

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CALENDAR YEAR

'08

In 2008, U.S. foundations awarded \$107.2 million to organizations explicitly serving lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) communities—a significant increase from the \$77.2 million awarded in 2007. As *LGBTQ Grantmaking by U.S. Foundations (2008)* reveals, the majority of these dollars came from independent foundations and nearly half of these dollars originated in only 10 foundations. As with previous years, program support generated more funding than general operating support, and groups working at the national level received more funding than those working at the state, local or international level. Finally, the LGBTQ sub-population, strategy and issue that received the most philanthropic support in 2008 were children and youth, advocacy and civil/human rights, respectively. Yet despite this surge in foundation dollars to LGBTQ communities, LGBTQ grantmaking by U.S. foundations continues to represent a mere fraction (0.2 percent) of all dollars awarded by American philanthropy. The need to expand the total funding and total number of funders that support our diverse LGBTQ communities remains of paramount significance.

1 In 2008, **343 U.S.-BASED GRANTMAKERS AWARDED 3,591 GRANTS** supporting LGBTQ organizations and projects totaling \$107.2 million dollars—**A 39 PERCENT INCREASE IN DOLLARS FROM 2007**. For the first time in our research, LGBTQ grantmaking represented more than 0.2 percent of all U.S. foundation dollars awarded in a single year.¹ (Historically, LGBTQ giving has represented 0.1 percent of total giving by U.S. foundations.)

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 47 PERCENT OF TOTAL LGBTQ DOLLARS IN 2008**—the same percentage as in 2007. **THE TOP 10 LGBTQ GRANTMAKERS, BY TOTAL GRANTS, ACCOUNTED FOR 41 PERCENT OF ALL LGBTQ GRANTS**.

¹ “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 regrantmaking 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 LGBTQ grantmakers in 2008.

TOP 10 LGBTQ GRANTMAKERS, BY TOTAL DOLLARS, 2008

	CITY, STATE	TOTAL DOLLARS
Arcus Foundation	New York, NY	\$10,117,971
Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund	San Francisco, CA	7,694,136
Ford Foundation	New York, NY	6,540,143
Pride Foundation	Seattle, WA	6,318,980
Gill Foundation	Denver, CO	5,413,086
Tides Foundation	San Francisco, CA	4,474,161
Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice	New York, NY	2,591,906
H. van Ameringen Foundation	New York, NY	2,357,000
David Bohnett Foundation	Los Angeles, CA	2,294,901
Proteus Fund	Amherst, MA	2,268,500

TOP 10 LGBTQ GRANTMAKERS, BY TOTAL GRANTS, 2008

	CITY, STATE	TOTAL GRANTS
Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice	New York, NY	330
Horizons Foundation	San Francisco, CA	205
Tides Foundation	San Francisco, CA	146
Pride Foundation	Seattle, WA	140
Wells Fargo Foundation	San Francisco, CA	135
Equity Foundation	Portland, OR	129
David Bohnett Foundation	Los Angeles, CA	96
Stonewall Community Foundation	New York, NY	95
Gill Foundation	Denver, CO	95
Arcus Foundation	New York, NY	84

4 ELEVEN PERCENT OF LGBTQ GRANTS IN 2008 CAME FROM 23 OF THE TOP 50 U.S. FOUNDATIONS, BY ASSET SIZE.

5 TEN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVED NEARLY ONE-THIRD OF ALL LGBTQ DOLLARS GRANTED IN 2008.

6 As with previous years, in 2008 NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVED THE MAJORITY OF LGBTQ DOLLARS WHILE LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVED THE MAJORITY OF LGBTQ GRANTS.

7 PROGRAM SUPPORT RECEIVED THE MOST LGBTQ DOLLARS (62 percent) **AND GRANTS** (51 percent) in 2008—more than general operating support and other forms of support.

8 ORGANIZATIONS THAT EXPLICITLY SERVE CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGAIN RECEIVED THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF SUPPORT from grantmakers in 2008 (among the various LGBTQ sub-groups addressed by nonprofits). Further, **TOTAL GIVING TO ORGANIZATIONS THAT ADDRESS LGBTQ COMMUNITIES OF COLOR NEARLY DOUBLED** from \$7.8 million in 2007 to \$12.6 million in 2008.

9 Among the various strategies utilized by LGBTQ organizations and projects, **ADVOCACY RECEIVED THE MOST SUPPORT FROM GRANTMAKERS IN 2008.**

10 GRANTMAKING SUPPORT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS/HUMAN RIGHTS EFFORTS FAR SURPASSED PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT for the other issues being addressed by LGBTQ organizations and projects.

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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