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.


- 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  
101 W. State Street  
Trenton, NJ 08608  
Tel. (609) 341-2022  
Fax (609) 777-1096  
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  
Tel. (305) 371-7944  
Fax (305) 371-2080  
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  
Fax (312) 578-0103  
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
1422 Euclid Avenue, Suite 1370
Cleveland, OH 44115-2001
Tel. (216) 861-6223
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gmaker@en.com

Grantmakers of Oregon and Southwest Washington
Joyce B. White, Executive Director
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Portland, OR 97202
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Grantmakers of Western Pennsylvania
Judie Donaldson, Executive Director
650 Smithfield Street, Suite 240
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Tel. (412) 471-6488
Fax (412) 232-3115
judie@telerama.lm.com
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
Fax (207) 780-5630
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  
Tel. (612) 338-1989  
Fax (612) 337-5089  
jreis@mcf.org  
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  
bryan@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  
Julia Kittross, Executive Director  
2815 Second Avenue, Suite 290  
Seattle, WA 98121  
Tel. (206) 770-9423  
Fax (206) 770-9424  
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
Fax (716) 232-8413
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**
Nina Smart, Executive Director
3510 Jewell Street
San Diego, CA 92109
Tel. (858) 483-7199
Fax (619) 483-7107
ninaws@aol.com

**Southeastern Council of Foundations**
Martin Lehfeldt, President
50 Hurt Plaza, Suite 350
Atlanta, GA 30303
Tel. (404) 524-0911
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Southern California Association for Philanthropy
Miyoko Oshima, President
315 West Ninth Street, Suite 1000
Los Angeles, CA 90015
Tel. (213) 489-7307
Fax (213) 489-7320
scap@scap.org
www.scap.org

"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
Kae Dakin, Executive Director
1400 16th Street, NW, Suite 430
Washington, DC 20036
Tel. (202) 939-3440
Fax (202) 939-3442
dakin@wrag.org
www.wrag.org

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

Western New York Grantmakers Association
Donna Heim
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
Tel. (334) 438-5591
Fax (334) 438-5592
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
Fax (602) 381-1575

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
Tel. (303) 300-1790
Fax (303) 300-6547
mcasini@denverfoundation.org
FLORIDA

Florida Funders Group
c/o Sherry Magill
Jessie Ball duPont Fund
225 Water Street, Suite 1200
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Tel. (904) 353-0890
Fax (904) 353-3870

Jacksonville Donors Forum
c/o David L. Pierson
112 W. Adams, Suite 1414
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Tel. (904) 356-4483
Fax (904) 356-7910
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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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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 Lousiana Grantmakers
C/o Ben Johnson
The Greater New Orleans Foundation
1055 St. Charles Avenue, Suite 100
New Orleans, LA 70130
Tel. (504) 598-4663
Fax (504) 598-4676
internetgnof@chamber.
 gnofn.org
NORTH CAROLINA

Triangle Donors Forum  
Darryl Lester  
P.O. Box 12834  
Research Triangle, NC 27709  
Tel. (919) 549-9840  
Fax (919) 990-9066

Charlotte Area Donors Forum  
Marilyn Bradbury, Secretary-Treasurer  
P.O. Box 34769  
Charlotte, NC 28234-4769  
Tel. (704) 376-9541  
Fax (704) 376-9541  
mbradbury@sftc.org

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  
P.O. Box 6906  
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
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Donors Forum of Chattanooga
Pete Cooper, Executive Director
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736 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402
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WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia Grantmakers, Inc.
c/o Barbara Boland
CAMC Foundation
3412 Staunton Avenue
Charleston, WV 25331
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Fax (304) 388-9861
camc.foundation@camcare.com