



The Colorado Giving Study

Highlights of Contributions by Organized Philanthropy in 2006

The Colorado Association of Funders

is a nonprofit membership organization for Colorado grantmakers of all types and sizes that brings together people, information and resources to promote effective and responsible philanthropy in Colorado.

Colorado Association of Funders
600 S. Cherry Street, Suite 1200
Denver, CO 80246
303.398.7404

Additional information on definitions and methodology used for this study are available at www.coloradofunders.org.

CAF is grateful to the following member organizations and colleagues that funded this study: Animal Assistance Foundation, Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, Bright Mountain Foundation, Daniels Fund, Donnell-Kay Foundation, First Western Trust Bank, El Pomar Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, Leighty Foundation, David & Lucile Packard Foundation, Snow Valley Foundation and Temple-Hoyne Buell Foundation. In-kind support for the design of the final report was made possible by The Colorado Trust.

CAF would also like to acknowledge the CAF Communications Committee members for their time and expertise: Christie McElhinney, The Colorado Trust, Chair; Rebecca Arno, The Denver Foundation; Chris Power Bain, The Colorado Health Foundation; Peter Droege, Daniels Fund; Sabine Kortals, The Colorado Trust; and Phil Nash, Rose Community Foundation.

The Colorado Giving Study graphic design by Rachel Mondragon, The Colorado Trust.

Key Findings

Total Giving. Giving by Colorado grantmakers climbed to \$412 million in 2006. Members of the Colorado Association of Funders contributed approximately 2/3 of this amount.

Funding Priorities. Health and human services were the top priorities for Colorado grantmakers in 2006. An estimated \$234 million – or 57% – of the grant dollars reported in this study supported these causes.

Statewide Giving. Colorado grantmakers continue to support nonprofits in all geographic areas of the state. In 2006, \$119 million was granted to Colorado nonprofits located outside Metro Denver.

Colorado Community Foundations. Colorado community foundations have experienced tremendous growth since 2003; assets nearly doubled and giving increased over 135%.

Giving Outlook. Colorado grantmakers are optimistic about giving in the next fiscal year – 94% of survey respondents expect giving to increase or remain constant.

This Colorado Giving Study reflects information gathered on 299 Colorado grantmakers, including 210 private foundations, 49 corporate foundations, 21 community foundations and 19 federated funds. The data for the study come from two sources: (1) IRS 990 and 990-PF tax returns; and (2) survey responses from 31% of the organizations included in the study. These data were collected and analyzed by the Community Resource Center.

“As we celebrate the growth of organized philanthropy in Colorado, it is important to remember that giving by foundations and through federated funds such as United Way is just one way that the vital work done by nonprofit organizations throughout the state is supported. In Colorado and across the country, more than 75% of charitable dollars come directly from individual donors to nonprofit organizations. It is critical that all of us – individuals, businesses and foundations – step up and work together to support those causes that strengthen our communities, serve those most in need, and enrich the lives of all citizens throughout our state.”

*Alesia McCloud-Chan, Managing Director
Colorado Association of Funders*

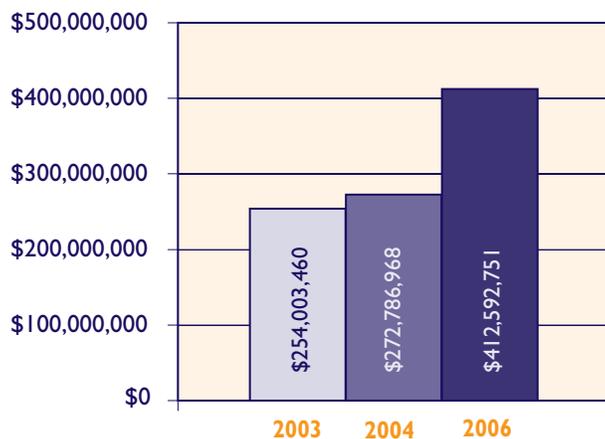
Colorado Grantmakers Increased Giving

This Colorado Giving Study, commissioned by the Colorado Association of Funders (CAF), shows that 299 Colorado-based private foundations, community foundations, corporate foundations and federated funds contributed more than \$412 million to charitable causes throughout the state in 2006, up from contributions of \$254 million reported three years ago.

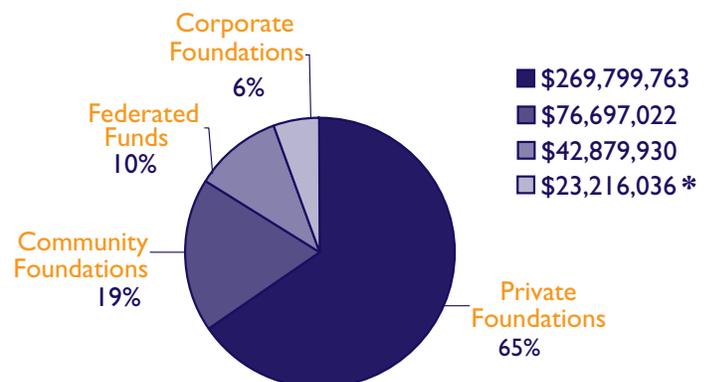
“The economic outlook for the future is uncertain, but strong market performance in recent years has resulted in a steady growth of assets, allowing foundations to increase charitable giving.”

*Linda Childears, President and CEO
Daniels Fund*

Change in Giving 2003-2006



Colorado Organized Giving



**This figure includes amounts reported on IRS 990-PF forms for Colorado-based corporations and businesses that have established private foundations and reported giving in Colorado during 2006. Corporations and businesses also contribute to the community in other ways, such as corporate giving programs, volunteerism, sponsorships and in-kind donations. This study does not estimate these types of contribution amounts as the information is not publicly available.*

Private Foundations allocated slightly over half of their contributions to health and human services. This represents a shift in funding priorities since 2003, when education was their top priority; this is partly due to strong growth of assets from markets, as well as new contributions.

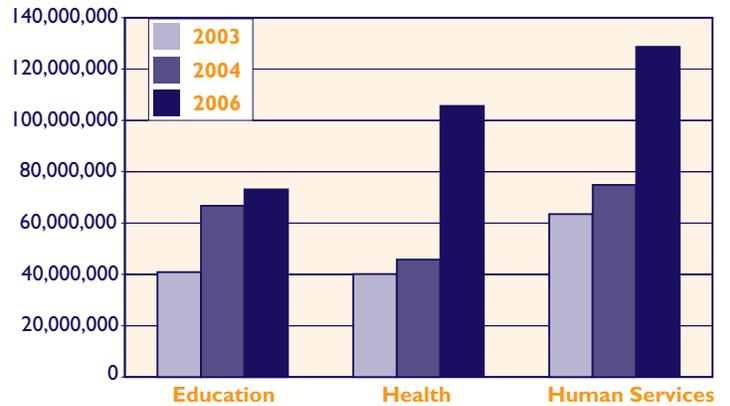
Community Foundations increased their giving to education and human services, and decreased their dollars to health in 2006.

Human Services & Health Were Top Funding Priorities

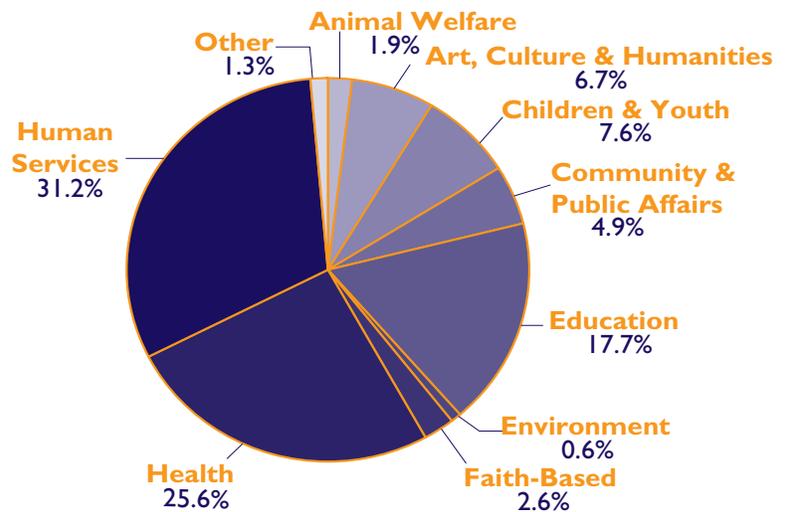
Health, human services and education continue to receive the largest amount of grant dollars in Colorado. In 2006, 31.2% of Colorado grants supported human services; 25.6% went to health; and 17.7% went to education. Human services has consistently received the largest share of Colorado grant dollars; the percentage of grant dollars allocated to human services is gradually increasing – from 25% in 2003 to 31.2% in 2006.

Colorado grantmakers are also responding to community needs and increased health care costs by giving a greater percentage of their dollars to health. Health received the second largest share of Colorado grant dollars in 2006, surpassing education which received the second largest share of Colorado grant dollars in 2003 and 2004. In the past three years, the percentage of grant dollars given to health has increased by almost 165%.

Actual Grant Dollars Contributed to Education, Health & Human Services



2006 Funding Priorities



“The increase in funding for health and human services is evidence of the great need that exists in our state and reflects the priorities of Colorado voters who have named health care as their top concern. Colorado’s foundation community is not just providing more dollars, but is working collaboratively with our elected leaders to create programs and policies that support long-term solutions to the health care challenges we face.”

Anne Warhover, President and CEO
The Colorado Health Foundation

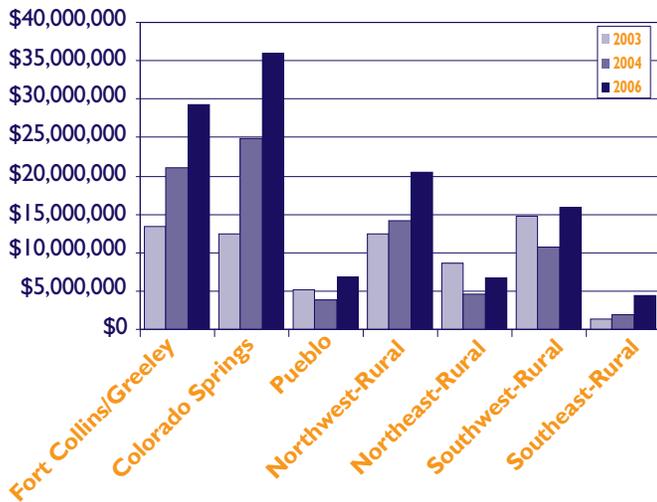
Note: To establish these estimates of giving, researchers assign each grant to one of 10 subject categories. The annual 990 and 990-PF tax returns often do not specify the purpose of a particular grant. In these instances, the grant is assigned to a subject area category based on the overall mission of the organization receiving the grant. For example, if money was donated to a church to support a food bank, the giving is designated to the Human Services rather than the Faith-Based category.

Corporate Foundations prioritized health and human services, giving 68.4% of their 2006 grant dollars to these sectors (in 2003, corporate foundations gave less than 30% of their grant dollars to support these causes).

Federated Funds continued to give the majority of their contributions – over 63.7% – to human services.

Strong Support Received Statewide

Giving Outside Metro Denver 2003-2006



In 2006, Colorado grantmakers gave more than \$119 million to nonprofits located outside Metro Denver, representing an increase of 75.4% since 2003. This growth may be due in part to the strength of the Rural Philanthropy Days program, continuing commitments by private foundations and active community foundations throughout the state. In addition, many grant dollars awarded to nonprofit organizations headquartered in Metro Denver are ultimately used to provide services in other areas of the state.

“Since 1990, statewide grantmakers have increased their funding of rural nonprofit organizations in Colorado by nearly 300%. Stronger partnerships, effective outreach strategies and annual events like Rural Philanthropy Days have played a crucial role in effective funding outside of the urban corridor. We hope to see a continuation of meaningful relationships between grantmakers and rural communities as part of a larger strategy for a more vibrant Colorado.”

*Gabriel Guillaume, Executive Director
Community Resource Center*

The percentages of grant dollars allocated to these various geographic areas of the state have remained fairly constant in the past couple of years.

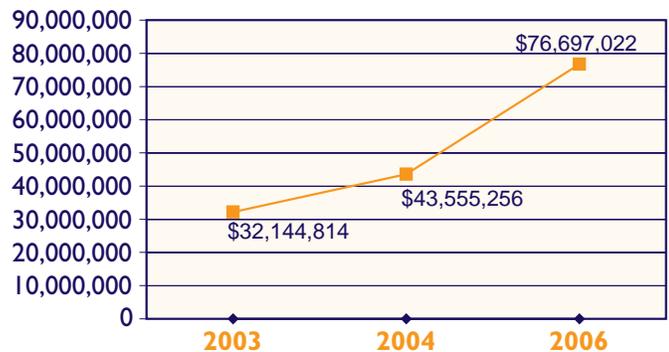
Geographic Areas	2006	% Population	% Contributions
Metro Denver	\$ 293,216,118	55.8%	71.1%
Fort Collins/Greeley	\$ 29,337,308	10.1%	7.1%
Colorado Springs	\$ 35,957,288	12.0%	8.7%
Pueblo	\$ 6,825,189	3.3%	1.7%
Northwest-Rural	\$ 20,457,258	7.0%	5.0%
Northeast-Rural	\$ 6,677,116	2.5%	1.6%
Southwest-Rural	\$ 15,801,131	7.6%	3.8%
Southeast-Rural	\$ 4,321,343	1.8%	1.0%

Community Foundations Saw Remarkable Growth

In 2006, Colorado community foundations contributed over \$76 million dollars in communities statewide. Community foundation assets have nearly doubled since 2003, and giving has increased over 135%.

Growth in community foundations is largely due to the growth in donor-advised funds through which families, businesses and individuals manage their charitable giving. Donor-advised funds are set up as component funds within the community foundation, through which donors recommend grants to their preferred organizations and causes. Community foundations traditionally work with their donors to fund a wide range of issues in their geographic region.

Giving by Community Foundations 2003-2006



“The success of community foundations in Colorado is twofold. First, we are seeing tremendous growth among well-established community foundations like Denver, Fort Collins and Aspen. Second, there is growing interest throughout the state from locals and second-home owners in maintaining and improving the quality of life in their local communities.”

*Paul Major, President and CEO
Telluride Foundation*



600 S. Cherry Street, Suite 1200
Denver, CO 80246
303.398.7404