

horizons foundation

SEPTEMBER 2011

California-based Foundation Funding of California LGBT Nonprofits

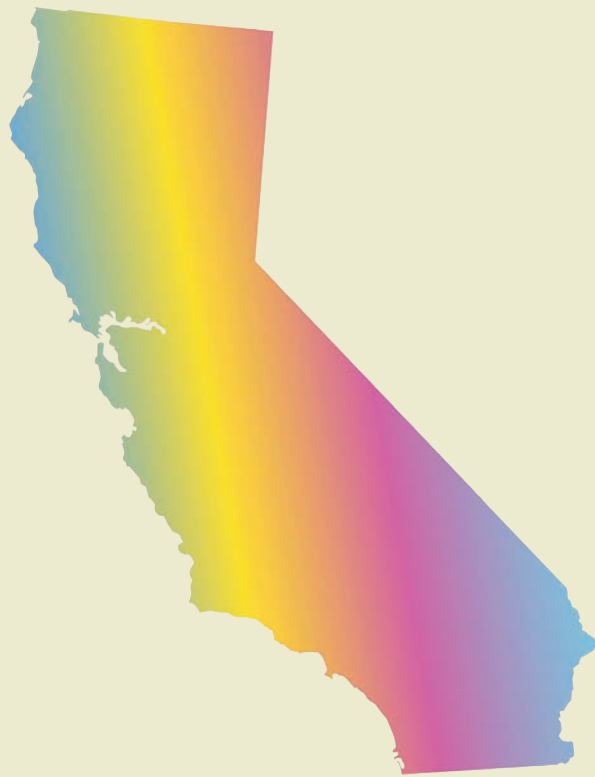


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About Horizons Foundation

Horizons Foundation, a philanthropic social justice organization, serves the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. Founded in 1980, Horizons has made grants totaling over \$22 million to hundreds of nonprofits that meet the needs, secure the rights, and celebrate the lives of LGBT people. The foundation is committed to increasing the financial resources that fuel the LGBT movement through donor education, greater giving by LGBT people, partnerships with other foundations, and advocacy within the field of philanthropy. Horizons is also home to the LGBT Community Endowment Fund, a permanent fund dedicated to ensuring the freedom and well-being of LGBT people for generations to come.

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Executive Summary

Almost all nonprofit organizations look to private, community, and public foundations to support their work, including those that advocate for and serve the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. Especially at a time when both government and individual financial support has been significantly reduced by the present severe recession, foundation grants are vital to the strength, effectiveness, and even viability of many such organizations.

Three years ago, Horizons Foundation issued a report on grantmaking by California-based foundations to LGBT causes in the state for the year 2006. That report showed the total of such funding to represent only a very small portion of foundations' overall grantmaking. Analysis of grantmaking data from 2009—the most recent data available and the focus of this report—leads to the conclusion that such foundation support actually declined further between 2006 and 2009.

Grantmaking by the Numbers

On a national basis, foundation funding for LGBT causes has risen markedly from 15 or 20 years ago, when such grants were all but unheard of. Total grants nationwide hit \$93.5 million in 2009, the latest year for which data are available. Yet that figure, sizeable as it appears, represents just 0.2% of all foundation grantmaking in the U.S.

California is home to an estimated 1.4 million LGBT people, the most residing in any of the United States. Even so, California is far from being a leader when it comes to funding of LGBT causes in the state. For example:

- Of California's 7,184 foundations, only 48 made grants to California LGBT organizations or projects in 2009.
- Between 2006 and 2009, grantmaking by California-based foundations to California-based LGBT organizations and causes dropped 3.5%. In contrast, during this same period their overall grantmaking to California-based nonprofits increased 14.7%.
- While funding for marriage equality grew significantly between 2006 and 2009, grantmaking to LGBT issues other than marriage in California dropped by 21.7%.
- Funding from non-LGBT funders to LGBT issues in California fell by 19.1% between 2006 and 2009.

Behind the Numbers

These data reveal a persistent and significant misalignment between population size and need on the one hand, and foundation funding on the other. Although some of the decrease may be laid at the door of the economic recession, the data make clear that the recession doesn't tell the whole story. It does not explain why so few foundations fund LGBT issues, nor the relatively small size of those grants that are made. It does not explain why funding for LGBT causes dipped while overall foundation funding rose. It does not explain what causes the overall level of grantmaking to LGBT issues to remain so modest, even for a group larger than the entire population of some states.

The decline in California granting results partly from changes in grantmaking strategy by two major—and highly LGBT-supportive—foundations that shifted dollars away from LGBT causes in California, especially those not specific to marriage equality. But these shifts alone also fail to answer the questions noted above. Among the probable underlying causes of this ongoing disconnect are:

- A continuing lack of familiarity within foundations about LGBT community needs, especially those beyond marriage equality and HIV
- LGBT nonprofits' failure to make compelling cases to potential funders
- A mistaken assumption that LGBT people are disproportionately wealthy and not in need of foundation support
- Discomfort with LGBT people and issues and anti-LGBT bias

A Call for Change

The data in this report tell a story about the ongoing difficulties of LGBT-focused nonprofits in securing foundation support. While some of these are not unique to LGBT nonprofits, few—if any—areas reveal a gap between population and funding that yawns so wide. Some next steps to begin addressing this disparity include:

- Greater attention by funders to the needs of LGBT people
- More education regarding the needs and challenges that face LGBT people
- Support for LGBT nonprofits to increase revenue from individual donors
- Continued collection and analysis of grantmaking data
- Further research into obstacles within the foundation field to funding LGBT causes



Understanding the Context

The success of movements for social change generally depends significantly on the strength and effectiveness of the organizations to which they give birth. The work of such nonprofit organizations has been central to the movement for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people and the creation of a community that supports, connects, and meets the needs of LGBT people. They have acted—and act—as the vehicles through which LGBT people advocate for their rights, organize to get their needs met, and advance social change.

National Context

Grantmaking by U.S. foundations to LGBT-focused nonprofits has risen considerably over the past eight years, climbing from \$30 million in 2002 to \$93 million in 2009.¹ Yet this remains a minute portion of overall foundation grants in the United States. Even this tripling in dollars represents a move from just 0.1% to 0.22% of all U.S. grantmaking.

State Context

California is home to an estimated 1.4 million LGBT people, representing fully 16% of the nation's LGBT population,² the most in any of the United States.³ However, no grantmaking data or analysis specific to California existed before Horizons Foundation released the first version of *California-based Foundation Funding of California LGBT Nonprofits* in 2008.

That study, like the present one, highlights grantmaking by foundations based in California. In addition to the fact that Horizons Foundation is itself California-based, there are several reasons for this focus. California's size alone makes it worth examining. In addition, the severity of the state's public-funding crisis at all levels of government further ratchets up the importance of foundation funding. It is also generally foundations in a given geographic

¹ Funders for LGBTQ Issues has tracked grantmaking to LGBT causes and organizations nationwide since 2002 in their annual *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Grantmaking by U.S. Foundations* reports. (See www.lgbtfunders.org for more details.) Figures here and throughout this report are rounded to the nearest thousand.

² Based on U.S. Census Bureau 2009 Population Estimates for California and Gary J. Gates, *How many people are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender?* Williams Institute (April 2011).

³ As a comparison, the LGBT population in California is larger than the total population of states like Hawaii (1.36 million), Maine (1.33 million), or New Hampshire (1.32 million). U.S. Census 2010 Resident Population Data.

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area—such as California—that are most likely to take the greatest interest in funding there. And finally, to the extent that California—in philanthropy as in many other areas—is looked to for leadership by foundations around the country, a lens on the practices of California-based foundations may have implications beyond the state's borders.

Methodology

Horizons' first study used 2006 data provided by Funders for LGBTQ Issues, which was then the most recent data available. This revised version of California-based Foundation Funding of California LGBT Nonprofits updates the findings in that earlier study with California-specific data from Funders for LGBTQ Issues' 2009 report. (2010 data will not be available until late in 2011.) The data in Funders for LGBTQ Issues report, in turn, draws from self-reporting by foundations, a review of 990s, and annual reports posted online and in the Foundation Center's online database. Where relevant, we have also noted some information about 2010 grants that foundations provided to Horizons directly.



LGBT Grants from California-based Foundations

This report looks at LGBT-focused grants from California-based foundations from numerous angles:

- Total grantmaking
- The number of California foundations making grants to LGBT issues
- Grants by LGBT and non-LGBT funders
- The size of grants
- The impact of marriage equality funding

While there are many lenses through which to view grantmaking, each of these illustrates an important aspect of grantmaking and sheds light on the level, type, and impact of grants made for LGBT causes. We've also included comparative data from 2006 throughout the report.

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Total Grantmaking

In 2009, California-based foundations granted \$8,946,000 to LGBT organizations and causes. Table 1 shows data on grants from all California-based foundations to California-based nonprofits serving the LGBT community. (This includes funding for both LGBT nonprofits and LGBT-specific projects at non-LGBT nonprofits.)

| | 2009 | 2006 |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Total CA grantmaking supporting LGBT issues | \$8,946,000 | \$9,280,000 |
| Total number of funders | 48 | 47 |
| Total number of LGBT-specific funders | 9 | 7 |
| Total number of non-LGBT funders | 39 | 40 |

TABLE 1: Grantmaking to LGBT organizations in California by California-based funders

Strikingly, the 2009 total of \$8.946 million represents a 3.6% decrease from 2006. This decline might initially appear to be simply a reflection of the serious economic recession that began in 2008, and certainly some grantmakers did begin to reduce grantmaking by 2009. But the data make clear that the recession alone did not cause the decline. In fact, overall grantmaking from California funders to California nonprofits *increased* nearly 15% between 2006 and 2009 (from \$3 billion to nearly \$3.44 billion).⁴ Furthermore, given that foundations generally base their grantmaking on 12- or 16-month trailing averages of endowment value, foundation endowments had not yet felt the brunt of the recession's impact in 2009.

Number of Funders

Of California's 7,184 foundations, 48 made grants of any size to LGBT-focused organizations and/or causes in 2009, or approximately one in every 150. Of these 48 funders, nine are LGBT-specific funders, including both public and private foundations (see Table 1 above).⁵

The number of funders making grants to LGBT causes in California did not change significantly between 2006 and 2009.⁶ Encouragingly, 16 funders appear on the list of 2009 foundations that did not make LGBT-related grants in 2006. At the same time, however, another 15 that appeared in 2006 had dropped off by 2009. And among the new funders, only one granted more than \$100,000, and 69% granted less than \$50,000 to LGBT causes.

⁴ Based on a sample of 2009 grants of \$10,000 or more, the Foundation Center estimates that California-based foundations awarded roughly three-fifths (57.5%) of their grants to California-based nonprofit organizations. The \$3.44 billion figures represents 57.5% of the total grants made for all purposes in all geographical areas (\$5.99 billion). Figures provided by the Foundation Center.

⁵ The nine LGBT-specific funders were The David Geffen Foundation, Horizons Foundation, David Bohnett Foundation, Small Change Foundation, Silva Watson Moonwalk Fund, Elton John AIDS Foundation, Lesbian Health Fund, Colin Higgins Foundation, and COLAGE. Of these, the Geffen Foundation comprises 49% of the total, Horizons Foundation 30%, and the remainder from the other seven funders.

⁶ In contrast, the number of funders for LGBT causes nationally rose 24.6%, from 244 in 2006 to 304 in 2009. Figures from Funders for LGBTQ Issues annual *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Grantmaking by U.S. Foundations* reports for 2006 and 2009.

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The level of grant support from “new” funders points to another important facet of grantmaking to LGBT causes. Within the small universe of 48 foundations making grants to LGBT nonprofits and/or causes, funding was highly concentrated. A full 83% of the funding came from the top 10 funders (including three LGBT funders).⁷ Of the remaining 38 funders, more than half gave \$25,000 or less to LGBT issues.

This failure to increase the total number of funders making grants has significant consequences. Most obviously, it limits funds flowing to LGBT nonprofits in any given year. But beyond that, having a relatively small number of funders supporting any cause is intrinsically unstable: if that pool doesn’t grow, then a shift in strategy or priority by one or two key funders will have an especially large—and adverse—impact as few other funds are prepared to step up. As discussed below, that very thing has happened in California.

LGBT and Non-LGBT Funders

Most funders of LGBT causes do not identify as LGBT—the majority of 2009 grantmaking to LGBT organizations and causes came from non-LGBT foundations, which distributed nearly two-thirds of the total grant dollars. This percentage, however, is lower than in 2006, when non-LGBT funders accounted for approximately three-quarters of the grantmaking to LGBT organizations and causes.⁸ Table 2 shows the relative dollar value of grants made by LGBT-specific and non-LGBT-specific funders.

| | 2009 | 2006 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Total CA grantmaking supporting LGBT issues | \$8,946,000 | \$9,280,000 |
| Grantmaking by CA non-LGBT funders | \$5,736,000 | \$7,088,000 |
| Grantmaking by CA LGBT funders | \$3,210,000 | \$2,192,000 |
| Percentage of total grants from non-LGBT funders | 64% | 76% |

TABLE 2: Value of grants made to LGBT causes

What’s immediately obvious from Table 2 is that funding of LGBT causes by non-LGBT funders has declined significantly—19.1% to be exact—between 2006 and 2009.⁹ As already noted, this decline cannot simply be attributed to the economic recession, given that overall grantmaking rose substantially in the same period. Rather, it is more likely a direct reflection of the number of funders and the levels of grant support.

⁷ The top ten California funders of LGBT issues in 2009 were the Evelyn & Walter Haas Jr. Fund (\$1,704,500), The David Geffen Foundation (\$1,586,000), Horizons Foundation (\$970,403), Wells Fargo Foundation (\$734,200), Tides Foundation (\$624,944), The San Francisco Foundation (\$500,000), The California Wellness Foundation (\$460,000), Liberty Hill Foundation (\$320,750), David Bohnett Foundation (\$280,265), and The California Endowment (\$246,361). Of these, the Geffen Foundation, Horizons Foundation, and Bohnett Foundation are LGBT funders.

⁸ Although certainly a welcome statistic, it’s also not surprising that most dollars should come from non-LGBT sources, as the funding resources of the “mainstream” foundation world greatly exceed those of LGBT-specific funders.

⁹ By contrast, foundation grants to LGBT causes and organizations in California rose sharply in 2008. However, 2008 was likely anomalous due to the high profile of marriage equality that year, especially in the context of Proposition 8. Data from 2008 are described briefly in the appendix at the end of this report.

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Table 2 also shows that while the grantmaking from non-LGBT funders dropped 19.1% between the two years, grants from LGBT funders increased substantially (from \$2,192,000 to \$3,210,000). It is important to note, however, nearly half of the 2009 LGBT-funder total derives from a single \$1.5 million grant from the David Geffen Foundation for marriage-equality work.¹⁰ Without this one grant, the total granted to LGBT nonprofits by LGBT funders would have fallen 21.9%, and the combined total grantmaking would have dropped 19.8%.

Size of Grants

In addition to the total dollars granted and number of funders, the size of grants also counts. In 2009, 37.4% of the grants made to California-based LGBT nonprofits were \$10,000 or more, with the median grant size \$5,000 (Table 3).

| | Median Grant Size | # of Grants Less than \$10,000 | # of Grants \$10,000–\$49,999 | # of Grants \$50,000 or More |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| All funders | \$5,000 | 345 | 164 | 42 |
| LGBT funders | \$2,500 | 231 | 59 | 3 |
| Non-LGBT funders | \$10,000 | 114 | 105 | 39 |

TABLE 3: Size of grants in 2009 to LGBT organizations in California by California-based funders

Small grants can be very useful. They often represent early grants to newer organizations. Smaller grants can provide important support for specific projects and, especially in the case of smaller organizations, difficult-to-find general operating support. It is also often helpful for nonprofits to include a(nother) funder on their lists of institutional supporters, as it can help demonstrate credibility and investment to donors, public agencies, and other potential foundation funders.

At the same time, major grants unquestionably matter. They represent significant investments in LGBT organizations, and can provide nonprofits with crucial opportunities to grow in visibility, impact, and organizational structure in ways that smaller grants simply cannot. And as shown in Table 4 below, the number of grants of \$50,000 or more appears to have declined between 2006 and 2009.

¹⁰ In 2006, the David Geffen Foundation gave a total of \$38,500 to LGBT causes in California.

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| | 2009 | 2006 |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total grantmaking | \$8,946,000 | \$9,280,000 |
| Median grant size | \$5,000 | \$5,000 |
| Total # of grants | 551 | 563 |
| # of grants less than \$10,000 [%] | 345 [62.6%] | 373 [66.2%] |
| # of grants \$10,000–\$49,999 [%] | 164 [29.8%] | 140 [24.9%] |
| # of grants \$50,000 or more [%] | 42 [7.6%] | 50 [8.9%] |
| # of grants \$100,000 or more [%] | 12 [2.2%] | 19 [3.4%] |

TABLE 4: Comparison of LGBT grant sizes between 2006 and 2009

Impact of Marriage Equality Funding

Over the past eight years, marriage equality has risen to become a central issue in the LGBT movement, and foundation funding for that work has increased. Whereas in 2006, just over half a million dollars in grants were made specifically for marriage-equality work, that figure climbed to \$2.12 million in 2009. (Not surprisingly, marriage-equality funding by California funders peaked in 2008 at \$4.3 million. See the appendix for more data.)

It's important to view this change, however, in the context of the single \$1.5 million grant made to support marriage-equality litigation—it accounted for more than 75% of all marriage-related grantmaking in 2009 and almost the entire increase over 2006.

It's critical to note that while marriage-equality funding grew between 2006 and 2009, grantmaking to all other LGBT issues dropped a full 21.7%. This includes everything from social services and the arts to LGBT youth programs and advocacy around workplace discrimination. Fewer dollars translate directly into diminished capacity for advocacy and service—leaving the real impact of such a decline to fall on the LGBT people whom these nonprofit organizations serve.



Trends: Behind the Decline

As discussed above, the decline in California funding of LGBT issues by California-based foundations cannot be attributed solely to the economic recession, grave as it has been. What then explains the decrease, and especially the nearly 20% fall-off in funding by non-LGBT funders? At least three major factors underlie the decline in California grant funding for LGBT causes.

Already-low Funding for LGBT Issues

Especially in a time of economic recession, it is extremely difficult to realize meaningful increases in funding for any cause. At such times, foundations—often for sound reasons—put priority on maintaining support for key grantees. Given that the level of granting to LGBT causes has always been low relative to population size and need, and the pool of funders relatively small, it is unsurprising that the 2009 data show a retreat from funding an issue few foundations rank as a priority.

Changes in Grantmaking Strategy by Major Funders

The California Endowment has been a leading source of funds for the LGBT community for the past decade. Due to internal strategic realignments, the Endowment's support for LGBT organizations and causes dipped more than 85% between 2006 and 2009.¹¹ Over this time, TCE dropped from the top state funder of LGBT causes to the 10th largest.

Another critical supporter of the LGBT community, the Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, has also shifted funding strategies. Although the Fund continues to place major priority on LGBT grantmaking—and remains a California and national leader in LGBT funding—its mix of funding has been moving intentionally and significantly towards a focus on marriage equality. While the Fund's overall California LGBT grantmaking in 2006 and 2009 looked largely the same, there has been a significant reduction in non-marriage funding.¹² By 2010, the clear majority of Haas, Jr.'s California LGBT support was for marriage equality. Especially in light of the decline in funding for non-marriage LGBT work already noted in 2009, the Haas, Jr. Fund's shift is likely to lead to an even shallower pool of foundation dollars for non-marriage-equality work in future years.

¹¹ TCE's LGBT grants totaled \$1.874 million in 2006 and \$246,000 in 2009. Its grantmaking to LGBT causes rose again in 2010 to \$431,000, a substantial increase from 2009, but nonetheless a drop of 77% from 2006. (2010 data provided by TCE.)

¹² The Fund has also been compelled to sharpen its focus in the wake of the economic crisis and its impact on grantmaking funds.

Lack of New Funders for LGBT Causes

The total number of funders stayed essentially the same between 2006 and 2009. However, as longstanding supporters of the LGBT community move to other priorities (such as The California Endowment) or decide to focus most of their LGBT grant dollars on specific issues (such as the Haas, Jr. Fund), there are few other funders to make up the difference. This results in an overall fall-off in grant funding for most issues affecting the LGBT community, including crucial (non-marriage) advocacy, health and social services, and support for culture and the arts.



Analysis and Implications

The data described in this report indicate that sector-wide, the needs of the LGBT population have received—and continue to receive—scant attention from foundations. Given that there are estimated to be 8.7 million LGBT people in the United States,¹³ the disconnect between population size (approximately 3.8% of the total U.S. population) and grantmaking dollars (roughly 0.22% of total dollars) is difficult to dismiss. California comes out no better.

Analysis of grant data is inherently complex and this study, like any, has limitations. The statistics do not, for example, include all grants that may benefit LGBT individuals—only those that focus specifically on the LGBT community. The lives of LGBT people, of course, may be touched by grants made in areas as diverse as economic development, legal services, and the arts. And it is true that some non-LGBT funders have missions to which LGBT causes may not be strongly relevant, such as environmental protection or pre-K education.

Yet the needs of the LGBT population and the concerns of many foundations plainly do overlap in areas as various as health, youth, elders, civil rights and equality, families, civic engagement, and the arts. And the data are striking enough to suggest that more is going on than a simple misalignment between LGBT needs and foundation priorities.

While no definitive research has been done on the subject, other likely reasons include:

Lack of awareness

Many people in philanthropy, as in society at large, simply lack awareness and understanding about the extent of inequality and the significant needs of LGBT people. Even issues that bring the LGBT community to the forefront of national media—such as the Prop 8 battle or HIV—may be misunderstood as the only issue facing LGBT people.

¹³ Gates, Gary J. *How many people are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender?* Williams Institute (April 2011).

Capacity limitations

The great majority of LGBT nonprofits are relatively small and fragile and may lack the capacity to build relationships and make their cases well to funders.

The myth of affluence

The pervasive—and erroneous—assumption that LGBT people are disproportionately wealthy may lead some people to believe, consciously or not, that the LGBT community does not need support from foundations. In fact, the data contradict the myth—LGBT people are at least as likely to experience poverty as heterosexuals, with certain populations significantly more likely to be poor.¹⁴

Bias

While philanthropy is replete with broad-minded people, the field exists in a society in which anti-LGBT discrimination remains potent (and more socially acceptable than other forms of bias). It would be naïve to consider philanthropy immune. It is also important to note that bias is not always obvious, nor a matter of outright bigotry. As with other kinds of discrimination, anti-LGBT bias can take the more subtle forms of ignorance, discomfort, minimization, dismissal, and unintentional neglect.



A Call for Change

In light of the grantmaking data in this report, Horizons Foundation recommends some next steps for beginning to address the issue of foundation support for LGBT organizations and causes in California.

More affirmative attention by funders to the needs of LGBT people

Often, a foundation's mission and priorities already overlap with such needs (for example, a youth-focused funder could fund programs serving LGBT youth). Foundations should be alert for opportunities where they can further their priorities and support the LGBT community.

¹⁴ Albelda, Randy et al. *Poverty in the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Community*, Williams Institute, 2009. Grant, Jaime M. et al. *Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey*, National Center for Transgender Equality and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, 2011. Horizons Foundation produced a briefing paper on this topic in 2008, titled *Dispelling the Myth of LGBT Affluence*, copies of which are available on request.

Increased awareness of LGBT needs

Many funders lack awareness of the complexity of the LGBT community, much less the breadth of issues and needs it faces.

One concrete step that would help inform grantmakers, nonprofits, and individual donors alike would be a comprehensive assessment of the assets and needs of LGBT Californians. Various nonprofits and government agencies know a great deal about particular issues or populations. But there has never been a comprehensive view, and nobody has a full picture. A serious assessment would take time and money, but could prove to be an invaluable tool for grantmakers, policymakers, and nonprofits alike.

Support for LGBT nonprofits to increase revenue from individual donors

Even if foundation support for California's LGBT nonprofits were to increase significantly, it would not be sufficient to ensure strong, effective, and sustainable organizations. Funder investment in helping nonprofits develop their capacities to raise funds from individuals may put more organizations on a path towards greater impact and sustainability than programmatic support alone.

Annual updates on California-based grantmaking to LGBT issues

Given the changing landscape of LGBT-related funding in California, annual data on how foundations are allocating their resources would be helpful in tracking trends. Horizons expects to update the current study on an annual basis.

More study and analysis of barriers within the field of philanthropy

A longer-term project to gather in-depth information about knowledge, beliefs, and attitudes among foundation leaders, trustees, and staff could provide insights on the best strategies to encourage greater openness to LGBT funding opportunities. To what extent are grantmakers aware of LGBT issues? What could be done to raise awareness? To what extent do grantmakers subscribe—consciously or not—to the myth of LGBT affluence? What information would grantmakers find useful? Are boards of trustees seen as particular obstacles? What could nonprofits serving LGBT needs do more effectively in seeking funding? Answers to these and other questions would help point toward the most effective ways to increase knowledge and awareness in the field.

Appendix: 2008 Grants and the Effect of Marriage Equality

The present report focused on 2006 and 2009 grantmaking largely because 2009 data is the most recent available and the three-year period is at least minimally sufficient to observe trends over time. It is important to note, though, that funding for LGBT causes jumped significantly in 2008 (Table 5).

| | 2009 | 2008 | 2006 |
|--|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Total CA grantmaking supporting LGBT issues | \$8,946,000 | \$14,574,000 | \$9,280,000 |
| Total grantmaking by CA non-LGBT funders | \$5,736,000 | \$12,252,000 | \$7,088,000 |
| Total grantmaking by CA LGBT funders | \$3,210,000 | \$2,322,000 | \$2,192,000 |
| Total number of funders | 48 | 53 | 47 |
| Total number of non-LGBT funders | 39 | 46 | 40 |
| Percentage of total grants from non-LGBT funders | 64% | 84% | 76% |

TABLE 5: Comparison of 2006, 2008, and 2009 grantmaking to LGBT organizations in California by California-based funders

The single greatest factor behind the rise in LGBT funding was a large increase in funding for marriage equality, which had become a highly visible issue that year (Table 6). Certain key non-LGBT funders in particular increased their grantmaking significantly.

| | 2009 | 2008 | 2006 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| Total CA grantmaking supporting marriage equality | \$2,116,000 | \$4,314,000 | \$562,000 |
| Total marriage equality grantmaking by CA non-LGBT funders | \$564,000 | \$3,517,000 | \$510,000 |
| Total marriage equality grantmaking by CA LGBT funders | \$1,552,000 | \$797,000 | \$52,000 |
| Percentage of total CA LGBT grantmaking devoted to marriage equality | 23.7% | 29.6% | 6.1% |
| Percentage of grantmaking by non-LGBT funders devoted to marriage equality | 9.8% | 28.7% | 7.2% |
| Percentage of grantmaking by LGBT funders devoted to marriage equality | 48.3% | 34.3% | 2.4% |

TABLE 6: Marriage equality grantmaking by California-based funders

However, the relatively high 2008 total cannot be attributed solely to the prominence of marriage equality. Even without the marriage grants, total grantmaking to California-based LGBT nonprofits would have risen about 10% (\$9.28 million to \$10.26 million). Although it is difficult to tell based on a single year, the increase in non-marriage funding might have been an indicator of an upward trend in foundation grantmaking to LGBT causes. However, the 2009 data make clear that even if there had been any such swing upwards, it went into reverse as soon as foundations refocused on their respective leading priorities—which seldom included LGBT causes—in the face of the recession.

horizons foundation

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