

# KEY FACTS ON GEORGIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS



March 2009

## Introduction

Community foundations comprise one of the fastest growing sectors of philanthropy. These independent, tax-exempt public charities raise funds from a broad pool of donors that will be granted primarily to recipients in a defined geographic area. Unlike other types of public foundations that may focus their giving on a particular field or population within a defined geographic area, such as the Atlanta Women's Foundation, community foundations do not limit their grantmaking to specific fields or populations.

*Key Facts on Georgia Community Foundations* provides a snapshot of growth and giving trends of Georgia's community foundations. It was prepared by the Foundation Center and the Nonprofit Studies Program of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University at the request of the Georgia Council of Community Foundations.

## Selected Grantmaker Data, 2007

According to the Foundation Center, there are more than 700 community foundations in the United States, 13 of them located in Georgia. Their coverage is broad, with all but 30 of Georgia's 159 counties (82 percent of the state) being served by at least one community foundation.

Almost half of the state's community foundations were established in the 1990s. The Cobb Community Foundation is the newest, gaining IRS recognition in 2007. (The Athens Area Community Foundation, currently an affiliate of the North Georgia Community Foundation, applied for separate tax-exempt status in 2008 and expects to be recognized by the IRS in 2009.) The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, established in 1951, is the oldest of these foundations in the state.

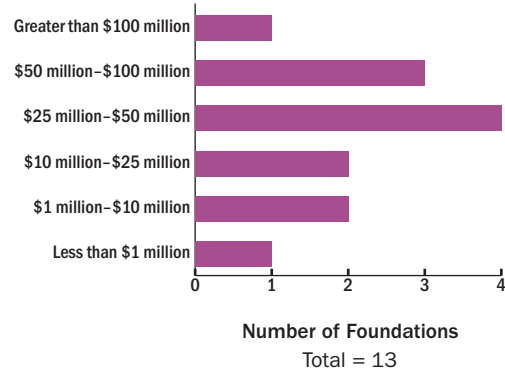
The 13 Georgia community foundations held assets of more than \$1.1 billion in 2007 and gave over \$104 million, more than 13 percent of giving by all Georgia foundations that year. Between 2002 and 2007, assets rose 116 percent and total giving rose 95 percent. The 202 percent increase in new gifts into community foundations during that period indicates the growing popularity of these institutions as a vehicle for charitable giving.

Community foundations in Georgia vary widely by the amount of their assets and giving. Most Georgia community foundations have assets of between \$20 million and \$60 million and give between \$2 million and \$7 million annually. Georgia has one very large community foundation, The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, which had assets in excess of \$770 million and gave more than \$74 million in grants in 2007.

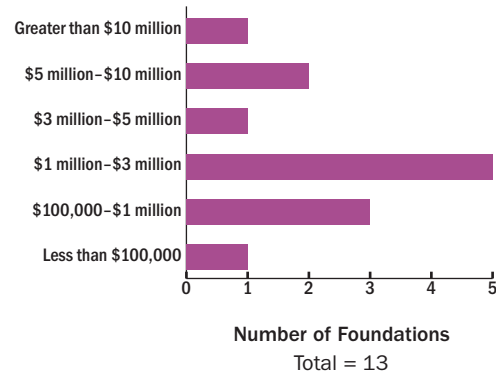
## Summary Statistics for Georgia Community Foundations, 2002 and 2007

	2002	2007	% change
No. of Foundations	10	13	30
Total Giving	\$53,674,602	\$104,739,167	95
Total Assets	\$519,508,773	\$1,123,693,213	116
Gifts Received	\$63,506,414	\$192,017,187	202

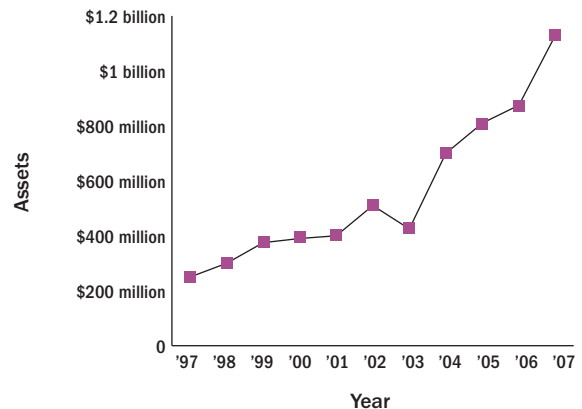
## Georgia Community Foundations by Asset Range, 2007



## Georgia Community Foundations by Total Giving Range, 2007



## Change in Assets, 1997-2007



## Georgia Community Foundations by Total Assets, 2007

Foundation Name	Establishment Year	Total Assets	Fiscal Date
1. The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, Inc.	1951	\$771,651,441	12/31/2007
2. Community Foundation of South Georgia, Inc.	1995	58,619,259	12/31/2007
3. Community Foundation of Central Georgia, Inc.	1993	57,951,527	6/30/2007
4. Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley	1998	53,853,696	9/30/2007
5. North Georgia Community Foundation	1985	39,149,684	6/30/2007
6. Community Foundation for the Central Savannah River Area	1995	36,158,033	12/31/2007
7. Community Foundation for Northeast Georgia*	1985	32,564,271	12/31/2007
8. Community Foundation of Northwest Georgia, Inc.	1998	26,178,811	12/31/2007
9. Community Foundation of West Georgia	2003	21,835,898	12/31/2007
10. The Savannah Community Foundation	1953	17,829,204	6/30/2007
11. Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation, Inc.	2005	5,009,580	12/31/2007
12. Cobb Community Foundation*	2007	2,400,000	12/31/2007
13. The Coweta Community Foundation, Inc.	1997	491,809	12/31/2007

\*The Cobb Community Foundation (CCF) was an affiliate of the Community Foundation for Northeast Georgia (CFNG) through mid-2007, but is now a separate legal entity. For the purposes of this report, CFF has been separated out of the information reported for CFNG.

## Georgia Community Foundations by Total Giving, 2007

Foundation Name	Total Giving	Fiscal Date
1. The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, Inc.	\$74,491,445	12/31/2007
2. Community Foundation of South Georgia, Inc.	6,433,670	12/31/2007
3. Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley	6,214,549	9/30/2007
4. Community Foundation of Central Georgia, Inc.	3,560,997	6/30/2007
5. Community Foundation for the Central Savannah River Area	2,985,221	12/31/2007
6. The Savannah Community Foundation	2,971,908	6/30/2007
7. North Georgia Community Foundation	2,759,110	6/30/2007
8. Community Foundation of Northwest Georgia, Inc.	2,323,509	12/31/2007
9. Community Foundation for Northeast Georgia*	1,587,755	12/31/2007
10. Community Foundation of West Georgia	870,028	12/31/2007
11. Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation, Inc.	260,920	12/31/2007
12. Cobb Community Foundation*	218,370	12/31/2007
13. The Coweta Community Foundation, Inc.	61,685	12/31/2007

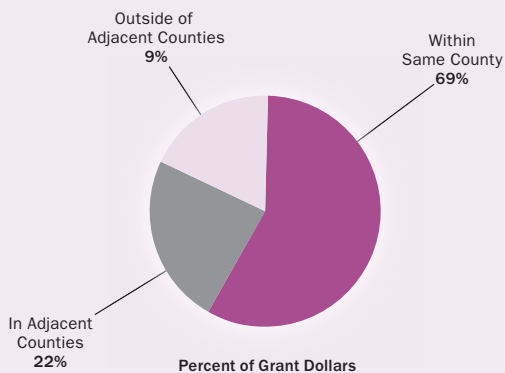
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## Selected Giving Patterns, 2005

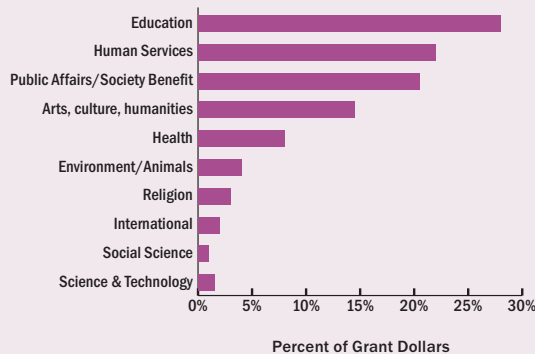
According to the Nonprofit Studies Program of the Andrew Young School of Georgia State University, the majority of grants given by Georgia community foundations in 2005 remained in the state of Georgia. Overall, 79 percent of grant dollars were given to nonprofit organizations located in the state. True to the local community focus of Georgia's community foundations, 69 percent of grant dollars, on average, were granted to organizations located in the same county as the foundation, while 22 percent of grant dollars were granted to organizations in adjacent counties. By grant purpose, Georgia community foundations favored education and human services, public affairs/society benefit<sup>1</sup>, and arts, culture, and humanities.

<sup>1</sup>Includes Civil Rights and Social Action, Community Improvement and Development, Philanthropy and Voluntarism, and Public Affairs.

### Georgia Community Foundation Giving by Location



### Georgia Community Foundation Giving by Subject



The faculty of the Nonprofit Studies Program of the Andrew Young School of Georgia State University collected and analyzed extensive data on community foundations in Georgia as part of a larger study of the nonprofit sector in Georgia. This in-depth analysis of community foundation giving was based primarily on the grantee lists from Form 990 tax returns filed by Georgia community foundations in 2005. The community foundations whose giving patterns were analyzed included: Community Foundation of Central Georgia, Community Foundation of Central Savannah River Area, Community Foundation for Northeast Georgia, Community Foundation for the Chattahoochee Valley, Community Foundation for Southwest Georgia (aka Community Foundation for South Georgia), and The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta.