

## 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](mailto:agm@agmconnect.org)

[www.agmconnect.org](http://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](mailto:bnelson@abagmd.org)

[www.rag.org/abag](http://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/](http://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](http://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  
Fax (216) 861-6335  
gmaker@en.com

**Grantmakers of Oregon and Southwest Washington**

Joyce B. White, Executive Director  
7225 S.E. 19th Street  
Portland, OR 97202  
Tel. (503) 226-8252  
Fax (503) 228-5840  
jbwhite@teleport.com

**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](mailto:jreis@mcf.org)

[www.mcf.org](http://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](mailto:bbryan@nyrag.org)

[www.nyrag.org](http://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 Lehfelddt, President  
50 Hurt Plaza, Suite 350  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
Tel. (404) 524-0911  
Fax (404) 523-5116  
martin@secf.org  
www.secf.org

**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  
Tel. (716) 845-0734  
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  
dpierson@jxcf.org

## **GEORGIA**

### **Atlanta Foundations Forum**

c/o Jane G. Hardesty  
Southeastern Council of Foundations  
50 Hurt Plaza, Suite 350  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
Tel. (404) 524-0911  
Fax (404) 523-5116  
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  
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  
Fax (423) 637-6039

### **Donors Forum of Chattanooga**

Pete Cooper, Executive Director  
1701 Sun Trust Bank Building  
736 Market Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37402  
Tel. (423) 265-0586  
Fax (423) 265-0587

## WEST VIRGINIA

### **West Virginia Grantmakers, Inc.**

c/o Barbara Boland  
CAMC Foundation  
3412 Staunton Avenue  
Charleston, WV 25331  
Tel. (304) 388-9860  
Fax (304) 388-9861  
camc.foundation@camcare.com