



In late 2017, at the request of several funders, Foraker surveyed both foundations and corporate giving programs on several factors related to their philanthropic programs. **Six corporations & twelve foundations** participated including some of the largest philanthropic donors in the state. This is a brief compilation of findings from that survey.

**Funders That Participated:**

Alaska Airlines | Alaska Airlines Foundation | Alaska Communications | Alaska Community Foundation | Alaska Mental Health Trust | Alyeska Pipeline Service Company | Atwood Foundation | Bethel Community Services Foundation | BP | Bristol Bay Native Corporation Education Foundation | CIRI | GCI | Homer Foundation | Juneau Community Foundation | Koniag Education Foundation | Mat-Su Health Foundation | Rasmuson Foundation | Wells Fargo

**OVERALL THEMES**



1/2+

**Slightly more than half** the funders reported that they have maintained the **same funding program over the past three years**. Those that have made a change said they have adjusted their area of focus, the type of funds they give out, or their funding partners.



70%

**Nearly 70%** of funders reported that the **state's current political and economic landscape has influenced their giving** either through more focused funding or because of changing needs of their grantees.



60%

**Approximately 60%** of funders reported an **increase in donation requests from 2016 to 2017**. The remaining reported no change. No organization reported a decrease in requests.



28%



20%

When asked about the number of contributions made from 2016 to 2017, **28%** of funders said they **increased donations**; **20%** said they **decreased**; the **remainder made no change**.

**Not every organization predicted** whether funding would increase, decrease, or stay the same in coming years. However, **of those reporting, giving appears to be on a slight upward trend** despite the weakening economy.

**FACTORS THAT INFLUENCED PHILANTHROPIC DECISIONS**



- 1 Grant making priorities
- 2 Year-to-year budget
- 3 State fiscal climate
- 4 Business objectives
- 5 Prior year giving
- 6 Investment performance
- 7 Price of natural resources
- 8 Economic uncertainty in our industry
- 9 Funding requests
- 10 Federal Policy
- 11 Funding restrictions
- 12 Donor recommendations

**How they make those decisions:**

The **largest share** of funders **use an advisory committee** to make funding decisions. A **large majority** said they **make funding decisions in Alaska**. It should be noted that most of the participating organizations are Alaska-based, but some are large corporations with a presence in-state. **Several** of those funders said they **make decisions in coordination with staff outside the state**.

Funders say the **most popular tools for giving are sponsorships and scholarships**, closely followed by **grants**, both restricted and unrestricted. The state's fiscal climate was cited by six of the 18 organizations, but grantmaking priorities and organizational finances are still important overall.

**HOW THEY FEEL ABOUT THE SECTOR**



**Respondents were asked how they feel about the state's nonprofit sector.** This was an open-ended question, but responses were coded into positive, neutral, or negative. Seven expressed positive feelings, five were neutral, and four were negative. Two did not respond. Almost 30% mentioned the need for nonprofits to consolidate so as not to split funding. An additional question revealed that all respondents were either extremely or reasonably confident that the sector delivers on mission.



7+

5±

4-



When asked if they **received sufficient communication from organizations they support, almost 90% of funders said "yes."** Below is a sample of comments offered:

- "Generally, yes. Some could communicate more. Some less."
- "We are trying to strengthen our grant reporting to improve this on many levels."
- "Nonprofits have room for improvement as it relates to recognizing the corporations that support their programs."
- "Many nonprofits do not follow through, they know they need money and then go off and implement programs without taking the time to complete the cycle of the grant request."
- "The trick is finding the time to work with them all together, get them to take off their agency hat and work together with their peers to determine what are the critical next steps for making a difference (and how to measure success)."

**WHAT THEY WANT FROM THEIR MONEY**



When asked for their desired impact from the sector over the next three-to-five years, funders listed:

- Improve nonprofits and their functions 5
- Support communities 3
- Improve lives 3
- Other 4

- "Sustainability - Impact - Collaboration"
- "To assist in the improvement of and access to a robust continuum of health care services in Alaska. And, to assist in criminal justice reform efforts for a safer, smarter, and healthier state."
- "We want exemplary and field changing impacts!"
- "More strategic, in alignment with our brand and company goals. Authentic to Alaska, with flexibility built in to address critical needs when needed"

**Education and youth together are the most popular areas of funder support**