



- one** > **Resources to enhance your effectiveness.** We focus on helping foundations increase the effectiveness of their grantmaking and simplify their work. Members have ready access to an array of useful tools, publications, samples, best practices and other information — in print or online — to help maximize the impact of their grant dollars, their relationships with donors and the efficiency of their staff and/or volunteer board members.
- two** > **Regional information to keep you up-to-date.** We are your access point for information and knowledge related to our region's unique needs — information you'll find nowhere else. We keep our members updated on emerging local giving trends and data, new community developments, pending legislative action, local giving news and more, to help you make effective decisions, work better with donors and plan for the future.
- three** > **A strong voice to represent your interests.** We provide a unified voice to strengthen and protect philanthropy, representing members' interests with elected officials, the media, nonprofits and the general public. We communicate the important role of community and public foundations by supporting key legislation, building the skills of grantseekers and much more. You can lend your voice to this platform and benefit from our advocacy on behalf of all foundations.
- four** > **Great programs to expand your knowledge.** We deliver a wide variety of ongoing programs where members learn useful ideas and effective practices from regional and national experts in the field. Community and public foundation members find offerings tailored to address their specific interests and needs, including select programs you can make available to your donors.
- five** > **Visibility to highlight your philanthropy.** We bring your stories to a wider audience through the Council's widely read print and online news vehicles, local media and other venues, to help increase your program's visibility. You can use us to introduce your foundation to potential donors and other new audiences and raise your regional profile.
- six** > **Networks to learn from others.** We make it easy to meet and work with your peers at other community and public foundations in our region. You can connect with, and learn from, others who share your unique set of grantmaking, fundraising and donor relationship challenges, and be in touch with other types of grantmaking organizations working to make a difference here at home.
- seven** > **Opportunities to develop your leadership.** We provide numerous opportunities for your organization and your staff and board members to play an important leadership role in the field and the community. Members can get involved in Council committees and task forces; participate in programs with nonprofit and community leaders; and much more.
- eight** > **A local presence to serve you close to home.** We offer you programs, services and events that are close-at-hand, and bring top national experts and expertise to the region. You can use a car instead of an airplane to participate in high quality skill-building and networking activities throughout the year.
- nine** > **Responsive, personalized service to meet your needs.** We get to know you, your organization, and its distinct characteristics and goals. You receive personalized attention from staff people who live and work in this region — and who are committed to helping your organization excel in achieving your philanthropic goals.
- ten** > **Leadership to strengthen philanthropy.** Membership in the Council makes you part of a leadership organization dedicated to strengthening respectful, ethical philanthropy. The Council developed Principles for Minnesota Grantmakers, a code of ethics for foundations; corresponding practices for community/public foundations that offer practical ways to implement the Principles; and many other leadership initiatives to help uphold the public trust of foundations.

Community & Public Foundation Member Benefits

At the Minnesota Council on Foundations, we understand that community and public foundations are responsible for fulfilling multiple roles in their local communities. In addition to grantmaking, community foundations are typically faced with the challenges of:

- > Building relationships with prospective donors and their professional advisors.
- > Creating sustainable financial models to support their missions and operations, which is a particularly critical challenge for newer foundations.
- > Increasing unrestricted grantmaking dollars to have the flexibility to address emerging community needs.
- > Developing effective donor services models and donor giving products.
- > Differentiating themselves from for-profit financial institutions and other nonprofit organizations.

The Minnesota Council on Foundations can help. Think of us a partner that can help you grow and expand philanthropy. We offer networking contacts, capacity development opportunities, regional information and resources designed to make your important work easier and your grantmaking more effective.

MEMBER BENEFITS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE >>>

“The Minnesota Council on Foundations has been a valuable professional development tool for me. It has provided me with the opportunity to connect with others in the field, to build a support network with people in similar roles and to hone my skills in grantmaking. It is a great resource for those who are new to philanthropy and want to learn, as well as for seasoned professionals who have experience and wisdom to share with others.”

— Karen Kelley-Ariwoola, *The Minneapolis Foundation*

Community & Public Foundation Member Benefits

Your membership dollar goes a long way when you invest it in the Minnesota Council on Foundations. Here are a few examples of the many benefits and privileges of Council membership, which are available to all staff and board members involved in the work of your foundation:

Community & Public Foundation Programs – Members have exclusive access to educational and informational programs specifically for community and other public foundations.

Member Networks – The Council’s member networks let you interact and connect with others who share the same roles or funding interests, through periodic meetings and e-mail listserves. Current networks include groups for development officers, program officers, grant managers, communications, and funders interested in youth development and early childhood issues.

Effective Grantmaking Programs – The Council offers ongoing programs on effective grantmaking, covering the basic and advanced tools, skills and knowledge you need to maximize the impact of your grant dollars.

Member Briefings – The Council hosts regular member briefings on the latest community issues, new grantmaking concepts and other topics that keep members in touch with their field.

Sample Documents Center – Members have exclusive access to the Council’s online library of sample forms, policies and other documents commonly used by community and other public foundations and other types of grantmaking organizations — available for download anytime.

Legal FAQs – The Council’s members-only Web area features an online resource with answers to foundations’ most commonly asked legal questions.

“MCF Notes” Member Newsletter – The Council’s bimonthly member newsletter features in-depth articles on key foundation management and governance issues, including the popular “What Every Grantmaker Should Know” series.

Member E-newsletter – The Council’s weekly e-mail newsletter delivers the latest foundation news, information, media headlines and resources right to your desktop.

Legislative Updates and Alerts – Members receive timely Council updates and alerts on any local or federal legislative activity that impacts foundations.

“Giving Forum” Newspaper – Council members receive, and are featured in, its widely read quarterly newspaper, which provides an in-depth look at the latest foundation issues, trends, news and strategies in the region, and is an effective vehicle to communicate your news to the state’s nonprofit sector.

Minnesota Grantmakers Online – Members receive free subscriptions to the largest online database of Minnesota foundations and grants, to help find potential funding partners, identify nonprofits that match your funding interests and/or those of your donors, and much more.

Research Reports – Members receive free copies of the Council’s annual research reports, including the annual “Giving in Minnesota” report on local foundation giving trends and an annual “Outlook Report” that assesses future grantmaking activity.

Annual Conference – Members get discounted rates for the Council’s annual conference, which is the premier annual gathering of grantmakers in the region.

And much more...



“The Minnesota Council on Foundations is a true partner in promoting philanthropy in our state. Through the Council we’ve been able to connect with foundations of all disciplines at work across the state.”

Holly C. Sampson
President, Duluth-Superior Area
Community Foundation



Community foundations are operating in a dynamic and challenging environment. Competition for charitable dollars continues to increase, a tough economy has caused a rapid decline in assets, and state budget cuts have resulted in increased community needs.

That’s why Holly C. Sampson, President of the Duluth-Superior Area Community Foundation, is thankful she is part of a strong network of grantmakers via the Minnesota Council on Foundations.

“Being able to connect with foundations of all disciplines has helped us learn from others and we’ve created some unique partnerships and initiatives to address community needs.”

Sampson finds the Council’s research products extremely helpful. “Information like the report on youth development funding helps grantmakers across the state focus resources in areas where they are needed most. It’s a great example of the quality of information they provide to us.”

Through the Council, Holly finds plenty of opportunities for her and her staff to build relationships with grantmakers throughout the state, keep up-to-date on legislative issues, and participate in capacity-building opportunities that help maximize the foundation’s grantmaking practices.

And she appreciates the Council’s efforts to hold events in the Duluth area. “At times, they’ve brought the information to us, like the Annual Conference held one year in Duluth. It’s really helpful because we’re not always able to attend events in the Twin Cities area.”

Holly also sees great value in the Council’s advocacy work on behalf of the entire field. “In today’s climate, it’s critical to have an organization like the Council creating information to help legislators, the media and the community at large understand what it is that we do and why it is so important. It’s comforting to know we have the Council, who is very well-respected and viewed in such a positive light nationally, working on behalf of grantmakers throughout the state.”

This is one example of how the Minnesota Council on Foundations helps community/public foundations. Please contact us to find out more about how your foundation can benefit from joining the Minnesota Council on Foundations.