



The **Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers** is the national network of regional associations serving and advancing philanthropy in their areas. The Forum's 32 regional association members represent more than 4,000 foundations, corporations, organizations, and individual donors. The Forum's network serves as a bridge between existing grantmakers and potential ones, region by region.

The Forum adds value to its member regional associations in their work to:

- **Enhance Philanthropy** by strengthening the effectiveness of those already engaged.
- **Expand Philanthropy** by engaging more people and organizations in giving.
- **Explain Philanthropy** by providing reliable unbiased information about regional giving.

Regional associations are nonprofit membership associations of grantmakers and related organizations that work to strengthen philanthropy in distinct geographic regions – cities, states, or multi-state areas. Their membership includes independent foundations, community foundations, corporations and corporate giving programs, family foundations, charitable grantseeking nonprofits, and other philanthropic entities.

Individual regional associations accomplish their mission by providing four primary contributions to grantmakers, individual donors, and other publics interested in philanthropy:

- **Networking** among grantmakers and with other regional leaders, to improve the quality of life in their regions.
- **Professional development and skill-building** through a wide range of programming delivered locally to help grantmakers improve their giving practices.
- **Knowledge and information** on philanthropy and related issues in that region.
- Encouraging or supporting the development of **new philanthropy**.

For people and organizations practicing responsible philanthropy, or aspiring to do so, regional associations of grantmakers are permanent support systems and focal points for collaboration, community building, and lifelong learning.

For public policymakers, members of the media, researchers and others interested in philanthropy, they are rich and unbiased sources of "on-the-ground" information about philanthropy in their regions and social issues affecting their communities.

At the **national level**, the Forum represents and aggregates this important region-by-region focus of grantmaking, making it a valuable philanthropic resource and a natural partner for national collaborations. The Forum's network offers:

- A broader reach and impact for regional associations and their grantmaking members
- An effective network to share national and regional projects and collaborations
- A valuable direct link between regional and national philanthropy to achieve efficiencies and consistency among the regional association community of practice

Several current initiatives of the Forum include:

New Ventures in Philanthropy, a special initiative to substantially increase the amount of new philanthropic assets (both financial and human) that is created and sustained for the public good.

Building Grantmaker Effectiveness and Accountability, an initiative to increase philanthropic effectiveness and fulfillment of the public trust.

Knowledge Management, an initiative to create an integrated Web-based system that encourages the generation, collection, and sharing of knowledge among philanthropic organizations.