

Year In Review 2025

From Our CEO



Kathleen Enright
President and CEO,
Council on Foundations

No amount of planning could have fully anticipated the challenges we faced in 2025. But by working together, we saw the power of the Council's members in action.

Our sector's strength is borne of our collective resolve. Council members represent and serve the full spectrum of society, from who they are to where they serve to how they positively

impact their communities. And as 2026 begins, we look forward to another year of benefitting from that strength and leveraging it to protect and promote the charitable giving that powers our service.

We hope you'll partner with us, and we hope you know you can always depend on the Council to actively protect what matters most: the deeply American commitment to generosity and the people and institutions who bring that generosity to life.

Whatever lies ahead, we'll meet the moment together. Thank you for all you do.



Protecting Philanthropy

Against a backdrop of extraordinary disruption in 2025, one of the Council's main duties was keeping our members informed on executive orders, legal actions, and legislative proposals that had the potential to reshape the charitable landscape. With you and all our partners, we worked to unify and protect the field by:

- Successfully advocating against the proposal to increase the private foundation excise tax from a flat 1.39% to a tiered system of up to 10%, and for a charitable deduction for all taxpayers, which we hope will expand the number of people giving as well as the dollars available to charitable causes.
- Hosting a [public statement](#), signed by over 700 organizations, calling on charitable giving organizations to protect the philanthropic sector's freedom to speak, give, and invest in local communities.
- Launching new monthly [Member Policy Briefings](#) to share information and timely updates, answer questions, and provide resources for members.
- Creating resources to help our members engage their lawmakers, including [action alerts](#), [phone scripts](#), and [guidance on self-defense communication](#).
- Offering broad, timely guidance at virtual events – more than 500 attendees joined



The Council and its members pushed back against numerous executive, legislative, and judicial threats to our sector in 2025.

sessions like [Briefing on the Tax Bill: Post Ways & Means Mark-up](#), and [Looking to 2025: What Does a New Congress Mean for Philanthropy?](#)

- Establishing the [Community Foundation Legal Support Fund](#) and adding [new resources](#) to help community foundations of all sizes offset the cost of responding to threats of audits, investigations, or litigation.

- Convening a Foundations on the Hill 2025 event, hosted and presented by United Philanthropy Forum and the Council on Foundations in partnership with Independent Sector, that focused on helping philanthropic organizations share their impact stories with their congressional representatives.
- Supporting the launch of the bipartisan [Congressional Philanthropy Caucus](#), co-chaired by Rep. Blake Moore (R-UT) and Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL).

**Food banks. Faith groups.
Final salutes.**

**American
generosity
is here
for good.**

**MAKE GIVING EASIER,
NOT HARDER.**



A Unified Voice

Central to our work to build trust in philanthropy is telling the stories of how our sector shows up across our nation for communities big and small. In 2025, we amplified our impact by:

- Launching the [Giving Is Here for Good](#) storytelling campaign to lift up stories of how the charitable sector makes our communities stronger. Partnering with you through our [“share your story”](#) tool, the campaign

Ad for the Council's Giving Is Here for Good campaign.





Leading Locally 2025 brought more than 1,000 community- and place-based funders to Minneapolis-St. Paul in June to share resources and strategies.

garnered 31 million impressions across digital TV, podcasts, social media, and news sites.

- [Surveying our members](#) on how they're responding to policy changes and used our voice to promote your leadership and [protect charitable endowments](#).
- Creating new resources and tools for our members, including one-pagers highlighting philanthropy's impact in each state and an [explainer on the loss of tax-exempt status](#).
- Continuing to promote your work [on our platforms](#) and in our meetings with policymakers.
- Taking our [Better Stories, Better Language](#) project to the next level with a [training series](#) to help you build trust through storytelling.
- Releasing [Navigating Disasters and Crises](#) to help corporate organizations with practical insights and tools to guide decision-making during turbulent times.

Connecting and Investing for a Strong Sector

Learning from and leaning on each other proved to be more important than ever amid

the many changes of 2025. Our in-person conference, Leading Locally 2025, brought more than 1,000 community and place-based funders to Minneapolis-St. Paul to explore solutions, share resources, and discuss strategies for building inclusive, vibrant communities.

Meanwhile, at home and abroad, the dismantling of USAID catalyzed a major shift in global development. With U.S. government funding drastically cut, many foundations increased flexibility for grantees. We were excited to see that [funders are not pulling back from locally led development](#). In fact, a small survey of eight global grantmakers

showed respondents **increasing** direct support to local organizations, with 20% to 90% of grant dollars now going to community-rooted groups.

Collaborating Across Differences

Philanthropy is uniquely positioned to bring together people with diverse beliefs, backgrounds, and perspectives to solve complex problems. In this time of toxic polarization, the Council stepped up our work to help the field do just that by:

- Launching the quarterly [Leading Across Differences Ideas Forum](#) to explore how philanthropy can move from the desire for cooperation into action, along with hosting regular monthly spaces for members to connect with peers.
- Partnering with [Resetting the Table](#) to create space for philanthropic leaders across the country to learn about facilitating constructive communication across lines of difference.
- Offering our second [Bridging Differences Leadership Cohort](#), with researchers and practitioners providing practical advice and science-backed findings to guide this work.



- Releasing the second publication in our [Coming Together, Not Apart](#) series, "[Inside the Work of Turning Conflict Into Collaboration](#)," featuring five case studies that showcase efforts to overcome toxic polarization and build trust and community on local and national levels.

Looking Ahead

Our sector is built for moments like these. From recessions to pandemics to shifts in federal policies and priorities, philanthropy consistently steps up during difficult times. As we wrap up one year and prepare for the next, your longstanding partnership with communities is not just an asset — it's an inspiration. We look forward to continuing our work together to expand the giving that strengthens our nation, and with you at our backs we'll remain ready to protect our freedom to give according to our values.



The three parts of the Coming Together, Not Apart series explore how philanthropy can help the sector lead collaboratively across differences.

Celebrating 1,000+ Members!



Council members at Leading Locally 2025 in June.

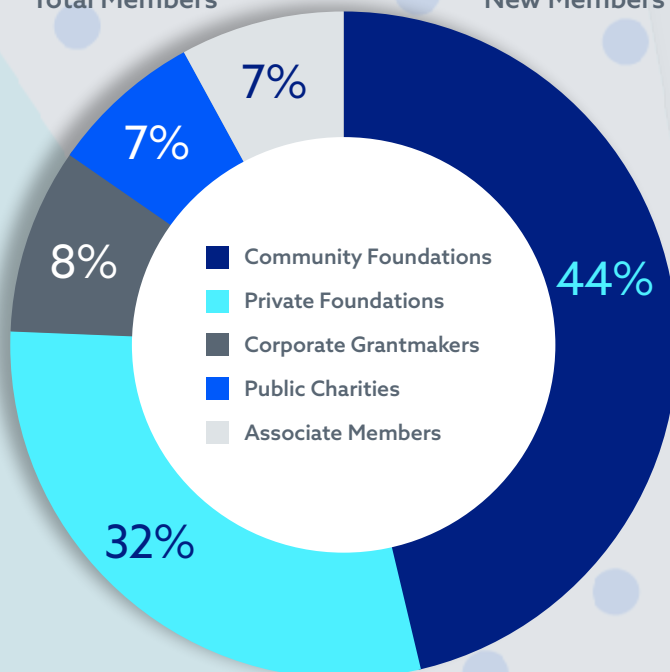
In 2025, the Council surpassed a major milestone — over **1,000 members**! More than 200 new organizations joined the Council in just the last year, growing our member community to 1,006 in total and helping to strengthen our efforts on behalf of philanthropy at a pivotal moment for the sector.

1,006

Total Members

209

New Members



2025 Year in Review

BY THE NUMBERS

Membership

1,006

Total Members

209

New Members



1,500+

Member Legal Questions Answered

Programming

243

Total Events Held

180

Peer Events
(Workshops, Roundtables, etc.)

52

Virtual Connections
(Webinars, Online Trainings, etc.)

1

Large Conference
(Leading Locally 2025)

10

Other Events

4,800+

Unique Event
Registrations

10,000+

Total PhilEx Downloads

Publications

9

Publications

30

Published Resources & Tools

6,300+

Publication Downloads



Digital

2.5M+

Website Views

1.1M+

Website Users

16,000+

Total Philanthropy
Exchange Users

12,500+

Active PhilEx Users

Giving Is Here for Good

Charitable giving puts the
power to help in the hands
of our communities.



31M+

Impressions (digital, TV,
podcasts, social media,
news sites)

Social Media



47,524

LinkedIn Followers



14,815

Facebook Followers

