

# KEY FACTS ON FAMILY FOUNDATIONS

January 2007

## Selected Grantmaker Data, 2005

The Foundation Center has identified more than 36,700 independent foundations with measurable donor or donor-family involvement. These “family foundations” represent more than half of all independent foundations and account for similar shares of independent foundations’ giving, assets, and new gifts and bequests from donors. If all of the nation’s family foundations could be identified, these shares would undoubtedly rise.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Family foundations are not legally distinct from other independent foundations, requiring the Foundation Center to identify them using several objective and subjective criteria. These criteria include independent foundations with “family” or “families” in their name, a living donor whose surname matches the foundation name, or at least two trustee surnames that match a living or deceased donor’s name, along with any independent foundations that self-identify as family foundations on annual Foundation Center surveys.

## Summary Statistics for Family Foundations 2001 and 2005

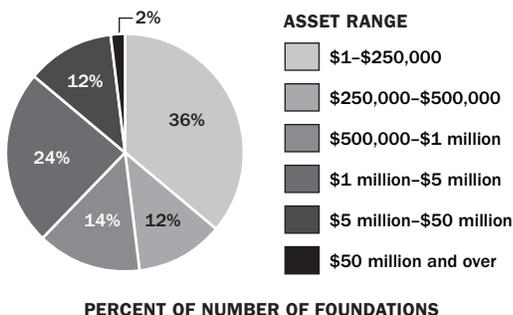
	2001	2005 <sup>1</sup>	% change
No. of Foundations	27,804	33,994	22.3
Total Giving	\$12,969,504	\$14,028,469	8.2
Total Assets	\$204,621,742	\$233,179,446	14.0
Gifts Received <sup>2</sup>	\$11,428,496	\$11,926,655	4.4

**Note:** Dollars in thousands. Percent change represents current dollars. Excludes 2,736 family foundations that did not report giving in the latest fiscal year. These foundations held \$2 billion in assets in 2005 and reported gifts received totaling \$991.2 million.

<sup>1</sup>Figures for 2005 are preliminary.

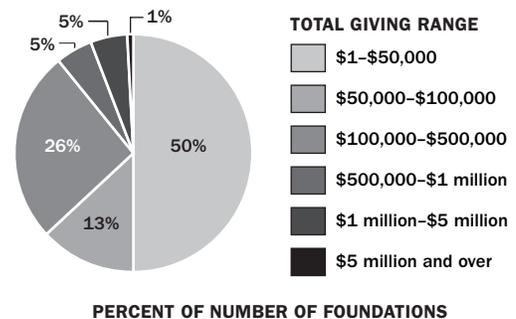
<sup>2</sup>The 2001 figure includes \$2.1 billion in new gifts to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

## More than three-fifths of family foundations reported less than \$1 million in assets in 2005



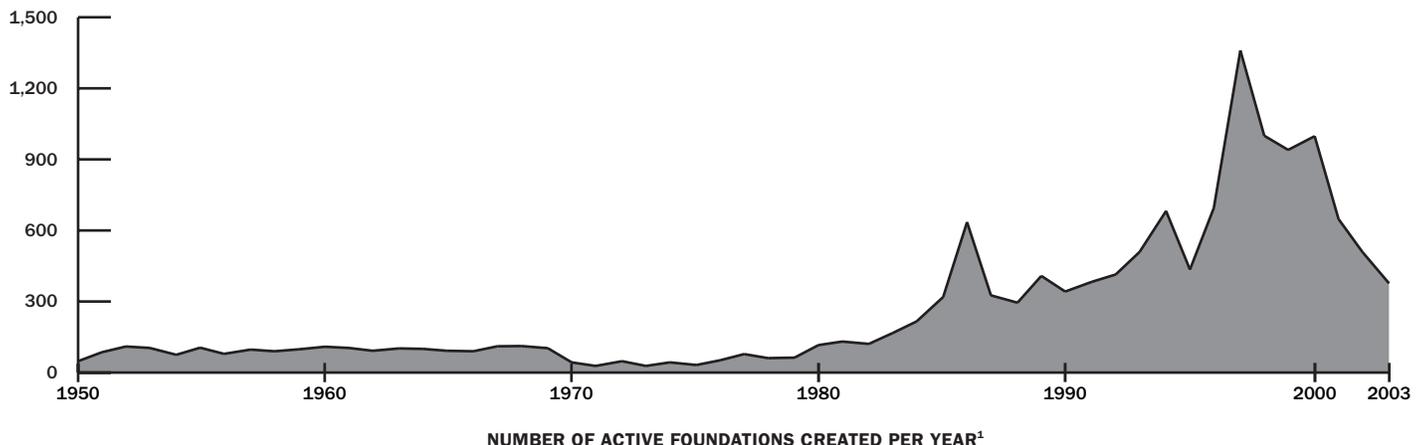
**Note:** Based on 33,994 grantmaking family foundations. Excludes 2,736 family foundations that did not report giving in the latest fiscal year. Figures for 2005 are preliminary.

## Half of family foundations reported less than \$50,000 in giving in 2005



**Note:** Based on 33,994 grantmaking family foundations. Excludes 2,736 family foundations that did not report giving in the latest fiscal year. Figures for 2005 are preliminary.

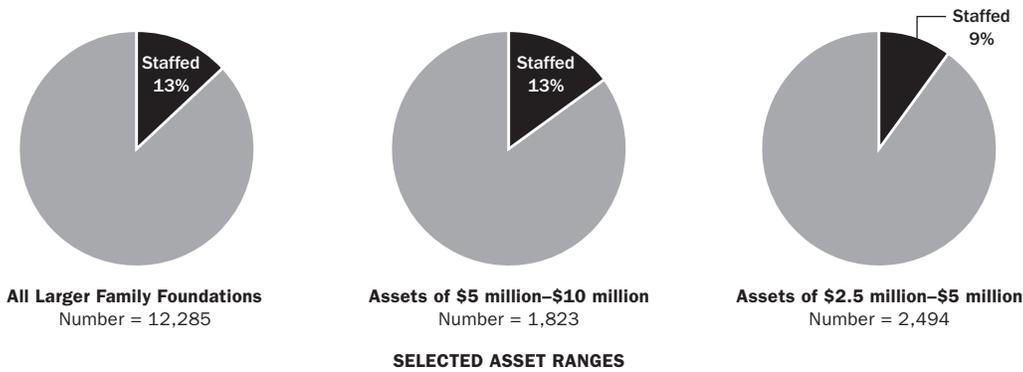
## Larger family foundation establishment peaked in the late 1990s



**Note:** Based on grantmaking family foundations with at least \$1 million in assets or making grants of \$100,000 or more in 2004–2005.

<sup>1</sup>Data incomplete after 2002. A total of 572 grantmaking family foundations established in 2004 or 2005 are currently included in the Foundation Center’s database.

## Roughly one-in-eight larger family foundations reported staff in 2006



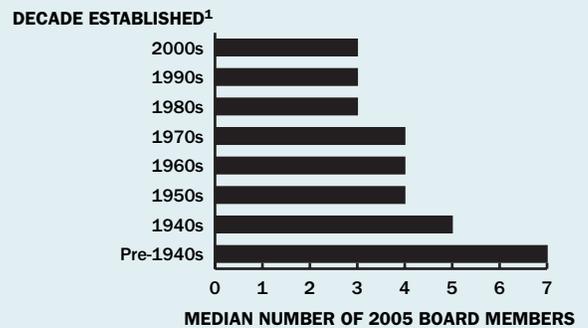
**Note:** Based on Foundation Center survey of family foundations with at least \$1 million in assets or making grants of \$100,000 or more. A total of 1,583 foundations reported staff.

## Selected Giving Patterns, 2005

Larger family foundations included in the Foundation Center's 2005 grants sample<sup>1</sup> were more likely to provide funding for education, health, the environment and animals, religion, and science and technology than independent foundations overall. They were less likely to give for human services, arts and culture, public affairs/society benefit, international affairs, and the social sciences. By types of support, family foundations directed very similar shares of giving for general support and capital projects compared to independent foundations overall.

<sup>1</sup>The Foundation Center's 2005 grants sample database included the grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by close to 1,200 of the largest U.S. foundations and accounted for roughly half of grant dollars awarded by all of the nearly 68,000 active U.S. foundations.

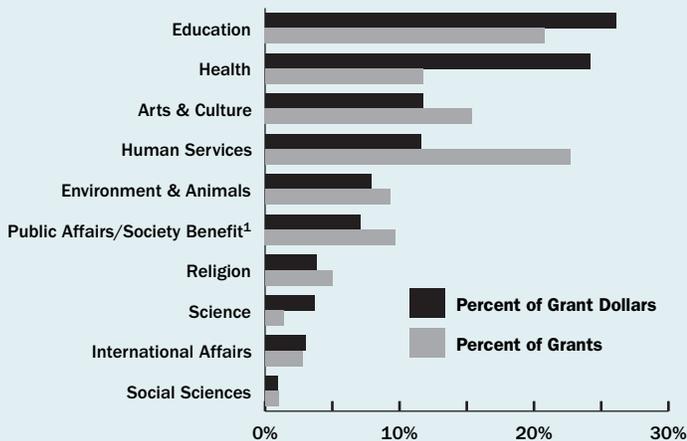
## Family foundation board size tends to increase over time



**Note:** Figures are preliminary.

<sup>1</sup>Excludes family foundations lacking establishment information.

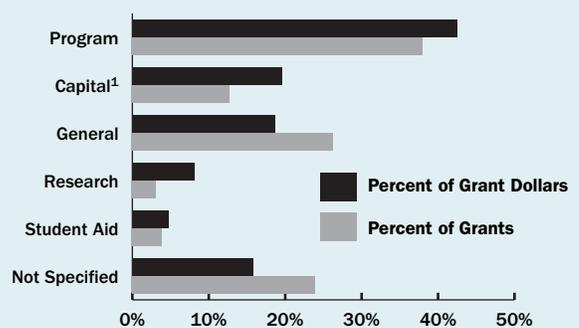
## Family foundations favored education and health in 2005



**Note:** Based on grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 505 larger family foundations.

<sup>1</sup>Includes civil rights and social action, community improvement and development, philanthropy and voluntarism, and public affairs.

## Family foundations directed the largest share of their 2005 giving for programs



**Note:** Note: Based on grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 505 larger family foundations.

<sup>1</sup>Capital support includes endowment funds.

**Source for all data:** The Foundation Center

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