

# Report reveals strong decade for state foundations

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A new study shows the assets of public and private foundations in Arizona grew 327 percent between the years 1993 and 2002.

That surge has resulted in foundations infusing more dollars into local nonprofits and their communities.

However, the study's contractor cautions that nonprofits must realize Arizona is an under-resourced state relative to others, and the pool of foundation money is limited.

"Profiles of Charitable Foundations in Arizona" was commissioned by the Arizona Grantmakers Forum and produced by the Arizona State University Center for Non-profit Leadership and Management.

"We needed to gather baseline data because no one had a handle on how much foundation activity went on in Arizona," said Marissa Theisen, president and chief executive of the Grantmakers Forum.

The Grantmakers Forum, founded in 1986, is a 69-member organization that makes grants to Arizona nonprofits. The forum is composed of private foundations, trusts, endowed community foundations, corporations, government agencies and individuals with charitable gift programs.



**'The study confirms that while philanthropy in Arizona is increasing ... we still have a long way to go.'**

**Marissa Theisen**  
Grantmakers Forum

"The total assets of Arizona's private foundations is less than 1 percent of the nation's private foundation assets, despite Arizona being home to about 2 percent of the nation's population. Also, about \$43 billion, or 30 percent of total Arizona private foundation giving, comes from out-of-state foundations."

Theisen added that individual donations and bequests make up the bulk of contributions to charitable causes in Arizona.

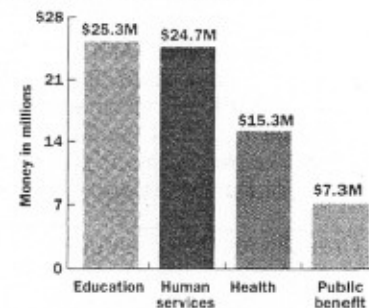
Foundation giving represents less than 10 percent of total giving in Arizona, and corporate giving in Arizona contributes another 5 percent.

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**Arizona Grantmakers Forum:**  
[www.arizonagrantsmakersforum.org](http://www.arizonagrantsmakersforum.org)

## TOP GIVING AREAS

Top four recipient areas based on total dollars given by Arizona foundations in 2002:



Source: ASU Center for Nonprofit Leadership Management

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Total assets of state foundations grew from just under \$717 million in 1993 to more than \$3 billion in 2002, according to the report.

Growth in assets was fueled by aggressive returns on investments and the establishment of new foundations.

The number of Arizona foundations increased 96 percent with the bulk of that growth attributed to a rise in private foundations, where the ranks grew from 383 in 1993 to 634 in 2002.

Private foundations are funded entirely by individuals, families or corporations, while public groups, such as United Way and community foundations, have a different tax status.

Total private foundation giving in 2002 was \$141 million, an increase of 65 percent from 2000 when private foundations doled out \$86 million.

Maricopa County is home to the majority of the state's foundations — 65 percent. The number of foundations in the county grew from 239 in 1993 to 553 in 2004.

"The study confirms that while philanthropy in Arizona is increasing and having a positive impact in the community, we still have a long way to go to match the foundation assets of the better endowed states," Theisen said.

## **TOP ARIZONA FOUNDATIONS**

### **Top 10 Arizona foundations based on 2002 giving:**

- **Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust:** \$22M
- **Arizona Community Foundation:** \$20.4M
- **Research Corp.:** \$11.6M
- **Jewish Federation Greater Phoenix:** \$8.3M
- **Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust:** \$8M
- **Flinn Foundation:** \$7.6M
- **Community Foundation Southern Arizona:** \$7M
- **Kemper & Ethel Marley Foundation:** \$5.2M
- **Aurora Foundation:** \$4.5M
- **St. Luke's Health Initiatives:** \$4.2M

Source: ASU Center for Nonprofit Leadership & Management