

Nonprofit Study of 15 MN Nonprofits Shows Value of Advocacy and Community Planning

By Joe Kimball
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Fifteen Minnesota nonprofit organizations were the focus of a comprehensive study released today, and the results detail the many great benefits they provide state residents.

But the current tough economy provides new challenges, with so many home foreclosures, job losses and racial disparities, concludes the report "Strengthening Democracy, Increasing Opportunities; Impacts of Advocacy, Organizing, and Civic Engagement in Minnesota."

A key finding in the report:

When foundations and other donors in Minnesota provided funding to 15 nonprofits to bring about systemic, long-term change, Minnesota's citizens and communities benefited from a return on that investment of \$138 for every dollar spent.

The study measured the impact of the advocacy and organizing efforts of the 15 nonprofits in Minnesota that received a total of \$16.5 million over a five-year period from 2004-2008.

The report was prepared by the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy in Washington, D.C. The group describes itself as a national watchdog, research and advocacy organization that promotes philanthropy that serves the public good, is responsive to people and communities with the least wealth and opportunity, and is held accountable to the highest standards of integrity and openness.

Area foundations leaders will meet today in Minneapolis to talk about the report. The 2 p.m. program at the Minneapolis Depot will feature discussions on how institutions can work with communities, nonprofits and policymakers to improve the quality of life for Minnesotans.

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