

Wisconsin State of Philanthropy Report Executive Summary

The Wisconsin State of Philanthropy Report provides a first-ever detailed look at grantmaking in Wisconsin as well as a deeper look into how philanthropy is practiced in the state. At a time with economic difficulties facing our state, this report provides critical benchmarks for grantmakers and information on giving for nonprofits.

This report includes an overview of giving in Wisconsin, a look at the different types of grantmaking in the state, a section on the economic downturn, an in-depth look at where grant dollars are allocated, and an inside look at the inner workings of foundations.

In addition, the Wisconsin State of Philanthropy Report enhances Wisconsin grantmakers' abilities to tell their giving stories, highlights the impact of Wisconsin's grantmaking community, and accurately depicts the scope, diversity, and depth of Wisconsin philanthropy. Within the report, several of the Donor Forum's highly successful Snapshots of Philanthropy series illustrate the impact of philanthropy beyond the dollars donated. Also featured are insights gathered at listening sessions held to gauge the impact of the financial crisis on grantmakers and nonprofits that lend some context to the economic downturn data.

The report, generously underwritten by Northwestern Mutual, was based upon data gathered from the Funding Information Center at Marquette University, as well as the results of a survey of Wisconsin grantmakers conducted by the Donors Forum of Wisconsin.

Key findings from the Wisconsin State of Philanthropy Report include:

- In 2007 there were nearly 1,300 foundations in Wisconsin, with combined assets of over \$7.25 billion.
- Foundation grants in 2007 totaled \$497 million, a 10 percent increase from 2006.
- Total charitable giving in 2006 totaled over \$3.5 billion, a 12 percent increase in total charitable giving from 2005.
- Assets and grants paid by foundations have been increasing on average each year; assets by an average of 5.7 percent per year and grants by an average of 4.7 percent per year.
- Wisconsin ranks in the top 10 states (eighth) with the largest number of community foundations.
- Community foundations' assets total more than \$1.3 billion, and they contributed more than \$71 million in grants in 2007.
- Nearly 90 percent of survey respondents reported their assets dropped in the last 12 months, and over half of grantmakers predicted a decrease in grant funding in 2009.
- Based on survey results, it is highly likely that grantmaking budgets will decrease more significantly in 2010 than they will in 2009.

The full report is available on the Donors Forum website, www.dfwonline.org