

**LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL,  
TRANSGENDER AND  
QUEER GRANTMAKING**  
by **U.S. FOUNDATIONS**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

CALENDAR YEAR

'09

We all knew it was coming. It was inescapable that the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression would have a profound impact on foundation giving.

In 2009, the Foundation Center reported an estimated 8.4% cut in funding by US foundations, the largest decline they had ever tracked. In *LGBTQ Grantmaking by US Foundations 2009*, we tracked a decline in LGBTQ funding of 12.7%, 4.3% higher than the national decline.

The picture could have been worse. Anticipating the fallout that would occur based on market losses and reduced contributions, many LGBTQ grantmakers increased their payout rates, made multi-year commitments to their grantees and gave more general support grants to help organizations cover core costs. And, in spite of the cuts and for only the 2nd year since we began our reporting, in 2009 LGBTQ issues garnered a 0.2% share of the total dollars granted by foundations, the largest percentage ever.

This year's report identified 304 foundations, 3,401 grants and \$93.5 million targeting LGBTQ issues and communities. As in past years, it shows that most foundation support for LGBTQ communities comes from a small group of foundations; 50% of the LGBTQ dollars awarded in 2009 came from 10 foundations. And 2009—the 2nd year of our LGBTQ Racial Equity Campaign—showed a 25% decrease in dollars to LGBTQ people of color, while support for lesbian organizations declined by 46% and support for transgender organizations increased by 23%.

It remains clear to us that our work to increase the number of foundations that support LGBTQ issues overall is still of the utmost importance as are our efforts to ensure that the full diversity of the LGBTQ community is resourced.

**1** In 2009, **304 U.S.-BASED GRANTMAKERS AWARDED 3,401 GRANTS SUPPORTING LGBTQ ORGANIZATIONS AND PROJECTS TOTALING \$93.5 MILLION — A 12.7% DECREASE** in dollars from 2008 (a 4.3% greater decrease than the 8.4% drop in overall U.S. funding reported by the Foundation Center for 2009). For the second year in a row during the time of our research, LGBTQ grantmaking represented more than 0.2 % of all U.S. foundation dollars awarded in a single year.<sup>1</sup>

**2** Similar to previous years, **INDEPENDENT FOUNDATIONS PROVIDED THE MOST LGBTQ DOLLARS WHILE PUBLIC FOUNDATIONS PROVIDED THE MOST LGBTQ GRANTS.**

**3** The combined funding from **THE TOP 10 LGBTQ GRANTMAKERS, BY TOTAL DOLLARS, REPRESENTED HALF (50%) OF THE TOTAL LGBTQ DOLLARS** in 2009—three percentage points higher than in 2008. **THE TOP 10 LGBTQ GRANTMAKERS, BY TOTAL GRANTS, ACCOUNTED FOR 42% OF ALL LGBTQ GRANTS.**

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<sup>1</sup> "LGBTQ grantmakers" includes grantmakers that are focused exclusively on LGBTQ issues and grantmakers that incorporate LGBTQ giving into their broader portfolios. Also, a handful of these LGBTQ grantmakers—notably public foundations and nonprofit organizations—have regrantsmaking functions that play a significant role in distributing funds to groups in the field. See Appendix B in the full report online for a listing of 2009 LGBTQ grantmakers.

TOP 10 LGBTQ GRANTMAKERS, BY TOTAL DOLLARS, 2009

	CITY, STATE	TOTAL DOLLARS
Arcus Foundation	New York, NY	\$15,965,317
Gill Foundation	Denver, CO	5,686,800
Pride Foundation	Seattle, WA	5,390,980
Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund	San Francisco, CA	4,150,000
Ford Foundation	New York, NY	4,053,904
Tides Foundation	San Francisco, CA	3,534,263
Open Society Institute	New York, NY	2,175,000
Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice	New York, NY	2,052,463
H. van Ameringen Foundation	New York, NY	1,851,000
Proteus Fund	Amherst, MA	1,820,000

**4 TEN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVED NEARLY ONE-THIRD OF ALL LGBTQ DOLLARS GRANTED** in 2009.

**5** As with previous years, in 2009 **NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVED THE MAJORITY OF LGBTQ DOLLARS WHILE LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVED THE MAJORITY OF LGBTQ GRANTS.**

**6 PROGRAM SUPPORT RECEIVED THE MOST LGBTQ DOLLARS (58%) and GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT THE MOST GRANTS (48%)** in 2009.

**7 ORGANIZATIONS THAT EXPLICITLY SERVE CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGAIN RECEIVED THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF SUPPORT** from grantmakers in 2009 (among the various LGBTQ sub-groups addressed by nonprofits).

**8 TEN PERCENT OF GRANT DOLLARS AWARDED IN 2009 WENT TO LGBTQ PEOPLE OF COLOR ORGANIZATIONS AND PROJECTS, 2 PERCENTAGE POINTS LOWER THAN IN 2008.**

**9 AMONG THE VARIOUS STRATEGIES** utilized by LGBTQ organizations and projects, **ADVOCACY RECEIVED THE MOST SUPPORT FROM GRANTMAKERS** in 2009.<sup>2</sup>

**10 GRANTMAKING SUPPORT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS/HUMAN RIGHTS EFFORTS FAR SURPASSED PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT FOR THE OTHER ISSUES** being addressed by LGBTQ organizations and projects.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> "Strategies" refers to the methods used by organizations to accomplish their goals (e.g. advocacy, public education, community organizing).

<sup>3</sup> "Issues" refers to the subject areas that organizations are addressing (e.g. civil rights, education, health).

## DISTRIBUTION BY ISSUE ADDRESSED, LGBTQ GRANTMAKING, 2009

	TOTAL DOLLARS	% TOTAL DOLLARS
Civil Rights	\$ 23,866,902.00	25.5%
Human Rights	10,432,757.00	11.2%
Marriage/Civil Unions	9,958,555.00	10.7%
Multi-Issue	7,566,230.00	8.1%
Health	6,029,290.00	6.4%
Education/Safe Schools	5,747,051.00	6.1%
HIV/AIDS	5,204,661.00	5.6%
Religion	4,340,550.00	4.6%
Homophobia	3,194,595.00	3.4%
Community Building/Empowerment	2,920,664.00	3.1%
Gender Identity	2,519,091.00	2.7%
Visibility	2,365,756.00	2.5%
Strengthening Families	1,945,752.00	2.1%
Philanthropy	1,910,276.00	2.0%
Housing	1,818,506.00	2.0%
Anti-Violence	1,626,260.00	1.7%
Military	1,062,520.00	1.1%
Labor/Employment	543,640.00	0.6%
Other	442,221.00	0.5%
Unspecified	7,500.00	0.1%

### LGBTFUNDERS.ORG

Download the full report and access a variety of resources for both grantmakers and grantseekers, including: searchable online directories of LGBTQ grantmakers and organizations nationwide; original research on foundation giving and nonprofits; tools for supporting LGBTQ communities of color; and various job postings, news events and other resources related to LGBTQ philanthropy.

**The mission of Funders for LGBTQ Issues is to mobilize philanthropic resources that enhance the well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer communities, promote equity and advance racial, economic and gender justice.**

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