



2025 Membership Report

January 1 - December 31, 2025

Philanthropy is a trusted partner in advancing the greater good.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO



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. 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.

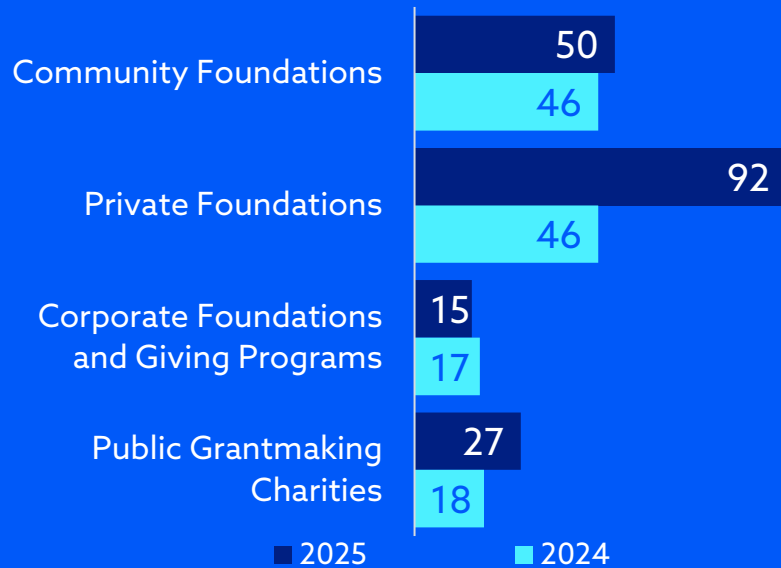
Whatever lies ahead, we'll meet the moment together. Thank you for all you do.

Kathleen Enright



Council Membership Momentum

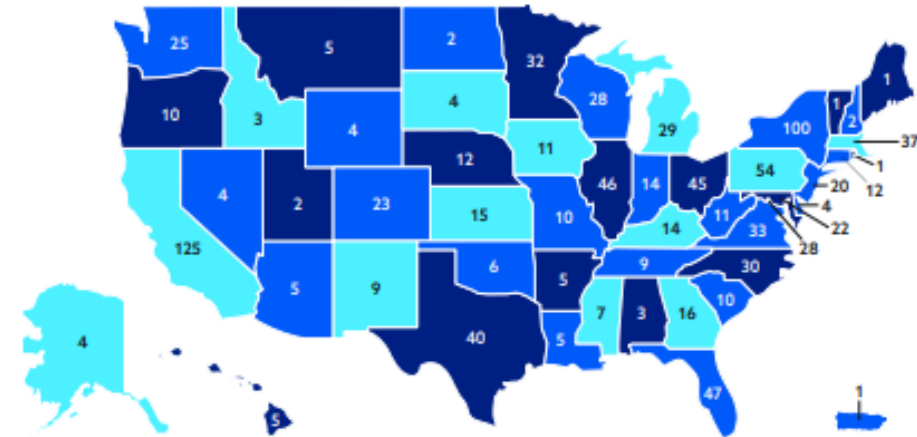
In 2025, the Council proudly surpassed a major milestone—**more than 1,000 members** from all 50 states and around the world. With a record number of members joining us throughout the year, our community continues to grow stronger at a pivotal moment for the philanthropic sector.



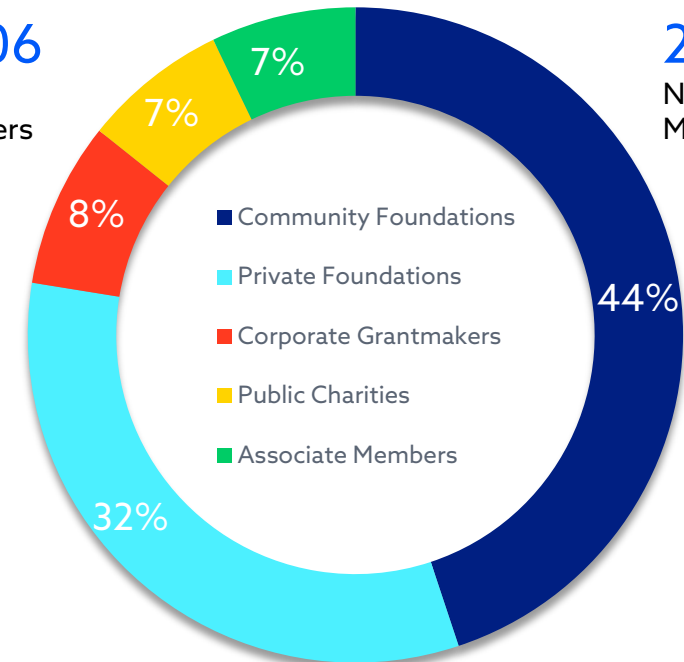
45% increase of total new members from FY 2024 to FY 2025

Member Geography

- All 50 states in the U.S. and DC, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands
- 7 countries across the globe



1,006
Total Members



209
New Members



What Our Members Say



“The Council is an invaluable **strategic partner for foundations**. From creating intentional learning and relationship-building experiences to their approach to advocating for the interests of the philanthropic sector, the Council equips its members with the **tools, information, and support** to elevate the impact of the community foundation in their communities to decision-makers.”

NAOMI AMAHA

Director of Policy and Government
Affairs
The Denver Foundation

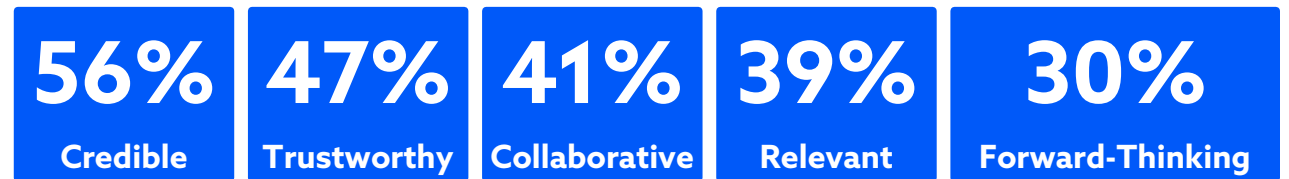
The Member Perspective



Members Perception of our Strategic Priorities



Traits Members Use to Describe the Council



"Love the resources and the credible information that is shared and appreciate the trusted relationships that [the Council] has with its members."

- Director, Community Foundation

Protecting Philanthropy

Shared Purpose. Collective Voice.
Greater Impact.

As policies shift, the Council on Foundations has stayed true to supporting an independent charitable sector—sharing resources, creating spaces for peers to connect, and speaking out publicly so we can all give in ways that reflect our values.



Protecting Philanthropy



Giving is Here for Good Campaign

This storytelling campaign aims to highlight how the charitable sector strengthens our communities.

31 million+
total impressions

9 million
video views

81,000
clicks



Member Policy Briefings

Member Policy Briefings provide a forum for philanthropic leaders to stay informed and exchange perspectives on how the evolving policy environment may impact philanthropy.

60
briefings

1,220
attendees



Public Policy Action Network

The Council's Public Policy Action Network is a group of foundation leaders committing their voices, experiences, and networks to engage and educate federal elected officials to foster a policy environment in which philanthropy can thrive.

340
participants



Public Statement

The Council's public statement called on charitable giving organizations to protect the philanthropic sector's freedom to speak, give, and invest in local communities.

740
organizations signed

Expanded Legal Support



Community Foundation Legal Support Fund

The Community Foundation Legal Support Fund (CFLSF) was established in 2025. The fund provides financial assistance to defray the legal expenses associated with challenges facing community foundations and other grantmakers when pursuing their missions, serving their communities.

30+ Community Foundations
contributed resources to this initiative



Legal Requests for Information

In 2025, the Council on Foundations' Legal Team experienced a record-breaking rise in legal requests for information. The team provides timely guidance across a wide range of issues, including scholarships, grantmaking policies and procedures, and donor-advised funds, helping members navigate complex legal questions with confidence.

1,500+ RFIs answered from over
679 unique organizations



What Our Members Say



“The Council has had a big year of helping our Community Foundation, and others **respond to a new policy environment.** I appreciate your work.”

LISA MENSAH

President and CEO
Oregon Community Foundation



“I can count on the Council to keep me posted on developments that we absolutely must understand to **operate within the bounds of increasingly restrictive and complex regulations.**”

JOHN HECKLINGER

President and CEO
Global Fund for Children



“As the primary voice for foundations, the Council is well-positioned to effectively **advocate for the sector and advance our ability to serve communities.**”

NICK DEYCHAKIWSKY

Senior Program Officer
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

Peer Connection

Stronger Together.

This year, the Council on Foundations made it a priority to nurture welcoming, peer-led spaces where members could come together, connect with one another, and share meaningful conversations about the issues shaping philanthropy today.



Peer Groups

Peer Learning Circles (PLCs)

Groups of foundation leaders that organize themselves as a learning cohort within the Council's community. PLCs convene regularly and often maintain their own Philanthropy Exchange community.

Circles for 2025: [Community Foundation Donor Services](#) | [DEI Peer Learning Circles](#) | [Global CEO Circle](#) | [LATAM & Caribbean Funder Circle](#) | [Leading Across Differences](#) | [SDGs Learning Circle for Foundations](#) | [Values Aligned Philanthropy](#)

175

total peer calls

4,996

total registrations

Peer Events

Peer events are small, peer-led conversations that allow attendees to share knowledge, build connections, and expand on important topics amongst professionals in the philanthropic community.

2025 Peer Events: [Communication Briefings](#) | [Corporate Social Impact Staff Network](#) | [Executive Network for Mid-Size Foundations](#) | [HR Philanthropy Collaborative](#) | [Member Policy Briefings](#) | [National Standards Meet-Up](#) | [Plus Member Peer Connections](#) | [Public Policy Action Network](#) | [Scholarships Exchange](#)



2025 Peer Discussion Leads and Speakers



Monika Collins

Vice President for Advancement and Philanthropic Services, The Foundation for Delaware County



Jeffrey Sypeck

Director, Human Resources, The Dayton Foundation



Melissa Rhodes Carter

Senior Manager, Community, Walmart.org



Tatiana Hernandez

CEO, Community Foundation Boulder County



Dave Tanner

Senior Program Officer - Scholarships, The McConnell Foundation



Paul Bachleitner

Communications Director, Northwest Area Foundation



Heidi Halvarson

Senior Philanthropy Program Manager, Medtronic Foundation



Jason Purnell

President, James S. McDonnell Foundation



Mendi Blue Paca

President & CEO, Fairfield County's Community Foundation



Chetna Tandon

Director of People and Culture, Northwest Area Foundation



Laura Speer

Director of Strategy, Annie E. Casey Foundation



Tia Hodges

President & CEO, MetLife Foundation



Haley Clark

Departmental Director, Human Resources, Inclusion & People, Humboldt Area Foundation

This section showcases our outstanding peer discussion leads and speakers. Please note that this inspiring lineup is not exhaustive.



What Our Members Say



"The Council shares an incredible amount of relevant content in a highly digestible way, keeping me informed so I can excel in my work, engaging with donors, representing my organization, and ultimately serving my community through philanthropy. Attending the Council's topical Peer Learning Circle conversations provides me with **access to a supportive national network** of donor relations professionals for both real-time problem solving and longer-term strategic thinking, while its conferences share highly **relevant resources and experiences** that ultimately help improve how my team and I do our work."

JASON WEINER

Philanthropic Advisor
The Cleveland Foundation



Philanthropy Exchange

By the Numbers

The Philanthropy Exchange is the Council's online community platform, which facilitates peer-to-peer connections. These spaces support timely conversations and peer collaboration.

Philanthropy Exchange Users

16,000

total users

12,639

distinct active users

1,056

first time users

Discussion Threads

1,730

total posts and replies

28,264

interactions and activities

Most Trending Discussion and
Downloaded Library Resource

**Individual and/or
Specific Impact
Reports**

470+

total downloads



Bridging Differences Leadership Cohort 2025

Building constructive dialogue and understanding across differences

Hosted in partnership with the Greater Good Science Center at UC Berkeley (GGSC), this eight-month virtual learning experience offers science-backed skills and research-based strategies for bridging differences with colleagues, peers, and grantees.

Career Pathways 2025

A philanthropy leadership development program

A 10-month leadership development program that cultivates bold, representative, and diverse decision-makers to lead the philanthropic sector. The experience is rigorous, highly personal, and built for mid- to senior-level philanthropic professionals looking to advance their careers and contribute to a more equitable society.

Educational Programs

Deep dives on foundation skills and practices

CFE Fundamentals

Designed to help staff and volunteers quickly comprehend organizational essentials, this course is for community foundation staff in the early stages of their careers, as well as more experienced staff seeking a review.

Essentials of Policy Advocacy

Achieving any major philanthropic goal, on almost any topic, requires public sector involvement. This training helps foundation staff learn how to use their resources effectively and follow the law to advance policies essential to their mission.

Building a Culture of Dialogue Across Differences

Introduces participants to Resetting the Tables's approach to developing tools to build a culture of productive dialogue on charged issues.

Global Grantmaking Essentials Training

Provide attendees with a thorough understanding of the regulatory frameworks governing global grantmaking, offer tools and resources to help navigate these complex systems, and suggest better ways of operating internationally based on trends, data, and research.

Legal Matters Workshops

These workshops are flexibly organized to ensure that your broad legal questions for administering funds, grants, and activities are addressed for community foundations and corporate foundations and giving programs.

Better Stories, Better Language

These three workshops offers you the skills and tools to tell more complex, robust stories about the charitable sector and your work. You'll learn how to create a more accurate narrative and build trust through transparent storytelling and intentional language.

18
educational
programs

18
webinars

91%
registrants attended
programming

700
total registrants



Leading Locally 2025

June 10-12 | Minneapolis-St. Paul

At the [Leading Locally 2025](#) conference in Minneapolis–St. Paul, philanthropic leaders came together with a **shared purpose**: to strengthen communities through **place-based giving**. It was a powerful reminder that when we share knowledge, resources, and vision, we can build inclusive, vibrant communities that truly thrive.



Leading Locally 2025

Recapturing the Moment

971

total participants

34%

community foundation attendees

28%

private foundation attendees

233

CEOs/Exec. Directors

179

Directors

"So many of the sessions about narrative and storytelling were excellent. It was great to have so many relevant session options."

Director, Private Foundation

"Met a lot of people and learned so much that I can bring home to my work!"

Director, Private Foundation



Attendees valued:

Opportunities to **connect**. **Content**. **Execution** of the event. Focus on **rural issues and stories**.





Research and Publications

Best Practices for Your Work

Get practical insights and guidance to help your foundation throughout the year. As a Council member, you can access all these resources at no cost.



Most Popular Research and Publications From 2025



[Coming Together, Not Apart Series](#)

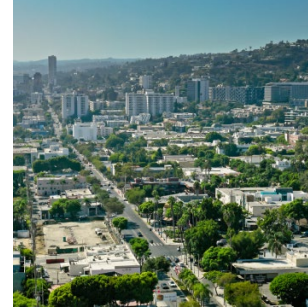
Coming Together, Not Apart, is a three-part publication series exploring philanthropy's involvement in developing the heartset, mindset, and skillset to lead collaboratively across differences.



[2025 Grantmaker Salary and Benefits Report](#)

The philanthropic sector's leading source of **comprehensive data on U.S. foundation staff**, helping organizations of all sizes craft budgets, recruit and retain talent, and set personnel policies. This report features data for:

11,366 full-time staff
across **985** grantmaking
organizations



[Navigating Disasters and Crises](#)

This publication guides corporate leaders through navigating disasters and crises at a time when disaster response has grown more comprehensive and complex. It provides a **new framework** for approaching disaster and crisis responses.



[FY 2024 Council on Foundations - Commonfund CCSF Study](#)

The field's most comprehensive and authoritative study on **investment and governance policies and practices**. For the full 2024 fiscal year, the newest CCSF studies:

255 private and community
foundations representing
\$104.9 billion in
assets

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.

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 our values.

With gratitude,

The Council on Foundations Team



About the Council on Foundations

The Council on Foundations is a nonprofit membership association that serves as a guide for philanthropies as they advance the greater good. Building on our over 75-year history, the Council supports over 1,000 member organizations in the United States and around the world to build trust in philanthropy, expand pathways to giving, engage broader perspectives, and co-create solutions that will lead to a better future for all. To learn more, visit cof.org.

Stay Connected

Call us at 202-991-2225 or email us at info@cof.org.

Membership

For more information about membership, email us at membership@cof.org.