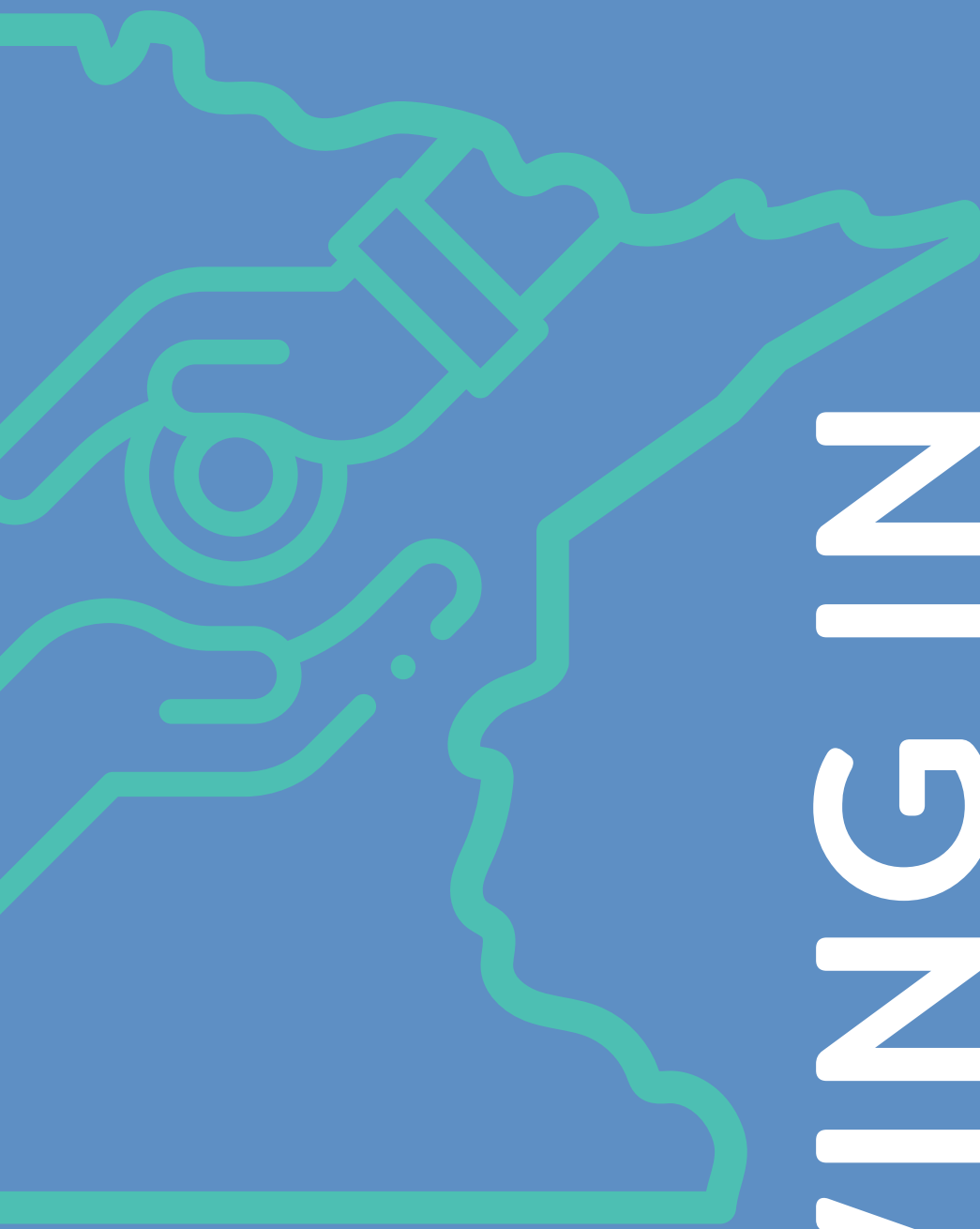




MINNESOTA COUNCIL  
ON FOUNDATIONS



# GIVING IN MINNESOTA

2023 REPORT

A Comprehensive Look at  
Grantmaking in Minnesota

# INTRODUCTION

**MCF's new edition of Giving in Minnesota looks at grantmaking from the 2021 fiscal year, heavily influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic and response to the murder of George Floyd.**



The 2023 edition of Giving in Minnesota comes with some good news: after significant data delays over the past two years, the logjam has broken and we are back on our normal data reporting schedule. As detailed by Candid, in May 2023 the IRS released around one million 990s. That means that this year we are able to offer a full picture of grantmaking in 2021. As always, we encourage all foundations to submit data about their grants directly to Candid so that they have the most accurate and up-to-date picture of giving in Minnesota.

The grantmaking landscape of 2021 was significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and racial reckoning in response to the murder of George Floyd. In our Grantmaking and Practices Surveys conducted in 2020 and 2021, 65% of Minnesota foundations reported that they gave more in 2020 than they had originally planned, and 86% reported sustaining that same giving level into 2021. This report now reflects that increased giving, with overall giving in 2021 over 30% higher compared to 2019.

The second half of this year's Giving in Minnesota report features a governance survey, conducted with 45 MCF members in September 2023. We plan to regularly feature surveys on both the grantmaking and governance practices of our members in these reports, and to eventually gather enough data for historical trends and comparisons, to see the direction our field is going within our state.

—Chris Oien, MCF Research and Resource Manager

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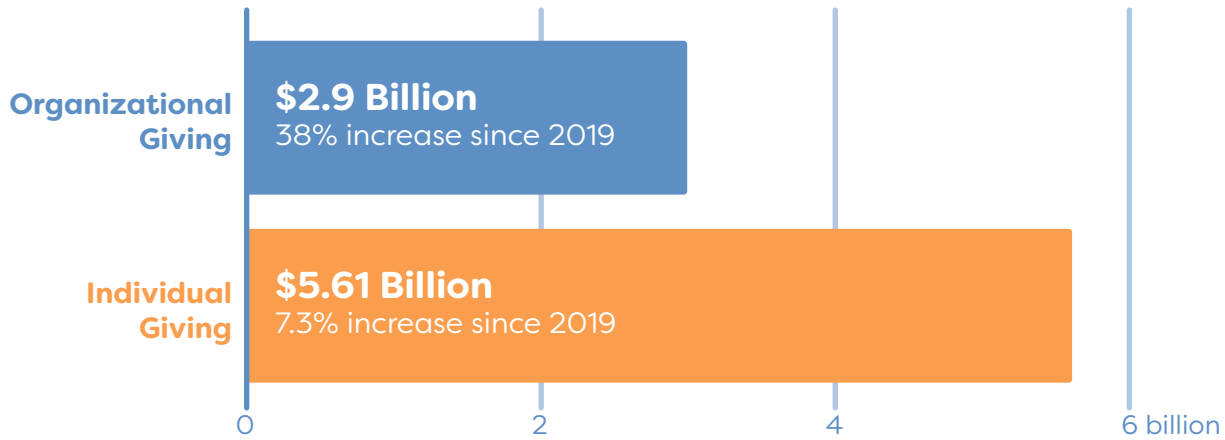
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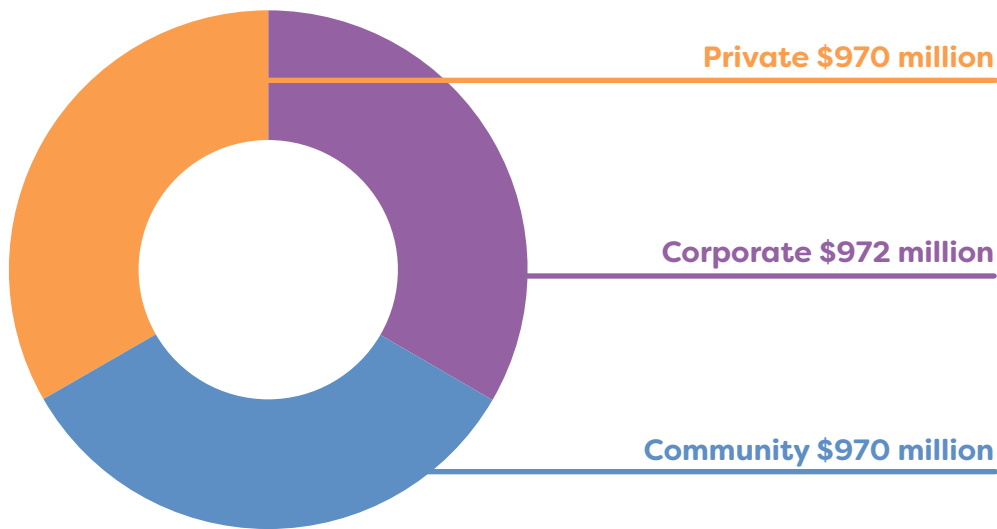
Blackbird Revolt

# 2021 MINNESOTA GIVING OVERVIEW



## GIVING BY ORGANIZATION TYPE

1788 Minnesota-based funders reporting

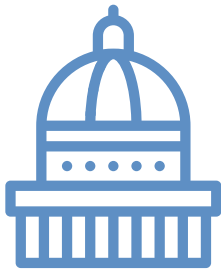


## TOP 5 LARGEST GIVERS IN MINNESOTA



# GRANTEE LOCATIONS OF MINNESOTA-BASED FOUNDATIONS

## OVERALL



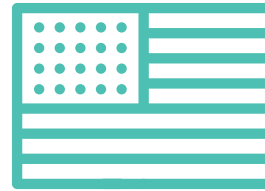
**TWIN CITIES METRO**

42.1%



**GREATER MINNESOTA**

8.4%



**U.S. OUTSIDE OF MINNESOTA**

48.3%



**INTERNATIONAL**

1.1%

## COMMUNITY/PUBLIC FOUNDATIONS



**Twin Cities Metro**  
58.1%



**Greater Minnesota**  
19.6%



**U.S. Outside of Minnesota**  
22.1%



**International**  
0.2%

## PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS



**Twin Cities Metro**  
40.7%



**Greater Minnesota**  
7.0%



**U.S. Outside of Minnesota**  
50.6%



**International**  
1.7%

## CORPORATE FOUNDATIONS AND GIVING PROGRAMS



**Twin Cities Metro**  
32.5%



**Greater Minnesota**  
2.9%



**U.S. Outside of Minnesota**  
64.6%



**International**  
0.1%



# 2021 COMMUNITY & PUBLIC FOUNDATION GIVING

Community and public foundations are publicly supported organizations operated by and for the benefit of a specific community or population, area of interest, or geographic area.



## TOP 5 LARGEST GIVERS IN MINNESOTA



**The Minneapolis Foundation**  
\$107.5 million



**Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation**  
\$107.2 million



**Thrivent & Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing**  
\$91 million

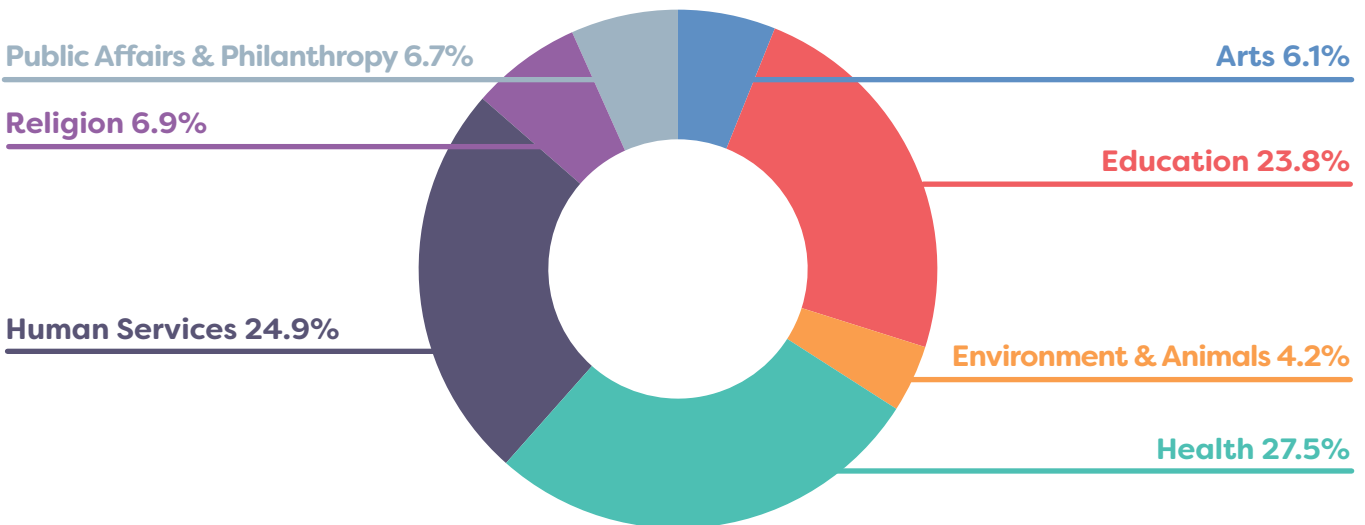


**ServeMinnesota**  
\$37.8 million



**Borealis Philanthropy**  
\$30 million

## GIVING BY SUBJECT AREA



# 2021 PRIVATE FOUNDATION GIVING

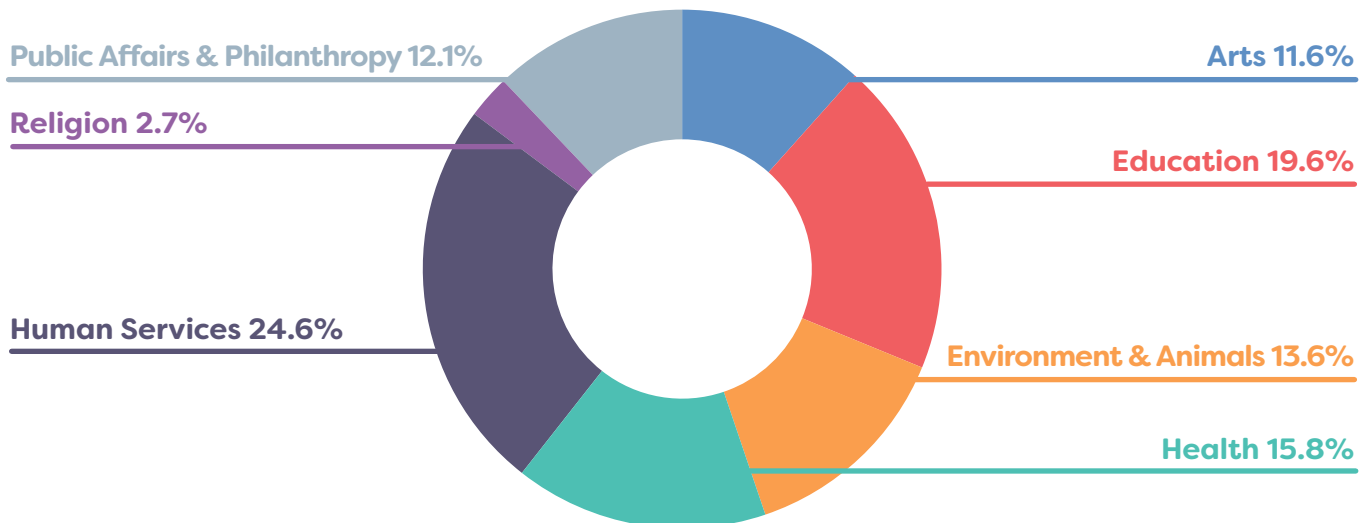
Generally founded by an individual, a group of individuals, or a family, private foundations can be categorized as family or independent.



## TOP 5 LARGEST GIVERS IN MINNESOTA



## GIVING BY SUBJECT AREA



# 2021 CORPORATE FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATE GIVING PROGRAMS

Some corporations establish endowed foundations while others contribute through an annual giving program, while some operate both a foundation and a corporate giving program.



## TOP 5 LARGEST GIVERS IN MINNESOTA



**Wells Fargo Foundation**  
\$198.5 million



**UnitedHealth Group and United Health Foundation**  
\$122 million



**Cargill, Inc. and Cargill Foundation**  
\$106.4 million

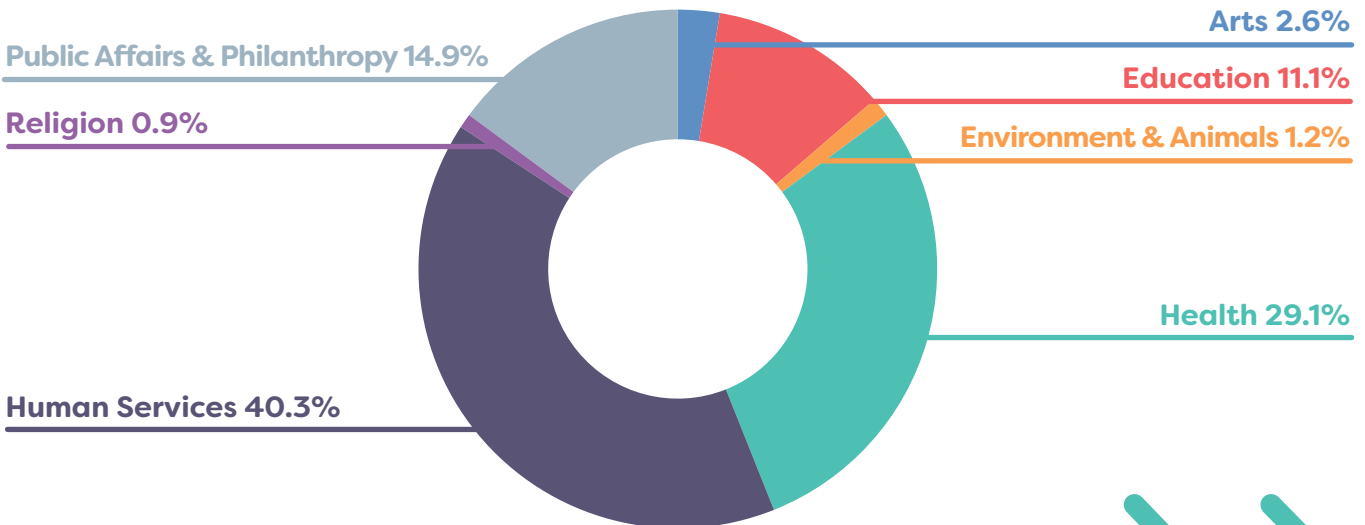


**Target and Target Foundation**  
\$80 million



**3M**  
\$41.5 million

## GIVING BY SUBJECT AREA





# 2021 GIVING BY SUBJECT AREA

## ARTS & CULTURE



### TOP 5 LARGEST ARTS & CULTURE GIVERS

- 1** Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies  
\$38.3 million
- 2** Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation  
\$13.6 million
- 3** McKnight Foundation  
\$9.9 million
- 4** The Minneapolis Foundation  
\$8.3 million
- 5** Manitou Fund  
\$7.8 million

## EDUCATION



### TOP 5 LARGEST EDUCATION GIVERS

- 1** ServeMinnesota  
\$37.6 million
- 2** Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation  
\$34.5 million
- 3** Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies  
\$33.5 million
- 4** 3M  
\$21.3 million
- 5** Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation  
\$21 million

## ENVIRONMENT & ANIMALS



### TOP 5 LARGEST ENVIRONMENT & ANIMALS GIVERS

- 1** Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies  
\$69.9 million
- 2** McKnight Foundation  
\$25 million
- 3** Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation  
\$7.2 million
- 4** Bush Foundation  
\$6.5 million
- 5** The Minneapolis Foundation  
\$4.3 million

## HEALTH



### TOP 5 LARGEST HEALTH GIVERS

- 1** UnitedHealth Group and United Health Foundation  
\$61.3 million
- 2** Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies  
\$24.9 million
- 3** Otto Bremer Trust  
\$21.4 million
- 4** Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation  
\$11.4 million
- 5** The Minneapolis Foundation  
\$10.2 million

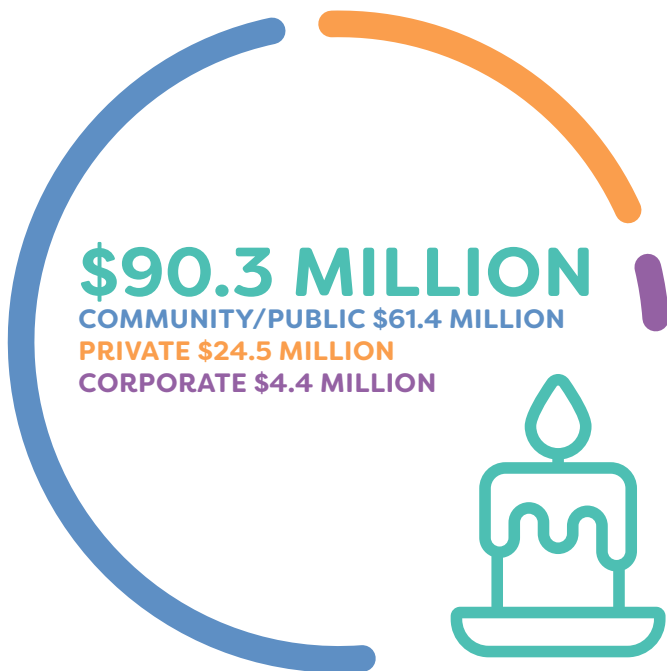
## HUMAN SERVICES



### TOP 5 LARGEST HUMAN SERVICES GIVERS

- 1** Wells Fargo Foundation  
\$116.1 million
- 2** Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies  
\$36.4 million
- 3** Otto Bremer Trust  
\$33 million
- 4** Target and Target Foundation  
\$26.1 million
- 5** Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation  
\$18.2 million

## RELIGION



### TOP 5 LARGEST RELIGION GIVERS

- 1** Thrivent & Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing  
\$38.3 million
- 2** The Minneapolis Foundation  
\$6.1 million
- 3** Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation  
\$5.2 million
- 4** Catholic Community Foundation of Minnesota  
\$3.5 million
- 5** GHR Foundation  
\$2.1 million

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS / PHILANTHROPY



## TOP 5 LARGEST PUBLIC AFFAIRS / PHILANTHROPY GIVERS

- 1 McKnight Foundation**  
\$22.1 million
- 2 The Minneapolis Foundation**  
\$21.9 million
- 3 Bush Foundation**  
\$20.7 million
- 4 Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies**  
\$19.5 million
- 5 Medtronic Foundation**  
\$12.7 million

# 2021 SUBJECT AREA CHANGE SINCE 2019

		DIFFERENCE FROM 2019
	ARTS & CULTURE \$170.1 MILLION	+51.9%
	EDUCATION \$420 MILLION	-26.3%
	ENVIRONMENT & ANIMALS \$164.8 MILLION	+7.7%
	HEALTH \$527.6 MILLION	+73.6%
	HUMAN SERVICES \$638.2 MILLION	+81.7%
	RELIGION \$90.3 MILLION	+73.7%
	PUBLIC AFFAIRS/PHILANTHROPY \$240.3 MILLION	+83.4%

# GOVERNANCE INSIGHTS FROM FUNDERS

## 45 PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

**Community foundations: 29%**  
**Private family foundations: 31%**  
**Independent foundations: 16%**  
**Corporate foundations: 18%**  
**Other: 7%**



The governing boards of organizations that make up the Minnesota Council on Foundations community vary substantially. Some boards are made up entirely of family members; others, community members; some are small groups of corporate leaders; and others are a mix. Yet despite differences in make-up, these governing boards share a commitment to the [Principles for Philanthropy](#). In our own work applying the Principles, the MCF board adopted a commitment to inclusive governance—a strategy that connects several principles including transparency, community engagement, ethical leadership, and continuous learning. We are pleased to have taken [several specific steps](#) to update our governance practice and culture to be more inclusive. This baseline governance data from MCF member organizations will allow us to track the field’s progress and support MCF members as they apply the Principles to their own work. This data includes responses from about one-third of MCF members from all foundation types throughout the state. The data reveals a wide range of governance practices with early evidence indicating majority alignment with the Principles and toward inclusivity. Within our organizations there are several areas for continuous improvement including our governance culture and practices. We invite the MCF community to join us in applying the Principles for Philanthropy to develop inclusive governance practices. Our organizations, and thus our impact in the community, will be stronger if we do so.

—Susie Brown, MCF President



## BOARD LEARNING

### QUESTION 1

**Do board members and senior staff have access to, and general knowledge of, the organization's books, bylaws, financial records, audits and annual filings to government agencies?**

100% Yes

### QUESTION 2

**How often do board and staff leaders discuss the meaning of ethical leadership, referring to MCF's Principles for Philanthropy or utilizing other resources on this topic?**

Twice a year or more: 20%  
Annually: 36%  
Every few years: 11%  
Only during orientations: 27%  
Never: 7%

### QUESTION 3

**How often do board and staff leaders learn about and discuss the benefits of including the community in decision-making?**

Twice a year or more: 47%  
Annually: 29%  
During orientation only: 4%  
Never: 20%

## BOARD RECRUITMENT

### QUESTION 4

**Does the board collect, review and use demographic information to understand board make-up and develop recruitment priorities? (More than one response possible.)**

Collect it: 48%  
Use it to develop recruitment priorities: 57%  
Don't collect it: 31%

### QUESTION 5

**Does the board collect, review and use skills-based tracking to understand board make-up and develop recruitment priorities? (More than one response possible.)**

Collect it: 55%  
Use it to develop recruitment priorities: 82%  
Don't collect it: 18%

*Our goal is to have broad geographic representation and a board that reflects the diversity of our part of Minnesota. And we want our board to have the richest possible mix of skills and experiences while being committed to our mission and vision. That's a tall order, but we have built a very strong board by using a time-honored recruitment strategy and a wholly new one. We ask current board and staff members to nominate prospective candidates. And we advertise in local small-town newspapers and on social media. That latter approach has reached talented people we didn't know, and it has resulted in a vibrant, engaged board of directors.*

—ANNA WASESCHA, WEST CENTRAL INITIATIVE

#### QUESTION 6

**Does the board make its recruitment priorities available to interested parties and/or the public?**

Yes: 25%

No: 75%

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

#### QUESTION 7

**Does the organization have a strategic plan or other strategic framework that the board uses for its decision-making?**

Yes: 87%

No: 13%

#### QUESTION 8

**How much is the organization's strategic plan informed by community voices, nonprofit partners, and other aspects of the philanthropic ecosystem?**

Significantly: 48%

Somewhat: 39%

A little: 14%



## HELP AND RESOURCES FOR BOARD MEMBERS

### QUESTION 9

**Does the board have a specific way to include and provide support to new board members, such as a “board buddy” program or something similar?**

- Yes: 37%
- No: 35%
- Support in a different way: 28%

### QUESTION 10

**Select all of the following meeting accessibility practices that the board uses to address the needs of board members:**

- Virtual meeting software: 91%
- Captions/interpreters/voice amplification: 18%
- Food to meet various preferences: 53%
- Physical space that is ADA accessible: 67%
- Other: 9%

### QUESTION 11

**Select all of the following practices that board members have access to that help them do their job:**

- Regular and clear communication strategies: 82%
- Regular board orientations: 76%
- Opportunities to learn about governance roles & responsibilities: 71%
- Clear committee structures: 73%
- Board member and officer job descriptions: 76%
- None: 7%

## MEETING PRACTICES

### QUESTION 12:

**Does the board have practices for building consensus and making decisions that allow for diversity of thought, difficult conversations, and conflict?**

- Yes: 80%
- No: 20%

### QUESTION 13

**How often does the board and its committees discuss diversity, equity, and inclusion, and implement DEI practices during meetings and while making decisions?**

- Every meeting: 29%
- Regularly: 33%
- Occasionally: 33%
- Never: 4%

## GRANTMAKING

### QUESTION 14

Who has substantive influence over final decisions on grantmaking?

**All board members:**

All the time 56%  
Frequently 20%  
Sometimes 5%  
Rarely 15%  
Never 5%

**Nonprofits and other partners:**

All the time 3%  
Frequently 8%  
Sometimes 25%  
Rarely 22%  
Never 42%

**A grantmaking committee:**

All the time 40%  
Frequently 26%  
Sometimes 9%  
Rarely 2%  
Never 23%

**Community at large:**

All the time 3%  
Frequently 10%  
Sometimes 5%  
Rarely 15%  
Never 67%

**Staff:**

All the time 50%  
Frequently 20%  
Sometimes 11%  
Rarely 11%  
Never 7%

*Over the past three years, the Foundation has been working to center community voice by engaging staff and board members through participatory grantmaking to share power with the community on how resources are distributed (grants and investments). Centering community voice has helped us expand our knowledge on how to better align our program focus, language, and guidelines with our racial equity commitments. This opportunity to work together on our program guidelines as a common project was central to building relationships, creating connections and trust, and creating ownership of a co-created body of work.*

—AMBAR HANSON, MORTENSON FAMILY FOUNDATION

## POLICIES AND BYLAWS

### QUESTION 15

**How often does the board review and amend important governing policies, charters and bylaws?**

On a regular schedule: 48%  
As needed: 43%  
Rarely: 9%

### QUESTION 16

**How often does the board consider issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion when evaluating and improving decision-making practices?**

On a regular schedule: 27%  
As needed: 48%  
Rarely: 20%  
Never: 5%

## SELF-ASSESSMENT

### QUESTION 17

**How often does the board practice self-assessment?**

Annually: 31%  
Periodically: 24%  
Rarely: 22%  
Never: 22%

*Years of prioritizing board diversity and inclusivity have taught me that intentionality is the key. One example: some might assume that while it would be good to bring Indigenous perspectives into the boardroom, the talent pool isn't out there. Nothing could be further from the truth; witness the five Native leaders currently serving on Northwest Area Foundation's board. When we look, we find fantastic candidates who've never been asked before to join in foundation governance. Change is possible and imperative.*

**—KEVIN WALKER, NORTHWEST AREA FOUNDATION**

The Minnesota Council on Foundations (MCF) is an association of grantmakers working to advance prosperity and equity through connecting, strengthening, and mobilizing the field of philanthropy in Minnesota.

The organization's 150 members represent grantmaking throughout the state, providing millions of dollars and other resources to nonprofits annually. Members include family and independent private foundations, community foundations, public grantmaking charities, and corporate foundations and giving programs.

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