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News Release

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MINNESOTA GRANTMAKERS ARE LESS OPTIMISTIC NOW THAN LAST NOVEMBER, SURVEY SHOWS

MINNEAPOLIS (June 25, 2009) — Grantmakers in Minnesota have become less optimistic about maintaining their giving levels through the remainder of 2009, according to the *Special Update: 2009 Outlook Report* released today by the Minnesota Council on Foundations (MCF).

The report compares responses to surveys conducted in March 2009 and November 2008, which asked respondents to anticipate their giving in 2009 compared to their previous year's level.

Anticipated grantmaking changes in 2009; responses from March 2009 and November 2008:

Expect to decrease giving: 52% (March) compared to 40% (November)

Expect to remain the same: 31% (March) compared to 41% (November)

Expect to increase: 17% (March) compared to 15% (November)

The March 2009 survey, administered by MCF in partnership with the national Council on Foundations (COF), assessed how grantmakers in Minnesota have been affected by the economic downturn and how they anticipate responding to community needs. COF wrote the survey, collected the national data, and provided Minnesota-specific data to MCF for additional analysis.

This further analysis reveals that, in comparing Minnesota grantmakers with others around the country, Minnesota foundations and corporate giving programs are more optimistic about maintaining their 2008 levels of giving through 2009.

Survey respondents expecting to decrease their giving in 2009 compared to 2008:

Minnesota: 52%

U.S.: 62%

“The philanthropic community here in Minnesota accounts for nearly \$1 billion annually in grants, so it’s critical that we know how these funders are faring as they experience asset declines in this economy,” says Bill King, MCF president. “While we in Minnesota are more hopeful that decreases in grantmaking will not be as steep as they will be for funders elsewhere, the change in what Minnesota funders are anticipating for the rest of this year presents challenges.”

Even in these troubled times, Minnesota grantmakers are doing what they can to assist those adversely affected by the economic downturn, King goes on to explain. “Eighty-one percent of our survey respondents said they are providing aid to families, assisting the lower-income population or supporting human services or economic development. For 11 percent of grantmakers, these efforts are a new focus in 2009,” he notes. Nationally, only 6 percent of grantmakers say responding to the economic downturn is a new focus this year.

Other key findings in the report cover declines in grantmaker assets, relationships with new grantseekers, support for basic needs, and reductions in operational and administrative expenses.

A complete copy of *Special Update: 2009 Outlook Report* can be found at http://www.mcf.org/mcf/giving/outlook/outlook2009_specialupdate.htm.

About the Minnesota Council on Foundations

The Minnesota Council on Foundations (MCF), a regional association of grantmakers, works actively to expand philanthropy and increase the vitality of our communities. MCF members represent three-quarters of all grantmaking in the state, awarding more than \$850 million to nonprofits annually. Members include family and private independent foundations, community and other public foundations, and corporate foundations and giving programs. For more information, visit www.mcf.org.

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