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More U.S. Philanthropies Pledge to Champion and Empower the Poor, Minorities and Other Underserved Groups

At one year anniversary, Philanthropy's Promise continues to gain momentum with 61 new foundations signing on to prioritize marginalized communities

Washington, D.C. (6/20/2011) – Some 125 leading U.S. foundations that represent a total of more than \$3.37 billion in annual giving pledged to prioritize the needs and promote the democratic participation of underserved communities such as the poor, the elderly and LGBTQ citizens through [Philanthropy's Promise](http://www.philanthropypromise.org) (www.philanthropypromise.org), the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP, www.ncrp.org) announced today.

The NoVo Foundation, Cleveland Foundation and United Way of New York City were among the grantmakers that recently joined the Promise.

When NCRP launched Philanthropy's Promise a year ago, 64 grantmakers had made commitments to allocate at least 50 percent of their grant dollars to benefitting marginalized groups and 25 percent towards supporting advocacy, community organizing and civic engagement to address the root causes of social problems. Since then, 61 more funders have signed on – bringing the total to 125 – each providing a public statement describing the values and strategies that animate their own approach to this type of grantmaking.

“Research shows that not all types of grants are equal. Some have more impact and are more effective than others at making a real difference in the lives of people and communities, especially those in most need,” said Aaron Dorfman, executive director of NCRP. “The public statements submitted by those that have signed on show the variety of ways that foundations are meeting their goals, and we hope it has an inspirational effect on others.”

Grants from foundations, such as the groups that have signed on to the Promise, are key sources of funding for the country's nonprofits working on a broad range of issues such as access to education and health care, supporting the arts and fighting poverty, inequality and environmental degradation. Many of these groups have been struggling to make ends meet since the onset of the recession, with increased demands for services while seeing a decline in donations and grants.

"Empowerment of underserved populations lies at the heart of NoVo Foundation's grantmaking and for that reason we enthusiastically sign on to the Philanthropy's Promise initiative," says NoVo Foundation in its public statement. The foundation, co-founded by Peter and Jennifer Buffett, is largest private foundation dedicated to ending violence against women and girls in the country and the world. "We avoid top-down models for the improvement of societies, but instead commit ourselves to an earnest search for fresh ideas that show unusual promise for significant impact. We are willing to venture where others are reluctant to go; we remain patient in developing sustainable solutions; and we wish to convene diverse stakeholders to address common challenges."

"As the world's first community foundation, we are proud to support Philanthropy's Promise and embrace the guidelines established by the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy," said Robert E. Eckardt, executive vice president of The Cleveland Foundation, in the statement submitted in support of the initiative. "We recognized early on that making lasting impact and improvement goes beyond dollars; it often involves systemic change. ... Improving economic and racial inclusion in our community is always at the core of our work."

"United Way of New York City is committed to fighting poverty across the five boroughs." said Gordon J. Campbell, president and CEO of one of the largest local United Ways in the country, in his organization's public statement. "We rigorously evaluate our programs and use lessons learned to inform and advance public policies, systems and practices that prevent and alleviate poverty citywide."

Grantmakers that are participating in Philanthropy's Promise include large and small foundations from across the country. These consist of private foundations, family foundations, corporate foundations, community foundations and other grantmaking public charities.

This month, NCRP marks the first anniversary of Philanthropy's Promise. A complete list of grantmakers that are a part of this initiative, along with their public statements explaining why they joined, and a [Philanthropy's Promise video](#) (<http://youtu.be/PtwEAhwUSUM>) is available at www.philanthropypromise.org

The National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy in Washington, D.C., is 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. Visit www.ncrp.org .

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Complete List of Grantmakers Signed on to Philanthropy's Promise:

FOUNDATION NAME

STATE

Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham*	AL
Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, The	AR
Akonadi Foundation	CA
California Community Foundation	CA
California Endowment, The	CA
Christensen Fund, The*	CA
Common Counsel Foundation	CA
Compton Foundation, Inc.	CA

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation	CA
East Bay Community Foundation, The*	CA
Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund*	CA
French American Charitable Trust	CA
Fund for Santa Barbara, Inc.*	CA
Groundswell Fund	CA
Hispanics in Philanthropy*	CA
John M. Lloyd Foundation, The*	CA
Levi Strauss Foundation	CA
Liberty Hill Foundation	CA
McCune Foundation, The*	CA
McKay Foundation, The*	CA
Mitchell Kapor Foundation, The	CA
Penney Family Fund	CA
Rosenberg Foundation	CA
San Diego Foundation for Change*	CA
San Francisco Foundation, The*	CA
Silicon Valley Community Foundation	CA
Tides Foundation	CA
United Way of Greater Los Angeles	CA
United Way of the Bay Area, The*	CA
Women Donors Network*	CA
Women's Foundation of California*	CA

Women's Funding Network*	CA
Chinook Fund*	CO
Global Greengrants Fund*	CO
Arca Foundation, The*	DC
Consumer Health Foundation*	DC
Discount Foundation, The	DC
Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation*	DC
Hill-Snowdon Foundation	DC
Public Welfare Foundation, Inc.	DC
Fund for Southern Communities, Inc.*	GA
Southern Partners Fund	GA
Hawaii People's Fund*	HI
Fund for Idaho*	ID
3Arts*	IL
Crossroads Fund*	IL
Retirement Research Foundation, The	IL
Wieboldt Foundation	IL
Woods Fund of Chicago	IL
Foundation for Louisiana (formerly the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation, Inc.)	LA
Access Strategies Fund, Inc.*	MA
Eos Foundation, The*	MA
Grassroots International, Inc.*	MA
Haymarket People's Fund*	MA

Hyams Foundation, Inc., The*	MA
Peace Development Fund*	MA
Proteus Fund, Inc.	MA
Solidago Foundation	MA
Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts*	MA
Calvert Foundation*	MD
Maine Initiatives, Inc.	ME
W.K. Kellogg Foundation	MI
Blandin Foundation*	MN
General Mills Foundation	MN
Headwaters Foundation for Justice	MN
McKnight Foundation, The	MN
Minneapolis Foundation, The	MN
Northwest Area Foundation	MN
Pfund*	MN
Saint Paul Foundation, The	MN
Women's Foundation of Minnesota	MN
Foundation for the Mid-South	MS
Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust	NC
Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, Inc.	NC
Warner Foundation, The	NC
Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Inc.	NC
Endowment for Health, Inc*	NH

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The	NJ
Con Alma Health Foundation, Inc.*	NM
Abelard Foundation, Inc., The*	NY
Arcus Foundation	NY
Daphne Foundation, The	NY
Edward W. Hazen Foundation, Inc., The	NY
Elton John AIDS Foundation, Inc.*	NY
Ford Foundation	NY
Funding Exchange, Inc.*	NY
H. van Ameringen Foundation*	NY
Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation, Inc.	NY
Marie C. and Joseph C. Wilson Foundation*	NY
Melville Charitable Trust, The*	NY
Ms. Foundation for Women*	NY
New World Foundation, The	NY
New York Foundation	NY
Norman Foundation, Inc.*	NY
North Star Fund, Inc.	NY
NoVo Foundation*	NY
Open Society Foundation, Inc.	NY
Overbrook Foundation, The	NY
Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, Inc.*	NY
The Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock and its Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program	NY

Third Wave Foundation	NY
United Way of New York City*	NY
van Ameringen Foundation, Inc.*	NY
Wallace Foundation, The	NY
Cleveland Foundation, The*	OH
Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation, The*	OH
Needmor Fund, The	OH
McKenzie River Gathering Foundation	OR
Meyer Memorial Trust	OR
Northwest Health Foundation	OR
Western States Center	OR
FISA Foundation*	PA
Three Rivers Community Foundation*	PA
Appalachian Community Fund*	TN
A Glimmer of Hope Foundation*	TX
Kirkpatrick Family Foundation, The	WA
Marguerite Casey Foundation	WA
Peppercorn Foundation	WA
Potlatch Fund*	WA
Pride Foundation, The*	WA
Quixote Foundation, Inc.*	WA
Social Justice Fund Northwest	WA
Washington Progress Fund*	WA

Women's Funding Alliance*

WA

Wisconsin Community Fund*

WI

** Grantmakers that joined after Philanthropy's Promise launched in June 2011.*

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