



2014 Minnesota Annual Grantmaker Rankings: Methodology

Time Period

To ensure year-to-year consistency in the annual rankings, Minnesota Council on Foundations (MCF) collects data from the same time period each year. The *2014 Minnesota Annual Grantmaker Rankings*, released in February 2016, include information on grants and assets of Minnesota's largest foundations and corporate giving programs with fiscal years ending between June 1, 2014, and May 31, 2015.

Sources of Information

To identify Minnesota's largest grantmakers, from which the annual rankings are determined, MCF uses the previous year's rankings, Minnesota Grantmakers Online (MGO) and MCF member information.

Specific information on grants and assets comes from two primary sources:

- A survey by MCF of large foundations and corporate giving programs located in Minnesota: Information is collected on total grants and corporate gifts paid, program-related investments (PRIs), and assets. In addition to collecting information about overall cash giving, MCF requests data on giving into Minnesota. Corporate grantmakers may also choose to provide information on noncash giving, such as donations of products and services, for inclusion in an alphabetical (unranked) list. Financial information received through this survey may be audited or unaudited.
- Publicly available IRS Form 990 and 990-PF tax return forms for large grantmakers that do not respond to the survey: These forms report total grants and PRIs paid, grants and PRIs paid to organizations located in Minnesota and assets at the end of the organization's filing year.

Information contained within the Minnesota Annual Grantmaker Rankings is based on the best information MCF is able to obtain. Large grantmakers about whom MCF has no information may not be included in the rankings. If current grantmaking data are not available, MCF uses data from the previous year's IRS Form 990.

Types of Foundations

To create the rankings, MCF categorizes grantmakers into three types: private foundations, corporate foundations/giving programs, and community/public foundations.

Private foundations are generally founded by an individual, a group of individuals or a family, and can be further categorized as either a family or independent foundation. In a private family foundation, the donor and/or donor's family are actively involved in management. A private independent foundation has no, or few, family members of the original donor actively involved in governance.

Although operating foundations are also private foundations, MCF does not include them in the Minnesota Annual Grantmaker Rankings because they do not generally make grants. Instead, the majority of their funds are expended to operate their own charitable programs.

Corporate foundations and giving programs are connected to businesses and their contributions come from the corporation's profits. Some corporations establish foundations, while others support the community through corporate giving programs that generally are funded through the company's annual budget. In some cases, corporations operate both a foundation and a corporate giving program.

Community/public foundations are publicly supported foundations operated by and for the benefit of a specific community or population, area of interest or geographic area. They manage a variety of funds on behalf of donors, from unrestricted assets to endowed funds to donor-advised funds. Community/public foundations may also manage supporting organizations. Most community/public foundations engage in fund development directly with donors.

Also included in the community/public foundations category are public charity grantmakers, such as federated funds that raise donations through workplace giving campaigns and other means. The 2014 Minnesota Annual Grantmaker Rankings includes public charity grantmakers that award competitive grants.

Reporting Format

These lists comprise the 2014 Minnesota Annual Grantmaker Rankings, released in February 2016:

- Top 50 Minnesota Grantmakers by Grants Paid, 2014
Largest foundations and corporate grantmakers based in Minnesota ranked by grants, corporate giving and program-related investments (PRIs) paid in 2014
- Top 50 Minnesota Grantmakers by Assets, 2014
Largest foundations and corporate grantmakers based in Minnesota ranked by 2014 asset size
- Top 25 Minnesota Private Foundations, 2014
Largest private family and independent foundations based in Minnesota ranked by grants and program-related investments (PRIs) paid in 2014
- Top 25 Minnesota Corporate Grantmakers, 2014
Largest corporate foundations and corporate giving programs based in Minnesota ranked by grants, corporate giving and program-related investments (PRIs) paid in 2014
- Top 25 Minnesota Community/Public Foundations and Public Charity Grantmakers, 2014
Largest community/public foundations and public charity grantmakers based in Minnesota ranked by grants and program-related investments (PRIs) paid in 2014
- Noncash Charitable Contributions by Minnesota Corporate Grantmakers, 2014
Alphabetical list of large corporate foundations and corporate giving programs based in Minnesota that voluntarily reported in-kind donations and other noncash charitable contributions in 2014