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# Accelerating Change for Women and Girls

## THE ROLE OF WOMEN'S FUNDS



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WOMEN'S  
FUNDING  
NETWORK



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Produced by  
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## ABOUT THE REPORT

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## ABOUT THE FOUNDATION CENTER

Established in 1956 and today supported by close to 600 foundations, the Foundation Center is the nation's leading authority on philanthropy, connecting nonprofits and the grantmakers supporting them to tools they can use and information they can trust. The Center maintains the most comprehensive database on U.S. grantmakers and their grants — a robust, accessible knowledge bank for the sector. It also operates research, education, and training programs designed to advance knowledge of philanthropy at every level. Thousands of people visit the Center's web site each day and are served in its five regional library/learning centers and its network of more than 400 funding information centers located in public libraries, community foundations, and educational institutions in every U.S. state and beyond. For more information, please visit [foundationcenter.org](http://foundationcenter.org) or call (212) 620-4230.

## ABOUT WOMEN'S FUNDING NETWORK

As a global network and a movement for social justice, the Women's Funding Network accelerates women's leadership and invests in solving critical social issues — from poverty to global security — by bringing together the financial power, influence and voices of women's funds. You can learn more about Women's Funding Network at [womensfundingnetwork.org](http://womensfundingnetwork.org).

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- ◆ Strengthen education leadership to improve student achievement
- ◆ Enhance out-of-school learning opportunities
- ◆ Build appreciation and demand for the arts

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# Women's Funding Network 2008 Survey Participants

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African American Women's Fund of the 21st Century Foundation	New Mexico Women's Foundation	Women's Fund of Central Ohio
African Women's Development Fund	New York Women's Foundation	Women's Fund of Greater Birmingham
Arizona Foundation for Women	Nokomis Foundation	Women's Fund of Greater Green Bay
Atlanta Women's Foundation	Semillas	Women's Fund of Herkimer and Oneida Counties
Aurora Women & Girls Foundation	Sister Fund	Women's Fund of Miami-Dade
Bangladesh Women's Fund	Sojourner Foundation	Women's Fund of Monterey County
Boston Women's Fund	Ukrainian Women's Fund	Women's Fund of New Hampshire
Bucks County Women's Fund	Urgent Action Fund - Africa	Women's Fund of New Jersey
Bulgarian Fund for Women	Vermont Women's Fund	Women's Fund of Rhode Island
Central American Women's Fund	Washington Area Women's Foundation	Women's Fund of the Community Foundation of Central Illinois
Channel Foundation	WNY Women's Fund	Women's Fund of the Community Foundation of Grand Forks, East Grand Forks & Region
Chester County Fund for Women and Girls	Women for Women of the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina	Women's Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson
Chicago Foundation for Women	Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	Women's Fund of the Fond du Lac Area Foundation
Chrysalis Foundation	Women Win	Women's Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Dallas Women's Foundation	Women's Endowment Fund of the Akron Community Foundation	Women's Fund of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Delta Research and Educational Foundation	Women's Foundation (Hong Kong)	Women's Fund of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Foundation for Women	Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis	Women's Fund of the La Crosse Community Foundation
Frontera Women's Foundation	Women's Foundation of Colorado	Women's Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation
A Fund for Women (a component fund of the Madison Community Foundation)	Women's Foundation of Greater Kansas City	Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts
Fund for Women Artists	Women's Foundation of Minnesota	Women's Fund of Winston-Salem
International Women's Development Agency	Women's Foundation of Montana	Women's Funding Alliance
Kentucky Foundation for Women	Women's Foundation of Oklahoma	Women's Program of the Asia Foundation
List Family Foundation	Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona	Women's Sports Foundation
Maine Women's Fund	Women's Fund at the Community Foundation of Southeastern MA	World YWCA
Mama Cash	Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region, Inc.	Wyoming Women's Foundation
Mongolian Women's Fund	Women's Fund in Georgia	
Ms. Foundation for Women		
Nevada Women's Fund		



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# Executive Summary

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In recent years, interest in philanthropy for and by women has intensified, accompanied by a growing acceptance of the idea that philanthropic investments in women and girls can accelerate positive change in communities. To understand this evolution in thinking and practice within philanthropy, the Foundation Center partnered with the Women's Funding Network, a global movement of women's funds, to chart the current landscape of philanthropy focused on women and girls and document the specific role played by women's funds.

Women's funds span public charities, private foundations, and funds within community foundations. The over 145 member funds of the Women's Funding Network have collective total assets of \$465 million, disburse an estimated \$60 million a year in grants, and leverage millions more through their wider relationships and connections.

The report finds that in recent years funding for women and girls by the broader foundation community has grown at a faster rate than foundation giving on the whole, although as a share of overall foundation giving, it has remained below 7.5 percent for over a decade-and-a-half. Giving by women's funds in particular has grown even more rapidly.

What this suggests is that funders are becoming increasingly aware of the potential for accelerating social change by investing in women and women-led organizations. Nevertheless, the

relatively small share of foundation funding focused on women and girls indicates that this awareness could be further strengthened.

This report examines women's funds' distinctive contributions to philanthropy—from their grantmaking impact to their strides in gaining recognition for the importance of investing in women and girls as essential solution-builders.

Key findings from the report have been organized under the following areas, and are summarized below:

- *Strategic Focus of Women's Funds*
- *Fiscal Characteristics of Women's Funds*
- *Giving by Women's Funds*
- *Giving Targeted to Women and Girls by the Broader Foundation Community*



Photo courtesy of Healthy Family, Information and Rehabilitation Center, Azerbaijan, a grantee of the Global Fund for Women.

Women's funds are investing in women-led solutions in communities across the globe.

*“Women’s funds seek to achieve lasting community gains by addressing the root causes of social problems and transforming systems, attitudes, and social norms.”*

## STRATEGIC FOCUS OF WOMEN’S FUNDS

The vast majority of women’s funds are members of the Women’s Funding Network. As members, they share a cohesive philosophy and set of practices designed to extend their collective impact far beyond their grantmaking. To document how the work of women’s funds actualizes the strategic principles and core values promoted by the Women’s Funding Network, the network conducted a survey of its members in April 2008. The survey was completed by 78 of its members, for a response rate of nearly 60 percent. Key findings from the survey are highlighted below in relation to the strategic principles that guide the work of the Women’s Funding Network’s members:

*Focusing on the catalytic power of investing in women and in women-led solutions.* Women’s Funding Network’s 2008 member survey found that women’s funds are nearly unanimous in agreeing that “investing in the leadership and empowerment of women and girls” is a guiding principle underlying the work they do. At the core of this principle is the recognition that women play a critical role in the development process: “When you invest in a woman, you invest in a family, . . . communities and, ultimately, . . . whole nations.”

*Championing social change.* Women’s funds seek to achieve lasting community gains by addressing the root causes of social problems and transforming systems, attitudes, and social norms. Ninety-eight percent of member funds surveyed indicated that achieving social change was a high priority for their fund. Accordingly, promoting economic justice and sustainability ranks as the top grantmaking priority among women’s funds surveyed.

*Diversifying beyond grantmaking.* To accelerate social change, women’s funds seek to engage their constituents at multiple levels, beyond purely financial involvement. For example, well over half of member funds surveyed participate

in community, national, and/or international leadership in collaborative efforts or networks; serve as staff, board members, or advisors for other organizations, public commissions, or taskforces; conduct research on the status of women and girls; and provide thought leadership on key community issues.

*Re-imagining and democratizing philanthropy.* In the course of their development, women’s funds have devised innovative ways to cultivate philanthropy, for example, through giving circles. They have also sought to re-imagine philanthropy as a collaborative relationship of trusted equals, organized around core shared values, involving donors at every giving level, and promoting diversity in their staffing and decision-making structures. More than 90 percent of the women’s funds surveyed agreed that “creating environments in which everyone can be a philanthropist” is an important goal.

*Cultivating deep expertise on women and money.* In the process of developing creative ways to cultivate philanthropy, women’s funds have accumulated a deep understanding of giving by women, and recognize the need to invest in fundraising leadership. For example, more than three-quarters of Women’s Funding Network members are actively engaged in educating donors and colleagues about philanthropy.

## FISCAL CHARACTERISTICS OF WOMEN’S FUNDS

The Foundation Center compiled summary-level fiscal data on the resources and overall giving of 55 women’s funds representing about 70 percent of total giving by all members of the Women’s Funding Network in 2006. The funds included in this analysis are public charities that are U.S.-based, incorporated as separate 501(c)(3) entities, and either members of the Women’s Funding Network and/or included in the Foundation Center’s database of grantmaking public charities.

*The women's funds included in the Foundation Center analysis gave more than \$35 million in 2006.* Giving by all members of the Women's Funding Network in 2006 totaled approximately \$50 million.

*Adjusted for inflation, giving by the 55 women's funds analyzed by the Foundation Center increased 24.2 percent from 2004 to 2006.* By comparison, overall foundation giving increased 14.8 percent over that period.

*Ten women's funds gave over \$1 million in 2006, up from six funds in 2004.* The Global Fund for Women ranked as the top funder, followed by the Ms. Foundation for Women.

*Overall, assets for the 55 funds studied grew from \$215 million in 2004 to just under \$270 million in 2006.* After inflation, this represents an increase of 17.4 percent.

*Women's funds raised over \$100 million in new gifts in 2006.* Unlike private foundations, which receive funding from individual donors or donor-families, public women's funds raise the resources they need to support their grantmaking and other philanthropic activities from many sources. The \$101 million in gifts received by these 55 funds in 2006 was up from \$72 million in 2004, representing a 31 percent increase, after inflation.

## GIVING BY WOMEN'S FUNDS

To examine the grantmaking patterns of separately constituted, U.S.-based women's funds, the Foundation Center and the Women's Funding Network identified a subset of 25 leading women's funds for detailed analysis. Giving by these funds represented over 70 percent of the total giving of the 55 funds represented in the key findings above.

*The majority of giving by these 25 U.S.-based women's funds was for domestic issues.* Of the \$25.3 million awarded in 2006 by the 25 U.S.-based women's funds included in this analysis, 61 percent targeted domestic—primarily

local—needs, reflecting the fact that most women's funds are place-based, with their giving largely targeted to small, grassroots organizations that address the issues of women and girls in their local areas.

*The majority of grants awarded by the women's funds included in this analysis were for less than \$10,000.* Consistent with the focus on grassroots organizations and causes by most of the 25 women's funds studied, well over half of the almost 2,000 grants they made in 2006 totaled under \$10,000. The median grant amount was \$8,000.

*"Human rights" accounted for the largest share of giving by women's funds.* Support for women's rights, LGBTQ rights, reproductive rights, and other human rights activities captured over one-third of total grant dollars awarded in 2006 by the 25 women's funds studied. "Human rights" accounted for more than half of international giving by women's funds and about 17 percent of U.S.-focused giving. (International giving includes support for overseas recipients as well as for U.S.-based organizations engaged in international causes.)

*Economically disadvantaged women, young and teenage girls, and women of color benefited significantly from women's fund support.* The Women's Funding Network 2008 survey found that for the vast majority of funds surveyed, women with low income or no income were the highest priority populations they were aiming to serve. This is reflected in the Foundation Center's analysis of 25 women's funds, which showed that a significant share of grant dollars awarded by these funds in 2006 targeted the economically disadvantaged, children and youth, and ethnic or racial minorities.

## GIVING TARGETED TO WOMEN AND GIRLS BY THE BROADER FOUNDATION COMMUNITY

Findings for private and community foundation giving targeting women and girls are based on analyses of the Foundation Center's annual grants sample, which includes all grants of

\$10,000 or more awarded primarily during 2006 by more than 1,000 of the largest private and community foundations.

It should be kept in mind that the estimates of support for women and girls reported here represent the amount of support explicitly targeted to benefit women and girls. Many grants targeted to benefit other populations, such as the economically disadvantaged and children and youth, may also benefit women and girls in significant ways. In addition, many grants lack sufficient descriptive information to identify specific population groups that might be served or they may be targeted to serve the general public, including women and girls.

*Foundation giving specifically targeted to benefit women and girls surpassed the rate of overall foundation giving between 1990 and 2006.* Adjusted for inflation, giving targeted to women and girls grew by 223 percent, while overall foundation giving rose by 177 percent.

*Sampled foundations specifically targeted 5.8 percent of their grant dollars to benefit women and girls in 2006.* Since 1990, the share of grant dollars targeted to benefit women and girls has ranged from 5 percent in 1990 to 7.4 percent in 2000 and 2003.

*Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation ranked as both the top funder overall and the top international funder for women and girls.* In 2006, the Gates Foundation awarded 43 grants totaling \$241.7 million for purposes benefiting women and girls, accounting for just over 20 percent of all giving targeted to women and girls. The bulk of this giving was for international purposes.

*Ford Foundation led in domestic-focused giving.* The Ford Foundation, which ranked as the largest funder of women and girls overall in 1990, continued to lead in domestic-focused grant dollars targeting women and girls in 2006, with 94 domestic grants totaling \$44.2 million.

*“Foundation giving specifically targeted to benefit women and girls surpassed the rate of overall foundation giving between 1990 and 2006.”*

*Giving for women and girls from the broader foundation community was more internationally focused than was giving overall.* Giving to overseas recipients and to U.S.-based international programs accounted for over two-fifths of foundation grant dollars for women and girls in 2006, nearly double the 22 percent share of foundations’ overall giving that supported international purposes. (Excluding Gates, the share of international giving targeted to women and girls was over 25 percent, and the overall share of international giving among sampled funders was nearly 14 percent.)

*Foundation giving for women and girls primarily supported health.* Close to half of the grant dollars targeted to benefit women and girls by sampled foundations supported health-related activities in 2006. Within the field of health, reproductive health care received the largest share of funding. Excluding the Gates Foundation, health would still account for the largest share of grant dollars by far, although its share would be lower.

# Introduction

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In recent years interest in philanthropy for and by women has intensified, accompanied by a growing acceptance of the theory that philanthropic investments in women and girls can accelerate positive change in communities. To understand this evolution in thinking and practice within philanthropy, the Foundation Center partnered with the Women's Funding Network, a global movement of women's funds and foundations, to chart the current landscape of philanthropy focused on women and girls and document the specific role played by women's funds.

The first women's funds were established in the 1970s by women who saw that few mainstream philanthropic dollars were specifically targeted at women and girls. They created vehicles to redress the imbalance and provide a new "gender lens" on philanthropy. Some thirty years later, not only has the number of women's funds grown rapidly (with the Women's Funding Network now counting some 145 member funds worldwide), but—arguably as a direct result—the gender lens principle is gaining increasing traction in the wider philanthropic field.

The proliferation of women's funds opens an opportunity to illuminate their work in greater detail, as well as to analyze the movement-building lessons that can be garnered from their collective values and practices. This report examines women's funds' distinctive contributions to philanthropy—from their grantmaking impact to their strides in gaining recognition for the importance of investing in women and girls.

Women's funds operate by making strategic investments in women's leadership and organizations. They aim "to spearhead social change by giving women the money and tools to transform their ideas into permanent reform—from combating poverty, human trafficking, and domestic violence to achieving advances in health care, education, and human rights." Many function as both fundraisers and grantmakers, amassing and investing resources for the benefit of women and communities. Through their membership of the Women's Funding Network, many of these funds work together and leverage their status as a movement, combining ideas, reach, and best practices. Member funds of the Network have collective total assets of over \$465 million, disburse an estimated \$60 million a year in grants, and leverage millions more through their wider relationships and connections.

In addition to reviewing the characteristics of women's funds, this report highlights key trends in the field of funding for women and girls and examines the important role played by the Women's Funding Network in shaping, animating, and optimizing women's funds' distinctive brand of philanthropy.

*Accelerating Change for Women & Girls: The Role of Women's Funds* represents the first Foundation Center study to focus exclusively on grantmaking for women and girls. It is also the Center's first collaboration with the Women's Funding Network. The report consists of three sections:

- *Chapter 1* sets the stage for a detailed examination of women's funds by exploring the broader context of institutional support for women and girls. It analyzes the growth of giving since 1990 and the distribution of funding in 2006.
- *Chapter 2* documents the dimensions and growth of a set of U.S.-based women's funds between 2004 and 2006. It also examines the giving patterns of a subset of leading women's funds, presents information on women's funds based in community foundations in the United States, and highlights the work of women's funds around the globe.
- *Chapter 3* focuses on the role of the Women's Funding Network and its members in social change philanthropy, building on Women's Funding Network data and analysis. It highlights critical issues facing women's funds, including growth, sustainability, and non-grantmaking activities, based on findings from an international survey of women's funds. It explores how women's funds distinguish themselves from other philanthropic vehicles. It also delineates how a network structure has created multiple points of leadership and innovation, facilitating more powerful individual and collective action. Finally, it assesses women's funds' collective agenda and strategy for the future.





# 1

# An Overview of Foundation Grantmaking for Women and Girls

This chapter sets the stage for a detailed examination of the role of women’s funds by documenting the broader context of institutional donor support for women and girls. The purpose is to explore how foundations that are not categorized as “women’s funds” also invest in women and girls. This provides a basis for a comparison of their patterns of giving with those of dedicated women’s funds.

## INTRODUCTION

In 2006, the nation’s more than 72,000 grantmaking foundations gave an estimated \$2.1 billion to support activities targeting women and girls, up from \$412.1 million in 1990 (Figure 1).<sup>1</sup> This more than fivefold increase surpassed the overall rise in giving by grantmaking foundations during this period.

It should be emphasized that these estimates represent the amount of support specifically targeted to benefit women and girls. Many grants targeted to benefit other populations, such as the economically disadvantaged and children and youth, may also benefit women and girls in significant ways. In addition, many grants lack sufficient descriptive information to identify the specific population groups they might serve or they are intended to benefit the general public, including women and girls.

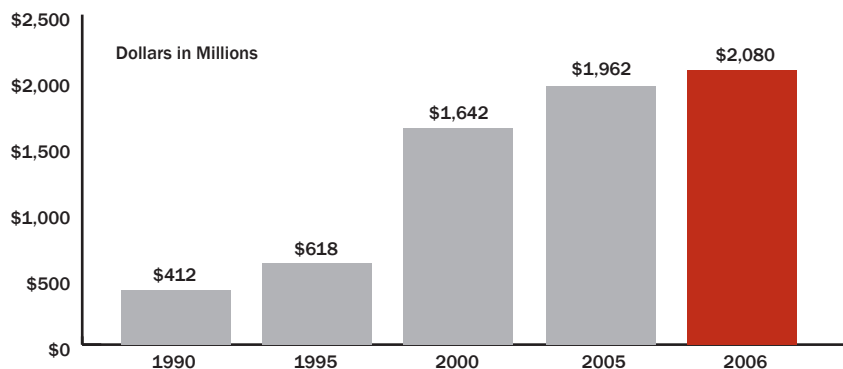
To explore in greater detail the trends in foundation giving for women and girls between 1990 and 2006, the following

analysis examines funding by a sample of the nation’s largest foundations. The analysis is based on the Foundation Center’s annual grants dataset, which includes all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a national sample of approximately 1,000 or more larger private and community foundations. The 2006 data are based on 140,484 grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by 1,263 of the largest U.S. foundations. These grantmakers accounted for over half of the total estimated U.S. foundation giving for women and girls. (See Appendix A “Study Methodology” for details.)

## CHANGES IN FUNDING FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

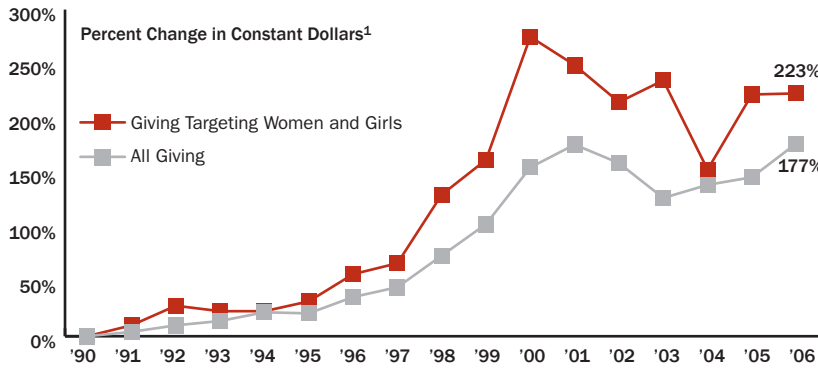
*The rate of growth in foundation giving to benefit women and girls surpassed overall foundation giving between 1990 and 2006.* Grant dollars awarded to benefit women and girls by funders in the Foundation Center’s grant sample (representing over half of all U.S. foundation giving) rose nearly fivefold

**FIGURE 1. Estimated foundation giving targeting women and girls reached \$2.1 billion in 2006**



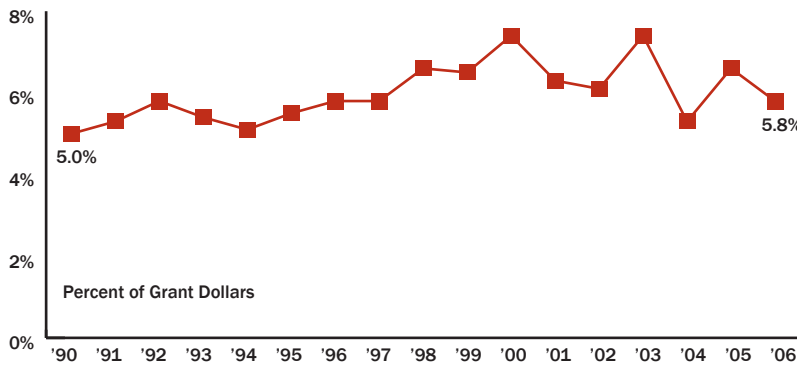
Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women’s Funds*, 2009.

**FIGURE 2. After inflation, cumulative growth in foundation funding targeting women and girls surpassed increases in overall giving since 1990**



Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women's Funds*, 2009. Based on a sample of approximately 1,000 larger foundations.

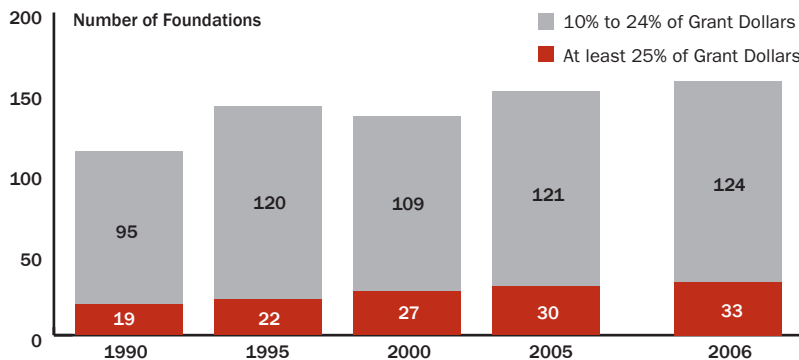
**FIGURE 3. Share of foundation giving targeting women and girls peaked at 7.4 percent in 2000 and 2003**



Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women's Funds*, 2009. Based on a sample of approximately 1,000 larger foundations.

<sup>1</sup>Percent change in constant 1990 dollars based on annual average Consumer Price Index, all urban consumers (Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, data.bls.gov, accessed 3/3/2008.)

**FIGURE 4. Number of foundations targeting at least 25 percent of their giving for women and girls has grown steadily since 1990**



Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women's Funds*, 2009. Based on a sample of approximately 1,000 larger foundations.

between 1990 and 2006, from \$224.7 million to \$1.1 billion. Adjusted for inflation, giving targeted to women and girls grew by 223 percent, while overall foundation giving rose by 177 percent (Figure 2). Grant dollars for women and girls grew most rapidly during the economic boom years of the late 1990s—reflecting the strong growth in overall foundation giving during that period.

*The share of giving to benefit women and girls rose from 5 percent in 1990 to 5.8 percent in 2006 (Figure 3).* During this period, the share of giving reached a high of 7.4 percent in 2000 and again in 2003. By share of number of grants, funding for women and girls has hovered between just under 6 percent and nearly 7 percent during this period.

It should be noted that a major change occurred within this time period with the formation of “mega funders,” notably the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Not surprisingly, the top 10 funders accounted for over half of giving for women and girls in 2006 (52.8 percent). This proportion was substantially higher than the roughly 40 percent recorded in 1990.

In addition, the overall climate for funding women and girls may have improved due to a greater recognition of critical issues affecting women and girls, and the role of women in addressing solutions to societal problems. The growth of individual women's funds; philanthropic infrastructure organizations, such as the Women's Funding Network and Women & Philanthropy<sup>2</sup>; nonprofit service organizations, such as Girls, Inc.; advocacy organizations, such as the National Organization for Women; as well as research studies on women in development, have played an important role in raising awareness around the benefits of investing in programs and organizations that support women and promote women-led solutions throughout communities.

*The number of foundations targeting at least 10 percent of their grant dollars for women and girls grew between 1990 and 2006.* During this period, the number grew from 114 in 1990 to 157 in 2006 (Figure 4). However, due to growth in the number of foundations included in the Center’s grants sample over that same period, the overall share of funders in the sample that allocated at least 10 percent of their grant dollars for women and girls declined from 13.7 percent to 12.4 percent.

### TOP FUNDERS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

*Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation ranked as both the top funder overall and the top international funder for women and girls.* With a central focus on improving the global health of vulnerable populations—including women and girls—it comes as no surprise that the nation’s largest foundation also ranked as the biggest giver based on grant dollars for women and girls. In 2006, the Gates Foundation awarded 43 grants totaling \$241.7 million for purposes benefiting women and girls, of which

29 grants totaling \$239.1 million were international grants (Tables 1 and 4).

*Ford Foundation led in domestic-focused giving.* The Ford Foundation, which ranked as the largest funder of women and girls overall in 1990, continued to lead in domestic-focused grant dollars targeting women and girls (Table 3). In 2006, the foundation made 94 grants totaling \$44.2 million benefiting women and girls in the United States. Since the early 1970s, the foundation has made women and girls a major priority.<sup>3</sup> In addition to its domestic support, the Ford Foundation provided 229 grants totaling \$44.6 million to benefit women and girls internationally in 2006, making it the second largest international funder targeting women and girls (Table 4). Ford’s funding for women and girls focused primarily on human rights and reproductive health.

*Corporate foundations were among the top funders by share of giving targeted to women and girls.* Four of the top ten funders investing in women and girls were corporate-sponsored foundations: the Avon,<sup>4</sup> NIKE, Bristol-Myers

*“The rate of growth in foundation giving to benefit women and girls surpassed overall foundation giving between 1990 and 2006.”*

**TABLE 1. Top 10 Foundations by Giving Targeting Women and Girls, 2006**

Foundation	Establishment		No. of Grants	Amount	%	% of Foundation's Overall Giving	
	Year	State					
1. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	1994	WA	43	\$ 241,651,371	21.6	9.6	Gates Foundation 21.6%
2. Ford Foundation	1936	NY	323	88,811,898	7.9	16.8	
3. Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation	1964	NE	85	60,345,411	5.4	60.3	Other Top 10 Foundations 31.2%
4. William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	1966	CA	69	54,449,917	4.9	19.8	
5. Avon Foundation <sup>1</sup>	1955	NY	114	41,439,072	3.7	92.8	All Other Foundations 47.2%
6. David and Lucile Packard Foundation	1964	CA	92	32,244,984	2.9	17.6	
7. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	1936	NJ	53	30,360,751	2.7	8.6	
8. W.K. Kellogg Foundation	1930	MI	47	18,620,694	1.7	6.5	
9. John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation	1970	IL	54	13,390,000	1.2	7.2	
10. California Wellness Foundation	1991	CA	47	9,355,000	0.8	18.8	
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>927</b>	<b>\$ 590,669,098</b>	<b>52.8</b>		
<b>All other foundations</b>			<b>8,303</b>	<b>\$ 527,475,735</b>	<b>47.2</b>		
<b>Total</b>			<b>9,230</b>	<b>\$1,118,144,833</b>	<b>100.0</b>		

Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women’s Funds*, 2009. Based on a sample of 1,263 larger foundations.

<sup>1</sup>The foundation changed its status to a public charity in 2006. At the time the circa 2006 dataset was finalized, Avon’s status change had not been represented. Figures for this foundation represent 2005 grant information.

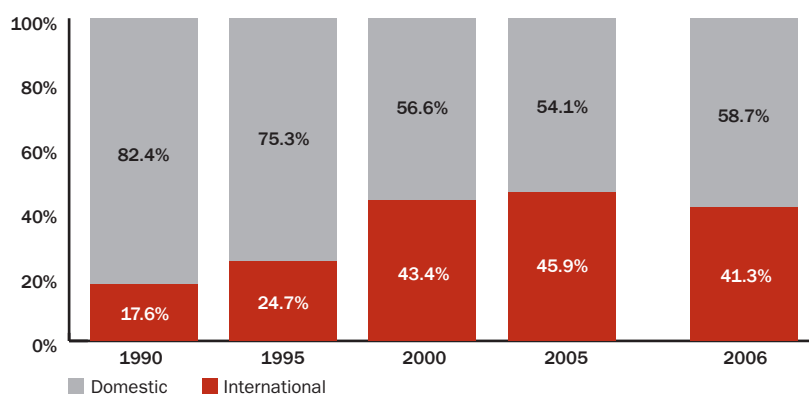
Squibb, and Gap foundations (Table 2). Among independent foundations, three targeted at least half of their overall funding to women and girls: the Fischer Family Foundation (93 percent), Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation (60.3 percent), and B.C. McCabe Foundation (51.8 percent).

*Corporate foundations allocated proportionately more of their total giving to women and girls than other types of foundations.* Among sampled foundations overall, corporate foundations awarded 6.3 percent of their total grant dollars specifically for women and girls in 2006, compared to 5.9 percent for independent foundations and 4.3 percent of community foundations.<sup>5</sup>

## GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS OF FUNDING

*Giving for women and girls from the broader foundation community was more likely to be internationally focused than overall giving.* International giving accounted for over two-fifths (41.3 percent) of foundation grant dollars for women and girls in 2006 (Figure 5). This represented nearly double the 22 percent share of foundations' overall giving that supported international purposes.<sup>7</sup> International funding directed to benefit women and girls has increased dramatically since 1990, when less than 20 percent of funding for this population group supported international activities. This largely reflects the impact of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, whose giving is focused on global health. Excluding Gates, international giving's share of foundation support targeted to women and girls would be 25.4 percent in 2006, instead of 41.3 percent. International giving's share of overall giving by sampled funders would likewise be smaller without Gates—13.5 percent, instead of 22 percent.

**FIGURE 5. International giving as a share of total giving targeting women and girls jumped to over 40 percent in 2000**



Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women's Funds*, 2009. Based on a sample of approximately 1,000 larger foundations. "International" giving includes grants awarded directly to overseas recipients and for U.S.-based international programs.

**TABLE 2. Leading Foundations by Share of Overall Giving Targeting Women and Girls, 2006**

Foundation	State	No. of Grants	Amount	% of Foundation's Overall Giving
1. Fischer Family Foundation	KY	4	\$ 1,441,200	93.0
2. Avon Foundation <sup>1</sup>	NY	114	41,439,072	92.8
3. NIKE Foundation	OR	27	5,836,371	62.8
4. Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation	NE	85	60,345,411	60.3
5. B.C. McCabe Foundation	CA	27	4,574,733	51.8
6. John W. Anderson Foundation	IN	12	3,654,700	46.9
7. Compton Foundation	CA	61	2,472,707	45.6
8. Robert Sterling Clark Foundation	NY	26	2,293,885	45.4
9. Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation	NY	76	8,555,652	44.1
10. Gap Foundation	CA	9	1,344,000	41.7
<b>Sub-total, top 10 foundations</b>		<b>359</b>	<b>\$ 122,186,079</b>	
<b>All other foundations</b>		<b>8,871</b>	<b>\$ 995,958,754</b>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>9,230</b>	<b>\$1,118,144,833</b>	

Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women's Funds*, 2009. Based on foundations awarding at least \$1 million overall that were included in the sample of 1,263 larger foundations.

<sup>1</sup>The foundation changed its status to a public charity in 2006. At the time the circa 2006 data was finalized, Avon's status change had not been represented. Figures for this foundation represent 2005 grant information.

# Top Funders and Top Recipients by Geographic Focus

**TABLE 3. Top 10 Foundations by Domestic-Focused Giving Targeting Women and Girls, 2006**

Foundation	State	Amount	No. of Grants
1. Ford Foundation	NY	\$ 44,183,464	94
2. Avon Foundation <sup>1</sup>	NY	41,123,072	112
3. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	NJ	30,360,751	53
4. William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	CA	26,674,500	26
5. Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation	NE	17,982,179	55
6. W.K. Kellogg Foundation	MI	9,821,827	30
7. California Wellness Foundation	CA	9,355,000	47
8. Kresge Foundation	MI	9,285,000	21
9. Brown Foundation	TX	8,442,995	22
10. David and Lucile Packard Foundation	CA	7,610,607	32
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$204,839,395</b>	<b>492</b>

Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women's Funds*, 2009. Based on a sample of 1,263 larger foundations.

<sup>1</sup>The foundation changed its status to a public charity in 2006. At the time the circa 2006 data was finalized, Avon's status change had not been represented. Figures for this foundation represent 2005 grant information.

**TABLE 4. Top 10 Foundations by International Giving Targeting Women and Girls, 2006**

Foundation	State	Amount	No. of Grants
1. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	WA	\$239,101,621	29
2. Ford Foundation	NY	44,628,434	229
3. Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation	NE	42,363,232	30
4. William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	CA	27,775,417	43
5. David and Lucile Packard Foundation	CA	24,634,377	60
6. John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation	IL	12,320,000	49
7. W.K. Kellogg Foundation	MI	8,798,867	17
8. Carnegie Corporation of New York	NY	8,477,100	11
9. Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation <sup>1</sup>	NY	8,174,563	68
10. NIKE Foundation	OR	5,286,371	25
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$421,559,982</b>	<b>561</b>

Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women's Funds*, 2009. Based on a sample of 1,263 larger foundations. "International" giving includes grants awarded directly to overseas recipients and for U.S.-based international programs.

<sup>1</sup>Figures for this foundation represent 2005 grant information.

**TABLE 5. Top 10 Recipients of Domestic-Focused Giving Targeting Women and Girls, 2006**

Organization Name	State	Amount	No. of Grants
1. National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy	DC	\$19,680,000	12
2. Children's Futures	NJ	14,500,000	1
3. Wellesley College	MA	8,240,730	24
4. Planned Parenthood Federation of America	NY	7,937,024	40
5. Smith College	MA	7,861,080	35
6. National Women's Law Center	DC	7,585,000	29
7. Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas	TX	7,118,785	7
8. Foundation for the National Institutes of Health	MD	6,454,708	2
9. Brigham and Women's Hospital	MA	6,340,744	25
10. Boys and Girls Clubs of America	GA	5,996,420	33
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$91,714,491</b>	<b>208</b>

Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women's Funds*, 2009. Based on a sample of 1,263 larger foundations.

**TABLE 6. Top 10 Recipients of International Giving Targeting Women and Girls, 2006**

Organization Name	State/Country	Amount	No. of Grants
1. Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH)	WA	\$139,007,903	25
2. World Health Organization	Switzerland	39,998,330	10
3. Bangladesh Rural Advance Commission (BRAC)	Bangladesh	25,200,929	1
4. Marie Stopes International	England	15,737,657	22
5. International Projects Assistance Services (IPAS)	NC	13,617,000	13
6. Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center	Taiwan	12,083,990	1
7. Population Action International	DC	10,303,806	12
8. Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation	CA	8,675,297	1
9. Planned Parenthood Federation, International	England	8,225,000	8
10. Pathfinder International	MA	7,949,242	17
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$280,799,154</b>	<b>110</b>

Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women's Funds*, 2009. Based on a sample of 1,263 larger foundations. "International" giving includes grants awarded directly to overseas recipients and for U.S.-based international programs.

*“Excluding the Gates Foundation, health would still account for the largest share of grant dollars by far.”*

## RECIPIENTS OF FUNDING FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

*Large organizations top the list of recipients of foundation support targeting women and girls.* Not surprisingly, the top 10 recipients of funding benefiting women and girls consisted primarily of international and domestic organizations with expansive reach and large budgets, such as the Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH), World Health Organization, National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, Children’s Futures, and Planned Parenthood Federation of America (Tables 5 and 6).

*Women’s funds ranked among the top recipients of foundation giving for women and girls.* While women’s funds function as grantmakers (see Chapter 2), they seek support from a broad set of individual and institutional donors for their funding activities. In 2006, for example, the Women’s Funding Network, the Ms. Foundation for Women, and the Global Fund for Women were among the top 55 recipients of foundation giving targeted to women and girls. Women’s Funding Network received \$6.4 million in foundation support, while the Ms. Foundation and the Global Fund for Women received \$4.6 million and \$2.8 million, respectively.

**TABLE 7. Foundation Giving Targeting Women and Girls by Subject, 2006**

Subject	Amount	%	No. of Grants	%
<b>Arts and Culture</b>	\$ 9,117,849	0.8	159	1.7
<b>Civic Engagement and Leadership Development</b>	14,836,983	1.3	124	1.3
<b>Economic Empowerment</b>	30,536,904	2.7	515	5.6
Economic and Community Development	18,738,058	1.7	252	2.7
Employment Development and Rights	9,252,497	0.8	203	2.2
Financial Literacy	2,546,349	0.2	60	0.7
<b>Education</b>	108,207,271	9.7	1,015	11.0
<b>Gender-based Violence</b>	31,187,850	2.8	850	9.2
<b>Health</b>	515,333,562	46.1	2,162	23.4
Reproductive Health	243,664,176	21.8	949	10.3
<b>Housing and Shelter</b>	9,512,009	0.9	211	2.3
<b>Human Rights<sup>1</sup></b>	78,730,952	7.0	557	6.0
<b>Human Services—Multipurpose<sup>2</sup></b>	100,363,016	9.0	1,114	12.1
<b>Legal Services</b>	2,007,591	0.2	53	0.6
<b>Philanthropy<sup>3</sup></b>	12,533,558	1.1	138	1.5
<b>Safety and Disaster Relief</b>	648,295	0.1	10	0.1
<b>Women’s Centers</b>	8,349,037	0.7	198	2.1
<b>Youth Development and Empowerment</b>	106,457,281	9.5	1,691	18.3
<b>Other<sup>4</sup></b>	90,322,675	8.1	433	4.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,118,144,833</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9,230</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women’s Funds*, 2009. Based on a sample of 1,263 larger foundations.

<sup>1</sup>Includes women’s rights, reproductive rights, gay and lesbian rights, among other rights.

<sup>2</sup>Includes human services not elsewhere classified, such as services for the elderly and family services, and other human services.

<sup>3</sup>Includes grants to philanthropic affinity groups, infrastructure organizations, and public foundations.

<sup>4</sup>Includes environment and animals, social sciences, science and technology, religion, and international affairs/development/peace (excluding international human rights).

## FUNDING ISSUES AND AREAS

*Foundation giving for women and girls primarily supported health.* Close to half of the grant dollars benefiting women and girls (46.1 percent) from sampled foundations supported health-related activities in 2006 (Table 7 and Figure 6). Education ranked a distant second (9.7 percent), followed by youth development/empowerment<sup>8</sup> (9.5 percent) and other human services (9 percent), which includes, among other things, support for services for the elderly and families, and recreation and sports. Excluding the Gates Foundation, these four areas would remain the top grantmaking priorities. Health would still account for the largest share of grant dollars by far, although its share

would be lower (36.2 percent), while the shares of the other areas would be higher (education, 12.3 percent; youth development/empowerment, 12.1 percent; and other human services, 9.7 percent).

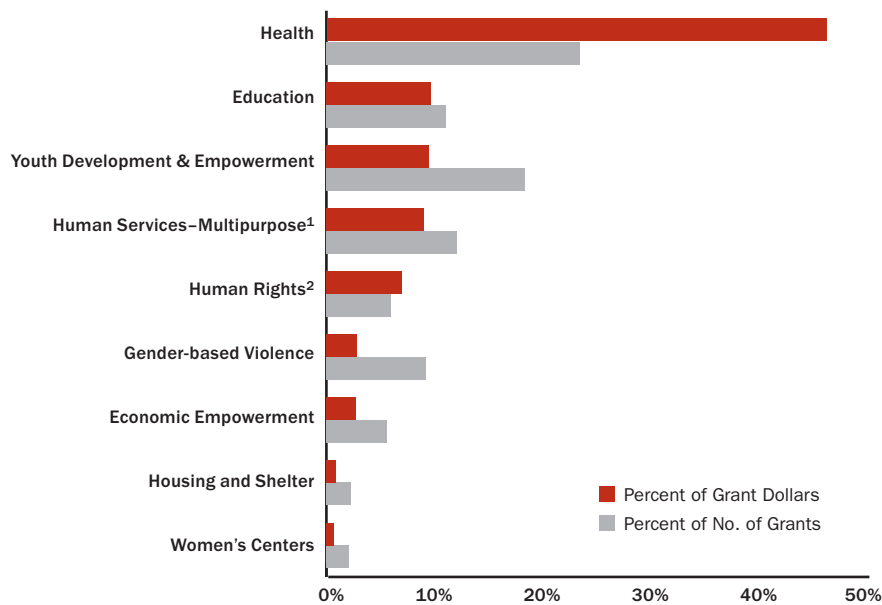
Within the field of health, reproductive health care received the largest share of funding (47.3 percent). Health, youth development/empowerment, and other human services were the top three funding priorities by share of number of grants.

Other areas that received at least 5 percent of grants targeting women and girls included education (11 percent), gender-based violence (9.2 percent), human rights<sup>9</sup> (6 percent), and economic empowerment (5.6 percent).

## ENDNOTES

1. See "Methodology" (Appendix A) for details on how the estimates were developed.
2. Women & Philanthropy is currently an inactive project of the Council on Foundations.
3. Ford Foundation, "Created Equal: A Report on Ford Foundation Women's Programs," available from [fordfound.org/archives](http://fordfound.org/archives), Internet, accessed 5/5/08.
4. The Avon Foundation changed status to a public charity in 2006; at the time the circa 2006 annual grants dataset closed, the latest grants data available for the foundation was 2005.
5. See J. Atienza and R. Mukai, *Foundation Giving Trends: Update on Funding Priorities*, New York: Foundation Center, 2008, p. 61.
6. "International" giving includes grants awarded directly to overseas recipients and for U.S.-based international programs.
7. See J. Atienza and R. Mukai (2008), p. 20.
8. Most of this funding goes to Boys and Girls clubs, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and Girl Scouts to support youth development and empowerment (including activities such as leadership training, and citizenship participation).
9. This category includes women's rights, reproductive rights, and gay and lesbian rights, among other rights.

**FIGURE 6. Health accounted for the largest share of foundation giving targeting women and girls in 2006**



Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women's Funds*, 2009. Based on a sample of 1,263 larger foundations. Figures are based on the primary purpose of the grant. Includes categories accounting for at least 2 percent of grant dollars or grants.

<sup>1</sup>Includes human services not elsewhere classified, such as services for the elderly and family services, and other human services.

<sup>2</sup>Includes women's rights, reproductive rights, and gay and lesbian rights, among other rights.





# 2

## Grantmaking Through Women's Funds

### INTRODUCTION

A critical source of support for women and girls are the grantmaking organizations known as women's funds. According to data collected by the Women's Funding Network, these entities in 2006 directed more than \$50 million<sup>1</sup> in grants to organizations and programs benefiting women and girls—supporting women's leadership and advancing women-led solutions. Women's funds span public charities, private foundations and funds within community foundations. Public women's funds receive donations from a wide range of sources, including individuals, private foundations, corporations, and the government.

While their combined giving may seem small in comparison to the other private foundations discussed in Chapter 1, their reach and impact is disproportionately large. This is due to both their focus on women's solutions and leadership (and the role funds have played establishing investment in women and girls as a mainstream philanthropic strategy) and their ability to leverage the power of operating within a strategically-designed network. The capacity of women's funds is broad and deep—broad enough to propel worldwide transformation and deep enough to engage and empower women on the ground. This movement unites money, ideas and action to create lasting change for women, girls, their families and communities. (For a fuller analysis of the unique role women's funds play in their communities and beyond, see Chapter 3.)

### THE SIZE, SCOPE, AND GROWTH OF WOMEN'S FUNDS

To document the recent growth, current dimensions, and giving priorities of the women's funds, the Foundation Center and the Women's Funding Network partnered in identifying a set of women's funds to examine in detail. This chapter includes a snapshot of grantmaking data selected from the following sources:

- Summary-level fiscal data compiled by the Foundation Center on the resources and overall giving of 55 funds whose focus is providing support for women and girls, representing public charities that are U.S.-based, incorporated as separate 501(c)(3) entities, and either members of the Women's Funding Network and/or included in the Foundation Center's database of grantmaking public charities.<sup>2</sup> The funds also had to have fiscal information available for the period 2004 through 2006.<sup>3</sup>
- Detailed grantmaking data from the Foundation Center on the giving priorities of a subset of 25 of the largest U.S.-based women's funds.
- Data from a 2008 Women's Funding Network survey of its then more than 130 member funds, which focused on women's funds' values, their unique community role, and their grantmaking priorities and impact. This sample included private foundations and funds within larger organizations (e.g. special interest funds within community foundations).

*“The capacity of women's funds is broad and deep—broad enough to propel worldwide transformation and deep enough to engage and empower women on the ground.”*

**Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice**

Founded in 1977, the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice is the world's only foundation solely dedicated to funding lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex organizations in both the United States and internationally. Astraea has been raising funds and distributing grants for 30 years based on the belief that all people can participate in the philanthropic process—from giving to grantmaking.

Astraea bolsters its community of grantees and donors through education, advocacy, and strategic collaboration. Astraea's grantee and donor convenings help build political power and infrastructure capacity. Community funding panels—composed of activists with expertise in the field—determine a majority of Astraea's grants. Astraea's International Advisory Board, made up of activists across the globe with expertise in their regions, provides significant input.

An example of Astraea's approach to funding is the work it has done in China, a country where formal organizations are a relatively new idea and public demonstrations are illegal. Astraea's support of Chinese lala (lesbian, bi and trans) leadership institutes—or Lala Camps—are setting off a seismic shift. Conceived at Astraea's Giving and Activism Retreat in 2006 when seven Mandarin-speaking activists envisioned an empowered network of leaders across the region, the 2007 Lala Camp astounded even the organizers by bringing together over a hundred activists from 20 cities. The 2008 institutes were held in five regions in China and engaged 1,000 participants.

Today, thanks in large part to the Lala Camps, there are nearly 25 lala organizations across China—a fivefold increase in two years. One new group is the Guangxi Lesbian Coalition, which grew in a year from a one-city core group of youth to a multi-city network of more than 100 members. They now have a community center, a film festival, and a support hotline operated by the parents of members.

Learn more at [www.astraeafoundation.org](http://www.astraeafoundation.org).

## TOTAL GIVING BY WOMEN'S FUNDS

*Members of the Women's Funding Network gave \$50 million in 2006, and the women's funds included in the Foundation Center analysis gave nearly \$36 million.*<sup>4</sup> Giving by women's funds has grown significantly in recent years and continues to grow in both dollars and impact. Between 2004 and 2006, giving by the 55 women's funds analyzed by the Foundation Center rose from approximately \$27 million to \$35.6 million. Adjusted for inflation, giving by these funds increased 24.2 percent over that period.

Among the 55 funds analyzed, 32 reported growth in giving between 2004 and 2006, with nine funds more than doubling their giving.<sup>5</sup> The Global Fund for Women reported the biggest increase in grant dollars awarded (up \$2.2 million). In contrast, 19 funds reduced their giving during this period, with declines ranging from 4.9 percent to 75.5 percent.

*Ten women's funds gave over \$1 million in 2006, up from six funds in 2004.* The Global Fund for Women ranked as the top funder (\$7.8 million), followed by the Ms. Foundation for Women (\$3.6 million) and Women for Women International (\$3.3 million). Together, the top 10 funds accounted for close to 70 percent of the overall giving by the 55 funds included in the analysis. Of the remaining funds, 30 reported giving between \$100,000 and \$1 million, while 15 had total giving of less than \$100,000. The average giving amount for all of the funds totaled \$647,092 in 2006, while the median amount was \$245,408.<sup>6</sup>

## ASSETS OF WOMEN'S FUNDS AND GIFTS RECEIVED

*The following analysis focuses on the 55 large women's funds examined by the Foundation Center, whose total assets in 2006 were nearly \$270 million. While these funds account for a significant proportion of all assets held by women's*

*funds, it should be kept in mind that the Women's Funding Network's 2006 analysis of member's Form 990s showed the total working assets of its member funds to be \$450 million.*

Overall, assets for the 55 funds studied grew from \$215 million to just under \$270 million between 2004 and 2006. After inflation, this represents an increase of 17.4 percent. Forty-five funds posted increased asset levels over this period, with eight funds more than doubling their asset levels.<sup>7</sup> The Women's Fund of Miami-Dade County posted the fastest rate of growth, with a more than fivefold increase in assets during this period (from \$231,991 in 2004 to \$1.3 million in 2006), while Women for Women International realized the biggest growth in dollars (up \$8.8 million). Substantial increases in new gifts into women's funds (see below), along with growth in the value of existing assets, accounted for these gains. Among the 11 funds whose assets declined between 2004 and 2006, five experienced double-digit rates of decline. The National Women's Health Organization<sup>8</sup> posted the biggest decrease (down 58.5 percent), due to a substantial drop in new gifts received in 2005 and 2006, compared with 2004.

*Eleven women's funds reported assets of at least \$10 million in 2006, up from seven in 2004.* These funds accounted for over 65 percent of the total assets reported by the 55 funds. The New York-based Ms. Foundation for Women ranked first by asset size (\$36.3 million), followed by the California-based Global Fund for Women (\$23.7 million) and the New York-based Hadassah Foundation (\$15.3 million), which supports programs for women and girls in the United States and Israel. Overall, the 55 funds ranged in size from \$61,657 to \$36.3 million, with 24 of the funds (43.6 percent) holding assets of between \$1 million to under \$10 million, and 20 funds (36.4 percent) having assets below \$1 million. The median asset size for the 55 women's funds was just under \$2 million.

*Women's funds raised over \$100 million in new gifts in 2006.* Unlike private foundations, which receive funding from individual donors or donor-families, public women's funds raise the resources they need to support their grantmaking and other philanthropic activities from many sources. This means that fluctuations in gifts received can have a significant impact from year to year in terms of the capacity of women's funds to do their work. The \$101 million in gifts received by these 55 funds in 2006 was up from \$72 million in 2004. This represented a 31 percent increase, after

inflation—and was among the major factors that contributed to a 24.2 percent increase in their giving in 2006. Twenty-one women's funds received gifts totaling at least \$1 million in 2006.

### GRANTMAKING PATTERNS OF WOMEN'S FUNDS: AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF 25 FUNDS

To examine the grantmaking patterns of separately constituted, U.S.-based women's funds, the Foundation Center and the Women's Funding Network identified a subset of 25 out of the 55 women's funds included in the

## POTLIGHT ON LOCAL WOMEN'S FUND

### Women's Fund of Miami-Dade County

*Women's Fund of Miami-Dade is a catalyst for social change and economic justice in Miami-Dade County that supports programs to help women and girls reach their full potential. Since 1993, the fund has disbursed more than \$2.5 million to projects that improve the lives of women and girls in the County. In addition to grantmaking, the Fund engages in advocacy, training, and community building efforts.*

*Women's Fund's grantmaking focuses on innovative solutions that empower women and girls and lift them to the forefront of change in the Miami community. For example, to help address the high incidence of poverty among Haitian women in Miami, in 2007 the Fund awarded \$10,000 to Haitian Neighborhood Center, Sant La for a financial literacy program called "From Saving to Asset Building." Through Creole-language financial literacy workshops, outreach by trained "Prosperity Ambassadors," and free tax preparation services, the program has helped grow the assets of over 300 low-income Haitian women and returned \$2 million to the community.*

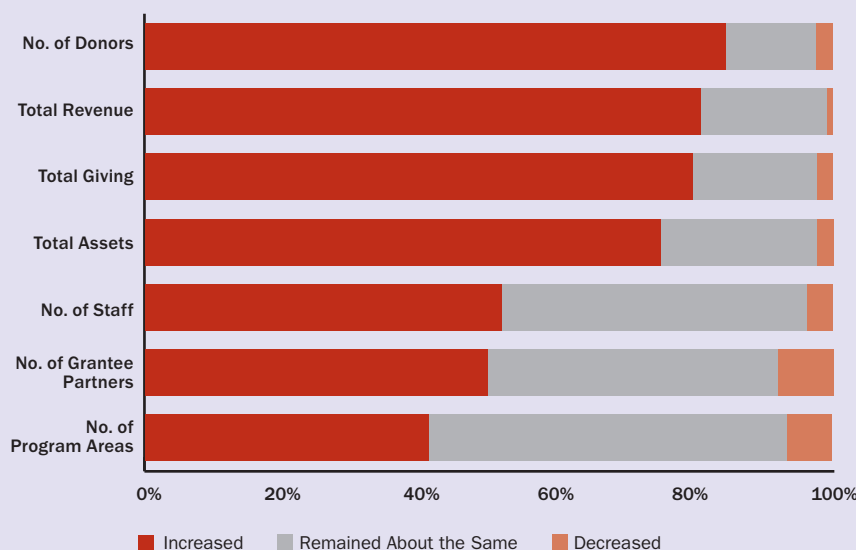
Learn more at [www.womensfundmiami.org](http://www.womensfundmiami.org).

## Growth of Women's Funds

Most women's funds have experienced positive gains in their size and resources over the past couple of years, according to a 2008 survey conducted by the Women's Funding Network. Roughly four out of five funds reported growth in the number of their donors, revenue,

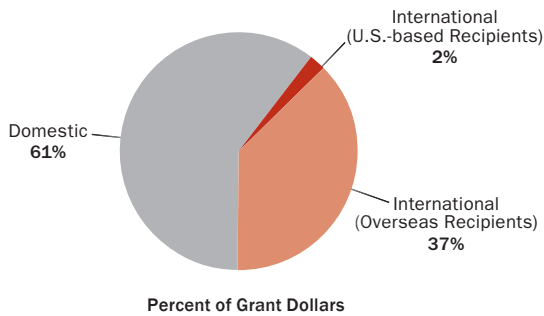
and total giving. Just over half of the funds also reported increasing the size of their staff. By comparison, less than 10 percent of respondents indicated that their resources, staffing, or the number of their grantee partnerships or program areas had decreased.

### Compared to two years ago, how has your organization changed with respect to the following indicators?



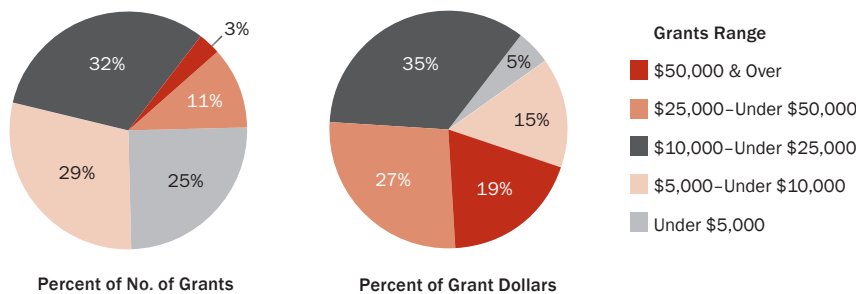
Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women's Funds*, 2009. Based on a Women's Funding Network/Foundation Center Survey conducted in April 2008. A total of 71 women's funds responded to this question.

**FIGURE 7. International activities accounted for nearly two-fifths of total giving by women’s funds in 2006**



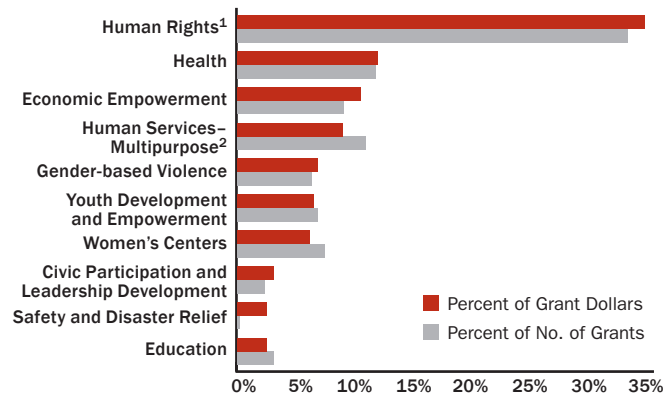
Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women’s Funds*, 2009. Based on all grants awarded by a sample of 25 women’s funds.

**FIGURE 8. Over half of grants awarded by women’s funds in 2006 were for less than \$10,000**



Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women’s Funds*, 2009. Based on all grants awarded by a sample of 25 women’s funds.

**FIGURE 9. Human rights captured over one-third of overall giving by women’s funds in 2006**



Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women’s Funds*, 2009. Based on all grants awarded by a sample of 25 women’s funds.

<sup>1</sup>Includes categories accounting for at least 2 percent of grant dollars.

<sup>2</sup>Includes women’s rights, LGBTQ rights, reproductive rights, and other human rights.

<sup>3</sup>Includes human services not elsewhere classified, such as services for the elderly and family services, and other human services.

preceding analysis. The criteria for selecting the 25 women’s funds were as follows:

- they were among the top 30 women’s funds by total giving in 2005 (based on a ranking of the initial set of 55 women’s funds);
- their grants information for 2006 was available;
- they had total giving of at least \$100,000 in 2006; and
- they awarded grants to organizations (funds that only awarded grants to individuals were excluded).

For each of the 25 funds, the Foundation Center coded all their grants to organizations, using the Center’s Grants Classification System (see Appendix B and [foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/grantsclass/](http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/grantsclass/) for details). Giving by these funds represented over 70 percent of the total giving reported by the 55 funds covered in the preceding analysis.

### GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS OF GIVING BY THE 25 WOMEN’S FUNDS

*The majority of giving by this sample of U.S.-based women’s funds is for domestic issues.* Of the \$25.3 million awarded in 2006 by the 25 U.S.-based women’s funds included in this analysis, 61 percent targeted domestic—primarily local—needs (Figure 7). This reflects the fact that most women’s funds are place-based, with their giving largely targeted to small, grassroots organizations that address the issues of women and girls in their local areas. For example, the Women’s Foundation of California supports organizations that work with low-income women and girls across the state, while the Boston Women’s Fund seeks to improve racial, economic, and social justice through its support of women-led community organizations that work with disadvantaged women in the Greater Boston Area. A few of the funds make grants nationally, such as the Ms. Foundation for Women. Others fund both U.S.-based and overseas recipients. Astraea Lesbian

Foundation for Justice, for example, targets approximately half of its funding to the United States and the other half internationally to lesbian and trans people, including youth.

*Reflecting the activities of four large women's funds, international giving accounted for nearly two-fifths of grant dollars.* Although 21 of the 25 women's funds included in this analysis directed the vast majority of their giving to domestic issues, four of the funds targeted most of their giving to benefit women and girls internationally. These included the Global Fund for Women, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, International Women's Health Coalition,<sup>9</sup> and V-Day. Most of their international giving went primarily to grassroots, women-led organizations in developing countries, including smaller women's funds (e.g., the Nepal Women's Fund—Tewa and the Women's Fund in Georgia).

### SIZE OF GRANTS AWARDED BY THE 25 FUNDS

*The majority of grants awarded by the women's funds included in this analysis were for less than \$10,000.* Consistent with the focus on grassroots organizations and causes by most of the 25 women's funds studied, well over half (54.1 percent) of the almost 2,000 grants they made in 2006 totaled under \$10,000 (Figure 8). In fact, the median grant amount was \$8,000, and the smallest grant reported was for \$25. However, because of their modest size, grants of under \$10,000 represented only 20 percent of overall grant dollars. In contrast, grants of at least \$25,000 made up 14.1 percent of the total number awarded, but accounted for close to half (46.1 percent) of grant dollars. The single largest grant reported in 2006 was a \$1.2 million award provided by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to the Ms. Foundation for Women to create the Katrina Response Fund, which focused on post-Hurricane Katrina relief and rebuilding efforts. Women's Funding Network received \$634,039 of this grant from the Ms. Foundation for Women and

invested it in various women's funds for their work in the diaspora area affected by Hurricane Katrina.

### GRANTMAKING PRIORITIES OF THE 25 FUNDS

The focus of women's funds on social change for and by women and girls results in a distribution of giving that varies markedly from other types of institutional grantmakers. For example, while only a relatively small proportion of the country's foundations explicitly

address human rights issues, 11 of the 25 women's funds (44 percent) included in this analysis specify a focus on human rights and social change in their programmatic guidelines.

*In the Foundation Center analysis human rights accounted for the largest share of giving by women's funds.* Support for women's rights, LGBTQ rights, reproductive rights, and other human rights activities captured over one-third (34.3 percent) of 2006 grant dollars awarded by the 25 women's funds studied (Table 8 and Figure 9).

**TABLE 8. Women's Funds Giving by Subject Categories, 2006**

Subject	Amount	%	No. of Grants	%
<b>Arts and Culture</b>	\$ 389,333	1.5	64	3.3
<b>Civic Engagement and Leadership Development</b>	787,049	3.1	46	2.3
<b>Economic Empowerment</b>	2,622,220	10.4	176	9.0
Employment Development and Rights	1,254,238	5.0	76	3.9
Economic and Community Development	752,782	3.0	54	2.8
Financial Literacy	615,200	2.4	46	2.3
<b>Education</b>	637,878	2.5	61	3.1
<b>Gender-based Violence</b>	1,709,039	6.8	124	6.3
<b>Health</b>	2,991,325	11.8	230	11.7
Reproductive Health Care	1,261,840	5.0	66	3.4
Public Health	589,227	2.3	55	2.8
Prevention and Treatment of HIV/AIDS	466,424	1.8	36	1.8
Other Health	673,834	2.7	73	3.7
<b>Housing and Shelter</b>	179,000	0.7	9	0.5
<b>Human Rights</b>	8,681,360	34.3	645	32.9
Women's Rights	4,810,975	19.0	358	18.3
LGBTQ Rights	1,453,000	5.7	124	6.3
Reproductive Rights	852,825	3.4	45	2.3
Other Human Rights	1,564,560	6.2	118	6.0
<b>Human Services—Multipurpose<sup>1</sup></b>	2,251,771	8.9	212	10.8
<b>Legal Services</b>	363,351	1.4	19	1.0
<b>Philanthropy<sup>2</sup></b>	233,400	0.9	32	1.6
<b>Safety and Disaster Relief</b>	643,424	2.5	3	0.2
<b>Women's Centers</b>	1,545,109	6.1	144	7.4
<b>Youth Development &amp; Empowerment</b>	1,613,584	6.4	133	6.8
<b>Other<sup>3</sup></b>	650,069	2.6	61	3.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,297,912</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,959</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women's Funds*, 2009. Based on all grants awarded by a sample of 25 women's funds.

<sup>1</sup>Includes human services not elsewhere classified, such as services for the elderly and family services, and other human services.

<sup>2</sup>Includes grants to philanthropic affinity groups, infrastructure organizations, non-U.S. women's funds, and programs to educate audiences about philanthropy.

<sup>3</sup>Includes environment and animals, social sciences, science and technology, religion, and international affairs/development/peace (excluding international human rights).

**S** POTLIGHT ON STATE-LEVEL  
WOMEN'S FUND

**The Women's Foundation of California**

*The Women's Foundation of California invests in women and girls to build a more just and equitable society for all. It envisions a California that is increasingly healthy, safe, and economically prosperous. The foundation seeks to achieve this vision by focusing on women and girls as agents of change because of their central role in families and communities. It simultaneously invests in the strategies of grantmaking, strengthening organizations, policy advocacy, and movement building in order to accelerate systemic change.*

*The Women's Foundation of California has a number of stand-out programs designed to engage women and young women in changing systems that allow poverty and discrimination to persist. These programs include:*

- *The Women's Policy Institute—training nonprofit women leaders to become public policy experts by co-authoring and advocating for laws and policies that improve the health and economic well-being of Californians.*
- *The Elder Women's Initiative—building a movement of elder women and their allies to advocate for laws and policies that allow each of us to age with dignity and economic security in our own homes.*
- *The Youth, Media and Social Change Initiative—amplifying the voices of young women and young men to change media and popular culture.*

*Learn more at [www.womensfoundca.org](http://www.womensfoundca.org).*

(By comparison, human rights accounted for 7 percent of private and community foundation support targeting women and girls.) It is important to note that while these grants were coded as human rights grants in the Foundation Center

analysis, they may also specifically address economic justice issues as part of human rights. This is particularly important because the Women's Funding Network's 2008 survey of members, which used a more explicit breakdown of priority

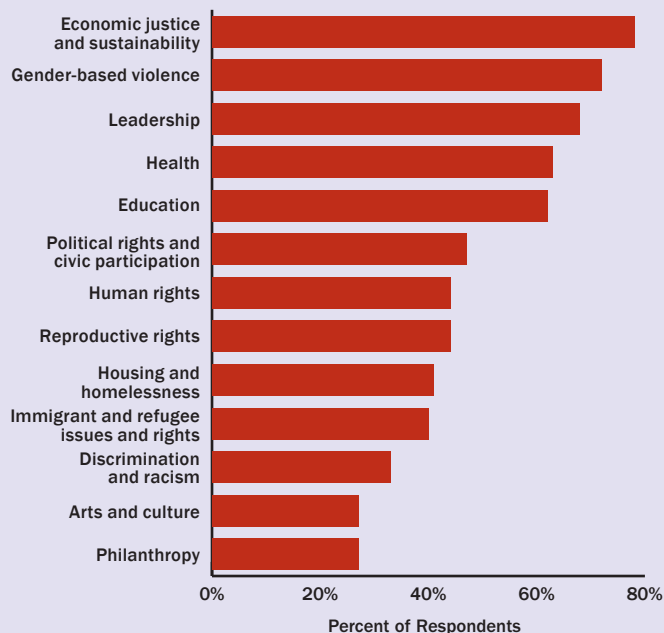
## Grantmaking Areas of Women's Funds

Economic justice and sustainability represents the most commonly cited area of grantmaking interest among women's funds, according to a 2008 Women's Funding Network survey. Issues of gender-based violence, leadership, health, and education were also indicated as current grantmaking areas by a majority of respondents.

This finding may appear to contradict the grantmaking patterns identified based on the adjoining analysis

of the actual grants awarded by a sample of 25 of the largest women's funds. In fact, the programmatic interests of grantmakers do not necessarily represent a one-to-one correspondence to how they allocate their grant dollars. While a women's fund may consistently award grants for economic justice and sustainability, the size and overall number of these grants relative to the fund's other awards will determine the share of giving this support represents.

### What are your fund's current grantmaking areas?



Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women's Funds*, 2009. Based on a Women's Funding Network Survey conducted in April 2008. A total of 78 women's funds responded to this question. Includes grantmaking areas identified by at least 25 percent of respondents. Additional areas identified by more than 10 percent of respondents included incarceration, LGBT rights, sports and fitness, environment, faith-based initiatives, and religious and cultural rights.

issues, found that 78.2 percent of those surveyed listed economic justice issues as a key priority.

For example, the Global Fund for Women provides general support grants for human rights organizations worldwide that address a wide range of issues affecting women, from the right to be fully represented in the political process to the right to have access to education and economic opportunity.

*Health received the next largest share of grant dollars awarded by women's funds.* Reproductive health care, public health, HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programs, and other health-related issues and advocacy programs garnered close to 12 percent of giving in 2006 by the 25 women's funds.

*Gender-based violence, youth development, and women's centers were among other major areas benefiting from women's fund support.* In 2006, close to 7 percent of giving by women's

funds addressed gender-based violence, followed by youth development/empowerment (6.4 percent) and women's centers (6.1 percent).<sup>10</sup> Examples of grants in each of these categories include: a \$61,800 award from V-Day to the Tasaru Girls Rescue Center—a domestic violence and family services center based in Kenya—for a safe house for girls; a \$74,130 award from the International Women's Health Coalition to the Nigeria-based Girl's Power Initiative to empower adolescent girls and foster a second generation of feminist leaders in Nigeria and internationally; and a \$2,500 award from the Women's Foundation of Colorado to the Women's Resource Center in Durango (CO) for its Resource and Referral Line.

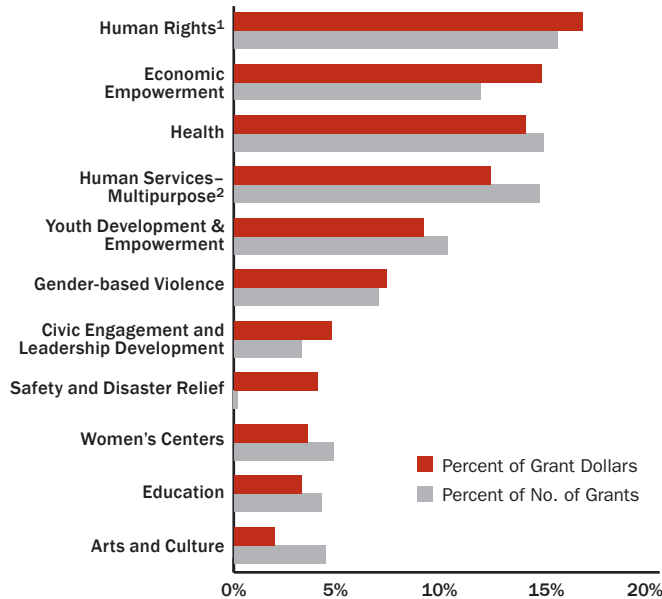
*Human rights represented a far larger share of international giving than domestic-focused giving.* While human rights accounted for the largest share of giving by both domestic-focused and international giving by women's funds

in 2006, its share of U.S.-focused giving was markedly lower—17.1 percent versus 61.3 percent (Figures 10 and 11). Within U.S.-focused giving, economic empowerment, health, and multipurpose human services activities<sup>11</sup> also captured at least 10 percent of support. In contrast, within international giving, women's centers<sup>12</sup> came in a distant second with only about 10 percent of grant dollars.

## TYPES OF SUPPORT PROVIDED

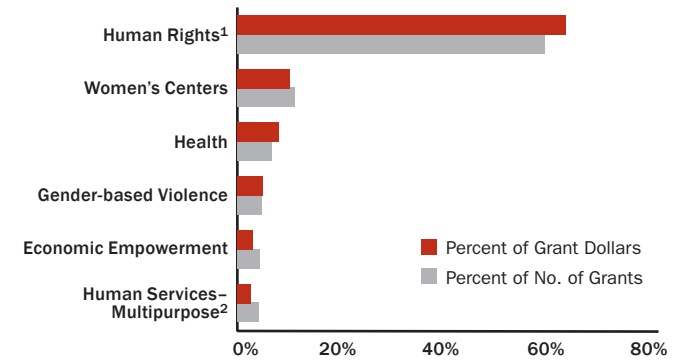
*The Foundation Center tracks the purpose of grants by type of support, including five major categories: general, capital, and program support, research, and student aid funds (excluding grants paid directly to individuals). Grants may be coded for multiple types of support (e.g., a grant for operating support and capital equipment) and, in those cases, the full value of the grant will be counted toward each type of support category.*

**FIGURE 10. Human rights and economic empowerment accounted for largest shares of domestic-focused giving by women's funds in 2006**



Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women's Funds*, 2009. Based on all grants awarded by a sample of 25 women's funds. Includes categories accounting for at least 2 percent of grant dollars.  
<sup>1</sup>Includes women's rights, LGBTQ rights, reproductive rights, and other human rights.  
<sup>2</sup>Includes human services not elsewhere classified, such as services for the elderly and family services, and other human services.

**FIGURE 11. Human rights dominated international giving by women's funds in 2006**



Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women's Funds*, 2009. Based on all grants awarded by a sample of 25 women's funds. Includes categories accounting for at least 2 percent of grant dollars.  
<sup>1</sup>Includes women's rights, LGBTQ rights, reproductive rights, and other human rights.  
<sup>2</sup>Includes human services not elsewhere classified, such as services for the elderly and family services, recreation and sports, and other human services.

*Giving by women's funds overwhelmingly targeted either specific projects or general operating support.* More than half of grant dollars awarded by the 25 women's funds in 2006 were allocated for program support (56.5 percent); general or operating support accounted for 42.7 percent (Figure 12). Women's funds directed roughly 2 percent of their grant dollars or less to the other major types of support—research, capital support, and student aid funds. In terms of number of grants, the share allocated for general operating support was 50 percent, matching the share for specific programs and projects.

*The vast majority of U.S.-focused giving was for program support, while international giving targeted a comparable proportion for general support.* In 2006, 83.2 percent of domestic giving by women's funds provided program support. Only 18.5 percent of grant dollars and 26.3 percent of the number of grants provided general or unrestricted

support. In contrast, over 80 percent of international giving by women's funds was for general operating support, while roughly 15 percent was allocated to programs and projects.

### POPULATION GROUPS TARGETED

*The Foundation Center's Grants Classification System allows coding of each grant for up to five specific beneficiary groups. For example, a grant targeting low-income, elderly women would be coded for the economically disadvantaged, the aging/elderly/senior citizens, and women, and the full value of the grant will be counted toward each group. Coding is based on the population group(s) specified in the grant description provided by the foundation or through information on the mission of the recipient organization.*

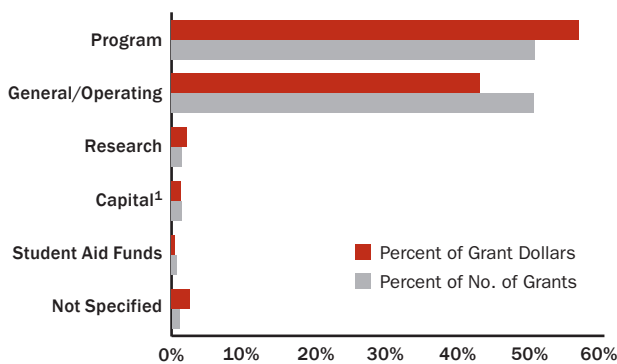
*Aligned with their values, the majority of giving by women's funds specifically benefited women and girls.* According to the Foundation Center analysis, more than 80 percent of grant dollars

awarded by the 25 women's funds in 2006 explicitly targeted women and girls (Figure 13). This finding is consistent with the missions of the funds, as well as with the benchmarks for membership established by the Women's Funding Network. (The Network requires that member funds direct at least 75 percent of their giving for women and girls.)

*Economically disadvantaged women, young and teenage girls, and women of color benefited significantly from women's fund support.* The Women's Funding Network 2008 survey found that the vast majority of women's funds focused on economically marginalized women. Nearly 94 percent of surveyed women's funds indicated that low-income women constituted the target population they are aiming to serve.

According to the Foundation Center analysis, population groups that benefited from significant shares of grant dollars awarded by the 25 women's funds in 2006 included the economically

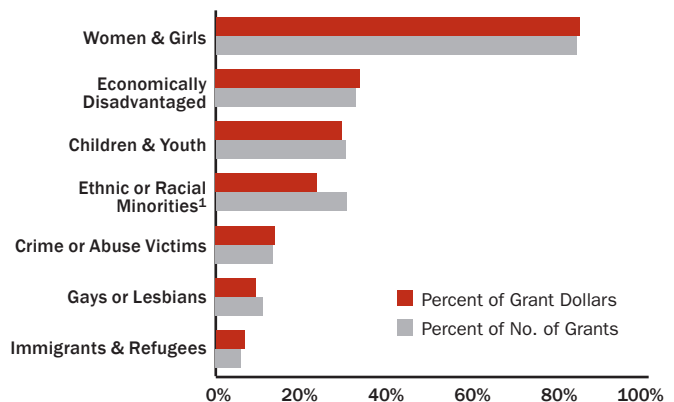
**FIGURE 12. Women's funds provided equal shares of their grants for program and operating support in 2006**



Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women's Funds*, 2009. Based on all grants awarded by a sample of 25 women's funds. Grants may occasionally be for multiple types of support and would therefore be counted more than once.

<sup>1</sup>Includes endowment funds.

**FIGURE 13. Most giving by women's funds in 2006 targeted women and girls, particularly economically and socially vulnerable sub-groups**



Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women's Funds*, 2009. Based on all grants awarded by a sample of 25 women's funds. Chart includes selected beneficiary groups representing at least 5 percent of grant dollars or grants. Figures represent only grants awarded to recipient organizations that could be identified as serving specific populations or grants whose descriptions specified a benefit for a specific population. These figures do not reflect all giving benefiting these groups. In addition, grants may benefit multiple population groups, e.g., a grant for low-income Latina women, and would therefore be counted more than once.

<sup>1</sup>Coding for these groups generally includes only domestic populations. Overseas grants are coded for ethnic or racial minorities only if they specifically mention a benefit for a particular minority group.



disadvantaged (33.3 percent), children and youth (29.2 percent), and ethnic or racial minorities (23.4 percent). However, coding for ethnic or racial minorities applies primarily to giving within the United States. Grants awarded to overseas recipients are only coded for ethnic or racial minorities if they specifically mention a benefit for a particular minority group within their country. Thus, excluding international giving, support by women's funds benefiting ethnic or racial minorities totaled almost 34 percent of domestic grant dollars. In terms of international support, the mission statements of the four internationally focused women's funds included in the analysis suggest that much of their giving seeks to support women in developing countries or countries in transition.

## ENDNOTES

1. The Women's Funding Network estimates that this reached \$60 million in 2008.
2. All but six of the 55 funds were members of the Women's Funding Network.
3. Four funds did not meet this criterion, since their initial tax returns were filed after 2004.
4. See Appendix A, Table A1, for summary statistics on the 55 women's funds. According to 990 data collected by Women's Funding Network, member funds total giving exceeded \$50 million in 2006.
5. This excludes four funds whose initial returns were filed in 2005 or 2006, so they had no 2004 giving data.
6. Giving by the 55 funds was ranked by size and the giving figure at the midpoint represented the median.
7. This excludes four funds whose initial returns were filed in 2005 or 2006, so they had no 2004 asset data.
8. Not currently a member of the Women's Funding Network.
9. Not currently a member of the Women's Funding Network.
10. "Women's centers" refer to organizations that provide or coordinate a wide variety of programs and services (as opposed to single-service agencies) targeted to women.
11. Includes human services not elsewhere classified, such as services for the elderly and family services, and other human services.
12. See footnote 10.



### Ms. Foundation for Women

*Guided by its vision of a true democracy of equity and inclusion, the Ms. Foundation for Women works to build a society in which power and possibility are not limited by gender, race, class, sexuality, age, disability, or immigration status.*

*Known as the national women's fund, the Ms. Foundation for Women was founded in 1973 to propel and sustain feminist organizing within a social justice framework. Since its inception, the Ms. Foundation has supported the birth and growth of social justice movements throughout the United States—from women's safety and reproductive justice to living-wage campaigns and the rebuilding of the Gulf Coast. The foundation consistently pioneers and funds cutting-edge strategies, taking educated risks to support emerging issues, identify gaps in resources, and inform the fields of philanthropy and social justice to create inclusive and sustainable social change for all. As the first national women's philanthropy, it has paved the way for the creation of women's funds worldwide.*

*Today, the Ms. Foundation continues to build women's collective power to ignite change. It delivers strategic grantmaking, capacity building, and leadership development to grassroots and national organizations throughout the United States to drive policy change and culture change at the intersections of race, class, and gender and across the broad areas of women's health, economic justice, ending violence, and building democracy. With its long history of bringing the leadership and perspectives of women who are most marginalized to the center, and building the capacity of diverse women and their organizations to connect across issues, geography, and with other social justice groups, the foundation strengthens social movements and brings our nation closer to its democratic ideals.*

*Learn more at [www.ms.foundation.org](http://www.ms.foundation.org).*

**Global Fund for Women**

*Established in Palo Alto, California, in 1987, the Global Fund for Women's mission is to advance women's human rights around the world by making grants to women-led organizations that promote the economic security, health, safety, education, and leadership of women and girls. Since its inception, the Fund has awarded over \$67 million to more than 3,740 organizations in 167 countries.*

*The Global Fund for Women provides flexible general support grants to seed, strengthen, and link women's rights groups based outside of the United States. Within human rights, its specific areas of interest include: Ending Gender-Based Violence and Building Peace; Ensuring Economic and Environmental Justice; Advancing Health and Sexual Reproductive Rights; Expanding Civic and Political Participation; Increasing Access to Education; and Fostering Social Change Philanthropy. The organization's board of directors consists of women leaders from around the world, and its grantmaking is informed by an international advisory council of over 100 women and men.*

*Learn more at [www.globalfundforwomen.org](http://www.globalfundforwomen.org).*

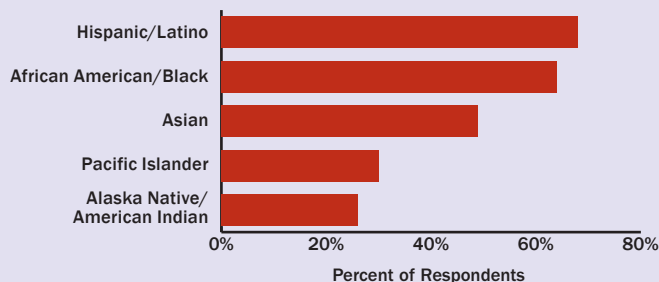
## Target Populations of Women's Funds

Given their role in promoting social change, it comes as no surprise that a majority of women's funds indicate that they explicitly target their support to benefit various communities of color. According to a 2008 Women's Funding Network survey, Hispanics/Latinos were the most frequently cited focus of targeted giving by women's funds, followed by African Americans/Blacks.

This finding should not be interpreted as suggesting that women's funds exclusively target their grantmaking to benefit ethnic or racial minority

communities. For example, international grantmaking by women's funds typically targets the ethnic majority population in a country and would not qualify as support for ethnic or racial minorities. In terms of domestic support, more than 90 percent of women's funds indicated in the survey that they fund the economically disadvantaged, a designation that transcends race and ethnicity. The funds may also award grants for purposes—e.g., involving more girls and young women in the sciences—that impact women and girls across racial, ethnic, and economic categories.

### Target Populations of Women's Funds Grantmaking, by Race/Ethnicity



Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women's Funds*, 2009. Based on a Women's Funding Network Survey conducted in April 2008. A total of 77 women's funds responded to this question.

# Women's Funds at Community Foundations

To provide donors with the opportunity to target giving to the needs of women and girls in their community, a number of the nation's community foundations have established "women's funds" within their institutions. These funds secure support from a broad array of donors, while foundation staff—generally with support from advisory boards—make the grantmaking decisions.

The Women's Funding Network currently has 26 members that are women's funds housed at community foundations. These funds address the same wide range of needs of women and girls as separately constituted women's funds.

Women's Fund of Central Indiana is one of the largest women's funds housed within a community foundation. It was established in 1999 as a component fund of the Community Foundation of Central Indiana. The fund currently holds an endowment of about \$15 million and awarded \$636,000 in grants in 2006. At least six other community foundation-based women's funds had endowments of at least \$1 million in 2006: the Women's Foundation of Greater Birmingham at the Greater Birmingham Community Foundation, WNY Women's Fund at the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, Wyoming Women's Foundation at the Wyoming Community Foundation, Women's Foundation of Montana at the Montana Community Foundation, Women's Fund of the Community Foundation of Fox Valley, and Communities Foundation of Oklahoma Women's Fund.

Women have played the leading role in the establishment of women's funds within community foundations. For example, three statewide

women's funds—the Wyoming Women's Foundation, the Women's Foundation of Montana, and the Women's Foundation of Oklahoma—were created as the result of an initiative of the Chambers Family Fund, a family foundation set up by Merle Chambers. Chambers provided a permanent resource for women and girls in the states where her family's oil business operated.

Community foundations often incubate new women's funds with the intention of spinning them off to form independent funds. The Rhode Island Foundation made a \$2.5 million matching grant to launch the Women's Fund of Rhode Island. In its first three years of existence, the community foundation incubated the women's fund, all the while intending that it would transition into an independent entity. When the fund became independent, the community foundation committed \$200,000 in operating funds for the next three years. The Women's Fund of Rhode Island maintains a strong partnership with the community foundation.

Another women's fund that has spun off to become an independent entity is the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, which was established in 1983 as the Minnesota Women's Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation. It became an independent public charity in 1989. Similarly, the Atlanta Women's Foundation was founded in 1986 as a division of the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta and then changed its status to an independent public charity in 1998. In addition, the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee also spun off from its community foundation, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, in 2006, and still retains a very positive working relationship with the foundation.

## POTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION-BASED WOMEN'S FUND

### Women's Foundation of Oklahoma

*The Women's Foundation of Oklahoma (WFO) is an endowed fund of the Communities Foundation of Oklahoma. It was established in 2003, through a partnership with Chambers Family Fund, to build a permanent resource for women and girls in the state. Today the foundation, which holds over \$1 million in endowed funds, advances economic self-sufficiency for women and girls, by supporting programs that promote systems change through specialized direct services. In a rural state like Oklahoma, the women's fund needs to be creative in their communications and outreach. In 2006, the Women's Foundation of Oklahoma and its design firm, Staplegun, won the prestigious "Best in Show" Addy award for its overall campaign, including an informational brochure and public service announcements highlighting the state's high domestic violence and teen pregnancy rates. Through a partnership with Griffin Communications and KWTW in Oklahoma City, Women's Foundation of Oklahoma is keeping important women and girls' issues in the spotlight. One morning a month, Claudia San Pedro, WFO board chair, educates viewers about the reality of life for many Oklahoma women and girls.*

*Oklahoma currently ranks as the 48th worst state for women and girls but most Oklahomans do not understand numerous issues underlying this statistic. Therefore, WFO's communications efforts focus on educating the public and encouraging them to take action. Following each KWTW news segment, The Oklahoman news article, or PSA, the call volume and donations into WFO increase dramatically from individuals both looking for support and those that want to invest in change.*

*Learn more at [www.wfok.org](http://www.wfok.org).*

**Central American Women's Fund  
(Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres  
(FCM))**

*Established in 2003, the Central American Women's Fund (FCM) seeks to empower young women in Central America and along the Caribbean coast by funding programs in the areas of human rights, education, safety, health, and reproductive rights. The Fund's grantmaking focuses on small organizations that target marginalized groups and that lack access to resources. Since its inception, FCM has funded projects in Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Belize. For example, to help address the proliferation of domestic and sexual violence in the Waslala municipality of Nicaragua, the Fund provided \$28,500 in 2006 and 2007 to the Executive Commission on Women, Children, and Adolescents of Waslala (La Comision) to run a residential shelter for women and children. In addition to providing for basic needs, the shelter also offers women legal advice on issues ranging from reproductive rights to property rights to the protection of children. To date, the program has directly benefited over 2,000 people.*

Learn more at [www.fcmmujeres.org/es](http://www.fcmmujeres.org/es).

## Women's Funds Outside of the United States

Among the most exciting developments in the women's funding movement is the spread of women's funds across the globe. In an environment where women and children constitute 70 percent of the world's "absolute" poor (i.e., those living on less than a dollar a day), the need for more philanthropic institutions focused on the needs of women and girls is evident.<sup>1</sup> Women's funds can now be found in nearly every region of the world, and their establishment over the past quarter century reflects factors ranging from the globalization of the women's movement to an increasing awareness of the key role of women in development. The Women's Funding Network, the International Network of Women's Funds, and internationally focused U.S.-based women's funds, notably the Global Fund for Women and Mama Cash, have also been instrumental in supporting the establishment and growth of women's funds globally.

The Women's Funding Network currently has 26 member funds based outside the United States. Among the largest is the Netherlands-based Mama Cash, which had close to \$5 million in assets in 2006 and reported nearly \$3 million in grants. Established in 1983, Mama Cash supports "pioneering and innovative women's initiatives around the world that address issues of poverty, violence, discrimination, equal rights, and economic justice."

Another large fund is the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), an Africa-wide grantmaking foundation. AWDF mobilizes resources to support local, national, and international initiatives led by women on the African continent. Established in 2000, with a

secretariat in Ghana, AWDF held assets of \$4.1 million in 2006 and provided \$2.1 million in grants. Women's funds in Latin America have also experienced significant growth over the last 3 years. As an example, during their 2006-2007 fiscal year, the Central American Women's Fund gave away over \$418,000, up over 720 percent from their 2005-2006 fiscal year. In 2006, Semillas, the women's fund serving Mexico, reported over \$2 million in total assets. Nonetheless, most women's funds located outside of North America are far smaller than these funds.

Consistent with their U.S. counterparts, women's funds in other countries are principally focused on social change efforts led by women. Major areas of concern include human rights, discrimination and violence against women, economic and social justice, poverty, and women's participation in social and political life. For example, Urgent Action Fund Africa seeks "to promote the human rights of women and girls by encouraging or creating collaborative projects to support women in situations of conflict or crisis"; the Ukrainian Women's Fund "supports women's organizations that play an active role in building gender democracy"; and the Canadian Women's Foundation supports initiatives to "end violence against women, move low-income women out of poverty, and build strong, resilient girls."

### ENDNOTES

1. For statistics on the status of women, see CARE, "Women's Empowerment" ([care.org/newsroom/publications/whitepapers/woman\\_and\\_empowerment.pdf](http://care.org/newsroom/publications/whitepapers/woman_and_empowerment.pdf); accessed 7/29/2008).

# 3

## The Women's Funding Network: A Distinctive Force in Global Philanthropy

### INTRODUCTION

While grantmaking is the backbone of women's funds, what often makes women's foundations unique is their *theory of social change*, as well the *role* they play as change agents in their respective communities. This chapter digs deeper into the women's funding movement by exploring the power of a network and the underlying values that propel the work of women's funds forward.

The vast majority of women's funds are members of the Women's Funding Network, an alliance of women's funds that has grown from small beginnings some 25 years ago to a global membership of over 145 funds, and which has become a growing player on the world philanthropic scene.

Member funds of the Network have a cohesive, distinctive philosophy and set of practices that have enabled them to achieve a cumulative influence far beyond their combined grantmaking dollars. This shared agenda revolves around five core areas:

1. *Focusing on the catalytic power of investing in women and in women-led solutions;*
2. *Championing social change*—achieving lasting community gains in areas from health care access to dismantling poverty by changing systems, attitudes, and social norms;
3. *Diversifying beyond grantmaking*—adapting the conventional foundation model to go beyond purely financial involvement to engage in arenas from policy and advocacy to donor education and leadership development;
4. *Re-imagining and democratizing philanthropy* as a collaborative relationship of trusted equals, organized around core shared values;

5. *Cultivating deep expertise on women and money.* Women's funds have accumulated a unique understanding of women and money, and are leading experts in fundraising from and for women.

In each arena, women's funds have been at the front of the innovation curve, spearheading ideas and practices that are incrementally becoming part of the broader philanthropic community. The harmony of vision, work, and impact achieved by members of the Network distinguishes these funds as a social change philanthropy *movement*. As such, the movement has engendered collaboratively developed tools, values, and ways of working that offer significant lessons for the wider philanthropic community.

### THE CATALYTIC POWER OF INVESTING IN WOMEN

From the early days of the women's funding movement, women's funds saw that investing in women and girls was not only an issue of women's rights, but also an essential strategy in achieving holistic gains for entire communities. The Network's "logic model" holds that when you invest in a woman, you invest in a family, and that these cumulative investments reap returns for communities and, ultimately, for whole nations.

This model holds true across every important area prioritized by women's funds—from economic equity to health care to the prevention of violence. Women's funds believe if women are healthy, economically secure, and free from violence, their families will be too and so, ultimately, will be communities and nations.

The strategic benefit of investing in women has been recognized by

*"Our vision propels us to raise enough capital to fund the kind of social change that can be passed from generation to generation... Our dreams must be big and bold. We must be willing to have visions so vivid and real that we can see an end to the violence against women or the eradication of poverty across the globe..."*

—Christine Grumm, CEO, the Women's Funding Network, speech to the YWCA assembly in Australia in 2003.

### The Women's Funding Network

*Mission: As a global network and a movement for social justice, we will accelerate women's leadership and invest in solving critical, social issues from poverty to global security by bringing together the financial power, influence, and voices of women's funds.*

- 145 women's funds
- Six continents
- \$60 million per year in global investment in women and girls
- \$465 million in collective working assets
- Tens of thousands of donors, change-makers and thought leaders, all with a shared passion for bringing women's ideas to the forefront of global problem-solving

## The Logic Model

When a woman has economic security, her family has economic security.

When her family has economic security, her community has economic security.

When her community has economic security, her nation has economic security.

When nations have economic security, the world is secure.



## The History of Women's Funds

The women's funding movement traces its roots to the women's movement of the 1960s and 1970s. These origins crystallized the attitudes that spurred the creation of women's funds: belief in the intrinsic value and dignity of women and girls; awareness that women often hold unique solutions to community challenges; and conviction that financial power is critical to achieving social change. Creators of women's funds saw that few mainstream philanthropic dollars were specifically targeted at women and girls—they created vehicles to redress the balance and provide a new “gender lens” on philanthropy.

The emergence of women's funds coincided with a shift in the landscape of institutional philanthropy. While private and community foundations have existed in their current form since the early 1900s, the past three decades have

seen an explosion in the number of grantmaking public charities or “public foundations” that support the interests of specific identity groups or issue areas. The grantmaking expertise and relationships of these organizations have attracted the interest of individual and institutional donors, many of whom see these public foundations as providing a convenient alternative to giving directly to nonprofit service organizations or to establishing dedicated private foundations.

Women's funds emerged from this landscape, re-imagining population-based philanthropy for a new era, and adding private, corporate, and funds within community foundations to their number. Their growth gained momentum during the 1980s and accelerated in the 1990s, and there are now women's funds in nearly every continent.

philanthropic, government, and multilateral institutions, such as the World Bank and the United Nations.

However, women's funds overlay another critical insight onto this “logic model”: when solutions are created and led by women who are closest to the issues, change intensifies and accelerates. This acceleration is what the Women's Funding Network has termed the “woman effect.”

As Christine Grumm, President and CEO of the Women's Funding Network, noted at the Network's 2008 Conference: “Savvy investors put money behind women-led change because they know it's the smartest and fastest way to impact communities. Women's funds are uniquely positioned to galvanize every facet of this ‘woman effect’ making us a distinctive and potent force in propelling global change.”

This belief in the transformative potential of change *led* by women, particularly women who are closest to critical social issues and challenges, is at the heart of the Network's shared agenda. According to an April 2008 survey administered by the Women's Funding Network and completed by 78 of its member funds, 99 percent of women's funds surveyed prioritize investment in the leadership and empowerment of women and girls; 93 percent prioritize women-led solutions to community issues, and 83 percent prioritize the concept that “women who are closest to society's issues are best placed to solve them.” This shared philosophy finds its expression in investments that range from supporting the leadership of Aboriginal women in Australia to spearhead community safety programs to fostering women's leadership in locations from the U.S. Gulf Coast to the Ukraine and Nepal.

Because women's funds unlock untapped ideas from women whose solutions are too rarely considered, they are often able to spotlight and counter emerging issues and problems early on:

- 82 percent of women's funds surveyed report funding issues that are

“under the radar”; or undetected by existing service providers or by mainstream philanthropy

- 78 percent of women’s funds surveyed report pushing critical, previously hidden, issues up to the surface.

Women’s funds’ early investments in programs and advocacy around issues—such as human trafficking, domestic violence, rape, and incarceration—exemplify this ability to find and spotlight issues. In both cases, women’s funds led the way for wider public and governmental attention, recognition, and investment.

### IMPACT

The focus on systemic and progressive social change means that women’s funds are able to “punch above their weight” in terms of the cumulative impact of their investments. A study was conducted in 2008 of 46 women’s funds investments in 405 projects.<sup>1</sup> It found that these projects impacted over 200 million people worldwide, and that \$5.5 million of women’s funds grants played a role in leveraging an additional \$33.7 million in funding for those projects.<sup>2</sup> The study noted that grantees who successfully advocated for policy change impacted the largest number of people.

### CHAMPIONING SOCIAL CHANGE

Women’s funds’ belief in women as transformative change agents is linked with another defining characteristic of the movement—a shared commitment to social justice and a belief in making investments that will achieve lasting societal shifts. Ninety eight percent of member women’s funds surveyed rank achieving such social change as a high priority for their fund.

This focus on social change arose because Network members realized that issues such as gender-based violence need solutions that address causes, rather than merely *symptoms* (for example, investment in public education and policy change, as well in domestic violence shelters).

Members have worked collaboratively within the Network to arrive at a shared understanding of how they see social change, and how to measure it. This concerted, joint work has resulted in an innovative and highly regarded model of change, called Making the Case™, which measures social change across dimensions, including shifts in societal definition of issues, in governmental policies, and in community behavior. The framework is used by women’s funds and their grantee partners to conceptualize and evaluate the social change instigated by their investments.

### MORE THAN GRANTMAKING

Women’s funds are characterized by an approach that goes beyond pure grantmaking to embrace a plethora

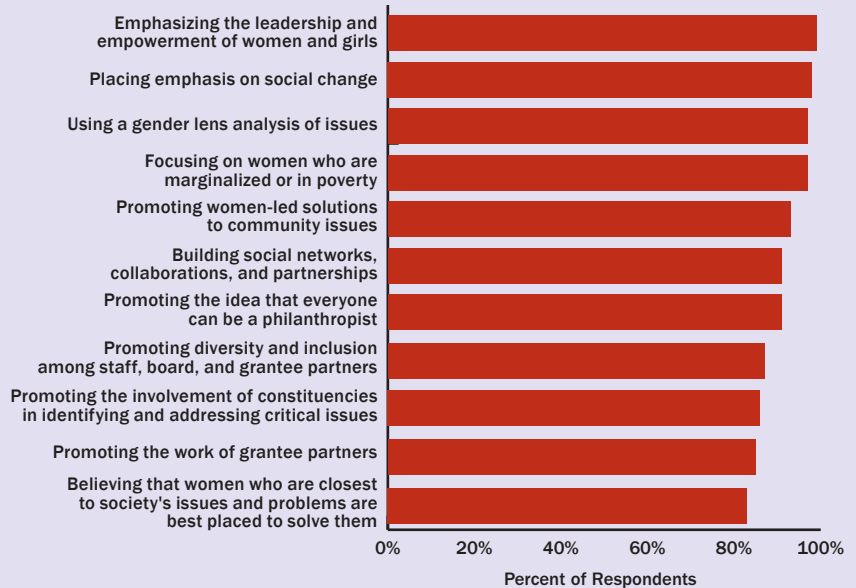
*“As we know from long and indisputable experience, investing in women and girls has a multiplier effect on productivity and sustained economic growth. No measure is more important in advancing education and health, including the prevention of HIV/AIDS. No other policy is as likely to improve nutrition, or reduce infant and maternal mortality.”*

—Ban Ki-Moon, United Nations Secretary General, March 2008

## Priorities for Women’s Funds

Women’s funds are in overwhelming agreement about the role of their organizations in empowering women and girls and emphasizing social change, according to a 2008 Women’s Funding Network’s survey.

### Priorities for Women’s Funds



Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women’s Funds*, 2009. Based on a Women’s Funding Network survey conducted in April 2008. A total of 78 women’s funds responded to this question.

## Social Change in Practice

### *Women's Fund of Rhode Island, USA (Shift in Policy)*

The Women's Fund of Rhode Island supported their grantee, Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships (SOAR), in advocating for legislation to remove guns from abusers when a permanent restraining order was in effect. SOAR members called and e-mailed, testified at the state house, organized vigils to remember victims of domestic violence, and worked with other partner organizations to keep this issue in the public eye. As a result of their work, the Homicide Prevention Act was passed and signed by the Governor of Rhode Island.

### *Women's Foundation of Colorado, USA (Shift in Definition)*

In Colorado, when low-income workers receive pay increases, they become ineligible for work support benefits—often leaving them worse off than they were before their pay raise. The Women's Foundation of Colorado and their grantee partner, the National Center for Children in Poverty, commissioned a research study, entitled the “Cliff Effect,” which identified and named a major problem facing women and families, thereby helping reframe how their state views women's financial security.

of other strategies to fuel women-led solutions and community transformation (see “Non-grantmaking Activities of Women's Funds”). This breadth of engagement and activity positions women's funds at the heart of their communities and as major players within multiple networks. For example, they educate donors and colleagues about philanthropy and participate in funder networks and alliances. They engage in public policy and advocacy activities. They participate in community, national, and/or international leadership in collaborative efforts or networks. They often serve on boards of directors or advisory committees of other organizations, public commissions, or taskforces. Their support of research on the status of women and girls often galvanizes local action to improve the well-being of women and girls.

These women's funds have expanded beyond grantmaking because they believe that a diversified activity mix is critical to fostering the social change at the heart of their missions. By energizing debate within their networks they are helping propel the social shifts that they believe underpin their work.

Women's funds are leveraging their expertise in social change led by women and their wide spans of activity and influence to move beyond a traditional foundation role, functioning as “go to” agencies in their communities. They are hubs for information and innovation on women and girls, generating new insights that reshape the ways communities solve issues, such as poverty and access to health care and education.

### RE-IMAGINING PHILANTHROPY

From their earliest days, women's funds have acted as incubators for re-imagining conventional philanthropy, creating new spaces and ways for women and men to give back to their communities. Many of the ideas from these initial experiments in creating a new kind of philanthropy rapidly hit the mainstream. For example, giving circles, which have seen exponential growth in the last

## Making the Case™: The Five Shifts of Social Change

- 1. Shift in Definition:** Redefining an issue or situation; for example, making domestic violence a public rather than private issue.
- 2. Shift in Behavior:** Instigating individual or community behavior change; for example, women seek prenatal care because it is better promoted and more available.
- 3. Shift in Engagement:** Reaching people in the community or larger society to form critical mass; for example, more women are engaged in the political process, where traditions of engagement were not established.
- 4. Shift in Policy:** Changing public or institutional policy; for example, inheritance laws for women are created in countries where such rights were not upheld.
- 5. Maintaining Past Gains:** Ensuring that past “wins” for women and girls are protected; for example, protecting funding for breast cancer research from cuts.



decade, were incubated by women’s funds seeking to create new spaces for women to brainstorm, share, and execute their philanthropic visions. Another example is the grassroots fundraising model that is employed by V-Day. The New York-based women’s fund empowers local activists to stage local V-Day events in their communities to raise money for local anti-violence groups. This grassroots fundraising generates \$4 million to \$6 million annually—but these funds are not counted as revenue for V-Day. Rather, the money raised stays in the community and goes directly to the local beneficiaries.

**Democratizing Philanthropy.** Women’s funds have sought to re-imagine philanthropy as a democratic, cross-class enterprise—creating environments in which everyone can be a philanthropist (indeed, 91 percent of surveyed funds report this aspiration as a priority). Women’s funds seek to cultivate and engage donors at every giving level—from the million dollar donor to the everyday consumer—and from demographic populations where traditions of philanthropy may be underutilized or inadequately tracked. They also aspire to create a form of philanthropy that is transformative for the donor and the community.

**Transparent Grantmaking.** Women’s funds’ shared values system has led many funds to practice “transparent” grantmaking—philanthropy conducted in full dialogue and partnership with nonprofits, community leaders, and the women who will benefit from community investments. They have deep connections and partnerships with their grantees on-the-ground, enabling them to create lasting social change.

**Focusing on Women at the Margins.** Women’s funds are also re-imagining philanthropy by challenging conventions about where and to whom funds are disbursed. Aligned with their belief in women-led change that is closest to the critical issues, women’s funds invest far more than the philanthropic mainstream in women “at the margins.” According

to the Women’s Funding Network’s 2008 member survey, 94 percent of women’s fund respondents reported that “low income” women were the target population of their grantmaking. Closely connected to women’s funds support for marginalized women, economic justice emerges as a critical priority theme for women’s funds, and indeed their top collective priority (see Chapter 2).

**Diversity.** Boards of women’s funds strive for truly cross-class representation. Grantees are seen as partners and funds aspire to embed diversity in every facet of women’s fund leadership. A 2008 report for the Women’s Funding Network by Social Policy Research Associates found

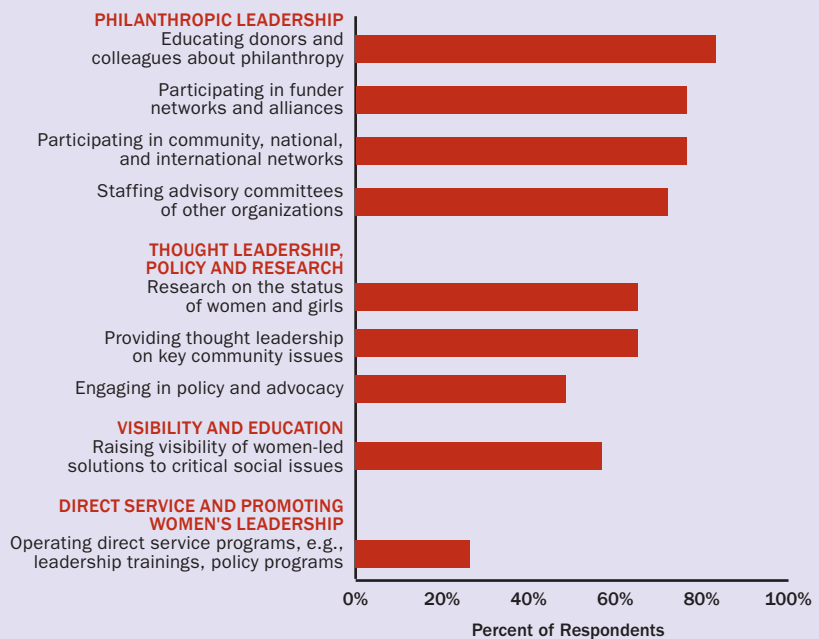
that, on average, women’s funds are more racially and ethnically diverse, and more reflective of diversity in sexual orientation than the general population. However, the Network recognizes that there is still work that needs to be done in order to align funds’ values with their staffing and decision making structures, so that they more fully reflect the communities that they serve. Because diversity is an intrinsic value of women’s funds, funds work continuously to make gains in this arena.

Championing diversity also goes to the heart of women’s funds’ determination to re-imagine philanthropy as a democratic, cross-class process.

## Non-grantmaking Activities of Women’s Funds

The vast majority of women’s funds are engaged in some form of non-grantmaking activity, led by their efforts to educate donors and colleagues in the field about the importance of philanthropy.

### What types of non-grantmaking activities does your organization engage in?

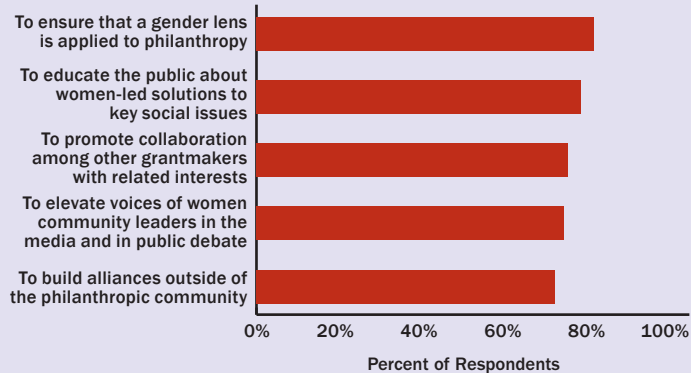


Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women’s Funds*, 2009. Based on a Women’s Funding Network survey conducted in April 2008. A total of 72 women’s funds responded to this question. Responses exclude capacity building opportunities for grantee partners.

## Reasons for Engagement in Non-grantmaking Activities

Women's funds engage in non-grantmaking activities for various reasons.

### Reason for Engagement in Non-grantmaking Activities



Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women's Funds*, 2009. Based on a Women's Funding Network survey conducted in April 2008. A total of 72 women's funds responded to this question.

## DEEP EXPERTISE IN WOMEN AND MONEY

As highlighted in the previous section, women's funds have developed deep and broad expertise in every facet of raising money for and from women. This knowledge spans the gamut from engaging multi-million dollar donors to seeding cultures of giving in new democracies to attracting new donors in both established and emerging economies.

Women's funds recognize the need to invest in the fundraising leadership to create and cement these strategies. The Women's Funding Network's fundraising leadership programs have become exemplars within the sector, informed by dedicated Network research about the specific realities of women's giving.

### Fundraising Leadership

#### "Women Moving Millions" Campaign Raises over \$176 Million

*In November 2007, the Women's Funding Network partnered with donors inspired by sisters and philanthropists Helen La Kelly Hunt and Ambassador Swanee Hunt to launch "Women Moving Millions." The campaign seeks to inspire gifts of \$1 million or more from individuals to transform the lives and opportunities of women and communities around the world. By May 2009, the campaign raised over \$176 million—exceeding its goal of \$150 million. The initiative aimed to raise \$150 million in order to bring the collective assets and grantmaking of women's funds to \$1 billion.*

#### Smart and Sustainable Growth

*The Women's Funding Network's Smart Growth© model analyzes women's funds' organizational development and supports sustainable growth. Member funds benefit from skill-building workshops, small group discussions, and executive coaching activities. A 2006 survey found that 74 percent of member funds participating in Smart Growth believed their increased capacity to reach financial goals was attributable to the tool.*

#### Women of Color/International Development Incubator

*The Women's Funding Network's Women of Color/International Development Incubator program is a fundraising and leadership academy for women of color and women from the global south. Developed to promote diversity in fundraising leadership, the program has seen dramatic results with 63 alumnae raising \$35 million over five years. Graduates have come from diverse U.S. communities, as well as such countries as Bulgaria, Colombia, Ghana, and Nepal. These women have achieved higher fundraising and leadership roles, developed new partnerships with funders and donors, and expanded their donor pools in communities of color.*

## THE FUTURE: SCALING THE MOVEMENT'S POWER

The combination of these five differentiating factors has propelled the women's funding movement's rapid growth and the parallel development of unique and influential tools and practices. Women's funds have reconceived what philanthropy can mean, and used the power of their Network to incubate, embed, and disseminate that knowledge.

As women's funds enter a new era, they are leveraging this status as a network, with all its inherent potential for collective action and influence, still further to achieve exponentially larger impact.

A new 10-year strategic plan for the Women's Funding Network sets ambitious targets to raise the movement's collective assets to \$1.5 billion. Just as crucially, it sets the stage for collective action on key shared issues, such as economic justice, based on a deep understanding of how every facet of human security impacts women and girls.

To move this agenda forward, the Network is investing in the individual and collaborative leadership of women's funds, donors, and community leaders. By scaling up and optimizing the network, it is aiming to forge a worldwide, grass-roots coalition for investment in women's solutions. These actions will be mirrored by proactive engagements in social networking that will accelerate movement building in an online realm.

As member funds conceive and implement these ambitious plans, the Women's Funding Network will continue to act as a hub for philanthropic innovation and as a role model for movement building. Most crucially, women's funds will stay at the forefront of re-imagining women's potential in helping to meet the daunting challenges of the twenty-first century.

## ENDNOTES

1. Women's Funding Network: Analysis based on use of the Making the Case™ framework, forthcoming.
2. This leveraging effect is inferred from prior research for the Women's Funding Network by Clohesy Consulting, which found that women's funds functioned as start-up and venture investors within their communities, often acting as first funders of projects and organizations.

## Everyone Can Be a Philanthropist: Examples

### *Engaging Everyone in Pooling Resources*

Elas-Social Investment Fund, based in Brazil, is engaging a huge new audience in giving to women through its Angelita piggybank campaign. Piggybanks are distributed to shops, beauty salons, and throughout communities in Rio, enabling people of every income to contribute to women's empowerment. Twelve of the top Brazilian plastic artists created their own vision of Angelita for the Elas Fund for an exposition around Brazil.

### *Engaging the Next Generation of Philanthropists*

Spark, based in San Francisco, has focused its efforts on mobilizing a generation of social-justice-minded young professionals who believe in the power of women-led solutions. Spark membership begins at only \$75, making it easy for people of varying levels of income to support the organization through member-only fundraising events, volunteer opportunities, and grantmaking for women's organizations around the world.

### *Giving as a Group: Donor Circles*

The Washington Area Women's Foundation is one of many funds to engage individual donors through participation in Giving Circles. The Giving Circles allow women with similar interests to come together to discuss specific community needs and to decide how and where their pooled resources are granted out.



# APPENDIX A: Study Methodology

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## METHODOLOGY

The analysis of foundation giving targeting women and girls presented in Chapter 1 of this report is based on the Foundation Center's annual grants sample (see "Sampling Base" for more detail). Giving by the sampled funders represented approximately half of total grant dollars awarded to organizations by all U.S. independent, corporate, community, and grantmaking operating foundations.

Estimates of overall giving targeted to women and girls by U.S. foundations in 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, and 2006 are based on an examination of the annual grants data and on actual total giving by the nation's grantmaking private and community foundations for each of those years. It is important to note that these estimated amounts reflect only giving specifically targeted to women and girls and not all giving that may directly or indirectly benefit women and girls.

The analysis of giving by U.S.-based women's funds presented in Chapter 2 is based on aggregate fiscal data for 55 women's funds and grants data for 25 funds collected by the Foundation Center (see Table A1 for a list of these funds). The fiscal data covered the period 2004 through 2006, while the grants data included all grants awarded by the selected funds for the fiscal year ending in 2006. Grants were coded according to the Foundation Center's Grants Classification System (see Appendix B). The brief examinations of international women's funds and funds based in community foundations were based on fiscal data and background materials provided by the Women's Funding Network, as well as information available from the funds' websites.

## SAMPLING BASE

The Foundation Center's annual grants sample includes all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a national sample of approximately 1,000 or more larger private and community foundations. The 2006 data include 140,484 grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by 1,263 of the largest U.S. foundations and reported to the Foundation Center between October 2006 and September 2007. Grants were awarded primarily in 2006 or 2005. These grants totaled \$19.1 billion.

For the sample data, grants targeting women and girls were identified using the Foundation Center's Grants Classification System, which includes 24 major beneficiary groups. Grants were identified as targeting women and girls if they met at least one of the following criteria: (1) the grant description specified women/girls as a target population; (2) women/girls are among the population groups explicitly served by the recipient organization; or (3) the grant was for a purpose associated with women/girls.<sup>1</sup> Grants can benefit multiple population groups. For example, a grant for low-income women would be counted as benefiting "women and girls" and the "economically disadvantaged."

Out of the 1,263 foundations in the 2006 grants sample, 918 (72.7 percent) were identified as awarding at least one grant targeting women and girls. Collectively, these foundations awarded 9,230 grants totaling \$1.1 billion for the benefit of this population group. However, this amount does not reflect all giving benefiting women and girls. For example, most foundation grants lack a description and/or do not specify the intended beneficiary groups. Fewer

than half of all grants (46.9 percent) in the 2006 grants sample specified any beneficiary group. Also not coded for specific population groups are those grants that provide for the support of institutions or programs that serve broad public interests (e.g., community centers). While women and girls may derive a benefit from these grants, they are not counted as part of the support targeting women and girls. Moreover, a number of grants targeting women and girls may fall under the \$10,000 threshold.

## 2008 WOMEN'S FUNDS SURVEY

In April 2008, the Women's Funding Network conducted an online survey of its partner members. The survey covered questions including the funds' target populations, geographic focus, current and emerging grantmaking areas, non-grantmaking activities, and growth and sustainability, among other issues. Key findings are presented in Chapters 2 and 3 of this report.

A total of 78 funds (nearly 60 percent of the surveyed funds) responded to the survey, including U.S.-based women's funds that are independently constituted public charities, community foundation-based funds, private foundations, and funds based outside the United States. Survey respondents accounted for a majority of the total giving and assets of all Women's Funding Network's partner members.

## ENDNOTE

1. These include grants in the following areas: reproductive health, breast cancer, obstetrics/gynecology, domestic violence, girls clubs/scouts, youth pregnancy prevention, pregnancy centers, women's centers, civil rights for women, reproductive rights, and women's studies.

**TABLE A1. Summary Statistics for 55 U.S.-based Women's Funds, 2006**

Name of Fund <sup>1</sup>	Establishment		Total Giving <sup>2</sup>	Total Assets	Gifts Received	Fiscal Date
	State	Year				
1. <b>Global Fund for Women</b>	CA	1987	<b>\$7,755,754</b>	\$23,716,361	\$10,915,788	6/30/2006
2. <b>Ms. Foundation for Women</b>	NY	1972	<b>3,599,885</b>	36,284,233	8,221,304	6/30/2006
3. <b>Women for Women International</b>	DC	1993	<b>3,327,562</b>	13,238,778	16,699,572	12/31/2006
4. <b>Women's Foundation of California</b>	CA	1979	<b>1,927,461</b>	12,014,693	5,210,136	6/30/2006
5. <b>Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice<sup>3</sup></b>	NY	1977	<b>1,774,702</b>	5,935,857	4,646,682	6/30/2006
6. <b>New York Women's Foundation</b>	NY	1987	<b>1,744,640</b>	10,396,828	3,053,979	12/31/2006
7. <b>International Women's Health Coalition</b>	NY	1984	<b>1,279,521</b>	3,931,072	4,163,270	9/30/2006
8. <b>Women's Foundation of Minnesota</b>	MN	1983	<b>1,074,502</b>	14,535,749	6,071,275	3/31/2006
9. <b>Washington Area Women's Foundation</b>	DC	1998	<b>1,057,900</b>	4,784,601	2,529,447	6/30/2006
10. <b>Chicago Foundation for Women</b>	IL	1984	<b>1,045,617</b>	5,635,626	2,296,332	6/30/2006
11. <b>Zonta International Foundation</b>	IL	1919	<b>856,652</b>	7,179,868	1,935,561	5/31/2006
12. <b>Dallas Women's Foundation</b>	TX	1985	<b>840,101</b>	10,682,512	1,472,119	6/30/2006
13. <b>Women's Fund of Miami-Dade County</b>	FL	1993	<b>754,384</b>	1,274,911	1,694,971	6/30/2006
14. <b>Atlanta Women's Foundation<sup>4</sup></b>	GA	1986	<b>713,348</b>	5,314,264	1,267,218	6/30/2006
15. <b>Hadassah Foundation</b>	NY	1998	<b>700,800</b>	15,318,219	72,388	5/31/2006
16. <b>Women's Sports Foundation</b>	NY	1974	<b>685,568</b>	5,671,494	6,244,397	12/31/2006
17. <b>Women's Foundation of Colorado</b>	CO	1987	<b>538,659</b>	14,390,828	827,072	12/31/2006
18. <b>Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights</b>	CO	1997	<b>433,645</b>	889,953	932,136	12/31/2006
19. <b>Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis</b>	TN	1995	<b>419,171</b>	5,122,842	3,758,299	6/30/2006
20. <b>Third Wave Foundation</b>	NY	1996	<b>337,753</b>	1,222,500	777,773	12/31/2006
21. <b>Eleanor Foundation</b>	IL	1898	<b>335,819</b>	14,904,305	90,024	12/31/2006
22. <b>Women's Funding Alliance</b>	WA	1983	<b>320,659</b>	1,222,688	757,177	12/31/2006
23. <b>Boston Women's Fund</b>	MA	1983	<b>317,510</b>	3,618,982	2,674,421	6/30/2006
24. <b>Chrysalis Foundation for Women</b>	IA	1989	<b>295,465</b>	11,010,270	363,056	6/30/2006
25. <b>Michigan Women's Foundation</b>	MI	1986	<b>248,614</b>	1,980,094	692,870	9/30/2006
26. <b>Nevada Women's Fund</b>	NV	1982	<b>247,851</b>	2,918,631	335,536	12/31/2006
27. <b>Women's Foundation of Greater Kansas City</b>	KS	1991	<b>245,408</b>	7,089,571	177,394	5/31/2006
28. <b>V-Day<sup>5</sup></b>	NY	1998	<b>219,900</b>	446,092	1,367,702	6/30/2006
29. <b>Women's Foundation of Genesee Valley</b>	NY	1994	<b>210,532</b>	2,626,819	222,709	12/31/2006
30. <b>Chester County Fund for Women &amp; Girls</b>	PA	1996	<b>190,000</b>	1,308,529	1,319,638	6/30/2006
31. <b>Arizona Foundation for Women</b>	AZ	1995	<b>330,484</b>	2,067,324	925,597	12/31/2006
32. <b>Commercial Real Estate Women's (CREW) Foundation</b>	KS	1998	<b>154,430</b>	569,841	225,316	12/31/2006
33. <b>Long Island Fund for Women and Girls</b>	NY	1991	<b>150,143</b>	167,399	609,867	12/31/2006
34. <b>Women's Fund of New Jersey</b>	NJ	1995	<b>145,782</b>	894,117	458,363	6/30/2006
35. <b>Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee</b>	WI	1986	<b>119,000</b>	257,610	630,441	12/31/2006
36. <b>Women and Girls Foundation of Southwest Pennsylvania</b>	PA	2002	<b>113,795</b>	662,778	814,601	12/31/2006
37. <b>Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona</b>	AZ	1992	<b>112,245</b>	599,506	403,218	6/30/2006
38. <b>Women's Fund of Central Ohio</b>	OH	2001	<b>111,237</b>	1,745,301	700,827	6/30/2006
39. <b>Maine Women's Fund</b>	ME	1989	<b>107,795</b>	927,519	359,436	6/30/2006
40. <b>National Asian Women's Health Organization</b>	CA	1993	<b>100,000</b>	423,497	430,249	12/31/2006
41. <b>Women's Fund of New Hampshire</b>	NH	1998	<b>85,308</b>	1,072,395	276,538	12/31/2006
42. <b>Women's Fund of Rhode Island</b>	RI	2001	<b>78,025</b>	394,036	439,098	12/31/2006
43. <b>Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts</b>	MA	1997	<b>78,450</b>	3,522,887	275,362	6/30/2006
44. <b>Delta Research &amp; Educational Foundation</b>	DC	1967	<b>65,141</b>	3,131,517	1,090,861	6/30/2006
45. <b>Mary's Pence</b>	NY	1987	<b>60,000</b>	167,795	277,807	6/30/2006
46. <b>Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region<sup>6</sup></b>	WI	1984	<b>45,331</b>	1,046,728	1,042,786	6/30/2006
47. <b>Women's Fund of Hawaii</b>	HI	1989	<b>45,000</b>	82,810	138,711	12/31/2006
48. <b>Women's Community Foundation</b>	OH	1981	<b>43,715</b>	609,940	81,994	6/30/2006
49. <b>New Mexico Women's Foundation</b>	NM	1988	<b>32,674</b>	61,657	95,183	12/31/2006
50. <b>Frontera Women's Foundation<sup>7</sup></b>	TX	2003	<b>23,750</b>	191,101	251,615	12/31/2006
51. <b>Three Guineas Fund</b>	CA	1994	<b>22,500</b>	5,354,050	0	12/31/2006
52. <b>Women's Foundation of Arkansas</b>	AR	1998	<b>21,750</b>	170,787	125,778	12/31/2006
53. <b>Bucks County Women's Fund</b>	PA	1990	<b>20,120</b>	121,747	16,108	6/30/2006
54. <b>Fairfield Women's Exchange</b>	CT	1964	<b>14,000</b>	180,174	67	6/30/2006
55. <b>Iowa Women's Foundation</b>	IA	1994	<b>10,000</b>	147,760	99,561	12/31/2006
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$35,590,058</b>	<b>\$269,237,446</b>	<b>\$100,559,630</b>	

Source: The Foundation Center, *Accelerating Change for Women and Girls: The Role of Women's Funds*, 2009.

<sup>1</sup>Funds included in the grants analysis for Chapter 2 of this report are indicated in bold.

<sup>2</sup>Total giving includes grants and scholarships paid out to organizations or individuals.

<sup>3</sup>Formerly ASTRAEA, National Lesbian Action Foundation; current name adopted in 2003.

<sup>4</sup>Began as the Women's Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta in 1986 and became a separate foundation in 1998.

<sup>5</sup>Total giving figure for V-Day excludes an additional \$4 million to \$6 million that is given away annually to local groups via local V-Day benefit events.

<sup>6</sup>Established in 1984 in Wisconsin as a field-of-interest fund; became a supporting organization of the Community Foundation of the Fox Valley Region in 2005.

<sup>7</sup>Also known as Border Women's Development Fund.

# APPENDIX B:

## The Grants Classification System

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To analyze funding patterns, the Foundation Center established a computerized grants reporting system in 1972. From 1979 to 1988 the Center relied on a “facet” classification system, a multidimensional system employing a fixed vocabulary of four-letter codes that permitted categorization of each grant by broad subject, type of recipient, population group, type of support, and scope of grant activity. In 1989, the Center adopted a new classification system with links to the National Taxonomy of Exempt Entities

(NTEE), a comprehensive coding scheme developed by the National Center for Charitable Statistics. NTEE establishes a unified national standard for classifying nonprofit activities; it also provides a more concise and consistent hierarchical method to classify and index grants.

The current system uses two- or three-character alphanumeric codes to track institutional fields and entities, governance or auspices, population groups, and religious affiliation. The universe of institutional fields is

organized into the 26 subject areas (A to Z) listed on the following page, with sub-categories for services, disciplines, or types of institutions unique to that field, organized in a hierarchical structure. While based on NTEE, the Foundation Center’s grants classification system added indexing elements not part of the original taxonomy, including sets of codes to classify types of support, population groups served, and, for international grants, geographic focus and recipient country.

# SUMMARY OF THE 26 NATIONAL TAXONOMY OF EXEMPT ENTITIES (NTEE) MAJOR SUBJECT AREAS

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## **A—Arts, culture, humanities activities**

- arts & culture (multipurpose activities)
- media & communications
- visual arts
- museums
- performing arts
- humanities
- historical societies & related historical activities

## **B—Educational institutions & related activities**

- elementary & secondary education (preschool through Grade 12)
- vocational/technical schools
- higher education
- graduate/professional schools
- adult/continuing education
- libraries/archives
- student services & organizations

## **C—Environmental quality, protection**

- pollution abatement & control
- natural resources conservation & protection
- botanic/horticulture activities
- environmental beautification & open spaces
- environmental education & outdoor survival

## **D—Animal-related activities**

- animal protection & welfare
- humane societies
- wildlife preservation & protection
- veterinary services
- zoos & aquariums
- specialty animals & other services

## **E—Health—general & rehabilitative**

- hospitals
- health treatment, primarily outpatient
- reproductive health care
- rehabilitative medical services
- health support services
- emergency medical services
- public health & wellness education
- health care financing/insurance programs
- nursing homes/nursing care

## **F—Mental health, crisis intervention**

- addiction prevention & treatment
- mental health treatment & services
- crisis intervention
- psychiatric/mental health—primary care
- half-way houses (mental health)/transitional care
- counseling/bereavement services
- specific mental health disorders

## **G—Disease/disorder/medical disciplines (multipurpose)**

- birth defects & genetic diseases
- cancer
- diseases of specific organs
- nerve, muscle & bone diseases
- allergy-related diseases
- specific named diseases
- medical disciplines/specialties

## **H—Medical research**

- identical hierarchy to diseases/disorders/medical disciplines in major field “G”
- example: G30 represents cancer treatment; H30 represents cancer research

## **I—Public protection: crime/courts/legal services**

- police & law enforcement agencies
- correctional facilities & prisoner services
- crime prevention
- rehabilitation of offenders
- administration of justice/courts
- protection against/prevention of neglect, abuse, exploitation
- legal services

## **J—Employment/jobs**

- vocational guidance & training, such as on-the-job programs
- employment procurement assistance
- vocational rehabilitation
- employment assistance for the disabled and aging
- labor unions/organizations
- labor-management relations

## **K—Food, nutrition, agriculture**

- agricultural services aimed at food procurement
- food service/free food distribution
- nutrition promotion
- farmland preservation

## **L—Housing/shelter**

- housing development/construction
- housing search assistance
- low-cost temporary shelters such as youth hostels
- homeless, temporary shelter for
- housing owners/renters organizations
- housing support services

## **M—Public safety/disaster preparedness & relief**

- disaster prevention, such as flood control
- disaster relief (U.S. domestic)
- safety education
- civil defense & preparedness programs

## **N—Recreation, leisure, sports, athletics**

- camps
- physical fitness & community recreation
- sports training
- recreation/pleasure or social clubs
- amateur sports
- Olympics & Special Olympics
- professional athletic leagues

## **O—Youth development**

- youth centers, such as boys clubs
- scouting
- mentoring (including big brothers/sisters)
- agricultural development, such as 4-H
- business development, Junior Achievement
- citizenship programs
- religious leadership development

## **P—Human service—other/multipurpose**

- multipurpose service organizations
- children & youth services
- family services
- personal social services
- emergency assistance (food, clothing)
- residential/custodial care (including hospices)
- centers promoting independence of specific groups, such as senior or women’s centers

## **Q—International**

- exchange programs
- international development
- international relief services (foreign disaster relief)
- peace & security (international conflict resolution)
- foreign policy research & analyses
- international human rights

## **R—Civil rights/civil liberties**

- equal opportunity & access
- intergroup/race relations
- voter education/registration
- civil liberties

## **S—Community improvement/development**

- community/neighborhood development
- community coalitions
- economic development, both urban and rural
- business services
- nonprofit management
- community service clubs, such as Junior League

## **T—Philanthropy & voluntarism**

- philanthropy associations/societies
- private grantmaking foundations
- public foundations (e.g., women’s funds) and community foundations
- voluntarism promotion
- community funds and federated giving

## **U—Science**

- scientific research & promotion
- physical/earth sciences
- engineering/technology
- biological sciences

## **V—Social sciences**

- social science research/studies
- interdisciplinary studies, such as black studies, women’s studies, urban studies, etc.

## **W—Public affairs/society benefit**

- public policy research, general
- government & public administration
- transportation systems
- leadership development
- public utilities
- telecommunications (including WWW)
- consumer rights/education
- military/veterans organizations
- financial institutions, services

## **X—Religion/spiritual development**

- Christian churches, missionary societies and related religious bodies
- Jewish synagogues
- other specific religions

## **Y—Mutual membership benefit organizations**

- insurance providers & services (other than health)
- pension/retirement funds
- fraternal beneficiary societies
- cemeteries & burial services

## **Z99—Unknown, unclassifiable**





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