

KEY FACTS ON SOCIAL JUSTICE GRANTMAKING

Social justice-related grantmaking by U.S. foundations climbed to nearly 15 percent of giving in 2008. Over most of the past decade, social justice funding had remained fairly steady, generally accounting for between 11 and 12 percent of grant dollars awarded by foundations included in the Foundation Center's annual grants sample.¹

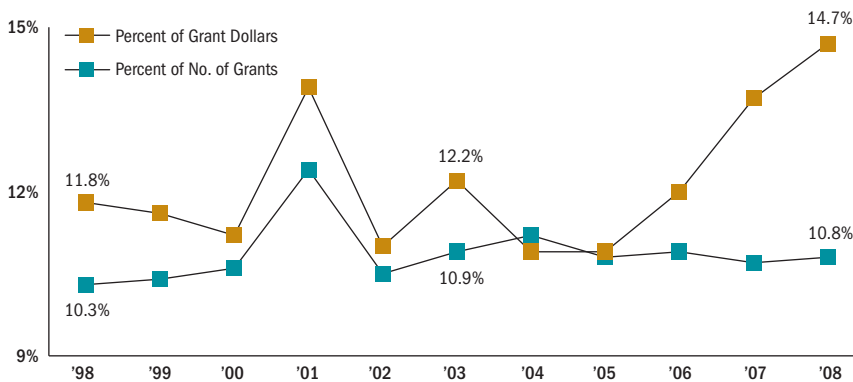
A primary factor contributing to the increase in the share of giving targeting social justice-related activities was the ascension of the nation's largest grantmaker—the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation—into the role of the country's top social justice funder. In 2008, the foundation awarded 22 of the nation's 25 largest social justice grants.

Foundations' social justice giving spans all areas of activity, from human rights to environmental justice to the arts. Consistent with past trends, the biggest share of social justice grant dollars awarded in 2008 (31.1 percent) went for economic and community development, followed by health care access and affordability (20.8 percent) and human rights and civil liberties (11.2 percent).

Key Facts on Social Justice Grantmaking is the latest Foundation Center resource to provide funders and practitioners with objective, quantitative benchmarking of foundation support for social justice-related activities. "Highlights" of the Center's most recent social justice funding benchmark study, *Social Justice Grantmaking II: An Update on U.S. Foundation Trends* (published in 2009), are available at foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge.

¹For details on the sample, see Appendix A in *Foundation Giving Trends*, 2010 edition.

Social Justice Giving as a Share of Overall Giving, 1998 to 2008



Source: The Foundation Center, 2010. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by annual samples of over 1,000 larger foundations.

\$3.7 billion
Giving by sampled funders for social justice-related activities in 2008

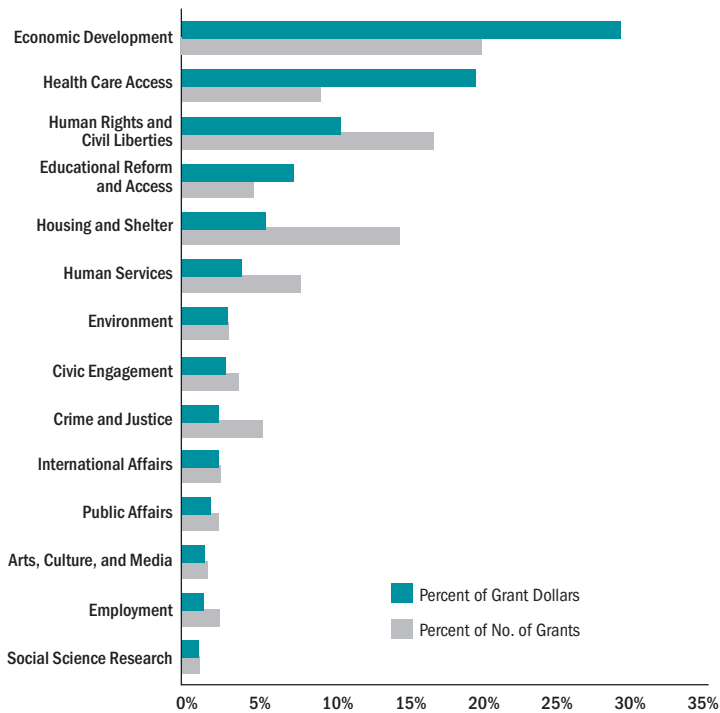
14.7%
Share of overall grant dollars targeting social justice in 2008

Economic Development

Top-ranked field by share of 2008 social justice grant dollars

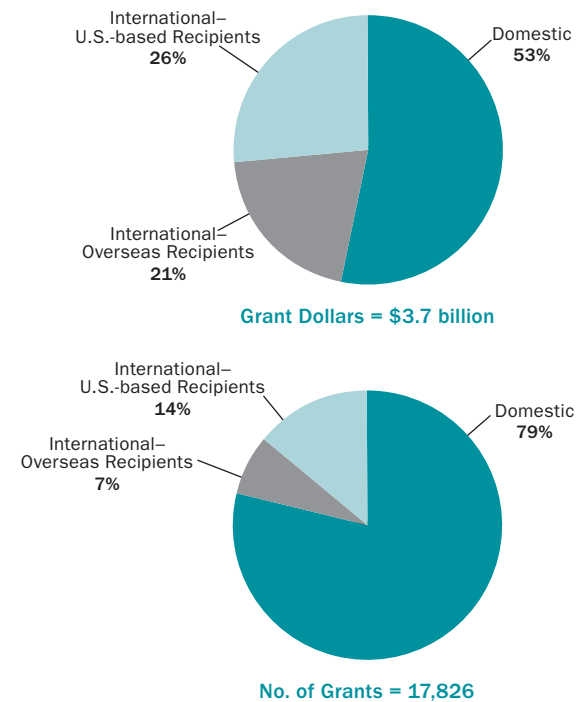
46.9%
Share of 2008 social justice grant dollars supporting international activities

Social Justice Giving by Major Fields, 2008



Source: The Foundation Center, 2010. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,010 larger foundations.

Domestic and International Social Justice Giving, 2008



Source: The Foundation Center, 2010. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,010 larger foundations.

Social Justice Philanthropy for a New Era

A late 2008 study commissioned by the Foundation Center found that, following years of declining faith in the efficacy of social justice philanthropy, both grantmakers and practitioners were showing renewed optimism. Interviews with 19 leading social justice funders and eight advocates/activists provided a set of key recommendations for advancing the social justice field, partially summarized below. For the full analysis, see Chapter 2 of *Social Justice Grantmaking II* (foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge).

The Funder Perspective

Grantmakers identified a dozen strategies for advancing social justice agendas, among them pursuing “small tent” collaborations, which contain fewer groups that can be more nimble and disciplined and provide a higher level of trust and mutual accountability; focusing on community organizing but questioning the continued use of a “power analysis” framework by some organizations that ensures their

stakeholders will remain outsiders; and being certain to not ignore the political sphere, as grassroots support alone rarely yields enough political leverage and expertise to significantly address larger social justice issues.

The Practitioner Perspective

Many of the practitioner leaders interviewed believe that progressives have yet to put forth an updated and broadly compelling vision of the common good. Nonetheless, social justice organizations are making changes to move social change work away from taking adversarial stances and toward promoting negotiation. Among several recommendations for social justice funders, practitioners suggested that they engage in more strategic partnerships, support community organizing, and work to build connections among think tanks, intermediaries, and small community-based organizations.

25 Largest Social Justice Funders, 2008*

Foundation Name	State	Type ¹	Amount	No. of Grants	Social Justice Giving as a % of Foundation's Giving
1. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	WA	IN	\$1,156,836,819	251	36.4
2. Ford Foundation	NY	IN	316,136,163	1,128	58.7
3. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	NJ	IN	133,876,354	247	28.1
4. John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation	IL	IN	110,418,894	269	50.7
5. California Endowment	CA	IN	96,445,362	261	64.6
6. Rockefeller Foundation	NY	IN	91,863,917	195	68.6
7. W.K. Kellogg Foundation	MI	IN	73,762,244	215	38.5
8. William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	CA	IN	72,539,175	147	9.6
9. Annie E. Casey Foundation	MD	IN	70,367,061	671	67.8
10. Carnegie Corporation of New York	NY	IN	59,761,443	155	45.9
11. Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation	NE	IN	52,547,362	46	15.1
12. David and Lucile Packard Foundation	CA	IN	47,055,772	151	14.7
13. Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	MI	IN	46,420,349	257	46.4
14. John S. and James L. Knight Foundation	FL	IN	44,397,400	43	34.0
15. Open Society Institute	NY	OP	44,097,897	278	59.7
16. Turner Global Foundation	FL	IN	40,625,000	1	81.3
17. Citi Foundation	NY	CS	39,440,000	598	46.1
18. Kresge Foundation	MI	IN	26,377,250	46	14.1
19. Annenberg Foundation	CA	IN	26,045,580	57	9.8
20. Silicon Valley Community Foundation	CA	CM	25,131,343	249	11.7
21. Bank of America Charitable Foundation	NC	CS	23,977,688	420	15.6
22. Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund	CA	IN	22,523,000	145	65.5
23. New York Community Trust	NY	CM	21,886,438	322	15.3
24. Alfred P. Sloan Foundation	NY	IN	21,111,555	24	24.7
25. Marguerite Casey Foundation	WA	IN	19,281,167	106	65.4

Source: The Foundation Center, 2010. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,010 larger foundations.

*Excludes U.S. public foundation social justice funders and non-U.S. grantmakers that make social justice-related grants in the United States.

¹IN=Independent; CS=Corporate; CM=Community; OP=Operating

25 Largest Funders by Share of Giving for Social Justice, 2008*

Foundation Name	State	Type ¹	Social Justice Amount	Social Justice Giving as a % of Foundation's Giving
1. Gleitsman Foundation	CA	IN	\$5,000,000	100.0
2. Melville Charitable Trust	MA	IN	4,617,076	98.7
3. Rosenberg Foundation	CA	IN	2,323,500	92.3
4. A Glimmer of Hope Foundation	TX	IN	4,950,000	89.5
5. Opus Prize Foundation	SD	IN	1,100,000	89.1
6. Wachovia Regional Foundation	PA	CS	4,492,000	84.7
7. Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation	NY	IN	1,757,500	82.0
8. Turner Global Foundation	FL	IN	40,625,000	81.3
9. Mitchell Kapur Foundation	CA	IN	1,251,540	76.3
10. Rockefeller Foundation	NY	IN	91,863,917	68.6
11. Annie E. Casey Foundation	MD	IN	70,367,061	67.8
12. NewAlliance Foundation	CT	CS	2,950,779	66.2
13. Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund	CA	IN	22,523,000	65.5
14. Marguerite Casey Foundation	WA	IN	19,281,167	65.4
15. California Endowment	CA	IN	96,445,362	64.6
16. Weberg Trust	IL	IN	6,750,000	64.6
17. Levi Strauss Foundation	CA	CS	4,469,500	62.1
18. Public Welfare Foundation	DC	IN	14,956,000	61.5
19. Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation	NC	IN	5,202,000	60.7
20. Open Society Institute	NY	OP	44,097,897	59.7
21. Ford Foundation	NY	IN	316,136,163	58.7
22. NIKE Foundation	OR	CS	6,690,256	58.5
23. Mertz Gilmore Foundation	NY	IN	2,871,000	56.8
24. Gill Foundation	CO	IN	4,641,393	56.1
25. New York Foundation	NY	IN	2,326,375	55.1

Source: The Foundation Center, 2010. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,010 larger foundations. Includes only foundations that provided at least \$1 million for social justice-related purposes.

*Excludes U.S. public foundation social justice funders and non-U.S. grantmakers that make social justice-related grants in the United States.

¹IN=Independent; CS=Corporate; OP=Operating

The Role of Atlantic Philanthropies

The information on social justice grantmaking presented in this fact sheet focuses on U.S.-based private and community foundations. As a result, it excludes grantmaking by public charities that make social justice-related grants, as well as non-U.S. social justice grantmakers with a significant presence in this country. Arguably, the largest of the latter funders is the Atlantic Philanthropies.

Established more than two decades ago by Duty Free Shops co-founder Charles Feeney, the Atlantic Philanthropies seeks “to bring about lasting change in the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people.” The foundation focuses its grantmaking in the areas of aging, children and youth, population health, and reconciliation and human rights and awards grants for the benefit of seven countries—Australia, Bermuda, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, South Africa, the United States, and Vietnam.

A spend-down foundation, Atlantic plans to award approximately \$350 million per year until it completes active grantmaking in 2016.

Defining and Tracking “Social Justice Grantmaking”

For the purpose of this report, social justice philanthropy is defined as “the granting of philanthropic contributions to nonprofit organizations based in the United States and other countries that work for structural change in order to increase the opportunity of those who are the least well off politically, economically, and socially.” For the full social justice philanthropy working definition and background on its development, see Chapter 1 of

Social Justice Grantmaking II (foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge).

To track grantmaking trends, the Foundation Center mapped this definition to its subject-based grants coding system. Because the system is objective, grants that met the social justice coding criteria were included regardless of whether funders may have considered them to be related to social justice.

Selected Social Justice Grants, 2008

Field	Recipient	Foundation	Amount	Purpose
Arts, Culture, Media	Highlander Research and Education Center (TN)	Nathan Cummings Foundation (NY)	\$50,000	For Zilphia Horton Project, which uses art and culture to address structural racism, poverty, changing demographics, and environmental degradation in the south
Civic Engagement	Jamestown Project (PA)	Wallace Global Fund (DC)	75,000	For general support and to support Fellows program in building a platform for new leaders of color to add voices to the mainstream of national political and cultural thought
Crime and Justice	Temple University (PA)	John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (IL)	735,000	For research on racial and ethnic disparities as part of Models for Change: Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice
Economic Development	Solid Ground (WA)	Charles Stewart Mott Foundation (MI)	150,000	To promote development and sustainability of state and federal programs and policies that expand asset-building incentives and opportunities for low- and moderate-income families
Educational Reform and Access	Forum for African Women Educationalists (Kenya)	Rockefeller Foundation (NY)	150,300	For research on barriers to women’s advancement in academic and management roles in African universities, advocacy around and initiation of innovative strategies for promoting gender equitable recruitment and retention, and efforts to monitor progress
Employment	Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York (NY)	W.K. Kellogg Foundation (MI)	15,000	To enable low-wage restaurant workers to advance to living-wage jobs by supporting job training and placement program
Environment	Mision Industrial de Puerto Rico (PR)	Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation (NY)	40,000	For general support for organizing work on environmental justice issues in Puerto Rico
Health Care Access	Western Center on Law and Poverty (CA)	California Endowment (CA)	495,000	To expand access to health services for low-income Californians by providing comprehensive state-level health care advocacy on behalf of consortium of nine regional health consumer centers
Housing and Shelter	Fair Housing of the Dakotas (ND)	Otto Bremer Foundation (MN)	45,000	For education and outreach to residents and housing providers in North Dakota
Human Rights	National Black Justice Coalition (DC)	Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund (CA)	160,000	To engage African American civil rights organizations and faith leaders in support of same-sex marriage and gay civil rights
Human Services	Southwest Community Resources (NM)	Surdna Foundation (NY)	90,000	For SWOP youth organizing, building leadership among low-income youth of color
International Affairs	Oxford University (England)	Ford Foundation (NY)	200,000	For Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security, and Ethnicity to conduct research on the role of economic factors in violent conflict worldwide
Public Affairs	ADVA Center (Israel)	Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund (CA)	20,000	For Placing Poor People at the Center of Policymaking Project, which instigates dialogue between welfare policymakers and recipients
Social Science Research	Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey Foundation (NJ)	Alfred P. Sloan Foundation (NY)	236,937	For a study of the formation and operation of organized mothers’ groups and the potential alliances that can be built among them to advance workplace flexibility

Source: The Foundation Center, 2010. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,010 larger foundations.

Note: Grant descriptions have been abbreviated.

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