

# KEY FACTS ON SOCIAL JUSTICE GRANTMAKING

Social justice grantmaking accounted for more than 14 percent of grant dollars awarded by the largest U.S. foundations in 2009. Despite concerns about the potential impact of the economic crisis on foundation giving priorities, this share was virtually unchanged from 2008.

Other highlights:

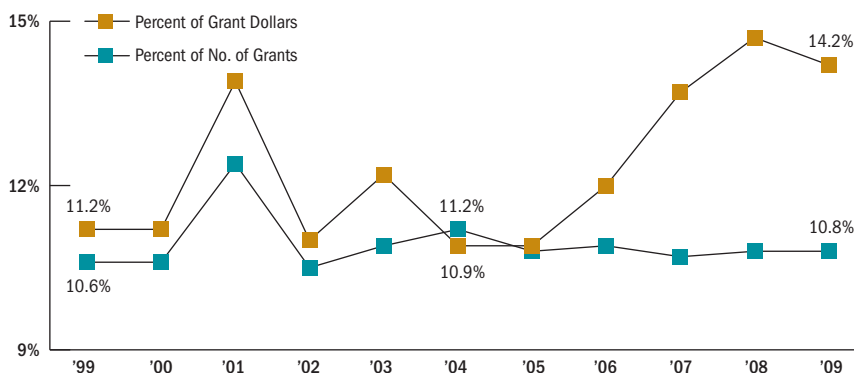
- ◆ About 11 percent of foundation grants in 2009 went to social justice causes.<sup>1</sup>
- ◆ The Bill and Melinda Gates foundation—the nation’s largest grantmaker—was the top funder by total dollars awarded, accounting for more than one-quarter of 2009 giving in this category.
- ◆ The top 25 social justice funders accounted for over 70 percent of such giving in the Foundation Center’s latest grants sample.

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 2009 (29 percent) went for economic and community development, followed by health care access and affordability (17 percent), and human rights and civil liberties (13 percent).

*Key Facts on Social Justice Grantmaking* provides an annual update on 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](http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge).

<sup>1</sup>For details on the sample, see Appendix A in *Foundation Giving Trends*, 2011 edition.

## Social Justice Giving as a Share of Overall Giving, 1999 to 2009



Source: The Foundation Center, 2011. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by annual samples of over 1,000 larger foundations.

**\$3.1 billion**  
Giving by sampled funders for social justice-related activities in 2009

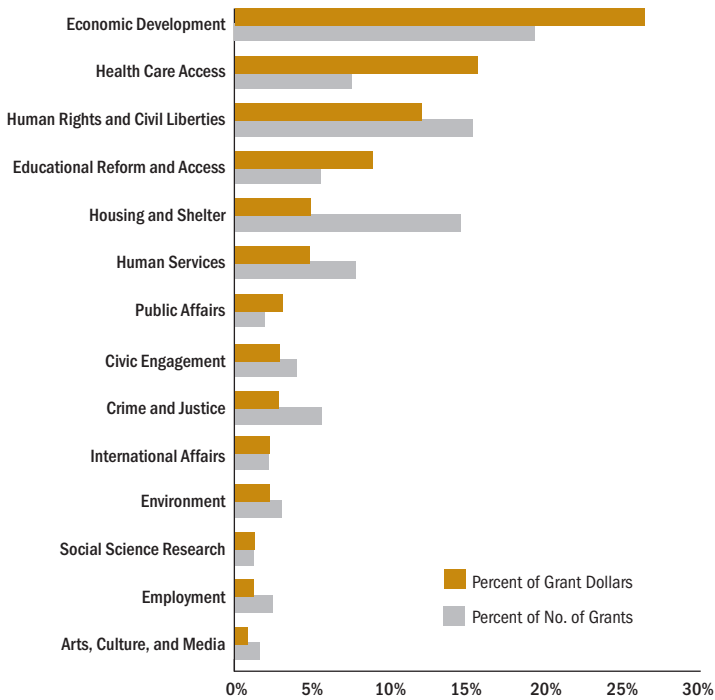
**14.2%**  
Share of overall grant dollars targeting social justice in 2009

## Economic Development

Top-ranked field by share of 2009 social justice grant dollars

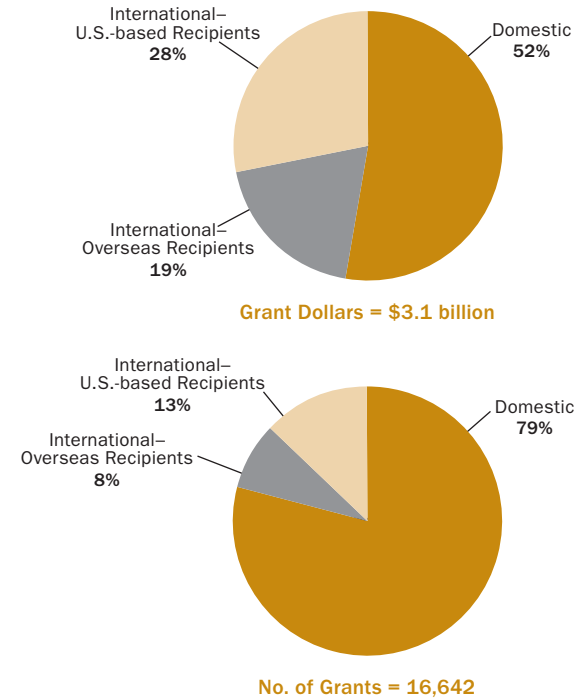
**47.9%**  
Share of 2009 social justice grant dollars supporting international activities

## Social Justice Giving by Major Fields, 2009



Source: The Foundation Center, 2011. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 955 larger social justice funders.

## Domestic and International Social Justice Giving, 2009



Source: The Foundation Center, 2011. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 955 larger social justice funders.

## 25 Largest Social Justice Funders, 2009\*

Foundation Name	State	Type <sup>1</sup>	Amount	No. of Grants	Social Justice Giving as a % of Foundation's Giving
1. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	WA	IN	\$868,398,850	291	28.8
2. Ford Foundation	NY	IN	266,478,749	1,052	59.4
3. W. K. Kellogg Foundation	MI	IN	114,160,207	212	52.1
4. John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation	IL	IN	94,884,437	262	47.5
5. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	NJ	IN	82,715,002	168	28.1
6. Rockefeller Foundation	NY	IN	68,976,410	167	52.8
7. Open Society Institute	NY	OP	62,742,754	370	54.8
8. William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	CA	IN	61,095,921	167	27.1
9. Annie E. Casey Foundation	MD	IN	60,322,287	530	69.9
10. Carnegie Corporation of New York	NY	IN	55,878,100	140	51.2
11. Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation	NE	IN	55,812,076	37	13.7
12. Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	MI	IN	55,037,156	211	54.9
13. California Endowment	CA	IN	46,825,489	260	51.4
14. Turner Global Foundation	FL	IN	46,210,000	1	92.4
15. David and Lucile Packard Foundation	CA	IN	37,703,899	164	14.4
16. Bank of America Charitable Foundation	NC	CS	30,585,321	486	18.4
17. Omidyar Network Fund	CA	IN	29,799,022	10	59.2
18. Citi Foundation	NY	CS	28,039,000	400	44.3
19. Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund	CA	IN	26,022,500	115	83.6
20. Kresge Foundation	MI	IN	25,098,296	64	13.5
21. Marguerite Casey Foundation	WA	IN	24,237,672	149	79.8
22. NoVo Foundation	NY	IN	19,044,983	15	68.7
23. Arcus Foundation	MI	IN	16,478,835	105	61.8
24. John S. and James L. Knight Foundation	FL	IN	16,155,474	30	26.7
25. Annenberg Foundation	CA	IN	15,785,000	30	9.7

Source: The Foundation Center, 2011. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 955 larger social justice funders.

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

<sup>1</sup>IN=Independent; CS=Corporate; OP=Operating

## 25 Largest Funders by Share of Giving for Social Justice, 2009\*

Foundation Name	State	Type <sup>1</sup>	Social Justice Amount	Social Justice Giving as a % of Foundation's Giving
1. Turner Global Foundation	FL	IN	\$46,210,000	92.4
2. A Glimmer of Hope Foundation	TX	IN	8,347,561	89.5
3. Melville Charitable Trust	MA	IN	4,793,674	88.4
4. Rosenberg Foundation	CA	IN	1,668,500	87.8
5. Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund	CA	IN	26,022,500	83.6
6. Marguerite Casey Foundation	WA	IN	24,237,672	79.8
7. Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation	NC	IN	4,129,000	71.0
8. Annie E. Casey Foundation	MD	IN	60,322,287	69.9
9. NoVo Foundation	NY	IN	19,044,983	68.7
10. Stoneman Family Foundation	MA	IN	4,981,000	65.9
11. Gill Foundation	CO	IN	5,878,350	64.4
12. Arcus Foundation	MI	IN	16,478,835	61.8
13. Riggio Foundation	NY	IN	7,910,000	60.7
14. Ford Foundation	NY	IN	266,478,749	59.4
15. NIKE Foundation	OR	CS	11,496,551	59.3
16. Weberg Trust	IL	IN	5,700,000	59.2
17. Omidyar Network Fund	CA	IN	29,799,022	59.2
18. New York Foundation	NY	IN	2,073,500	59.1
19. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation	NC	CS	4,357,042	58.7
20. Public Welfare Foundation	DC	IN	10,647,971	58.6
21. Robert Sterling Clark Foundation	NY	IN	2,231,319	55.9
22. Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	MI	IN	55,037,156	54.9
23. Open Society Institute	NY	OP	62,742,754	54.8
24. Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation	MD	IN	1,520,000	54.6
25. Fund for New Jersey	NJ	IN	1,295,000	53.5

Source: The Foundation Center, 2011. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 955 larger social justice funders. 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.

<sup>1</sup>IN=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 is “dedicated to bringing about lasting changes in the lives of people who are disadvantaged by their economic situation, race, nationality, gender, age, disabilities, immigration status, sexual orientation, political affiliation or religion.” The foundation focuses its grantmaking in the areas of aging, children and youth, population health, and reconciliation and human rights. It awards grants for the benefit of seven countries: Australia, Bermuda, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, South Africa, the United States, and Vietnam.

Through the end of 2010, the Atlantic Philanthropies made grants totaling more than \$5.4 billion, making it one of the largest social justice funders in the world. A spend-down foundation, Atlantic plans to close by 2020.

## 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](http://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, 2009

Field	Recipient	Foundation	Amount	Purpose
Arts, Culture, and Media	Chicago Children's Museum (IL)	Joyce Foundation (IL)	\$75,000	To increase the diversity of the museum's visitors, staff, and board and for the dissemination of a white paper on diversity practices to the field
Civic Engagement	Institute for Research and Empowerment (Indonesia)	Ford Foundation (NY)	88,500	For training, technical assistance, advocacy, networking, and documentation to institutionalize participation of marginalized populations in public decision-making on health, education, and livelihoods
Crime and Justice	Gay-Straight Alliance Network (CA)	Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund (CA)	75,000	For youth-led efforts to reduce anti-gay harassment and bullying in California schools
Economic Development	Applied Research Center (NY)	Surdna Foundation (NY)	50,000	To produce and disseminate a toolkit on Equity and the Green Economy that can be used to advocate for equitable green economic policies
Educational Reform and Access	Brookings Institution (DC)	Spencer Foundation (IL)	662,304	For a research project, Building America's Future: Understanding the Links between Social Disparities and Educational Disadvantage
Employment	Coalition of Immokalee Workers (FL)	W.K. Kellogg Foundation (MI)	100,000	To develop an industry-wide code of conduct for the tomato industry, including principles of worker participation and human rights standards
Environment	Natural Capital Institute (CA)	Overbrook Foundation (NY)	40,000	For WiserEarth, which helps the global movement of people and organizations working toward social justice, indigenous rights, and environmental stewardship connect, collaborate, share knowledge, and build alliances
Health Care Access	Institute for Health Policy (Sri Lanka)	Rockefeller Foundation (NY)	64,000	For a quantitative study of selected health systems to identify critical drivers of good health outcomes and potential countries for in-depth case studies on how health systems can be strengthened to enhance access, quality, and affordability for the poor
Housing and Shelter	Central City Renaissance Alliance (LA)	Greater New Orleans Foundation (LA)	42,000	To develop a common baseline of data and analysis and resulting unified strategy for investment and development that addresses housing needs at every economic level in Central City
Human Rights and Civil Liberties	University of Michigan (MI)	Skillman Foundation (MI)	50,000	To engage young people in efforts to reduce racial stereotypes and build effective race relations strategies among youth in metropolitan Detroit and the six targeted neighborhoods
Human Services	Rhode Island Kids Count (RI)	Annie E. Casey Foundation (MD)	10,000	To provide policymakers and leaders with accurate and up-to-date information on policy issues that impact the well-being of the children of immigrant families in Rhode Island
International Affairs	World Justice Project (DC)	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (WA)	3,500,000	For the World Justice Project, a global, multidisciplinary effort to strengthen the rule of law for the development of communities of opportunity and equity
Public Affairs	Public Advocates (CA)	San Francisco Foundation (CA)	35,000	To ensure that transit service in the Bay Area and beyond is restored and expanded by promoting a transportation justice platform in the Congressional surface transportation bill and ensuring that voices and concerns of low-income transit riders are heard in the debate
Social Science Research	Praxis Project (DC)	Ford Foundation (NY)	370,000	For the Fair Count to Fair Share Project to convene key grassroots African-American organizing networks for planning and strategy development to effectively meet the challenges of the 2010 Census

Source: The Foundation Center, 2011. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 955 larger foundations.  
 Note: Grant descriptions have been abbreviated.



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