

RAGS - Linking Local Funders

Like affinity groups, regional associations of grantmakers (RAGs) are membership associations of funders. Instead of coalescing around a particular subject area or population group, however, the RAGs are organized around their members' shared geography—city, state, or multi-state areas.

Membership in most RAGs is restricted to private foundations, community foundations and corporate giving programs, though a few do permit nonprofit grantseeking groups to join, usually as associate members.

Outreach programs for grantseeking nonprofits include periodic "Meet the Grantmaker" forums and published directories of local grantmakers. More than a dozen RAGs have also instituted their own version of a common grant application form and grant reporting form.

In developing these common formats, some RAGs have used committees consisting of both grantmakers and grantseekers. In 1994, the New York Regional Association of Grantmakers (NYRAG) adopted this "consensus" approach to create its format, which has since been adopted by almost half of NYRAG's members. The Council of New Jersey Grantmakers has adopted this same format for use by its members.

Several RAGs are sponsoring special projects to assist local communities. For example:

- The New York Regional Association of Grantmakers, working with city government, has created a program called "City Connect" to bring federal grant dollars into the region.
- Michigan Community Foundations' Youth Project, a supporting organization of the Council of Michigan Foundations, conducts summer "Adventure Tours" for young people who sit on grantmaking committees at community foundations.
- The Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers has spearheaded the Baltimore Neighborhood Collaborative, a funding group that seeks to revitalize neighborhoods through community organizing and strategic planning, and the Maryland Service Funding Collaborative, which supports after-school programs.

- The Indiana Donors Alliance administers GIFT (Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow), a multi-year program funded by the Lilly Endowment, that has generated 80 new community foundations in Indiana.
- The Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers has formed the Community Development Support Collaborative, which helps local development corporations build new housing, and the Washington AIDS Partnership, which works to educate government officials about HIV/AIDS policy issues.

Most of the larger, more active RAGs belong to an umbrella group called the Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers. Nancy Roberts of the Connecticut Council for Philanthropy, who serves as Chair of the Forum, notes that while the RAGs focus primarily on donor needs, they do attempt to "bring grantmakers and grantseekers together around common issues."

"Most of our member foundations are committed to building the capacity of nonprofits," Roberts says. "We see ourselves as facilitators of that commitment."

One vehicle for building this capacity is called New Ventures in Philanthropy, a five-year project managed by the Forum of RAGs and funded by several large national foundations. Its purpose is to spawn new foundations and corporate giving programs by promoting the endowment of new grantmaking resources around the country.

Through its own grantmaking program, New Ventures underwrites more than 20 regional coalitions, most of which are headed by local RAGs. A recent independent evaluation of New Ventures points to several examples of how the initiative is working:

- The Northwest Giving Project (Seattle/Portland) has recruited dozens of new donors from the high-tech industry by forming "giving circles" — groups of young entrepreneurs who pool funds, invest them, and then make joint decisions about how to distribute the income and/or principal from these funds to charities.
- The Catalyst Project (Research Triangle Park region in North Carolina) has helped create more than 30 new foundations in that region — and produced millions of dollars in new permanent

philanthropic capital through its work with professional advisors, entrepreneurs, financial institutions and corporations.

- Delaware Valley Grantmakers has helped establish the new multi-million-dollar Lenfest Foundation in Pennsylvania.
- The Donors Forum of Ohio worked to pass legislation that resulted in two new foundations being endowed with tobacco settlement money.

The following RAGs are members of the Forum:

Associated Grant Makers

(serves Massachusetts, southern New Hampshire and parts of Maine)

Sally Peabody, President

55 Court Street, Suite 520

Boston, MA 02108

Tel. (617) 426-2606

Fax (617) 426-2849

agm@agmconnect.org

www.agmconnect.org

"Meet the Donors" series for grantseekers. Partners Program encourages participation of nonprofits in certain AGM activities. Maintains Resource Center for Philanthropy Library (a Foundation Center cooperating collection). Publishes Massachusetts Grantmakers Directory (\$50), which profiles funding interests and application procedures for 500 local corporate giving programs, community foundations, private foundations, bank trust departments and grantmaking public charities. Common grant proposal form and common grant reporting form may be downloaded at Web site.

Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers

(serves central Maryland)

Betsy S. Nelson, Executive Director

2 E. Read Street, 8th Floor

Baltimore, MD 21202

Tel. (410) 727-1205

Fax (410) 727-7177

bnelson@abagmd.org

www.rag.org/abag

Directory of Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers (\$10) suggests how to direct requests and specifies grantmakers' areas of funding interest. Instructions for common grant application form may be downloaded at Web site.

Clearinghouse for Midcontinent Foundations

(serves greater Kansas City, Missouri plus Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado and Oklahoma)

David O. Renz, Executive Director

P.O. Box 22680

Kansas City, MO 64110

Tel. (816) 235-1176

Fax (816) 235-1169

renzd@umkc.edu

Conference of Southwest Foundations

(serves Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas)

Lucille DiDomenico, Executive Director

3102 Maple Avenue, Suite 260

Dallas, TX 75201

Tel. (214) 740-1787

Fax (214) 740-1790

csf@dmans.com

www.c-s-f.org/

Offers technical assistance on governance and grantmaking issues.

Connecticut Council for Philanthropy

Nancy P. Roberts, President

221 Main Street

Hartford, CT 06106

Tel. (860) 525-5585

Fax (860) 525-0436

nroberts@Ctphilanthropy.org

www.Ctphilanthropy.org

Publishes informational reports and directories, including profiles of giving patterns in Connecticut (free), and Guide to Connecticut Grantmakers (\$90), covering more than 1,600 Connecticut grantmaking foundations, corporate

foundations, and corporate giving programs. Common grant application form and common grant reporting form may be downloaded at Web site.

Council of Michigan Foundations

Rob Collier, President
One South Harbor Avenue, Suite 3
P.O. Box 599
Grand Haven, MI 49417
Tel. (616) 842-7080
Fax (616) 842-1760
rcollier@cmif.org
www.cmif.org

Extensive catalog of state-specific publications accessible at Web site, includes The Michigan Foundation Directory, in both print format (\$10) and on CD-ROM (\$15); Nonprofit Resource Guide (includes list of fundraising consultants); Michigan Nonprofit Management Manual; Survey of Michigan Foundation Philanthropy; and Information for Seeking Foundation and Corporate Grants. Common grant application form and common grant reporting form may be downloaded at Web site.

Council of New Jersey Grantmakers

Barbara Rambo, Executive Director
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Trenton, NJ 08608
Tel. (609) 341-2022
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brambo@call.tesc.edu
www.cnjg.org

Membership directory is posted at Web site. Common grant application form and common grant reporting form may be downloaded at Web site.

Delaware Valley Grantmakers

(serves southwestern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey)
Dale Mitchell, Executive Director
230 South Broad Street, Suite 4C
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Tel. (215) 790-9700

Fax (215) 790-9704
dale@dvg.org
www.dvg.org

Publications include Report on Philanthropic Giving 1996-97 (\$25), which breaks down Philadelphia-area grantmakers' giving patterns by interest type, support type and geographic focus. Common grant application form and common grant reporting form may be downloaded at Web site.

Donors Forum, Inc.

(serves south Florida)
JoAnne Chester Bander, Executive Director
150 SE 2nd Avenue, Suite 700
Miami, FL 33131
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joanne@donorsforumsf.com
www.donorsforum.com

"Meet the Donors" programs; publications include Profiles of South Florida Donors and Survey of South Florida Capital and Endowment Campaigns.

Donors Forum of Chicago

(serves metropolitan Chicago)
Valerie S. Lies, President
208 South LaSalle Street, Suite 740
Chicago, IL 60604
Tel. (312) 578-0090
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valerie@donorsforum.org
www.donorsforum.org

Directory of Illinois Foundations (\$80 paper; \$150 CD-ROM) is a biannual publication that provides information on more than 1,900 Illinois foundations. The Donors Forum Members, Associate Members and Forum Partners Directory (\$25) gives profiles of Donors Forum's grantmaking members and over 800 nonprofit Forum Partners. Philanthropic Database, accessible at Web site, is a searchable database of more than 40,000 Chicago-area grants awarded from 1994 through 1997. Common grant application form and common grant reporting form may be downloaded at Web site.

Donors Forum of Wisconsin

Deborah Fugenschuh, Executive Director
The Colby Abbot Building
759 North Milwaukee Street, Suite 408
Milwaukee, WI 53202
Tel. (414) 270-1978
Fax (414) 270-1979
dfugenschuh@dfwonline.org
www.dfwonline.org

Common grant application form may be downloaded at Web site.

Grantmakers Forum

(serves Cleveland, Akron and Lorain metropolitan areas)
Dorothy Weiss, Executive Director
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Cleveland, OH 44115-2001
Tel. (216) 861-6223
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Grantmakers of Oregon and Southwest Washington

Joyce B. White, Executive Director
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Grantmakers of Western Pennsylvania

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Pittsburgh, PA 15222
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www.lm.com/~gwp

Common grant application form and common grant reporting form may be downloaded at Web site.

Indiana Donors Alliance

Carol Simonetti, Executive Director
32 East Washington Street, #1100
Indianapolis, IN 46204-3529
Tel. (317) 630-5200
Fax (317) 630-5210
csimonetti@indonors.com
www.indonors.com

Publishes Directory of Indiana Grantmakers (\$65) and Directory of Kentucky Grantmakers (\$69), which provide detailed information on foundations, corporate giving programs and grantmaking public charities.

Maine Philanthropy Center

Sani Fogel, President
P.O. Box 9301
Portland, ME 04104
Tel. (207) 780-5029
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sani@megrants.org
www.megrants.org

Directory of Maine Grantmakers, which profiles 600 local donors, may be downloaded at Web site (by becoming a member).

Metropolitan Association for Philanthropy

(serves metropolitan St. Louis area)
Fred Perabo, Acting Executive Director
One Metropolitan Square
211 N. Broadway, Suite 1295
St. Louis, MO 63102
Tel. (314) 621-6220
Fax (314) 621-6224
wf@mapstl.org
www.mapstl.org

"Meet the Donors" programs. Compiles Directory of Missouri Grantmakers (\$75) in cooperation with the Foundation Center; extensive list of publications, plus MAP membership list, available at Web site.

Minnesota Council on Foundations

(serves Minnesota plus Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota)

Jacqueline Reis, President

15 South Fifth Street, Suite 600

Minneapolis, MN 55402

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www.mcf.org

Free weekly e-mail newsletters offer local funding news and information, including RFPs and grantmakers' deadlines. Quarterly print newsletter, "Giving Forum," features Q&A interviews with grantmakers. Guide to Minnesota Grantmakers (\$60 for print version; \$150 for CD-ROM version) lists 863 funders, including 326 detailed profiles. Common grant application form may be downloaded at Web site.

New York Regional Association of Grantmakers

(serves the New York metropolitan area, including Long Island, southern Connecticut and northern New Jersey)

Barbara Bryan, President

505 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1805

New York, NY 10018

Tel. (212) 714-0699

Fax (212) 239-2075

bbryan@nyrag.org

www.nyrag.org

"Meet the Grantmakers" workshop series co-sponsored by NYRAG and the Foundation Center. NYRAG Membership Directory (\$45) includes contact information, a list of key staff, and a list of principal funding areas for each organization. New York/New Jersey Area common grant application form and common grant reporting form may be downloaded at Web site.

Northern California Grantmakers

Caroline Tower, President
116 New Montgomery Street, Suite 742
San Francisco, CA 94105
Tel. (415) 777-5761
Fax (415) 777-1714
ctower@ncg.org
www.ncg.org

Web site includes an "Ask the Grantmaker" section that allows grantseekers to e-mail general queries about a foundation's application process (but not request funding).

Northern New Mexico Grantmakers

P.O. Box 9280
Santa Fe, NM 87504-9280
Tel. (505) 995-0933
Fax (505) 989-4533
nnmg@nets.com

Ohio Grantmakers Forum

Lynn Helbling Sirinek, Executive Director
16 East Broad Street, Suite 800
Columbus, OH 43215
Tel. (614) 224-1344
Fax (614) 224-1388
lsitnek@ohiograntmakers.org
www.ohiograntmakers.org

Web site features state and national legislative alerts, focusing on pending legislation affecting philanthropic interests.

Pacific Northwest Grantmakers Forum

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jkittross@pngf.org

www.pngf.org

PNGF Member Directory (\$50) contains information on 120 grantmakers; scheduled to go online in a searchable format later this year. Common grant application form may be downloaded at Web site.

Rochester Grantmakers Forum

Jane Ellen, Executive Director
55 St. Paul Street
Rochester, NY 14604
Tel. (716) 232-2380
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rgf@frontiernet.net
www.grantmakers.org

The Guide to Grantmakers (\$65) describes the giving programs of 165 corporations, foundations, trusts, and other funders distributing charitable dollars to nonprofit organizations in the six-county Greater Rochester region. Common grant application form and common grant reporting form may be downloaded at Web site.

San Diego Grantmakers

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Southeastern Council of Foundations

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Southern California Association for Philanthropy

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"Meet the Grantmaker" programs for nonprofit and community leaders.
Publishes Guide to California Grantmakers (book/CD-ROM set is \$65.10;
book only is \$29.84) with detailed listings for all California foundations that
annually award grants totaling \$40,000 or more.

Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers

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Common grant application form and common grant reporting form may be
downloaded at Web site.

Western New York Grantmakers Association

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712 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14202
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Fax (716) 852-2861
Dheim86637@aol.com

ALABAMA

Mobile Foundations for Networking

c/o Thomas H. Davis, Jr.

The Community Foundation of South Alabama
P.O. Box 990
Mobile, AL 36601-0990
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cfsa990@bellsouth.net

ARIZONA

Arizona Grantmakers Forum
c/o Stephen Mittenthal
Arizona Community Foundation
2122 E. Highland Ave., Suite 400
Phoenix, AZ 85016
Tel. (602) 381-1400
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CALIFORNIA

Foundation Roundtable
c/o Barbara Rayber
Santa Barbara Foundation
15 E. Carrillo Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Tel. (805) 963-1873
Fax (805) 966-2343
brayber@sbfoundation.org

COLORADO

Colorado Association of Foundations
c/o Marlene A. Casini
The Denver Foundation
950 S. Cherry Street, Suite 200
Denver, CO 80246
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Fax (303) 300-6547
mcasini@denverfoundation.org

FLORIDA

Florida Funders Group

c/o Sherry Magill
Jessie Ball duPont Fund
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Jacksonville, FL 32202
Tel. (904) 353-0890
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Jacksonville Donors Forum

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Jacksonville, FL 32202
Tel. (904) 356-4483
Fax (904) 356-7910
dpierson@jxcf.org

GEORGIA

Atlanta Foundations Forum

c/o Jane G. Hardesty
Southeastern Council of Foundations
50 Hurt Plaza, Suite 350
Atlanta, GA 30303
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jane@secf.org

HAWAII

The Hui of Grantmakers

c/o Joanne Yamada
Hawaii Community Foundation
900 Fort Street, Suite 1300
Honolulu, HI 96813
Tel. (808) 537-6333
Fax (808) 521-6286

IOWA

Central Iowa Contributions Consortium

c/o Mary Gesarich, Chair
Principal Financial Group
711 High Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
Tel. (515) 247-5111

Iowa Council of Foundations

c/o Eric Fogg
Pioneer Hi-Bred International
400 Locust Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
Tel. (515) 334-6813
Fax (515) 248-4999
foggep@phibred.com

KENTUCKY

Donors Forum of Metro Louisville

c/o Scott Davis
Horn Foundation
2100 High Ridge Rd.
Louisville, KY 40207
Tel. (502) 895-8908

LOUISIANA

Southern Louisiana Grantmakers

c/o Ben Johnson
The Greater New Orleans Foundation
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Fax (504) 598-4676
internetgnof@chamber.
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NORTH CAROLINA

Triangle Donors Forum

Darryl Lester
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Charlotte Area Donors Forum

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Charlotte, NC 28234-4769
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PENNSYLVANIA

Corporate Community Relations Network

c/o Susan S. Hubley
Blue Cross/Blue Shield
1800 Center Street
Camp Hill, PA 17089
Tel. (717) 731-2490
Fax (717) 972-0891

SOUTH CAROLINA

Greenville Area Donors Forum

Michelle Schoen
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Greenville, SC 29606
Tel. (864) 233-5925
Fax (864) 242-9292

TENNESSEE

Memphis Grantmakers Forum

c/o Norris Haynes, Jr
Plough Foundation
6410 Poplar Ave., Suite 710
Memphis, TN 38119
Tel. (901) 761-9180
Fax (901) 761-6186
christian@plough.org

Grantmakers Roundtable

c/o Terry Holley
East Tennessee Foundation
550 W. Main Street, Suite 550
Knoxville, TN 37902
Tel. (423) 524-7223
Fax (423) 637-6039

Donors Forum of Chattanooga

Pete Cooper, Executive Director
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736 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402
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WEST VIRGINIA

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