

How Family Foundations Give

SPENDING RATES

Younger foundations distribute a bigger share of their endowment than older ones.

21% of foundations established in the 1990s and 2000s give more than 10% of their endowments annually.

5% of foundations created before 1970 do so.

FAMILY TIES

Causes that are popular with family-fund board members have an advantage.

85% of family funds allow their trustees to nominate charities for discretionary grants, but most of those foundations require those groups to meet the foundation's mission.

GENERATION GAP

Local nonprofits of all types have an edge when they seek family-foundation money but more so with older funds.

66%

of family foundations make most of their grants to local groups. Newer family funds are as focused on supporting specific causes as they are on giving locally.

78%

of foundations created before 1970 focus on local groups regardless of cause, while 40% of foundations created since 2010 give locally but just to specific causes.

TERM LIMITS

Younger donors are more likely to limit the life span of their foundations.

19%

of foundation started after 2010 have set a date for closing.

3%

of foundations started before 1970 have made that choice.

10%

of all family funds have done so.

SOURCE: National Center for Family Philanthropy; Urban Institute