Most of California’s foundations are young, having been established in the last 25 years.\(^2\)

California foundations continue to climb their way out of the Great Recession with total inflation-adjusted assets still below their pre-recession levels at $99.8 billion and total inflation-adjusted giving below their 2008 levels at $6.3 billion.

Community foundations play a distinctive role, largely fueled by the popularity of donor-advised funds and the trend toward “giving while living.”

Five of the largest 25 community foundations in the U.S. by assets and giving are based in California, including the largest community foundation in the country: the Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

1 Fiscal data is based on The Foundation Center’s grantmaking database (circa 2012), which includes all independent and family, corporate, community and operating foundations that reported giving. Inflation adjusted data where indicated is in 2007 dollars.

2 Based on The Foundation Center’s survey of grantmaking foundations with at least $1 million in assets or making grants of $100,000 or more in 2011-2012.
A handful of the largest foundations in the state hold the great majority of foundation assets and are responsible for most foundation giving in California. Over half of the state’s foundations and two-thirds of foundation assets and giving are located in Los Angeles County and the San Francisco Bay Area.  

**TOP 10 FOUNDATIONS**

1. J. Paul Getty Trust  
2. The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation  
3. The David and Lucile Packard Foundation  
4. Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation  
5. The California Endowment  
6. Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
7. The James Irvine Foundation  
8. Eli & Edythe Broad Foundation  
9. Annenberg Foundation  
10. Genentech Access to Care Foundation

**TOP 25 FOUNDATIONS**

11. The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation  
12. Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
13. The David and Lucile Packard Foundation  
14. Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation  
15. Wells Fargo Foundation  
16. California Community Foundation  
17. Eli & Edythe Broad Foundation  
18. The California Endowment  
19. Annenberg Foundation  
20. The James Irvine Foundation  
21. The J. Paul Getty Trust  
22. The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation  
23. Wells Fargo Foundation  
24. California Community Foundation  
25. Eli & Edythe Broad Foundation

**TOP 50 FOUNDATIONS**

26. The California Endowment  
27. Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
28. The David and Lucile Packard Foundation  
29. Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation  
30. Wells Fargo Foundation  
31. California Community Foundation  
32. Eli & Edythe Broad Foundation  
33. The California Endowment  
34. Annenberg Foundation  
35. The James Irvine Foundation  
36. The J. Paul Getty Trust  
37. The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation  
38. Wells Fargo Foundation  
39. California Community Foundation  
40. Eli & Edythe Broad Foundation

**TOP 100 FOUNDATIONS**

41. The California Endowment  
42. Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
43. The David and Lucile Packard Foundation  
44. Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation  
45. Wells Fargo Foundation  
46. California Community Foundation  
47. Eli & Edythe Broad Foundation  
48. The California Endowment  
49. Annenberg Foundation  
50. The James Irvine Foundation  
51. The J. Paul Getty Trust  
52. The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation  
53. Wells Fargo Foundation  
54. California Community Foundation  
55. Eli & Edythe Broad Foundation

**THE REST OF CALIFORNIA**

- 45.5% of total number
- 32.5% of total assets
- 31.7% of total giving

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA**

- 21.7% of total number
- 28.3% of total assets
- 39.3% of total giving

**LOS ANGELES**

- 32.8% of total number
- 39.2% of total assets
- 29.0% of total giving

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1. Data for Los Angeles is for Los Angeles County; San Francisco Bay Area reflects the metropolitan statistical area of San Francisco, Oakland and Fremont; it includes the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo.

2. The J. Paul Getty Trust is an operating foundation that includes the Getty Conservation Institute, Getty Foundation, J.Paul Getty Museum, and Getty Research Institute.
Education continues to be the top funding priority in California and has been since 2005; previously health held the top spot for foundation grant dollars with the introduction of large, health-focused foundations created from the conversion of nonprofit healthcare organizations. Human services receive 25% of grants, but only 13% of grant dollars, reflecting the smaller size of grants that target small and mid-sized human service nonprofits.

The environment and science and technology are two important priorities for California foundations, accounting for a quarter of all their grant dollars, 2.5 times the national percentage.

California nonprofits received over $5.4 billion from California foundations and another $1 billion in grants from foundations out of state.

Foundations devote almost half of their grantmaking dollars (45.5%) to programs and about a quarter to general operating support (23.1%).

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5 All figures in the Grantmaking in Focus section are based on The Foundation Center grants sample (circa 2012), which includes grants of $10,000 or more awarded to organizations by a sample of 1,122 larger U.S. foundations. For community foundations, only discretionary grants are included. Grants to individuals are not included in the file.