

GIVING IN MINNESOTA

2025



MINNESOTA COUNCIL
ON FOUNDATIONS

A COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT
GRANTMAKING IN MINNESOTA

Minnesota foundations are stepping up and doing more in turbulent times.



This year's Giving in Minnesota data backs up a theme that we've consistently seen in MCF's surveys of members in recent years: Minnesota foundations are stepping up and doing more in turbulent times.

Our survey of member grantmaking in 2020 said that almost two-thirds of members were giving more than they originally planned, with follow-up surveys in later years showing that 86% of those who gave more were retaining those giving levels into the future instead of pulling back. And now that we have full data available for 2023, we've seen that it was a second consecutive year of 10%+ growth in total Minnesota grantmaking compared to the prior year.

Similarly, our special report on grantmakers' responses to federal changes in 2025 showed that most members are again stepping up this year, with 33% increasing their grantmaking levels as part of their response to these changes, including almost half of private foundations.

Notable in this year's data set is the WEM Foundation spending down its assets, with \$342 million in grants that show up in many of our lists of top givers to various causes. The rest of Minnesota giving was relatively stable, with small overall increases in grantmaking.

The second half of this year's report examines Minnesota foundations' grantmaking practices, with new questions on members' approaches to reporting from their grantees and on measuring the impact of their grants. We've also started the process of long-term tracking of subjects like multi-year grantmaking and unrestricted grants for general operations, with data available over the course of several years now.

Chris Oien

MCF Research & Resource Manager

TABLE OF CONTENTS

04	2023 Minnesota Giving Overview
05	Grantee Locations of Minnesota-Based Foundations
06	2023 Community and Public Foundation Giving
07	2023 Private Foundation Giving
08	2023 Corporate Foundations and Corporate Giving Programs
09	2023 Giving by Subject Area
	<i>Arts & Culture</i>
	<i>Community & Economic Development</i>
	<i>Education</i>
	<i>Environment & Animals</i>
	<i>Health</i>
	<i>Human Services</i>
	<i>Religion</i>
	<i>Public Affairs / Philanthropy</i>
13	Subject Area Change From 2022 to 2023
14	Top Out-of-State Givers Into Minnesota
15	2025 Grantmaking Practices Survey of Minnesota Foundations

Contributors

Michelle Maryns

President

Paul Masiarchin

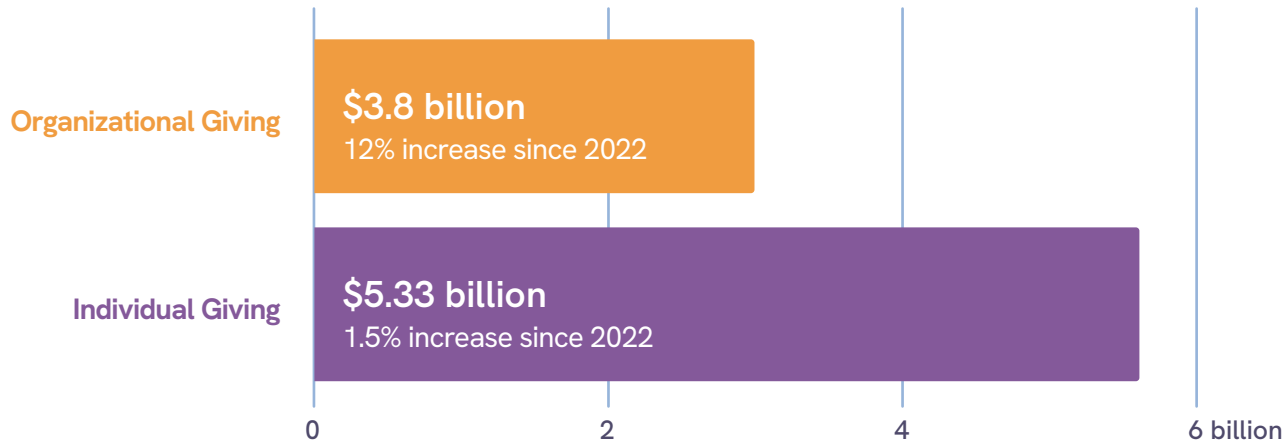
Vice President, Member Services

Chris Oien

Research and Resource Manager

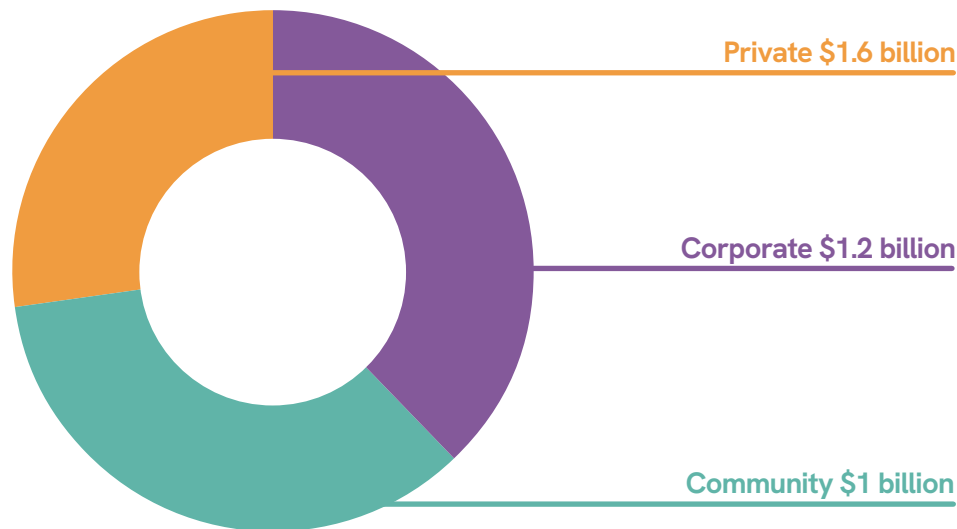
Designed by Blackbird Revolt

2023 Minnesota Giving Overview



GIVING BY ORGANIZATION TYPE

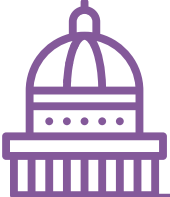

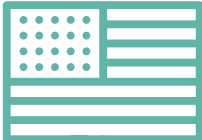
1,854 Minnesota-based funders reporting



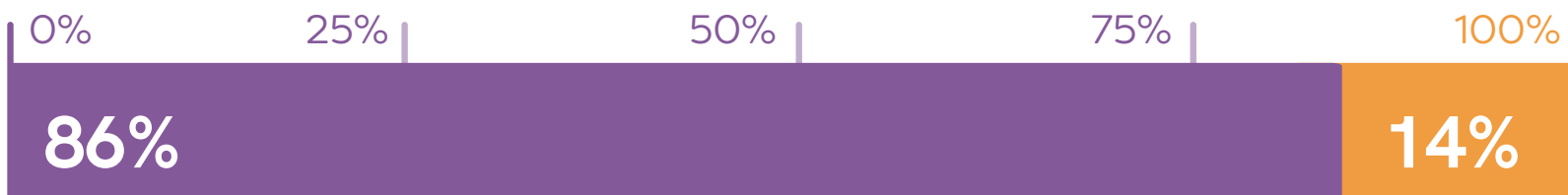
TOP 5 LARGEST GIVERS IN MINNESOTA

- 1 WEM Foundation
\$341.7 million
- 2 Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies
\$328 million
- 3 Wells Fargo and Wells Fargo Foundation
\$300 million
- 4 Cargill Foundation and Cargill, Inc.
\$107.7 million
- 5 Otto Bremer Trust
\$105.1 million

Grantee Locations of Minnesota-Based Foundations

	OVERALL	COMMUNITY/PUBLIC FOUNDATIONS	PRIVATE AND CORPORATE GIVERS
 TWIN CITIES METRO	41.4%	60.2%	40.7%
 GREATER MINNESOTA	6.8%	25.8%	6.2%
 OUTSIDE OF MINNESOTA	51.8%	14%	53.1%

WITHIN MINNESOTA



of funds to
Twin Cities Metro

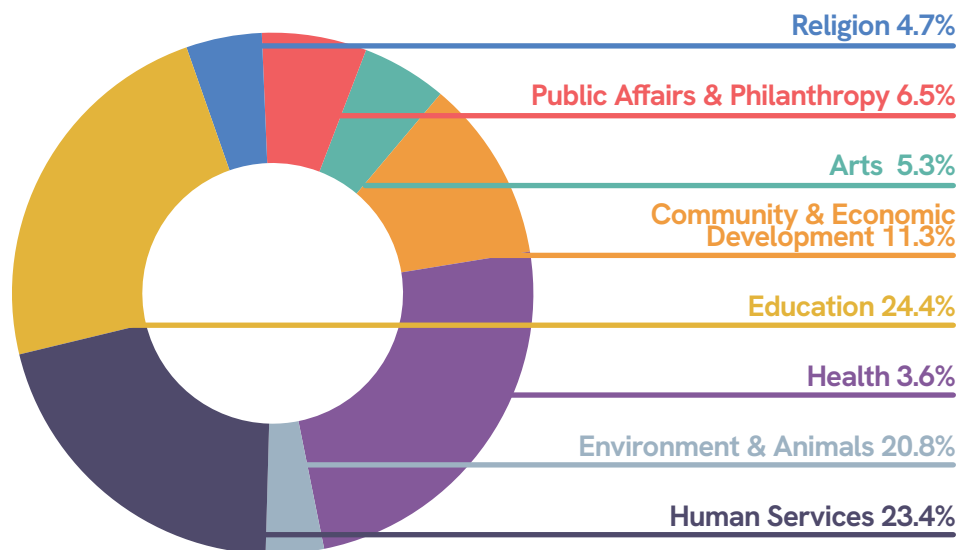
of funds to
Greater Minnesota

2023 Community and Public Foundation Giving

Community and public foundations are publicly supported organizations operated by and for the benefit of a specific community or population, area of interest, or geographic area.

TOTAL GIVING
\$1 Billion

GIVING BY SUBJECT AREA



TOP 5 LARGEST GIVERS

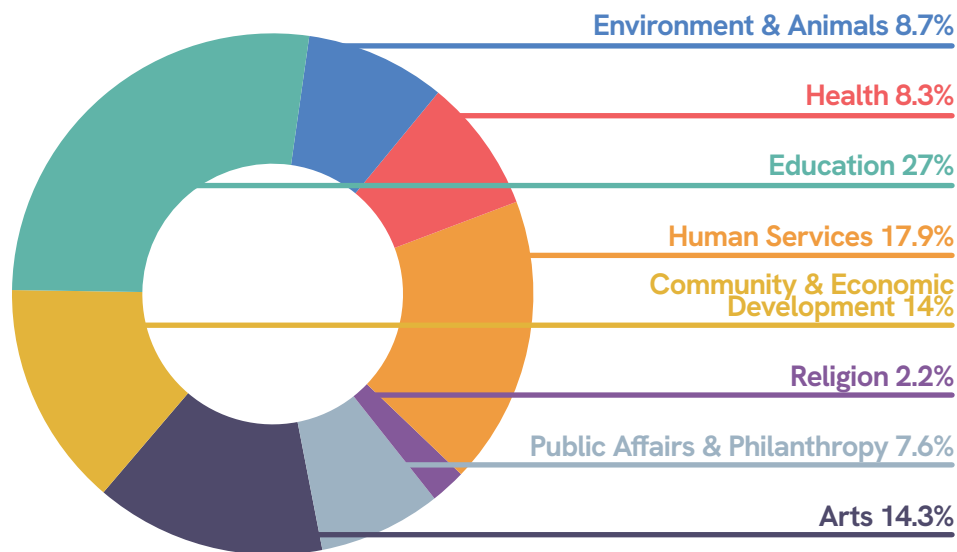
- 1 Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation
\$103.6 million
- 2 The Minneapolis Foundation
\$98 million
- 3 ServeMinnesota
\$50.8 million
- 4 Borealis Philanthropy
\$29.4 million
- 5 The Hormel Foundation
\$25.6 million

2023 Private Foundation Giving

Generally founded by an individual, a group of individuals, or a family, private foundations can be categorized as family or independent.

TOTAL GIVING
\$1.6 Billion

GIVING BY SUBJECT AREA



TOP 5 LARGEST GIVERS

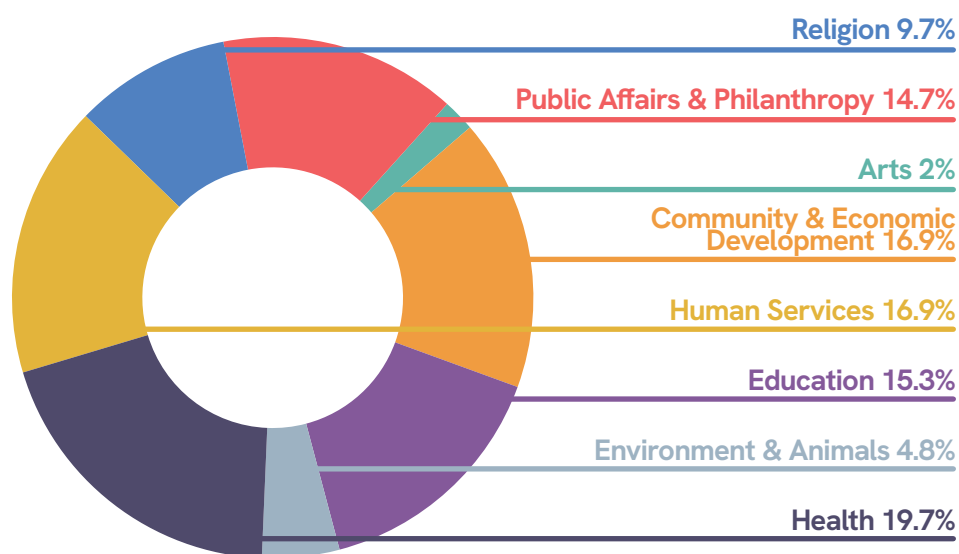
- 1** WEM Foundation
\$341.7 million
- 2** Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies
\$328 million
- 3** Otto Bremer Trust
\$105.1 million
- 4** McKnight Foundation
\$98 million
- 5** Bush Foundation
\$90.4 million

2023 Corporate Foundations & Corporate Giving Programs

Some corporations establish endowed foundations while others contribute through an annual giving program, while some operate both a foundation and a corporate giving program.

TOTAL GIVING
\$1.2 Billion

GIVING BY SUBJECT AREA



TOP 5 LARGEST GIVERS

- 1 Wells Fargo and Wells Fargo Foundation
\$300 million
- 2 Cargill Foundation and Cargill, Inc.
\$107.7 million
- 3 UnitedHealth Group & United Health Foundation
\$95.8 million
- 4 Target and Target Foundation
\$85.3 million
- 5 Thrivent & Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing
\$62.3 million

2023 Giving by Subject Area

Arts & Culture



TOP 5 LARGEST ARTS & CULTURE GIVERS

- 1** WEM Foundation
\$149.4 million
- 2** Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies
\$39.8 million
- 3** McKnight Foundation
\$16.3 million
- 4** Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation
\$11.5 million
- 5** Wurtele Foundation
\$7.8 million

Community & Economic Development



TOP 5 LARGEST COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GIVERS

- 1** Bush Foundation
\$72.7 million
- 2** McKnight Foundation
\$38.2 million
- 3** Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies
\$20.9 million
- 4** WEM Foundation
\$20.4 million
- 5** Target & Target Foundation
\$16.3 million

2023 Giving by Subject Area Continued...

Education



TOP 5 LARGEST EDUCATION GIVERS

- 1 WEM Foundation
\$117.1 million
- 2 ECMC Foundation
\$65 million
- 3 ServeMinnesota
\$47.6 million
- 4 Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies
\$34.8 million
- 5 The Minneapolis Foundation
\$19.8 million

Environment & Animals



TOP 5 LARGEST ENVIRONMENT & ANIMALS GIVERS

- 1 Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies
\$89.4 million
- 2 McKnight Foundation
\$19.5 million
- 3 Cargill Foundation and Cargill, Inc.
\$18.9 million
- 4 WEM Foundation
\$15.4 million
- 5 The Minneapolis Foundation
\$9.5 million

2023 Giving by Subject Area Continued...

Health



TOP 5 LARGEST HEALTH GIVERS

- 1** UnitedHealth Group & United Health Foundation
\$51.4 million
- 2** Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies
\$30.5 million
- 3** WEM Foundation
\$21.9 million
- 4** Fred C. & Katherine B. Andersen Foundation
\$19.7 million
- 5** Otto Bremer Trust
\$19.5 million

Human Services



TOP 5 LARGEST HUMAN SERVICES GIVERS

- 1** Otto Bremer Trust
\$65.5 million
- 2** Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies
\$59.7 million
- 3** WEM Foundation
\$48.6 million
- 4** Target and Target Foundation
\$47.1 million
- 5** The Minneapolis Foundation
\$22.2 million

2023 Giving by Subject Area Continued...

Religion



TOP 5 LARGEST RELIGION GIVERS

- 1** Thrivent & Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing
\$47 million
- 2** Mount Saint Benedict Foundation
\$10.5 million
- 3** WEM Foundation
\$8.4 million
- 4** Catholic Community Foundation of Minnesota
\$8 million
- 5** GHR Foundation
\$6.4 million

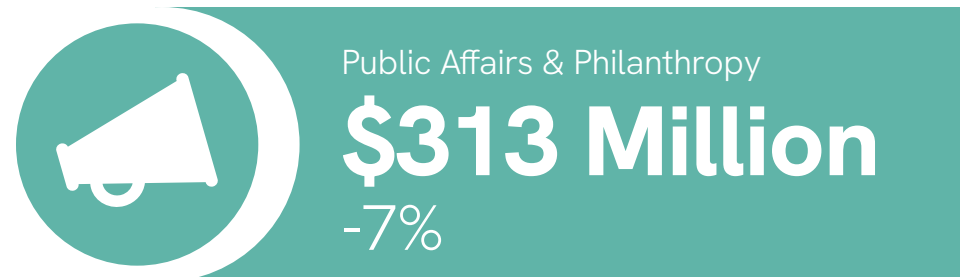
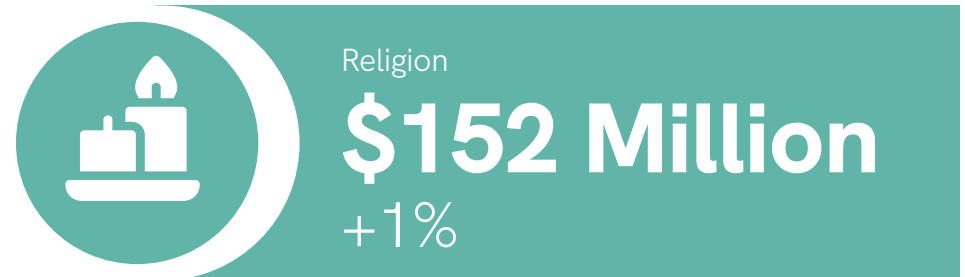
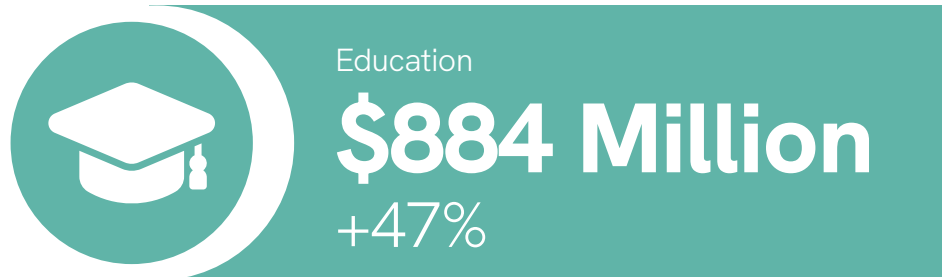
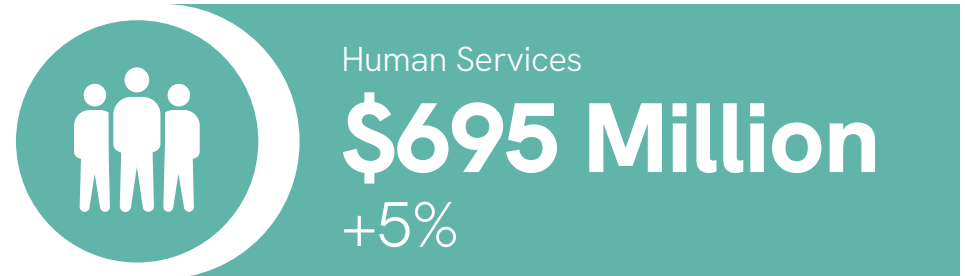
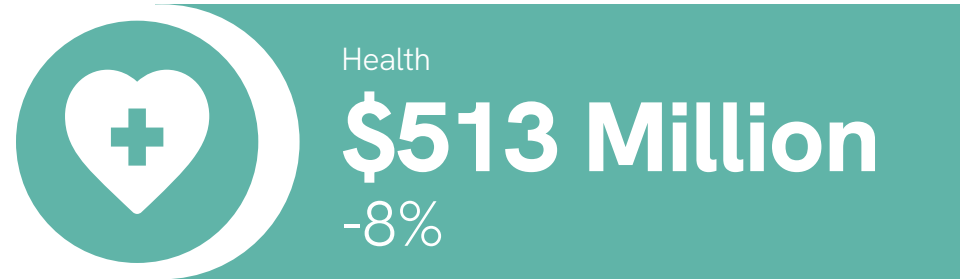
Public Affairs/ Philanthropy



TOP 5 LARGEST PUBLIC AFFAIRS / PHILANTHROPY GIVERS

- 1** Yontz Valor Foundation
\$26.1 million
- 2** Otto Bremer Trust
\$20.1 million
- 3** Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies
\$18 million
- 4** Manitou Fund
\$16.3 million
- 5** McKnight Foundation
\$13.7 million

Subject Area Change From 2022 to 2023



Top Out-of-State Givers Into Minnesota

TOP 20 OUT-OF-STATE PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS GIVING INTO MINNESOTA

Organization Name	State	Amount Given
Lilly Endowment Inc	IN	\$11 million
The Ford Foundation	NY	\$9.3 million
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	WA	\$8.6 million
Offutt Family Foundation	ND	\$7.7 million
Foundation to Promote Open Society	NY	\$6.7 million
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	NJ	\$6.6 million
Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund	DE	\$4.5 million
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund	NY	\$4.4 million
John Templeton Foundation	PA	\$4.3 million
Alliss Educational Foundation-Equity	WI	\$4.2 million
The Schmidt Family Foundation	CA	\$4 million
Arie and Ida Crown Memorial	IL	\$4 million
JP Morgan Chase Foundation	NY	\$3.9 million
Paula and Rodger Riney Foundation	MO	\$3.4 million
Robert and Ardis James Foundation	DE	\$3.3 million
James M. Schoonmaker II Foundation	IL	\$3.3 million
The Kresge Foundation	MI	\$3.2 million
Pine Rock Foundation	SD	\$3.1 million
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation	NY	\$3.1 million
The Joyce Foundation	IL	\$3.1 million

TOP 10 OUT-OF-STATE CHARITABLE GIVING PLATFORMS GIVING INTO MINNESOTA

Organization Name	State	Amount Given
DAFgiving360 (formerly Schwab Charitable)	CO	\$104.2 million
National Christian Charitable Foundation	GA	\$34.5 million
Chicago Community Trust	IL	\$31 million
Goldman Sachs Donor Advised Philanthropy Fund	NY	\$22.5 million
National Philanthropic Trust	PA	\$20.6 million
Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program	PA	\$16.8 million
Mightycause Charitable Foundation	FL	\$16.4 million
The Blackbaud Giving Fund	SC	\$16.2 million
American Endowment Foundation	OH	\$12.3 million
Silicon Valley Community Foundation	CA	\$9.7 million

Donor Advised Funds Increase in Significance:

For the first time, MCF is tracking charitable giving programs that are making contributions into Minnesota. The platforms listed above, in general, provide opportunities for individual donor advised funds to contribute in the state.

2025 Grantmaking Practices Survey of Minnesota Foundations

82 Participating Organizations

Community foundations: 27%

Private family foundations: 23%

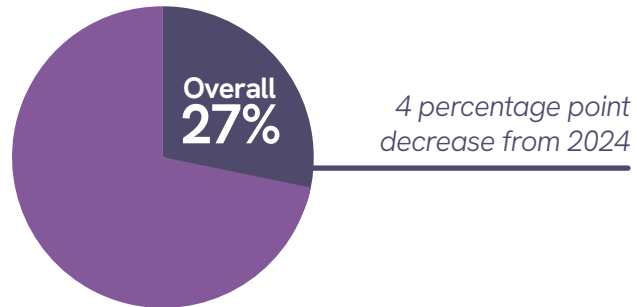
Independent foundations: 18%

Corporate foundations and giving programs: 22%

Other: 10%

Question 1: 2025 Grantmaking Practices Survey

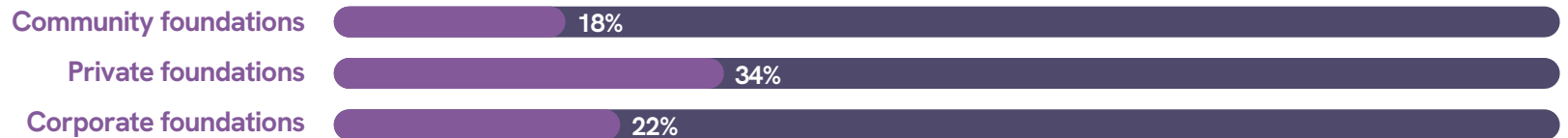
Approximately what percent of your grants are multi-year?



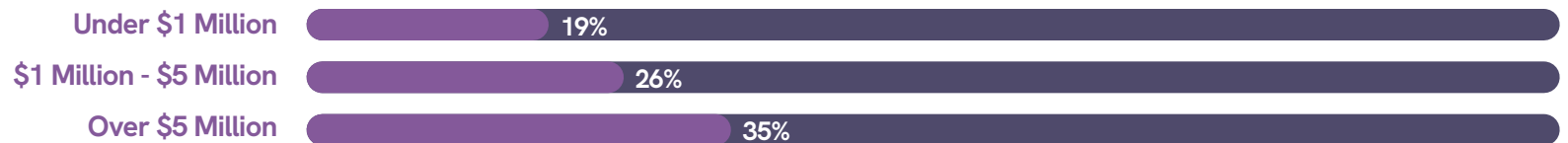
"The Carlson Family Foundation is dedicated to building intentional and trusting relationships with our grantee partners. One way we achieve this is through providing multi-year grants. These grants offer stability for our partners, allowing them to concentrate on their core mission and programs instead of having to submit one more yearly grant application." **Aretha Green-Rupert, Carlson Family Foundation**

"The Medica Foundation has been on a journey to implement Trust-Based Philanthropy. A big part of our journey was shifting from single year to multi-year grants in 2024. We continue assessing and making changes to our processes in ways that empower our nonprofit partners to do their work and reduce the burdens philanthropy places on them." **JoAnn Birkholz, Medica Foundation**

Results by foundation type



Results by level of grants paid in 2024

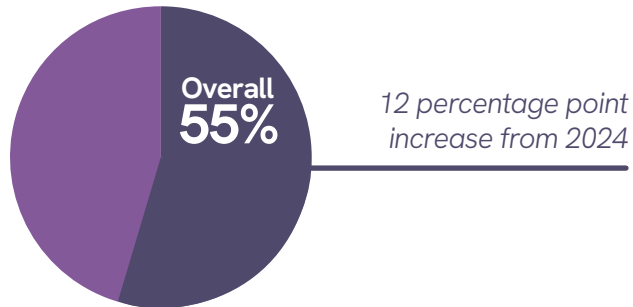


Results by geography



Question 2: 2025 Grantmaking Practices Survey

Approximately what percent of your grants go to general operating funds?



“SVP provides general operating grants to align with our philosophy of trust-based philanthropy. We want to strengthen our relationships between us and the nonprofits we support by centering equity, transparency, and mutual respect. We know that nonprofit leaders are closest to their communities and best equipped to decide how to use resources effectively. Our SVP partners believe it is most beneficial to give organizations the flexibility and stability they need to grow their impact.” **Ellen Walthour, Social Venture Partners Minnesota**

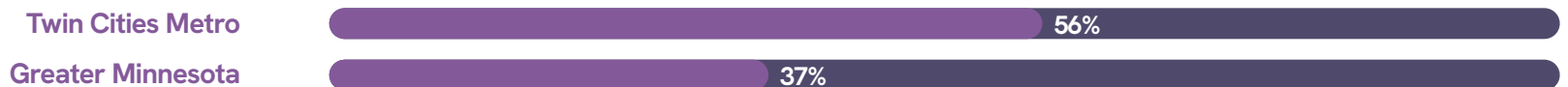
Results by foundation type



Results by level of grants paid in 2024



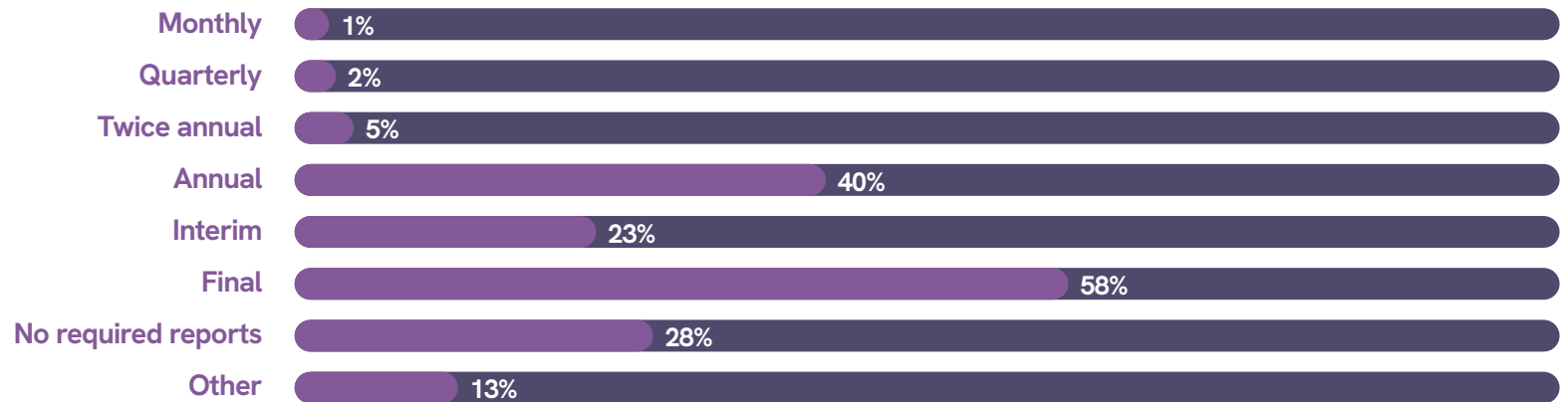
Results by geography



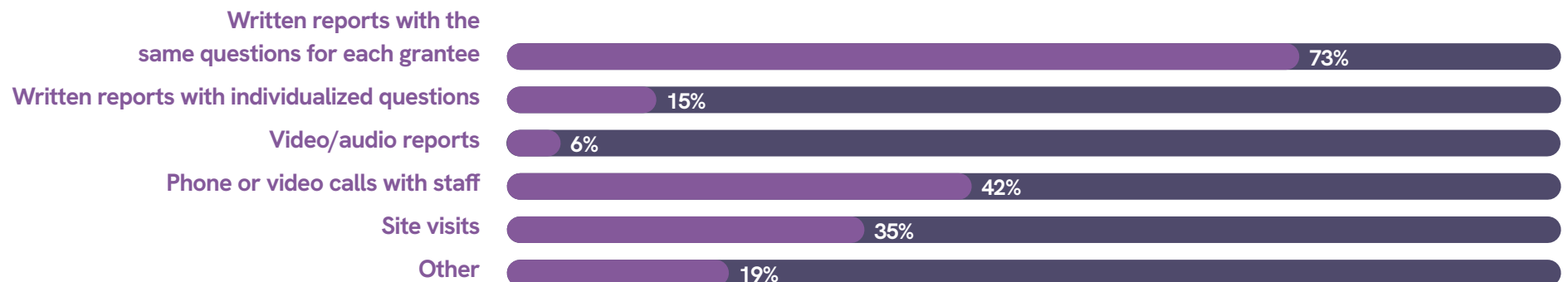
Question 3 and 4: 2025 Grantmaking Practices Survey

“To simplify and streamline paperwork for grantee-partners, we are replacing multiple surveys in each program with one grant reporting survey. We are creating a feedback loop: we sought partner feedback to develop the form, and as we invite grantee-partners to define their own successes, we continue to seek their input about how we’re doing.” **Erika Idrovo-Cuesta, Women’s Foundation of Minnesota**

Which of the following types of grantee reports do you utilize?



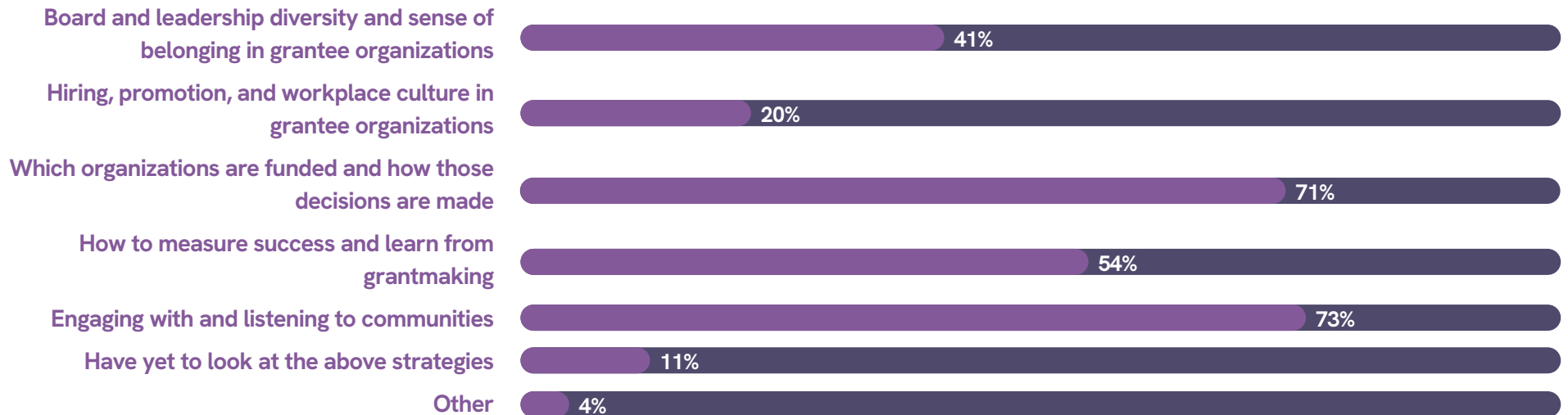
What forms do your grantee reports take?



Question 5: 2025 Grantmaking Practices Survey

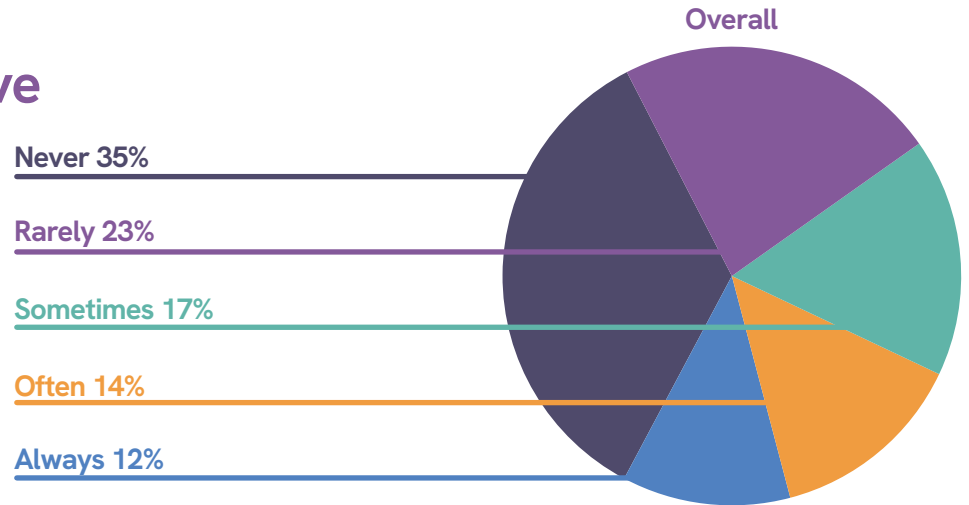
“We practice intentional tracking of who we fund, to clearly know and communicate who we are funding. We include grantees in decision-making around grantmaking and design of programs. These are part of our relational and equitable approaches to grantmaking.” **Eleanor Savage, Jerome Foundation**

Which of the following areas do you focus on to strengthen your equity, belonging, diversity, and inclusion efforts related to grantmaking?

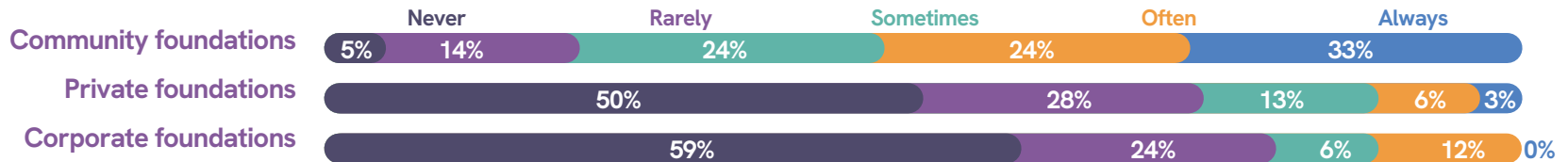


Question 6: 2025 Grantmaking Practices Survey

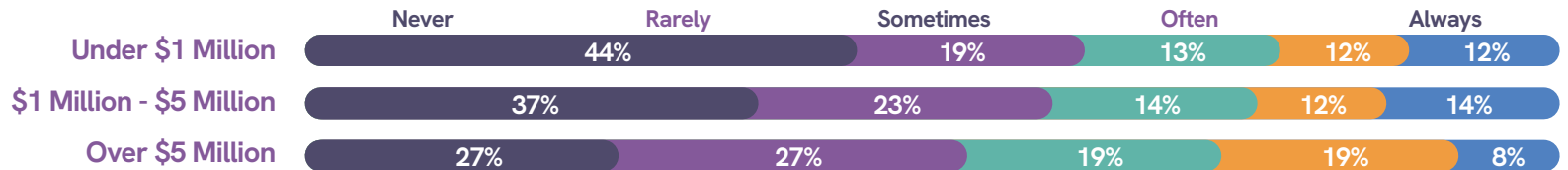
How often are the communities you serve involved in selecting grantees?



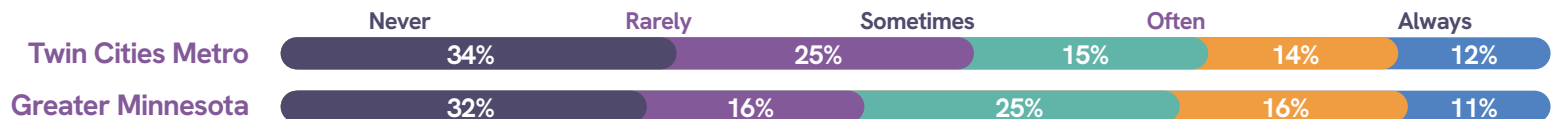
Results by foundation type



Results by level of grants paid in 2024

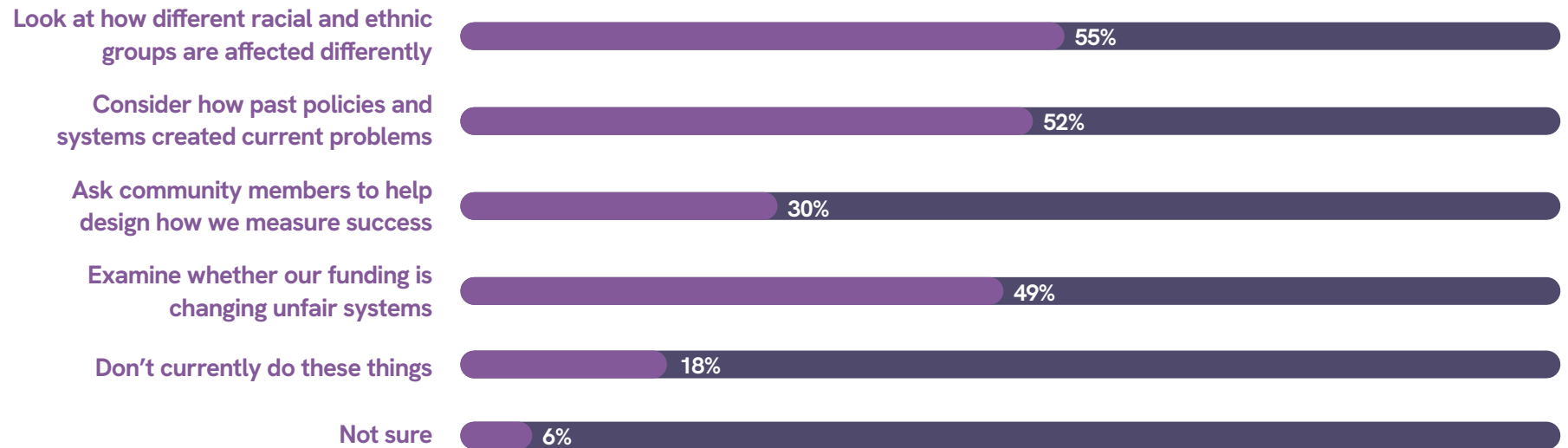


Results by geography



Question 7: 2025 Grantmaking Practices Survey

Which of the following does your organization currently do when measuring the impact of your grants?



The Minnesota Council on Foundations (MCF) is an association of grantmakers working to advance prosperity and equity through connecting, strengthening, and mobilizing the field of philanthropy in Minnesota.

The organization's 170 members represent grantmaking throughout the state, providing millions of dollars and other resources to nonprofits annually. Members include family and independent private foundations, community foundations, public grantmaking charities, and corporate foundations and giving programs.



MINNESOTA COUNCIL ON FOUNDATIONS

Connect With Us

Minnesota Council on Foundations
2550 University Ave. W., Suite 200N
St. Paul, MN 55114

Phone: 612.338.1989
Email: info@mcf.org