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Contact:

Sloan C. Wiesen

(202) 387-9177

sloan@ncrp.org

FOUNDATIONS BETTER MEET INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY NEEDS OF AMERICA'S CHARITIES

Direct Service Sector Especially Hindered by 'Organizational Divide'

WASHINGTON ----- The National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP) today released a report titled "Foundations Can Do More to End the Digital Divide Among Nonprofit Organizations - an 'Organizational Divide'."

The report, "Beyond Access: A Foundation Guide to Ending the Organizational Divide," is the latest in NCRP's continuing series of reports on the challenges facing the nonprofit sector.

The report identifies three key areas where foundations can make a difference:

1. Some types of charitable institutions - particularly those that provide direct human services - appear to be less likely to receive technology grants.
 2. IT grants are too heavily biased toward equipment and do not take into account other costs of technology.
 3. While a large percentage of grants are going to support interactive online activities - including distance education - many nonprofits still lack the infrastructure to effectively use technology.
- "Technology is a critical tool for nonprofits to use to effectively mobilize their constituencies, develop collaborative relationships, and improve their services," says Sloan C. Wiesen, NCRP's Executive Director.

The report details the opportunities funders have to considerably strengthen their technology investment strategies by:

- Increasing IT grants for direct service organizations, especially human service, food and nutrition, and health care.
- Budgeting for the ongoing costs of sustaining technology over the long-term as a standard part of their financial planning.
- Providing more funding for general operations that can be used to support both short- and long-term technology needs.
- Leveraging the growing experience of nonprofits using technology to contribute to the development of best practices.