

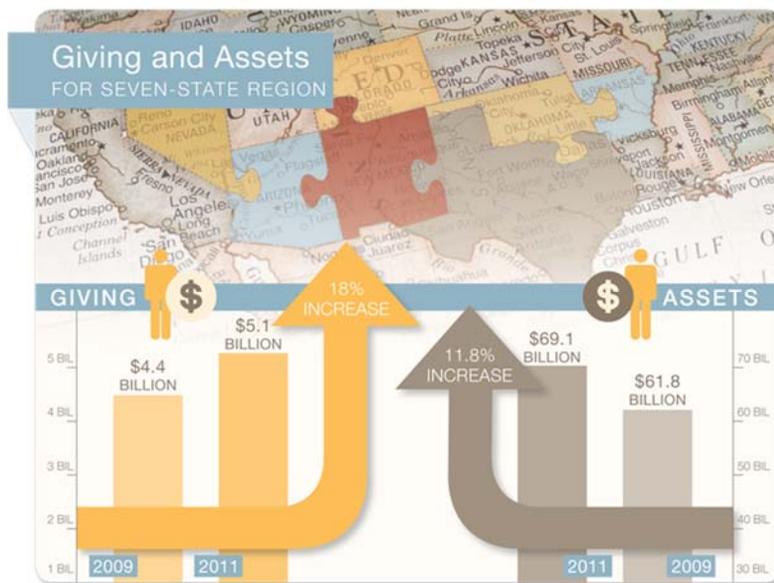


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 15, 2014

Contact: Dawn Townsend
dawn@philanthropysouthwest.org; 214-740-1790

NEW STUDY SHOWS FOUNDATIONS, CHARITABLE GIVING STRONG IN SOUTHWESTERN U.S.

Dallas, TX – A new study released today by Philanthropy Southwest shows a healthy philanthropic sector in the southwestern U.S., with both giving and assets increasing significantly. The *2014 Giving Study: An Overview of Grantmaking by Private and Community Foundations in the Southwest* shows that foundations in the region contributed over \$5 billion to charitable causes, representing an 18% increase from the last study in 2012, while their assets totaled over \$69 billion, an increase of nearly 12%.



The seven states included in the study are Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. These states comprise the membership region for [Philanthropy Southwest](http://www.philanthropysouthwest.org), the

oldest membership association for grantmakers in the U.S.

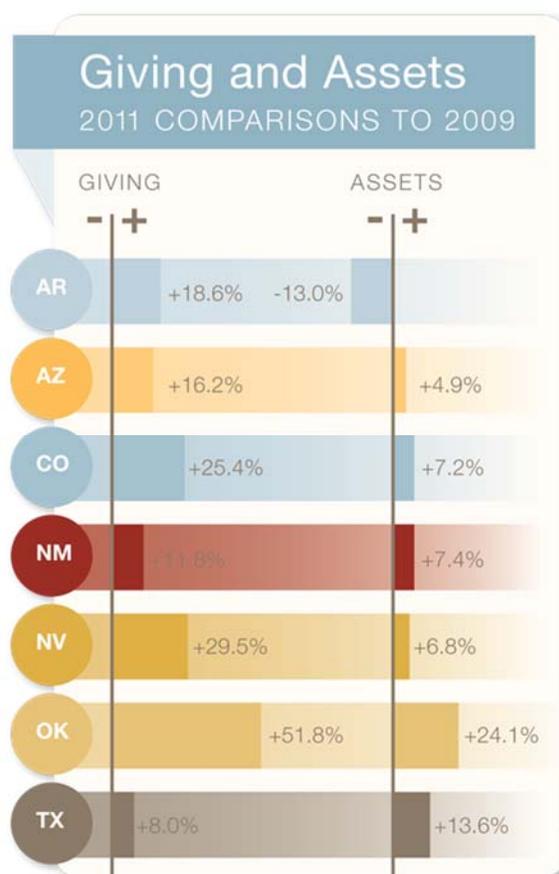
“This study provides everyone in the field – from charitable organizations to funders and donors, and state and national leaders – with a comprehensive and detailed look at foundations and giving in the region. It offers important insights on where contributions are being made, the organizations supported, and key interest areas in the southwest,” said Lucille DiDomenico, Philanthropy Southwest Executive Director. “Not only does this study capture information and trends about past efforts, it informs and strengthens our ability to plan wisely and maximize effectiveness in the future.”

The study was conducted for Philanthropy Southwest by Jankowski Associates, a Maryland-based philanthropy research firm that provides custom research on foundations. Researchers utilized the most current data available (2011 foundation tax returns, supplemented by city and state data),

identifying more than 95% of total giving in the geographic location. The findings in the 2014 study are compared to those from the last study, conducted in 2012, which utilized 2009 data.

Even as 2011 was a period of continuing high needs for vulnerable populations and economic uncertainty, 81 new foundations were formed in the southwest region in 2010 and 2011, with a valuation of over \$1 billion in assets.

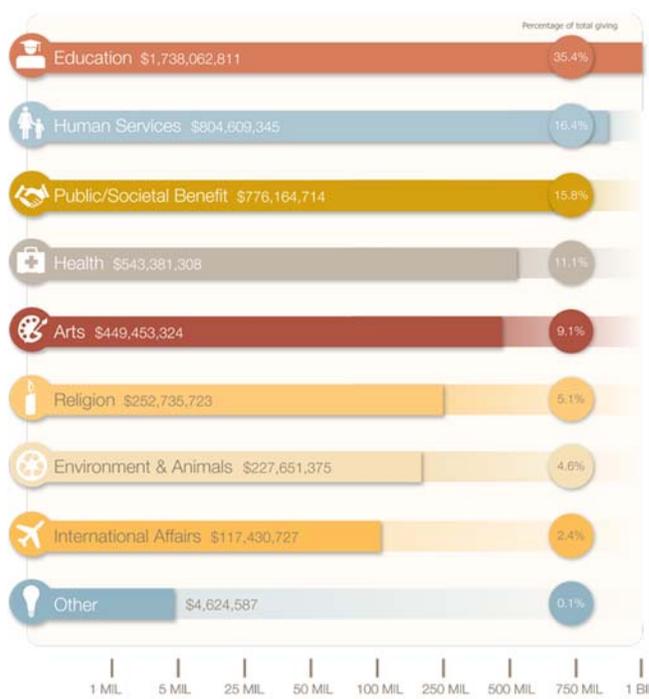
“This report tells the story of funders managing assets wisely, with many making grants from their asset base to meet increased needs post-recession,” said John Brown, Philanthropy Southwest Board President and Executive Director of Windgate Charitable Foundation. “These grants were distributed one at a time by staff and trustees who listened to compelling cases of opportunity and need and responded to visions for a better future. Their efforts resulted in children receiving an excellent education, individuals with health challenges having access to care, diverse groups finding reconciliation and understanding, and a multitude of other expectant hopes and dreams.”



In addition to new and increasing asset bases, five of the states had an increase in giving that significantly outpaced the increase in foundation assets.

- In Oklahoma, for example, giving increased by 51.8% from 2009-2011, while foundation assets increased 24.1%. This was due to a number of factors, including substantial increases in giving by several foundations, grants being made out of the asset base of some foundations, and a few foundations closing down during this time period.
- Arkansas was the only state in the region that saw increased giving over the two-year period, accompanied by a decrease in assets. While assets increased for more than half of the foundations in the state (53%), the assets of the foundations that did decrease were significant enough to sway the trend for the state as a whole.
- The study also found that assets of Texas-based foundations increased by 13.6%, greater than the 8% in giving. The analysis showed this difference to be largely attributable to timing, with substantial donations coming in to existing and newly formed Texas-based foundations in 2011 (note: foundations have three years to make grants based on new donations). Specifically, 389 foundations in the region received gifts totaling \$5 billion in 2011, with more than \$2.5 billion going to 211 foundations headquartered in Texas.

The study also reports on the societal issues being addressed through foundation grantmaking. The largest percentages of giving for the region as a whole for specific societal causes were made in the areas of Education (35.4%), Human Services (16.4%), Public/Societal Benefit (15.8%), and Health (11.1%).



By far, Arkansas had the highest percentage of gifts made in support of Education (60.6%), with the other six states ranging from nearly 17% (Nevada) to nearly 39% (Colorado).

Smaller percentages of giving for the region as a whole were made in the areas of International Affairs (2.4%), Environment and Animals (4.6%), Religion (5.1%), and the Arts (9.1%). Of the seven states, New Mexico devoted the highest percentage of giving to the Arts (24.7%), with the other six states ranging from nearly 3.75% (Arkansas) to 12.9% (Nevada).

The 2014 study was expanded to also include community foundations. Of the 5,868 foundations represented in the current study, 5,778 were private foundations and accounted for \$60.7 billion in assets and \$4.6 billion in giving, and 90 were community foundations, with \$8.33 billion in assets and giving of nearly \$549.5 million.

The 2014 study was expanded to also include community foundations. Of the 5,868 foundations represented in the

While equally-detailed national data are not available, a 2013 Foundation Centerⁱ study reported foundation assets nationally to be \$662 billion, with \$49 billion in total giving nationally. A comparison between these two reports suggests the southwest region holds about 10% of all foundation assets and is contributing about 10% of philanthropic dollars nationally.

The *2014 Giving Study: An Overview of Grantmaking by Private and Community Foundations in the Southwest*, with complete findings and data available for the region and for each state individually, is available online at www.philanthropysouthwest.org. For additional information about the study and Philanthropy Southwest, please visit our website or contact us directly at 214-740-1787.

###

Philanthropy Southwest actively promotes opportunities to exchange ideas, build relationships and advance philanthropic excellence.

ⁱ Foundation Center (2013). *Key Facts on U. S. Foundations, 2013 Edition*. Available at <http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/keyfacts2013/>.