

Partnering with the Community Foundation of Utah to meet local needs

Community foundations are an important source of technical and financial support for cities and towns. Local governments play a vital role in helping to build communities, making Utah an even better place to live now and for generations to come. Our role is to help you. Please feel free to contact our Executive Director Fraser Nelson at (801) 55-3005 or fraser@utahcf.org and visit our web site at www.utahcf.org

Fiscal Sponsor for Government -Run Programs

Community foundations serve as fiscal sponsors of funds created by the state and local governments for specific community needs and funds by managing funds created by these jurisdictions. This includes coordinating the efforts of agencies to raise funds from private sources and distributing grants to local non-profits involved in addressing the specific needs.

- The Hawaii CF operates three funds where the monies or the staffing are at least in part provided by state government. These funds focus on child abuse prevention, family literacy and tobacco prevention and use the tobacco settlement money. Grants are awarded by the CF to nonprofit charities. The Orange County CF is considering serving as the fiscal sponsor for a portion of cigarette tax revenue.
- The North Carolina CF “Community Development Assistance Program” encourages local government entities to build funds for libraries, schools, greenways, recreation efforts, etc.
- The New Hampshire CF serves as a fiscal agent when the state government makes an appropriation to an entity that is not (or not yet) a nonprofit charity. They work closely with the NH Housing Finance Authority and the NH Community Development Finance Authority on affordable housing programs by managing and making grants to community-based housing organizations.
- The Arizona Foundation has a major partnership with the state department of Economic Security, the Office of the Attorney General and the Arizona Supreme Court to reduce the amount of time children spend in foster care. The Foundation has committed \$300,000 a year in a collaborative statewide effort with these public entities.
- The Virginia Early Childhood Foundation receives state funding and private contributions to conduct a public awareness campaign and to make grants to communities on a matching basis.
- The Princeton Area CF is the home of the state’s Safe Child Fund of NJ.
- The Louisiana State Department of Education established a fund in collaboration with the CF to attract charitable dollars for the benefit of public schools in Louisiana affected by Katrina.
- The Santa Barbara Foundation “regrants” state and county arts funding.

Community Foundations can also enhance the resources of local governments. A number of community foundations have administered funds for local celebrations, other local fund-raising projects, and others..

- The CF of Greater Greensboro co-sponsored with the City, a series of millennium celebration activities and have also served as the fiscal sponsor for festivals put on by the city.
- Greater Worcester (NY) CF funded a private nonprofit municipal research bureau, the city’s cultural development officer; a consultant to facilitate a city hall sponsored planning process and others.
- The Columbia Basin Foundation in Moses Lake, Washington has several short-term Special Project funds set up to accept donations from communities for specific government-based projects like municipal

swimming pools, playgrounds and trails. The CF holds donated funds for these grass roots fundraising efforts.

- In South Carolina a small rural CF helped to raise funds to match a Community Development Block Grant from the State of South Carolina.
- The Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro (NC) partners with the library system to provide a small grants and technical assistance program for city neighborhoods.

Government Partner and Community Leader

Community Foundations have also taken a leadership role in both convening and funding projects involving governmental entities, such as neighborhood redevelopment, governmental problem-solving, and civic and economic development. For example:

- The Berks County (PA) CF funded a study of the City of Reading's finances.
- The Iowa legislature uses the CF to distribute a portion of the receipts from state sanctioned gambling to counties that do not have gambling operations. This prevented every county from setting up free standing foundations to handle the distributions.
- The Santa Barbara Foundation convened an anti-gang collaboration involving nonprofit agencies, government and law enforcement; and convened a similar group to address affordable housing.
- The Philadelphia Foundation has worked with CDC's through a funders collaborative and a fatherhood initiative that involved national, state, and county governments.
- The New Hampshire CF funded a study of the tax structure in the state.
- The New Hampshire CF has worked with state Economic Development councils to strategize about economic improvement strategies in rural towns.

Increase Fundraising Capacity

Community Foundations can also attract large national grantmakers to a local or state need.

- The Sonoma County CF received funding from the James Irvine Foundation for its Resilient Communities Initiative targeting two low-income communities in the county. The CF pays for the coordinator of one of the two projects through that city's payroll. They also received a national grant to develop long-term solutions for reducing homelessness.
- Ventura County (CA) CF received funds from the California Center for Regional Leadership to create a model for regional civic leadership.

Open Forum for Addressing Community Issues

Finally, CFs very often serve as conveners on issues. They are seen as impartial, community sounding board and problem solvers. The Alliance for Unity, Envision Utah and the United Way have played this role on different issues here in Utah.

- The Foundation for the Carolinas convened Community Building Initiative aimed at tackling issues of race and ethnicity and regional initiative on environmental issues at the request of the County Commission
- The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region (DC), for example, leads a large initiative around race, culture, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation and immigration.
- The Community Foundation of Utah is known for its efforts to promote social entrepreneurship and to increase awareness of the impact of the recession on local charities.