

Religion Grantmaking: Giving in Minnesota, 2011 Edition



- Funding for religion in Minnesota declined 11 percent in 2009, to \$27.4 million.
- The religion category received a 3-percent share of grant dollars overall, ranking seventh of eight subject areas.
- Community/public foundations continued to provide the most funding for religion, but private foundations increased giving to religion by 37 percent.

The religion category includes grants to worship and faith-based organizations, such as churches, synagogues, and religious associations.

Grantmaking to religion declined 11 percent

The Giving in Minnesota sample gave \$27.4 million to religion in 2009, down 11 percent from \$30.7 million in 2008 (see Figure A). The share of grant dollars dedicated to religion was 3 percent in 2009, in line with previous years.

Minnesota grantmakers have historically given a higher share of their grant dollars to religion than have grantmakers across the nation, as tracked by the Foundation Center¹. In 2009, Minnesota grantmakers gave a 3-percent share of grant dollars to religion, while the national sample gave 2 percent to this subject area.

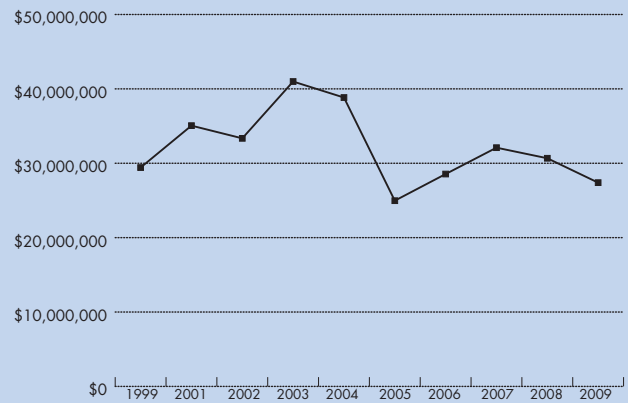
Giving by community/public and corporate grantmakers decreased

Private foundations² increased giving to the religion category by 37 percent from 2008 to 2009. Giving by the L. and N. Andreas Foundation, which is new to the sample this year, drove this increase.

In Minnesota:

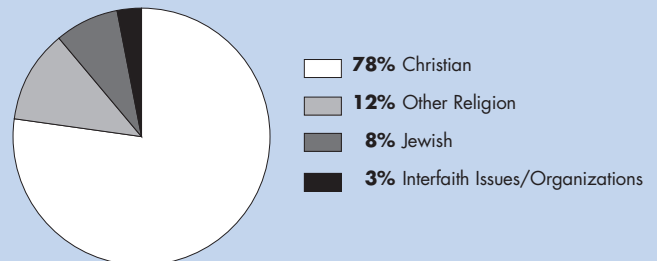
- Community/public foundations' giving to religion decreased 30 percent, to \$10.6 million in 2009 from \$15.1 million in 2008. Despite this decline, they continued to provide the largest share of religion grant dollars (39 percent). Community/public foundations' relatively high level of religion grantmaking is due in part to giving from donor-advised funds.
- Corporate foundations provided 24 percent of the grant dollars for religion, or \$6.6 million, a drop of 19 percent from 2008. Corporate giving to religion in Minnesota comes primarily from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation.
- Private foundations provided 37 percent of the grant dollars for religion, or \$10.2 million.

Figure A: Minnesota Religion Grant Dollars, 1999-2009*



* All values adjusted for inflation to 2009 dollars, using the Consumer Price Index. Based on grants of \$2,000 or more made by a sample of 100 of the largest grantmakers in Minnesota. Source: Minnesota Council on Foundations, *Giving in Minnesota, 2011 Edition*.

Figure B: Minnesota Religion Grantmaking by Subcategory, 2009



* Due to rounding, figures do not add up to 100%. Based on grants of \$2,000 or more made by a sample of 100 of the largest grantmakers in Minnesota. Source: Minnesota Council on Foundations, *Giving in Minnesota, 2011 Edition*.

Christian subcategory received the majority of religion grant dollars

Consistent with previous years, the Christian subcategory received the largest share of religion grant dollars, 78 percent or \$21.2 million (see Figure B). Christian dollars decreased 10 percent from 2008 (see Table 1). Two large grantmakers to this subcategory, Fidelis Foundation and Wessner Foundation, were not included in the sample in 2009. And overall funding decreases by a number of grantmakers contributed to the decline.

¹ *Foundation Growth and Giving Estimates: Current Outlook (2011 Edition)*, Foundation Center. Note that MCF's sample of Minnesota grantmakers is different in several ways from the Foundation Center's national sample. One difference is that the Minnesota sample includes corporate giving programs, while the Foundation Center sample does not.

² Private foundations are generally founded by an individual, a group of individuals or a family, and can be further categorized as a family foundation or an independent private foundation.

Grantmaking to the other religion subcategory, which includes employee matching grants, fundraising by religious organizations for their operations, and interdisciplinary religious programs, fell 35 percent to \$3.1 million.

Grantmaking to the Jewish subcategory increased 71 percent in 2009. This change was primarily due to changes in the 2009 Giving in Minnesota sample: two grantmakers that support this subcategory, the Regis Foundation and the Beverly Foundation, were among the 100 largest grantmakers in the sample in 2009 but not 2008.

Largest Religion Grantmakers

Minnesota's five largest religion grantmakers in 2009 provided 66 percent of the funding to this subject area. They are:

Grantmaker	Total Grant Dollars to Religion
1. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation and Corporation	\$5,600,217
2. L. and N. Andreas Foundation	\$3,993,140
3. The Saint Paul Foundation and Minnesota Community Foundation	\$3,979,858
4. Lutheran Community Foundation	\$2,816,111
5. Catholic Community Foundation in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis	\$1,616,259

Religion Grant Recipients

The top five recipients of Minnesota's religion grant dollars in 2009 received 32 percent of the grant funds for this subject area. They are:

Grantmaker	Total Grant Dollars Awarded
1. Institute for Christian Studies (MI) ³	\$3,980,310
2. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (IL) ⁴	\$1,503,878
3. Minneapolis Jewish Federation	\$1,368,629
4. The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (MO) ⁴	\$1,102,887
5. Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis	\$730,784

Table 1: Minnesota Religion Grantmaking by Subcategory, 2007-2009*

	2007		2008		2009	
	Grant Dollars	Grant Dollars	% Change	Grant Dollars	% Change	
Buddhist	\$24,205	\$69,000	185%	\$75,000	9%	
Christian	\$24,457,971	\$23,680,433	-3%	\$21,232,829	-10%	
Hindu	\$103,000	\$0	-100%	\$0	N/A	
Interfaith Issues/Organizations	\$1,037,839	\$909,284	-12%	\$932,090	3%	
Islamic	\$8,240	\$15,000	82%	\$0	-100%	
Jewish	\$1,869,886	\$1,205,293	-36%	\$2,057,852	71%	
Other Religion	\$4,593,830	\$4,792,888	4%	\$3,095,243	-35%	
Total	\$32,094,971	\$30,671,898	-4%	\$27,393,014	-11%	

* Due to rounding, figures may not add up to total.

All values adjusted for inflation to 2009 dollars, using the Consumer Price Index.

Based on grants of \$2,000 or more made by a sample of 100 of the largest grantmakers in Minnesota.

Source: Minnesota Council on Foundations, *Giving in Minnesota, 2011 Edition*.

About Giving in Minnesota

Giving in Minnesota, a report produced by the Minnesota Council on Foundations (MCF) since 1976 (and produced annually since 1997), provides a comprehensive analysis of giving trends by organized philanthropy in the state. *Giving in Minnesota, 2011 Edition*, describes Minnesota grantmaking trends and patterns for the year 2009, which MCF defines as the fiscal year of any Minnesota foundation or corporate giving program that ends between June 1, 2009, and May 31, 2010. This is the most recent period for which comprehensive data are available.

The subject area grantmaking information is based on an analysis of 24,782 grants of \$2,000 or more, made by a sample of 100 of the largest grantmakers in Minnesota. The total giving of these 100 large grantmakers accounted for approximately 84 percent of all grant dollars paid in the state in 2009; the grants included in the sample represent 67 percent of all grantmaking in the state.

To analyze trends by subject area, MCF uses the National Taxonomy of Exempt Entities (NTEE) coding system to classify grants into eight major subject areas: arts, culture and humanities; education; environment/animals; health; human services; international affairs; public affairs/society benefit; and religion.

The Minnesota Council on Foundations (MCF), a regional association of grantmakers, works actively to strengthen and expand philanthropy. MCF members represent three-quarters of all grantmaking in the state, awarding more than \$900 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.

³ The Institute for Christian Studies (MI) received a single large grant from the L. and N. Andreas Foundation.

⁴ Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation and Corporation gave to the Lutheran synod headquarters: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (IL) & The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (MO)