

Who are the Grantmakers?

Governments: federal, state, county or local governments receive and disperse public funds through a variety of mechanisms such as grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts. Most funds are for specific focus areas or categorical programs, e.g., MCH, rural health.

Private Foundations: non-governmental, non-profit organizations with an endowment that is usually managed by its own trustees or directors. Money for foundation grants is donated from a single source, such as an individual, family, or corporation.

Corporate Grantmakers: company-sponsored foundations or private foundations whose assets are derived primarily from the contributions of a for-profit business. Although it may maintain close ties with its parent company, it is an independent organization with its own endowment. Corporate giving programs are grantmaking programs established and administered within a for-profit business organization. Some companies make charitable contributions through both a corporate giving program and a company-sponsored foundation.

Community Foundations: similar to private foundations but funds are derived from many donors rather than a single source. Community foundations are usually classified under the tax code as public charities 501(c)(3) and therefore are subject to different rules and regulations than those that govern private foundations.

Public Charities: public foundations that primarily operate grant programs benefiting unrelated organizations or individuals as one of its primary purposes. There is no legal or IRS definition of a public foundation, but such a designation is needed to encompass the growing number of grantmaking institutions that are “not a private foundation.”

Office of Minority Health Resource Center. *Funding Guide*. June 1998.