017	676,792,933	97,963,454	12/31/2007
22. San Diego Foundation	CA	55,938,000	465,273,000	63,401,000	6/30/2008
23. Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan	MI	51,279,257	678,357,305	146,788,297	12/31/2007
24. Oregon Community Foundation	OR	50,980,877	1,214,148,698	123,650,908	12/31/2007
25. Minneapolis Foundation	MN	49,540,078	689,426,201	32,905,448	3/31/2008

¹Includes grants, scholarships, and employee matching gifts; excludes set-asides, loans, PRIs, and program expenses.

²In 2007, the Peninsula Community Foundation and Community Foundation Silicon Valley merged to become the Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

Giving: 43 percent of community foundations reported more than \$1 million in giving in 2007

Percent of Number of Foundations

Note: Based on total giving by 717 grantmaking community foundations. Due to rounding, figures may not add up to 100 percent.

Assets: 55 percent of community foundations reported more than \$10 million in assets in 2007

Percent of Number of Foundations

Note: Based on 717 grantmaking community foundations. Due to rounding, figures may not add up to 100 percent.

Summary 2007 Statistics for Community Foundations, continued

Community Foundations by State, 2007

¹Includes one foundation located in Puerto Rico and one in the Virgin Islands.

The Midwest accounted for close to half of community foundations in 2007

Note: Giving includes grants, scholarships, and employee matching gifts; excludes set-asides, loans, PRIs, and program expenses.

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Source for all data: The Foundation Center

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“Key Facts on Community Foundations” is
available at foundationcenter.org.