



About the Community Foundation Atlas Project

CommunityFoundationAtlas.org

Since the creation of the world's first community foundation in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1914, the concept of contributing resources to a permanent community improvement fund has been adopted and adapted by citizens on every continent except Antarctica. Today, more than 1,800 place-based foundations are empowering people to address local challenges and opportunities. By strengthening civil society, community foundations are helping to fill voids in global leadership and build a better world, place by place by place.

Yet, until now, detailed information about the identities, locations, assets, roles and effectiveness of these important change agents, especially those working outside the United States and Canada, has been hard to find. During the past two years, an international research partnership funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation of Flint, Michigan, gathered primary and secondary research as well as narrative evidence documenting the field's global leadership. The Cleveland Foundation collaborated with Foundation Center, the Global Fund for Community Foundations, WINGS (Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support) and a team of research and communications specialists to create the Community Foundation Atlas, the most comprehensive picture of the community foundation movement.

A formal atlas survey was prepared by the project's research consultant, Barry Knight, the executive director of the Centre for Research and Innovation in Social Policy in the United Kingdom. The survey was emailed to the field in 2013–14. In addition to requesting basic contact, operational and financial information, the survey solicited data aimed at delineating work and effectiveness. It concluded with an opportunity for respondents to share a recent success story. This baseline of information has now been published at CommunityFoundationAtlas.org, an easily accessible online platform that was unveiled at the Council on Foundations Fall Conference for Community Foundations in Cleveland in October 2014.

Via individual foundation profiles, analysis and interpretation of the 478 survey responses and storytelling, the Community Foundation Atlas is designed to help build connections among community foundations that may not be aware of counterparts abroad. The objective is to facilitate wider adoption of best practices and high-impact collaborations aimed at addressing tough problems that span geographical boundaries. The Atlas, which is hosted by Foundation Center, was also created to demonstrate to a variety of worldwide audiences the significant contributions made by community foundations to the places in which these audiences live and work.

Snapshot of the Movement

The Community Foundation Atlas has marshaled an important baseline of information about the world's community foundations. With organizations in 67 countries profiled in this online database, a clearer picture of community philanthropy has emerged. The following "quick facts" provide an overview of the rich diversity and collective impact of the community foundation movement.



1914

First community foundation established



1,827

Place-based foundations identified



75%

Foundations created within the last 25 years

\$4,923,948,868

Combined grantmaking (last fiscal year reported)



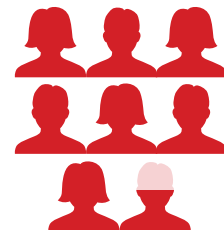
\$62.5B

Combined financial reserves



65%

Foundations with 5 or fewer paid employees



7.6

Average paid staff size



\$3.73B

Largest endowment



2 in 10

Foundations without an endowment



200K

Average population area served

Community Foundation Atlas Partners



CENTRIS

CENTRIS

The Centre for Research and Innovation in Social Policy (CENTRIS) based in the United Kingdom was formed in 1988 to support innovative social policy and practice. CENTRIS works with partners engaged in addressing pressing social issues to develop new solutions through a mixture of research and innovative initiatives. Executive director Barry Knight has worked on community philanthropy initiatives since 1997. Knight has evaluated community philanthropy funding programs undertaken by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and the Ford Foundation, consulted with the Global Fund for Community Foundations on organizational development and strategic planning, and provided technical assistance to the Global Status Report on Community Foundations published biannually by WINGS (Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support).

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation



The Mott Foundation, established in 1926 by an automotive pioneer, is a private philanthropy committed to supporting projects that promote a just, equitable and sustainable society. It supports nonprofit programs throughout the U.S. and, on a limited geographic basis, internationally. Grantmaking is focused in four programs: Civil Society, Environment, Flint Area and Pathways Out of Poverty. Besides Flint, offices are located in metropolitan Detroit, Johannesburg (South Africa) and London. With assets of approximately \$2.5 billion, Mott made 400 grants totaling more than \$101 million in 2013 in the U.S. and, on a limited geographical basis, internationally.

Cleveland Foundation



Established in 1914, the Cleveland Foundation is the world's first community foundation and one of the largest today, with assets of \$2.1 billion as of 2013. Through the generosity of donors, the foundation improves the lives of Greater Clevelanders by building community endowment, addressing needs through grantmaking, and providing leadership on vital issues. In 2013, its responsive grantmaking and support for board-directed initiatives in the areas of economic transformation, public school improvement, youth development, neighborhood revitalization and arts advancement totaled \$89 million. For more information on the Cleveland Foundation, please visit www.Cleveland-Foundation.org.

Foundation Center



Established in 1956, Foundation Center is the leading source of information about philanthropy worldwide. Through data, analysis, and training, it connects people who want to change the world to the resources they need to succeed. Foundation Center maintains the most comprehensive database on U.S. and, increasingly, global grantmakers and their grants — a robust, accessible knowledge bank for the sector. It also operates research, education, and training programs designed to advance knowledge of philanthropy at every level. Thousands of people visit Foundation Center's web site each day and are served in its five regional library/learning centers and its network of more than 470 funding information centers located in public libraries, community foundations, and educational institutions nationwide and around the world. For more information, please visit www.foundationcenter.org or call (212) 620-4230.



Global Fund for Community Foundations

The Global Fund for Community Foundations (GFCF) is a global grassroots grantmaker working to promote and support institutions of community philanthropy around the world. GFCF works with individual community foundations and other local grantmakers and their networks around the world, with a particular focus on the global south and the emerging economies of Central and Eastern Europe. Through small grants, technical support and networking, GFCF helps these local institutions to strengthen and grow so that they can fulfill their potential as vehicles for local development and as part of the infrastructure for sustainable development, poverty alleviation and citizen participation. For more information, please visit www.GlobalFundCommunityFoundations.org.



Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support (WINGS)

WINGS is a global network of grantmaker associations and philanthropic support organizations formed in 1999. WINGS strengthens, promotes and provides leadership on the development of philanthropy and social investment around the world. WINGS gives voice to the many cultures of giving and provides its members and other participants with information, knowledge, and peer exchange. Its vision is to create a strong, global philanthropic community that strives to build more equitable and just societies around the world. For more information, please visit www.WingsWeb.org.