

# KEY FACTS ON FAMILY FOUNDATIONS

## Grantmaker Data, 2006

The Foundation Center has identified 37,800 independent foundations with measurable donor or donor-family involvement. These “family foundations” represent more than half of all independent foundations and account for similar shares of independent foundations’ giving, assets, and new gifts and bequests from donors. If all of the nation’s family foundations could be identified, these shares would undoubtedly rise.<sup>1</sup>

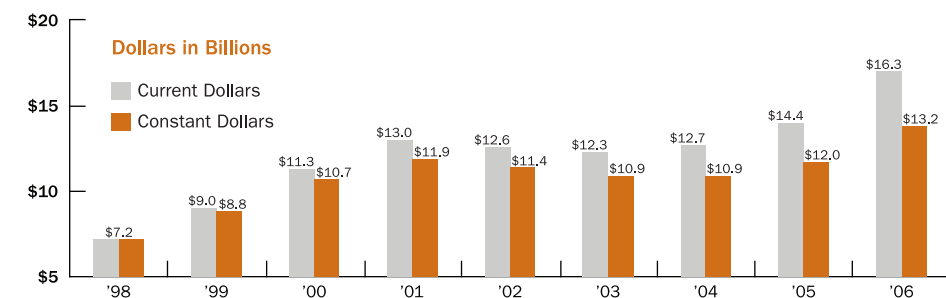
<sup>1</sup>Family foundations are not legally distinct from other independent foundations, requiring the Foundation Center to identify them using several objective and subjective criteria. These criteria include independent foundations with “family” or “families” in their name, a living donor whose surname matches the foundation name, or at least two trustee surnames that match a living or deceased donor’s name, along with any independent foundations that self-identify as family foundations on annual Foundation Center surveys.

## Summary Statistics for Family Foundations, 2005 and 2006

	2005	2006	% change
No. of Foundations	34,715	35,693	2.8
Total Giving	\$14,375,124	\$16,285,061	13.3
Total Assets	\$233,217,737	\$266,734,900	14.4
Gifts Received	\$12,769,323	\$17,658,257	38.3

Note: Dollars in thousands. Percent change represents current dollars. Excludes 2,095 family foundations that did not report giving in the latest fiscal year. These foundations held \$1.8 billion in assets in 2006 and reported gifts received totaling \$911.4 million.

## Inflation-adjusted family foundation giving has nearly doubled since 1998



**\$16 billion**

Giving by family foundations in 2006

**13%**

Increase in family foundation giving between 2005 and 2006

**35,693**

Number of grantmaking family foundations in 2006

**48%**

Share of family foundations reporting less than \$50,000 in giving in 2006

**59%**

Estimated family foundation giving as a share of all independent foundation giving in 2006

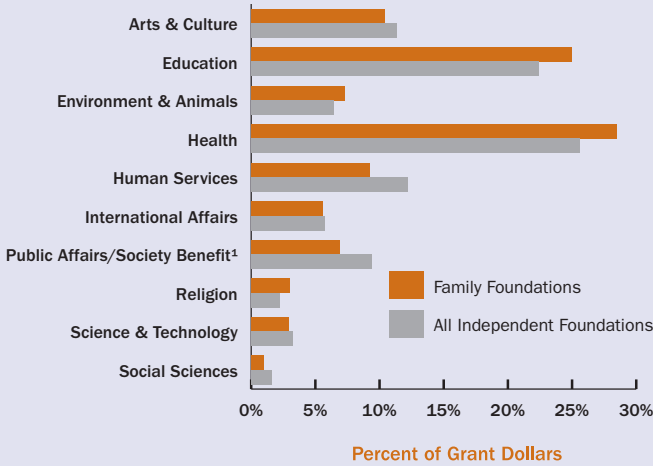
# Giving Patterns, 2006

Larger family foundations included in the Foundation Center's 2006 grants sample<sup>1</sup> were more likely to provide funding for health, education, the environment and animals, and religion than independent foundations overall. They were less likely to give for human services, arts and culture, public affairs/society benefit, international affairs, science, and the

social sciences. By types of support, family foundations directed very similar shares of giving for program, general, and capital support compared to independent foundations overall.

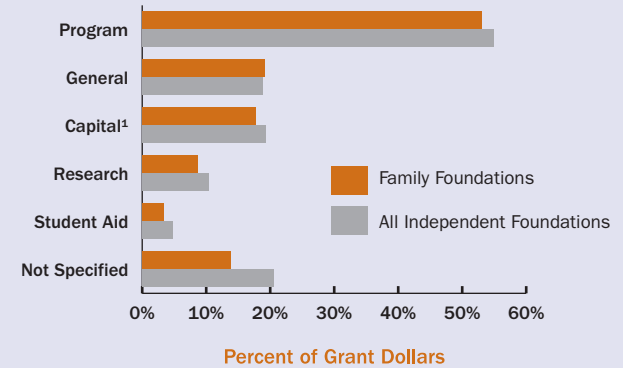
<sup>1</sup>The Foundation Center's 2006 grants sample database included the grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by over 1,200 of the largest U.S. foundations and accounted for roughly half of grant dollars awarded by all of the more than 71,000 active U.S. foundations.

## Larger family foundations favored health and education in 2006



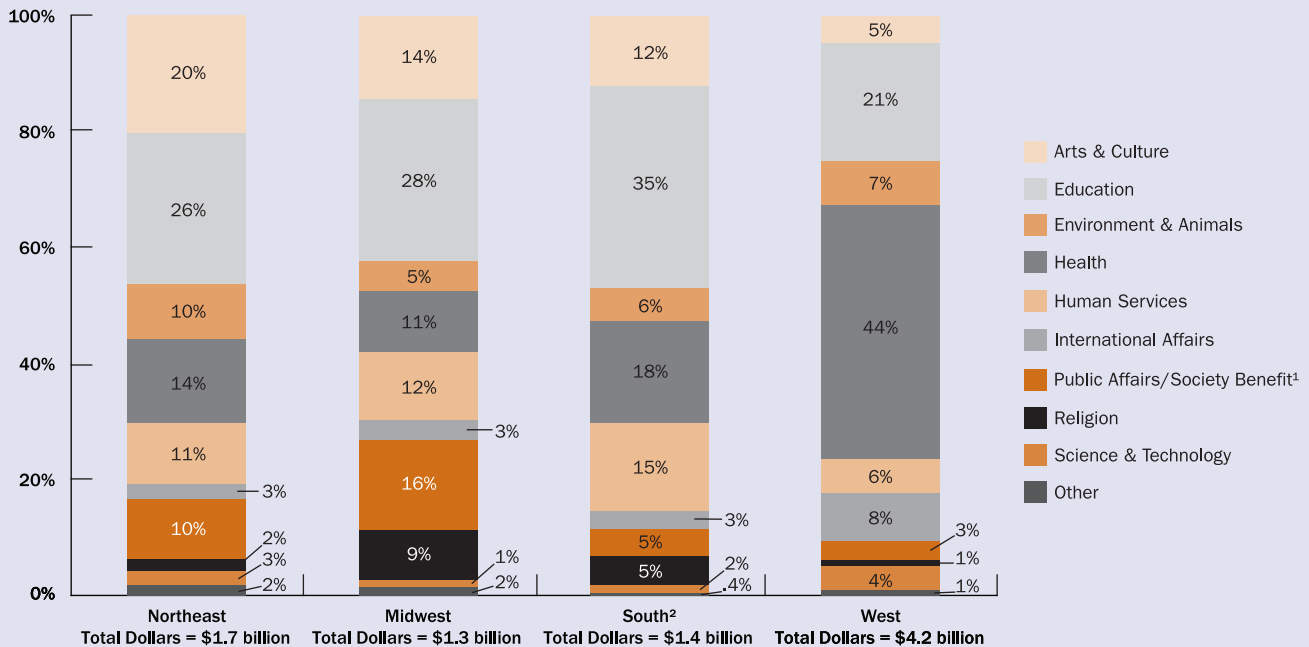
Note: Based on grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 956 larger independent foundations, including 577 family foundations.  
<sup>1</sup>Includes Civil Rights and Social Action, Community Improvement and Development, Philanthropy and Voluntarism, and Public Affairs.

## Larger family foundations directed the largest share of their 2006 giving for programs



Note: Based on grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 956 larger independent foundations, including 577 family foundations.  
<sup>1</sup>Capital support includes endowment funds.

## Education was the top priority of family foundations in three of the four major regions in 2006



Note: Based on a sample of 577 larger family foundations.  
<sup>1</sup>Includes Civil Rights and Social Action, Community Improvement and Development, Philanthropy and Voluntarism, and Public Affairs.  
<sup>2</sup>Figures for the South exclude the District of Columbia. The DC-based family foundations in the sample awarded grants totaling \$82 million.



