

Public Affairs/Society Benefit Grantmaking: Giving in Minnesota, 2011 Edition



- Funding for public affairs/society benefit in Minnesota increased by 13 percent to \$162.3 million, making it the only subject area to grow in 2009.
- Corporate grantmakers provided the largest amount of funding for public affairs/society benefit in 2009.
- Community/public and private foundations increased their giving significantly.

The public affairs/society benefit subject area covers grants to nonprofits involved in general civic, community and societal improvement projects. It consists of six subcategories: philanthropy and voluntarism; community improvement/capacity building; public affairs/society benefit: multipurpose; science and technology research; civil rights/social action; and social science research.

Public affairs/society benefit was the only subject area to grow in 2009

Public affairs/society benefit giving increased by 13 percent to \$162.3 million in 2009, making it the only one of eight subject areas to grow. The total grant dollars paid to public affairs/society benefit changed little between 2002 and 2008; the 13-percent increase is the largest for this subject area since 1999 (see Figure A). The public affairs/society benefit category received an 18-percent share of the grant dollars from the Giving in Minnesota sample, the third largest subject area share.

In recent years, Minnesota grantmakers typically gave a larger share of their grant dollars to public affairs/society benefit than did national grantmakers, as tracked by the Foundation Center¹. This was also the case in 2009, when the national share was 15 percent.

Community/public and private foundations increased their giving substantially

Corporate grantmakers provided the largest amount of funding for public affairs/society benefit in 2009. But community/public and private foundations² increased their giving significantly, by 64 and 22 percent, respectively.

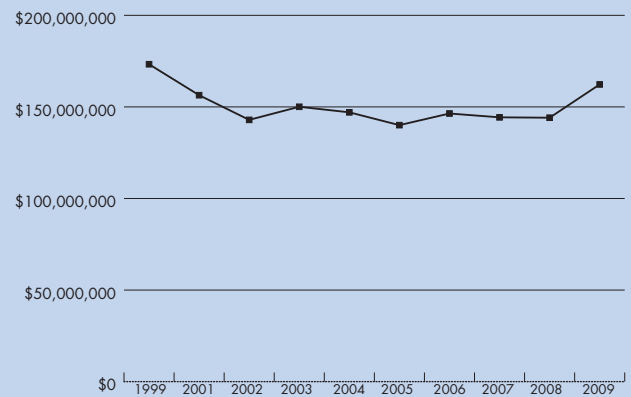
In Minnesota:

- While corporate grant dollars to public affairs/society benefit declined six percent from 2008 levels, to \$70.0 million, corporate grantmakers remained the largest contributors to this subject area, with a 43-percent share.
- Private foundations provided \$64.7 million to public affairs/society benefit, or 40 percent of the giving to this subject area.
- Community/public foundations gave \$27.6 million to public affairs/society benefit, up from \$16.8 million in 2008. This represents 17 percent of total giving to this subject area.

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.

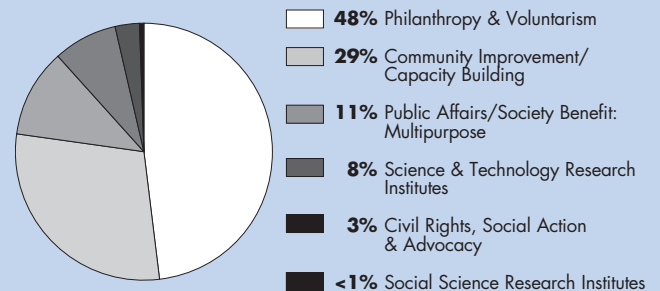
Figure A: Minnesota Public Affairs/Society Benefit Grant Dollars, 1999-2009*



* 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 Public Affairs/Society Benefit 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*.

Philanthropy and voluntarism subcategory grew by 24 percent in 2009

Consistent with previous years, the philanthropy and voluntarism subcategory received the largest share of public affairs grant dollars (see Table 1 and Figure B). In 2009, this subcategory captured almost half of the grant dollars, or \$78.4 million, a 24-percent increase from 2008. A number of large grants, including \$2 million in increased giving to United Ways, contributed to this increase.

Community improvement/capacity building is the second largest subcategory in this subject area, receiving \$46.7 million or 29 percent of the grant dollars. Public affairs/society benefit: multipurpose received \$18.4 million or 11 percent of the overall public affairs/society benefit dollars. These categories remained relatively stable between 2008 and 2009.

Table 1: Minnesota Public Affairs/Society Benefit Grantmaking by Subcategory, 2007-2009*

	2007		2008		2009	
	Grant Dollars	Grant Dollars	% Change	Grant Dollars	% Change	
Civil Rights, Social Action & Advocacy	\$5,188,388	\$4,137,056	-20%	\$4,224,868	2%	
Community Improvement/Capacity Building	\$45,650,055	\$43,898,519	-4%	\$46,691,577	6%	
Philanthropy & Voluntarism	\$63,992,071	\$63,442,654	-1%	\$78,445,919	24%	
Public Affairs/Society Benefit: Multipurpose	\$17,195,656	\$18,320,522	7%	\$18,376,473	0%	
Science & Technology Research Institutes	\$11,508,959	\$14,201,342	23%	\$13,785,467	-3%	
Social Science Research Institutes	\$773,015	\$99,500	-87%	\$745,460	649%	
Total	\$144,308,145	\$144,099,593	0%	\$162,269,764	13%	

* 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*.

Largest Public Affairs/Society Benefit Grantmakers

Minnesota's five largest public affairs/society benefit grantmakers in 2009 provided 35 percent of the funding to this subject area. This is the lowest percentage for the five largest grantmakers in any subject area, indicating that a more diverse group of funders supports public affairs/society benefit.

The Saint Paul Foundation and Minnesota Community Foundation and the Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation both appear on this list for the first time.

Grantmaker	Total Grant Dollars to Public Affairs/Society Benefit
1. The McKnight Foundation	\$16,162,811
2. The Saint Paul Foundation and Minnesota Community Foundation	\$15,369,300
3. Target Foundation and Corporation	\$9,076,296
4. Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation	\$8,750,735
5. 3M/3M Foundation	\$8,008,514

Public Affairs/Society Benefit Recipients

The top five recipients of Minnesota's public affairs/society benefit grant dollars in 2009 received 25 percent of the sample's grant funds for this subject area. Cargill Foundation and Cargill, Inc. use the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago to administer all corporate matching grants.

Grantmaker	Total Grant Dollars Awarded
1. Greater Twin Cities United Way	\$19,568,234
2. The Saint Paul Foundation ³	\$9,704,480
3. University of Minnesota	\$5,503,461
4. Greater Des Moines Community Foundation (IA)	\$3,634,958
5. United Way of Metropolitan Chicago (IL)	\$2,497,158

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 Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation granted \$8.5 million to The Saint Paul Foundation.