Community Foundations & Media
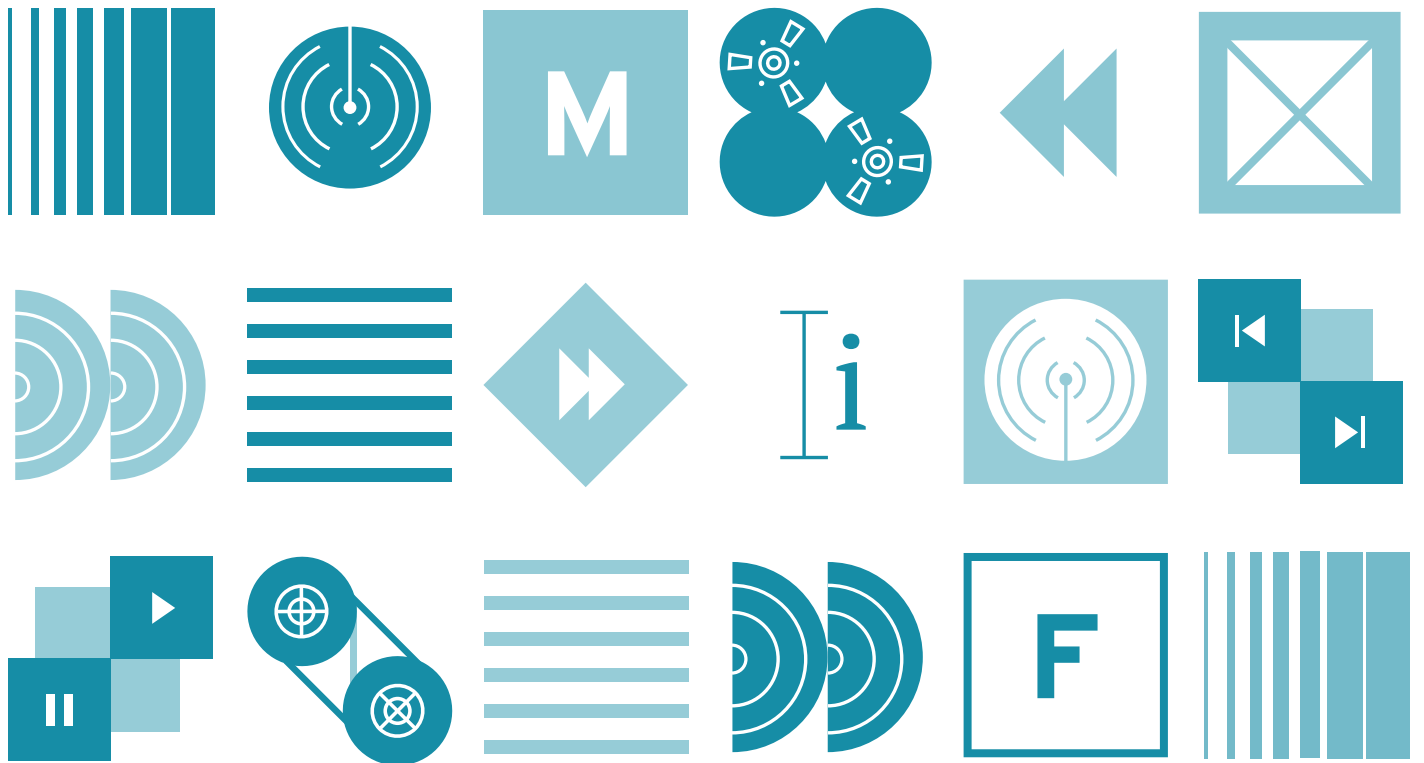
Funding Data from 2009-2021

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Introduction

In 2020, Media Impact Funders shared top-level data about community foundation support for journalism, as part of our effort to ignite conversations and understanding about the important role that community foundations play in the media funding ecosystem.

That preliminary funding data, published in "Community Foundations & Journalism: Funding Data from 2009-2019," follows a number of earlier reports examining the state of media and journalism funding across the U.S. and the world.

Building on this work, Media Impact Funders is pleased to share a more detailed look at community foundation support for media in the U.S., including top funders and recipients, comparisons of funding across regions, and examples of grants across a range of media subjects. Data is drawn from Foundation Maps for Media Funding, an interactive map made in partnership with Candid (formerly Foundation Center), which shows philanthropically funded media since 2009.

Out of $19.6 billion in media grants made by U.S. foundations since 2009, **$1.1 billion were made by community foundations.**
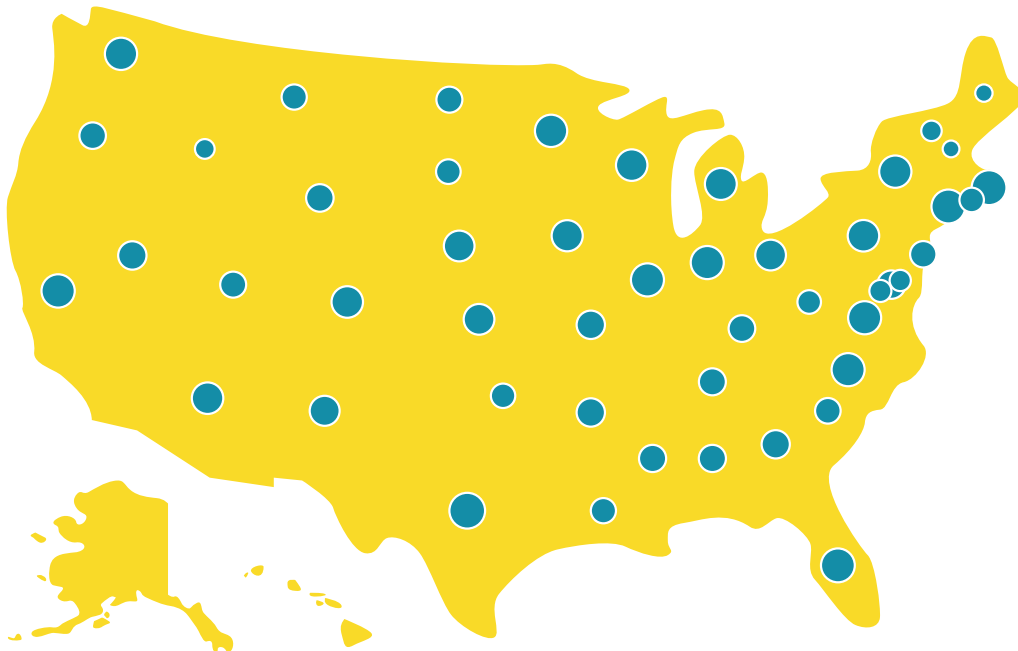
Number of Grants	Value of Grants	Number of Funders	Number of Recipients
43,351	**$1.1** Billion	**461**	**8,162**

Community Foundation grants

2009-Present

BY SUBJECT AREA

Media Content and Platforms

Number of Grants	Value of Grants	Number of Funders	Number of Recipients
33,694	**$727.7** Million	**423**	**6,284**

Media Applications and Tools

Number of Grants	Value of Grants	Number of Funders	Number of Recipients
580	**$51.7** Million	**89**	**266**

Telecommunications Infrastructure

Number of Grants	Value of Grants	Number of Funders	Number of Recipients
2,217	**$155.2** Million	**228**	**1,158**

Media Access and Policy

Number of Grants	Value of Grants	Number of Funders	Number of Recipients
5,840	**$159.2** Million	**148**	**771**

Journalism, News and Information

Number of Grants	Value of Grants	Number of Funders	Number of Recipients
3,815	**$124** Million	**153**	**700**

The data reflects grantmaking investments, not other financial instruments such as loans or equity stakes, and is collected in several ways. Funders submit their giving data directly to Candid, and Candid also reviews 990 tax forms and other public information.

Grants included in the data map include a wide range of media projects, and are organized by the following taxonomy:

- Media Content and Platforms
- Telecommunications Infrastructure
- Media Applications and Tools
- Media Access and Policy
- Journalism, News and Information

Within these categories of funding, there are 25 sub-categories, including radio, film and video, mobile media, media justice, internet access, freedom of expression, investigative journalism, etc. More information about the definitions and coding methods are available on the data map, which can be accessed at **mediaimpactfunders.org**.

Data as of April 2021. Some funders have not yet reported 2020 data, so we know these totals will increase as more funders report their grants.

Community Foundation grants

2009-Present

Journalism, News and Information

$124

Million

Telecommunications Infrastructure

$155.2

Million

Media Access and Policy

$159.2

Million

Media Applications and Tools

$51.7

Million

Media Content and Platforms

$727.7

Million

BY DOLLAR AMOUNT
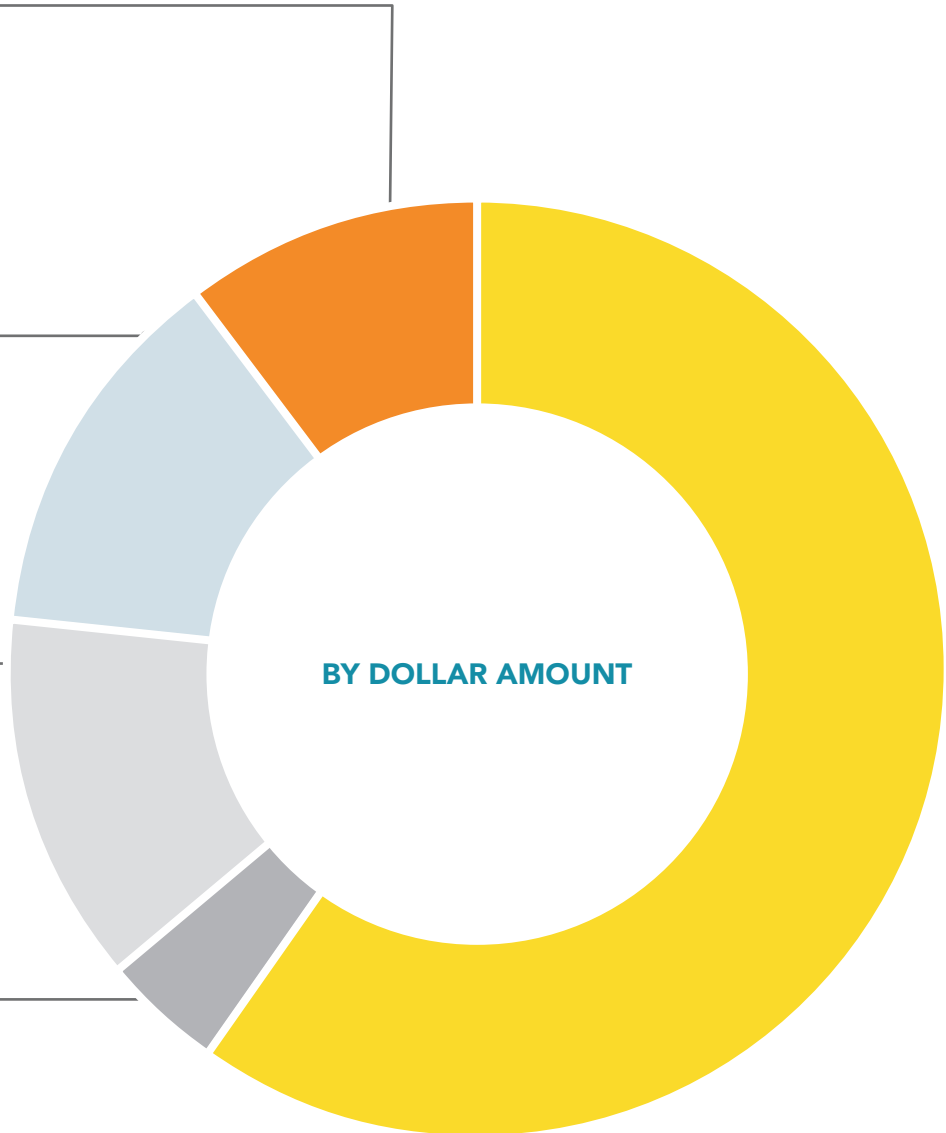
We examined community foundation support by region, including the top 10 funders from the West, Midwest, South and Northeast, to highlight the scope of community foundation media investment across the United States.

In addition, we include the top 10 recipient organizations from community foundations in each region to showcase the level of giving directed to regional entities, versus national media organizations.

For each regional snapshot, we provide an overview of a single funder's giving and provide examples of that organization's recent media grants.

Grant examples reflect support for a wide range of media projects, from traditional film and radio, to internet connections and support for projects that aim to help local social service providers and businesses utilize and upgrade essential technologies.

Midwestern Community Foundations

166 community foundations in the Midwest gave:

- **9,906** media grants
- to **2,130** recipients
- Totaling **$168 million**

Compared to **5,722** total foundations giving **$2.1 billion** in media grants

Top 10 Midwestern Community Foundations for Media Funding

Funder	Location	*Dollar Value of Grants	Number of Grants
The Chicago Community Trust	Chicago, IL	$38.5 Million	1,412
The Cleveland Foundation	Cleveland, OH	$19.3 Million	548
Greater Kansas City Community Foundation	Kansas City, MO	$17.7 Million	549
The Minneapolis Foundation	Minneapolis, MN	$15.8 Million	2,550
Minnesota Community Foundation	Saint Paul, MN	$11.3 Million	53
The Saint Paul Foundation	Saint Paul, MN	$10.3 Million	154
The Columbus Foundation	Columbus, OH	$8.5 Million	576
Central Indiana Community Foundation	Indianapolis, IN	$6.3 Million	140
Greater Milwaukee Foundation	Milwaukee, WI	$5 Million	310
Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan	Detroit, MI	$4 Million	118

Funders based in Midwest; starting in year(s) 2009 - latest available; where funder is a Community Foundation

Top 10 Recipients from Midwestern Community Foundations

Recipient	Location	*Dollar Value of Grants	Number of Grants
Minnesota Public Radio	Saint Paul, MN	$14.4 Million	700
Ideastream	Cleveland, OH	$7.8 Million	180
Starboard Media Foundation Inc	Green Bay, WI	$7.5 Million	2
KCPT-Kansas City Public Television Channel 19	Kansas City, MO	$7.5 Million	188
Twin Cities Public Television	Saint Paul, MN	$6.6 Million	572
Relevant Radio	Green Bay, WI	$5.3 Million	43
GiveMN.org	Saint Paul, MN	$4.5 Million	32
Grace Communications Foundation	New York, NY	$3.9 Million	5
Government Accountability Project	Washington, DC	$3.3 Million	17
Northwestern University Press	Evanston, IL	$2.9 Million	21

Recipients based in Midwest; starting in year(s) 2009 - latest available; where funder is a Community Foundation

The Cleveland Foundation

KEY STATS

Number of Grants	Value of Grants	Number of Funders	Number of Recipients
548	**$19.3** Million	**1**	**165**

Grants where funder is The Cleveland Foundation, starting in year(s) 2009 to present

TOTAL DOLLAR VALUE OF GRANTS

Media Content and Platforms
$14,859,652

Telecommunications infrastructure
$3,044,093

Media applications and tools
$1,273,921

Media access and policy
$403,890

Journalism, news and information
$255,890

TOTAL NUMBER OF GRANTS

Media Content and Platforms
460

Telecommunications infrastructure
54

Media applications and tools
12

Media access and policy
19

Journalism, news and information
25

Distribution of Grants by Subject*

*Totals may add up to more than 100% because grants can be assigned to more than one category

Cleveland Foundation: Examples of media funding

DigitalC
(Cleveland, OH)
Amount: $100,000
Year: 2020

Subject: Internet and broadband

Purpose: To help provide high-speed internet to 200 low-income families in order to access online coursework and community resources during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To: Ideastream
(Cleveland, OH)
Amount: $28,098
Year: 2018

Subject: Journalism, news and information, general

Purpose: For support, development and improvement of Ideastream, particularly for local news and public affairs programming for WCPN Public Radio.

Southern Community Foundations

116 community foundations in the South gave:

- **8,319** media grants
- to **2,119** recipients
- Totaling **$195 million**

Compared to **6,908** total foundations giving **$4.9 billion** in media grants

Top 10 Southern Community Foundations for Media Funding

Funder	Location	*Dollar Value of Grants	Number of Grants
Foundation For The Carolinas	Charlotte, NC	$44.5 million	126
The Miami Foundation	Miami, FL	$15.7 million	408
Community Foundation of Greater Memphis	Memphis, TN	$12.3 million	837
Communities Foundation of Texas Inc.	Dallas, TX	$9.9 million	731
Greater Washington Community Foundation	Washington, DC	$9.6 million	634
Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta	Atlanta, GA	$8.8 million	341
The Greater New Orleans Foundation	New Orleans, LA	$8.2 million	528
The Dallas Foundation	Dallas, TX	$7.5 million	166
Greater Houston Community Foundation	Houston, TX	$7.3 million	756
Tulsa Community Foundation	Tulsa, OK	$7.1 million	42

Funders based in South; starting in year(s) 2009 - latest available; where funder is a Community Foundation

Top 10 Recipients from Southern Community Foundations

Recipient	Location	*Dollar Value of Grants	Number of Grants
Population Media Center	South Burlington, VT	$21.2 million	9
Center of Innovations of Financial Education	Rancho Sante Fe, CA	$9.4 million	3
North Carolina Coastal Federation	Newport, NC	$6.7 million	16
The Daily Memphian	Memphis, TN	$6.7 million	2
Jacksonville Public Education Fund	Jacksonville, FL	$5 million	2
North Texas Public Broadcasting	Dallas, TX	$3.8 million	217
Vox Teen Communications	Atlanta, GA	$3.5 million	9
Public Radio Internation	Minneapolis, MN	$3.4 million	12
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Cambridge, MA	$3.1 million	7
Semon.Net	Tulsa, OK	$3 million	6

Recipients based in South; starting in year(s) 2009 - latest available; where funder is a Community Foundation

The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee

KEY STATS

Number of Grants	Value of Grants	Number of Funders	Number of Recipients
291	**$3.3**Million	**1**	**63**

TOTAL DOLLAR VALUE OF GRANTS

Media Content and Platforms
$3,020,654

Telecommunications infrastructure
$249,200

Media applications and tools
$3,000

Media access and policy
$30,509

Journalism, news and information
$72,109

TOTAL NUMBER OF GRANTS

Media Content and Platforms
266

Telecommunications infrastructure
6

Media applications and tools
1

Media access and policy
14

Journalism, news and information
18

Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee: Examples of media funding

To: NaFF
(Nashville, TN)
Amount: $7,500
Year: 2018

Subject: Media Content and Platforms, General

Purpose: To engage 15 at-risk teens from youth villages in professional-level song-writing, recording, music video production, and festival showcase.

To: Nashville Public Television
(Nashville, TN)
Amount: $10,000
Year: 2018

Subject: Television

Purpose: To fund production expenses related to NPT's program "Aging Matters," focusing on issues affecting seniors and the community.

Western Community Foundations

> **104** community foundations in the West gave:
>
> - **13,770** media grants
> - to **2,838** recipients
> - Totaling **$654 million**
>
> Compared to **5,332** total foundations giving **$6.6 billion** in media grants

Top 10 Western Community Foundations for Media Funding

Funder	Location	*Dollar Value of Grants	Number of Grants
Silicon Valley Community Foundation	Mountain View, CA	$485 million	4,902
The San Francisco Foundation	San Francisco, CA	$37.3 million	1,064
Seattle Foundation	Seattle, WA	$28.3 million	3,019
Hawaii Community Foundation	Honolulu, HI	$12.4 million	196
The Denver Foundation	Denver, CO	$12.3 million	480
Marin Community Foundation	Novato, CA	$10.1 million	346
The San Diego Foundation	San Diego, CA	$8.8 million	579
Oregon Community Foundation	Portland, OR	$8 million	763
East Bay Community Foundation	Oakland, CA	$7.8 million	246
Orange County Community Foundation	Newport Beach, CA	$7.3 million	77

Funders based in West; starting in year(s) 2009 - latest available; where funder is a Community Foundation

Top 10 Recipients from Western Community Foundations

Recipient	Location	*Dollar Value of Grants	Number of Grants
EducationSuperHighway	San Francisco, CA	$61.5 million	19
First Look Media Works	New York, NY	$56 million	6
Electronic Frontier Foundation	San Francisco, CA	$50.8 million	540
GiveDirectly	New York, NY	$50.3 million	38
American Online Giving Foundation	Safety Harbor, FL	$17.7 million	186
Northern California Public Broadcasting	San Francisco, CA	$12.4 million	1,051
Sundance Institute	Park City, UT	$10.3 million	58
Measures for Justice	Rochester, NY	$9.7 million	10
Common Sense Media	San Francisco, CA	$8.2 million	75
ProPublica	New York, NY	$7.9 million	86

Recipients based in West; starting in year(s) 2009 - latest available; where funder is a Community Foundation

The East Bay Community Foundation

KEY STATS

Number of Grants	Value of Grants	Number of Funders	Number of Recipients
246	**$7.8**Million	**1**	**114**

TOTAL DOLLAR VALUE OF GRANTS

Media Content and Platforms
$6,677,205

Telecommunications infrastructure
$426,500

Media applications and tools
$374,500

Media access and policy
$3,438,746

Journalism, news and information
$340,615

TOTAL NUMBER OF GRANTS

Media Content and Platforms
202

Telecommunications infrastructure
22

Media applications and tools
2

Media access and policy
30

Journalism, news and information
17

Easy Bay Community Foundation: Examples of media funding

To: Destiny Arts Center
(Oakland, CA)
Amount: $56,800
Year: 2018

Subject: Film and video, Media Content and Platforms, General

Purpose: For The Elders Project, The Embodiment Project/and general support.

To: Oakland Public Education Fund
(Oakland, CA)
Amount: $3.1 million
Year: 2016

Subject: Web-based media; Media literacy

Purpose: In support of Oakland Promise, building digital media-arts skills for Oakland youth.

Northeastern Community Foundations

75 community foundations in the Northeast gave:

- **9,842** media grants
- to **2,243** recipients
- Totaling **$126 million**

Compared to **8,186** total foundations giving **$6.5 billion** in media grants

Top 10 Northeastern Community Foundations for Media Funding

Funder	Location	*Dollar Value of Grants	Number of Grants
The New York Community Trust	New York, NY	$37.6 million	1,919
Boston Foundation	Boston, MA	$10.5 million	1,080
Rochester Area Community Foundation	Rochester, NY	$9.9 million	1,098
The Pittsburgh Foundation	Pittsburgh, PA	$9.5 million	740
The Philadelphia Foundation	Philadelphia, PA	$7.9 million	355
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation	Concord, NH	$6.9 million	765
Rhode Island Foundation	Providence, RI	$6.5 million	404
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving	Hartford, CT	$5.9 million	207
Vermont Community Foundation	Middleburg (village), VT	$4 million	222
Community Foundation of New Jersey	Morristown, NJ	$3.9 million	263

Funders based in Northeast; starting in year(s) 2009 - latest available; where funder is a Community Foundation

Top 10 Recipients from Northeastern Community Foundations

Recipient	Location	*Dollar Value of Grants	Number of Grants
Sesame Workshop	New York, NY	$3.4 million	24
WGBH Educational Foundation	Springfield, MA	$3.2 million	498
WNYC Radio	New York, NY	$3 million	332
Rhode Island Public Radio	Providence, RI	$2.8 million	139
New Hampshire Public Radio	Concord, NH	$2.8 million	226
**WXX	Public Broadcasting Council**	Rochester, NY	$2.7 million	316
New America Foundation	Washington, DC	$2.3 million	15
WNET	New York, NY	$2.2 million	396
Connecticut Public Broadcasting	Hartford, CT	$2.1 million	126
Pittsburgh Filmmakers & Center for the Arts	Pittsburgh, PA	$1.9 million	40

Recipients from funders based in Northeast; starting in year(s) 2009 - latest available, where funder is a Community Foundation

The Pittsburgh Foundation

KEY STATS

Number of Grants	Value of Grants	Number of Funders	Number of Recipients
740	**$9.5** Million	**1**	**165**

TOTAL DOLLAR VALUE OF GRANTS

Media Content and Platforms
$8,353,792

Telecommunications infrastructure
$278,587

Media applications and tools
$52,376

Media access and policy
$206,697

Journalism, news and information
$1,863,975

TOTAL NUMBER OF GRANTS

Media Content and Platforms
700

Telecommunications infrastructure
16

Media applications and tools
3

Media access and policy
13

Journalism, news and information
20

Pittsburgh Foundation: Examples of media funding

To: Attack Theater
(Pittsburgh, PA)
Amount: $35,000
Year: 2018

Subject: Media Content and Platforms, General

Purpose: To support the development of their new site-specific immersive dance theater production, If|Maybe|Then, which utilizes interactive technology and new media.

To: PublicSource
(Pittsburgh, PA)
Amount: $250,000
Year: 2017

Subject: Journalism, News and Information

Purpose: General operating support for nonprofit digital-first news organization that lives up to its mission of delivering public-service reporting and analysis in the Pittsburgh region.

Giving by media subject

To dig a little deeper into giving by media type, we highlight the top 10 community foundations by total giving and the corresponding recipients for Television and Film and Video (both under the Media Content and Platforms subject); Internet and Broadband (under Telecommunications Infrastructure); Media Access and Policy, General (under Media Access and Policy); and Journalism, News and Information, General (under Journalism, News and Information).

We chose these subjects because they receive significant community foundation support and showcase funders that are key players across several media subjects.

Community Foundation media grantmaking by primary subject

Distribution of Grants by Subject*

Totals may add up to more than 100% because grants can be assigned to more than one category

TOTAL DOLLAR VALUE OF GRANTS	TOTAL NUMBER OF GRANTS
Media Content and Platforms **$727,362,646**	*Media Content and Platforms* **33,695**
Telecommunications infrastructure **$155,090,760**	*Telecommunications infrastructure* **2,211**
Media applications and tools **$51,913,015**	*Media applications and tools* **582**
Media access and policy **$158,595,704**	*Media access and policy* **4,254**
Journalism, news and information **$124,124,898**	*Journalism, news and information* **3,825**

Grants from funders based in United States; starting in year(s) 2009 to present; where funder is a Community Foundation

Television

Funder	Location	*Dollar Value of Grants	Number of Grants
Silicon Valley Community Foundation	Mountain View, CA	$24.7 million	932
The Cleveland Foundation	Cleveland, OH	$8.3 million	201
Greater Kansas City Community Foundation	Kansas City, MO	$7.5 million	217
The San Francisco Foundation	San Francisco, CA	$4.9 million	155
The New York Community Trust	New York City, NY	$4.9 million	436
Hawaii Community Foundation	Honolulu, HI	$3.6 million	48
The Chicago Community Trust	Chicago, IL	$3.2 million	273
Rochester Area Community Foundation	Rochester, NY	$3 million	383
Boston Foundation, Inc.	Boston, MA	$2.4 million	417
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving	Hartford, CT	$2.3 million	79

Funders based in United States; in support of Television; starting in year(s) 2009 - latest available; where funder is a Community Foundation

Recipient	Location	*Dollar Value of Grants	Number of Grants
Northern California Public Broadcasting	San Francisco, CA	$11.4 million	970
Ideastream	Cleveland, OH	$7.7 million	174
KCPT-Kansas City Public Television Channel 19	Kansas City, MO	$7.5 million	190
Independent Television Service	San Francisco, CA	$6.3 million	5
WETA - Greater Washington Educational Telecommunications Association	Arlington, VA	$5.4 million	191
WGBH Educational Foundation	Springfield, MA	$3.9 million	525
Hawaii Public Television Foundation	Honolulu, HI	$3.4 million	45
North Texas Public Broadcasting	Dallas, TX	$3.3 million	167
Sesame Workshop	New York, NY	$2.9 million	40
**WXX	Public Broadcasting Council**	Rochester, NY	$2.7 million	317

Recipients from funders based in United States; in support of Television; starting in year(s) 2009 - latest available; where funder is a Community Foundation

Film and Video

Funder	Location	*Dollar Value of Grants	Number of Grants
Silicon Valley Community Foundation	Mountain Vew, CA	$34.1 million	643
The San Francisco Foundation	San Francisco, CA	$12.9 million	328
The New York Community Trust	New York, NY	$7.6 million	318
The Philadelphia Foundation	Philadelphia, PA	$3.7 million	92
Seattle Foundation	Seattle, WA	$2.8 million	274
Marin Community Foundation	Novato, CA	$2.6 million	72
The Cleveland Foundation	Cleveland, OH	$2.3 million	99
The Chicago Community Trust	Chicago, IL	$2.3 million	141
Greater Houston Community Foundation	Houston, TX	$2.2 million	188
The Pittsburgh Foundation	Pittsburgh, PA	$2.1 million	107

Funders based in United States; in support of Film/video; starting in year(s) 2009 - latest available; where funder is a Community Foundation

Recipient	Location	*Dollar Value of Grants	Number of Grants
Sundance Institute	Park City, UT	$10.3 million	60
International Documentary Association	Los Angeles, CA	$5.7 million	113
The Array Alliance	Los Angeles, CA	$3.5 million	4
University of California at Berkeley Foundation	Berkeley, CA	$3.5 million	4
Good Films Impact	Los Angeles, CA	$2.8 million	5
Utah Film Center	Salt Lake City, UT	$2.8 million	57
California Film Institute	San Rafael, CA	$2.7 million	38
Museum of Modern Art	New York, NY	$2 million	4
Women Make Movies	New York, NY	$2 million	62
Film Streams	Omaha, NE	$1.5 million	183

Recipients from funders based in United States; in support of Film/Video; starting in year(s) 2009 - latest available; where funder is a Community Foundation

Internet and Broadband

Funder	Location	*Dollar Value of Grants	Number of Grants
Silicon Valley Community Foundation	Mountain View, CA	$70.5 million	156
The Miami Foundation, Inc.	Miami, FL	$3.8 million	16
The Chicago Community Trust	Chicago, IL	$3.1 million	62
Greater Houston Community Foundation	Houston, TX	$2.4 million	64
The Cleveland Foundation	Cleveland, OH	$2 million	29
Foundation for the Carolinas	Charlotte, NC	$1.6 million	5
Greater Kansas City Community Foundation	Kansas City, MO	$1.4 million	13
The Columbus Foundation	Columbus, OH	$1.3 million	18
Maine Community Foundation	Ellsworth, ME	$920,985	64
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving	Hartford, CT	$781,999	34

Funders based in United States; in support of Internet and broadband; starting in year(s) 2009 - latest available; where funder is a Community Foundation

Recipient	Location	*Dollar Value of Grants	Number of Grants
EducationSuperHighway	San Francisco, CA	$61.5 million	19
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Cambridge, MA	$4.6 million	17
Center for Democracy and Technology	Washington, DC	$3 million	11
The FreeBSD Foundation	Boulder, CO	$2 million	6
California Institute of Technology	Pasadena, CA	$1.5 million	7
Mozilla Foundation	Mountain View, CA	$1 million	20
University of Utah	Salt Lake City, UT	$1 million	1
Internet Security Research Group	San Francisco, CA	$900,000	3
Houston Public Library Foundation	Houston, TX	$780,250	1
HopeWay Foundation	Charlotte, NC	$571,000	1

Recipients from funders based in United States; in support of Internet and broadband; starting in year(s) 2009 - latest available; where funder is a Community Foundation

Media Access and Policy, General

Funder	Location	*Dollar Value of Grants	Number of Grants
Silicon Valley Community Foundation	Mountain View, CA	$57.6 million	577
The Chicago Community Trust	Chicago, IL	$2.7 million	17
The Miami Foundation, Inc.	Miami, FL	$621,244	7
The New York Community Trust	New York, NY	$439,300	10
The San Francisco Foundation	San Francisco, CA	$376,350	23
Seattle Foundation	Seattle, WA	$243,575	19
East Bay Community Foundation	Oakland, CA	$128,570	8
The Minneapolis Foundation	Minneapolis, MN	$120,500	25
Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County	Aptos, CA	$94,500	1
The Saint Paul Foundation	Saint Paul, MN	$75,000	1

Funders based in United States; in support of Media access and policy, general; starting in year(s) 2009 - latest available; where funder is a Community Foundation

Recipient	Location	*Dollar Value of Grants	Number of Grants
Electronic Frontier Foundation	San Francisco, CA	$50.9 million	565
Future of Privacy Forum Education and Innovation Foundation	Washington, DC	$3.9 million	2
Starboard Media Foundation Inc	Green Bay, WI	$2.5 million	1
Electronic Privacy Information Center	Washington, DC	$1.1 million	27
Mozilla Foundation	Mountain View, CA	$1 million	20
Black Girls Code	San Francisco, CA	$958,334	10
One Degree	San Francisco, CA	$409,298	21
Texas Observer	Austin, TX	$225,000	2
Internet Society	Reston, VA	$220,000	4
Media Matters for America	Washington, DC	$125,000	6

Recipients from funders based in United States; in support of Media access and policy, general; starting in year(s) 2009 - latest available; where funder is a Community Foundation

Journalism, News and Information, General

Funder	Location	*Dollar Value of Grants	Number of Grants
Silicon Valley Community Foundation	Mountain View, CA	$23 million	385
Community Foundation of Greater Memphis	Memphis, TN	$7.5 million	24
Foundation for the Carolinas	Charlotte, NC	$6.7 million	9
The San Francisco Foundation	San Francisco, CA	$3.2 million	63
Rochester Area Community Foundation	Rochester, NY	$2.7 million	170
The Miami Foundation, Inc.	Miami, FL	$1.9 million	58
Seattle Foundation	Seattle, WA	$1.3 million	152
The Minneapolis Foundation	Minneapolis, MN	$1.2 million	236
The New York Community Trust	New York, NY	$1.1 million	74
Community Foundation for Greater New Haven	New Haven, CT	$1.1 million	25

Funders based in United States; in support of Journalism, news, and information, general; starting in year(s) 2009 - latest available; where funder is a Community Foundation

Recipient	Location	*Dollar Value of Grants	Number of Grants
North Carolina Coastal Federation	Newport, NC	$6.7 million	16
The Daily Memphian	Memphis, TN	$6.7 million	2
EdSurge	Portland, OR	$3.4 million	3
Committee to Protect Journalists	New York, NY	$2.7 million	18
Solutions Journalism Network	New York, NY	$2.5 million	13
CALmatters	Sacramento, CA	$2.3 million	35
Northern California Public Broadcasting	San Francisco, CA	$2.2 million	233
Chalkbeat	New York, NY	$2.2 million	20
Connecticut News Project	Hartford, CT	$2 million	37
University of Oregon Foundation	Eugene, OR	$2 million	11

Recipients from funders based in United States; in support of Journalism, news, and information, general; starting in year(s) 2009 - latest available; where funder is a Community Foundation
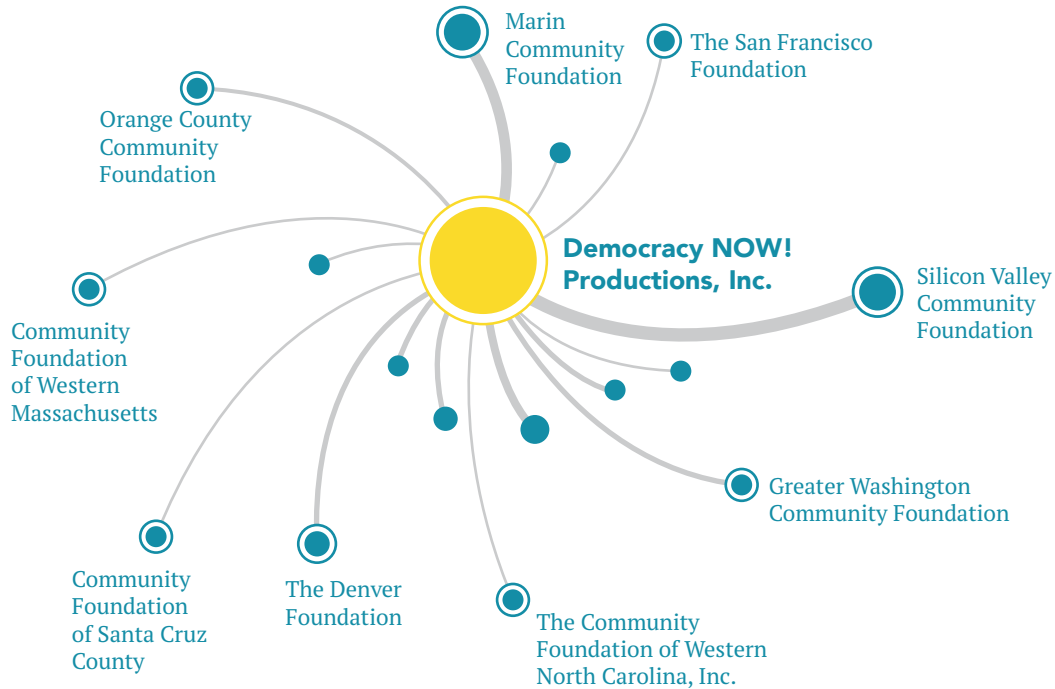
Four examples of community foundation support for media organizations

We aim to highlight the many community foundations that support a range of media organizations, from investigative journalism to telecommunications infrastructure.

The constellation images show the funding connections and networks between a single recipient organization (yellow circle) and the foundations that support it (blue circle).
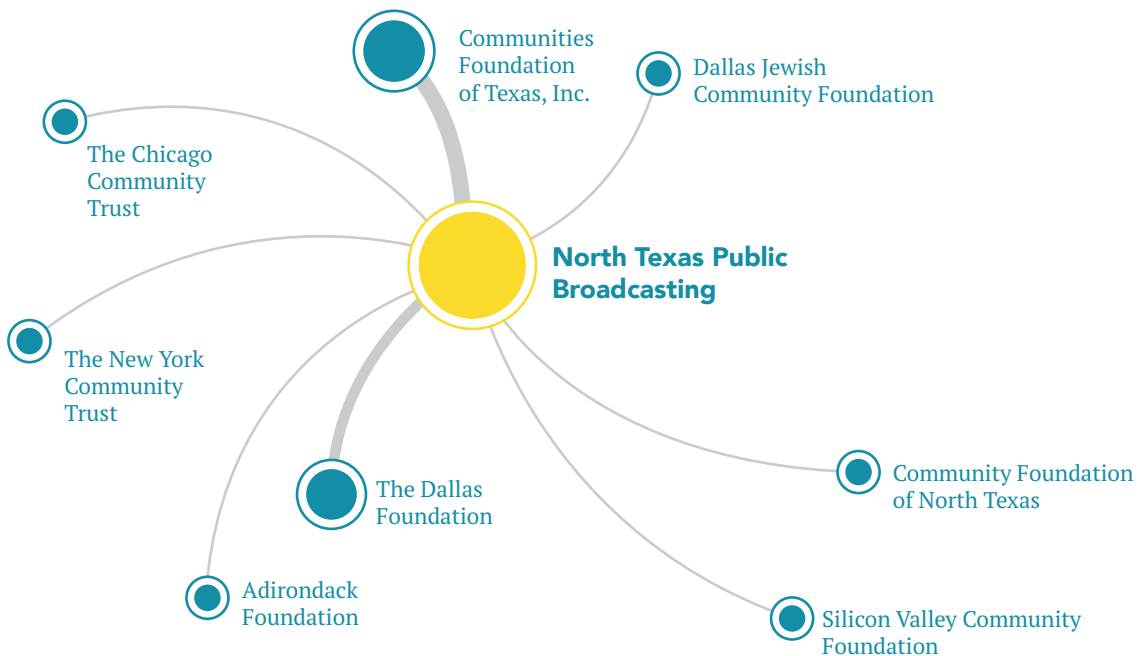
The larger the blue circle, the more significant the funding level.

Democracy Now! Productions, Inc.

Marin Community Foundation

The San Francisco Foundation

Orange County Community Foundation

Democracy NOW! Productions, Inc.

Silicon Valley Community Foundation

Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts

Greater Washington Community Foundation

Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County

The Denver Foundation

The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc.

Grants where recipient is Democracy NOW! Productions, Inc. from funders based in United States; starting in year(s) 2009 to present; where funder is a Community Foundation

North Texas Public Broadcasting

Communities Foundation of Texas, Inc.

Dallas Jewish Community Foundation

The Chicago Community Trust

North Texas Public Broadcasting

The New York Community Trust

Community Foundation of North Texas

The Dallas Foundation

Adirondack Foundation

Silicon Valley Community Foundation

Grants where recipient is North Texas Public Broadcasting to organizations based in United States; starting in year(s) 2009 to present; where funder is a Community Foundation
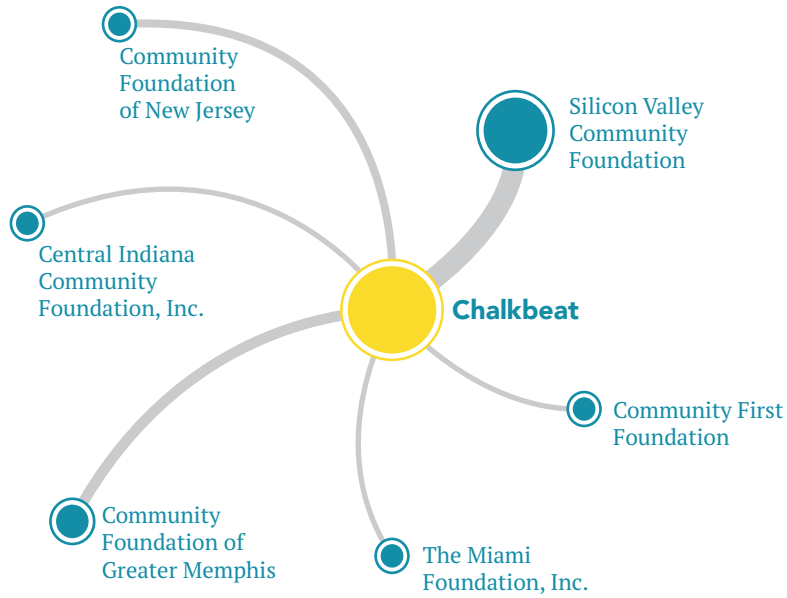
ProPublica
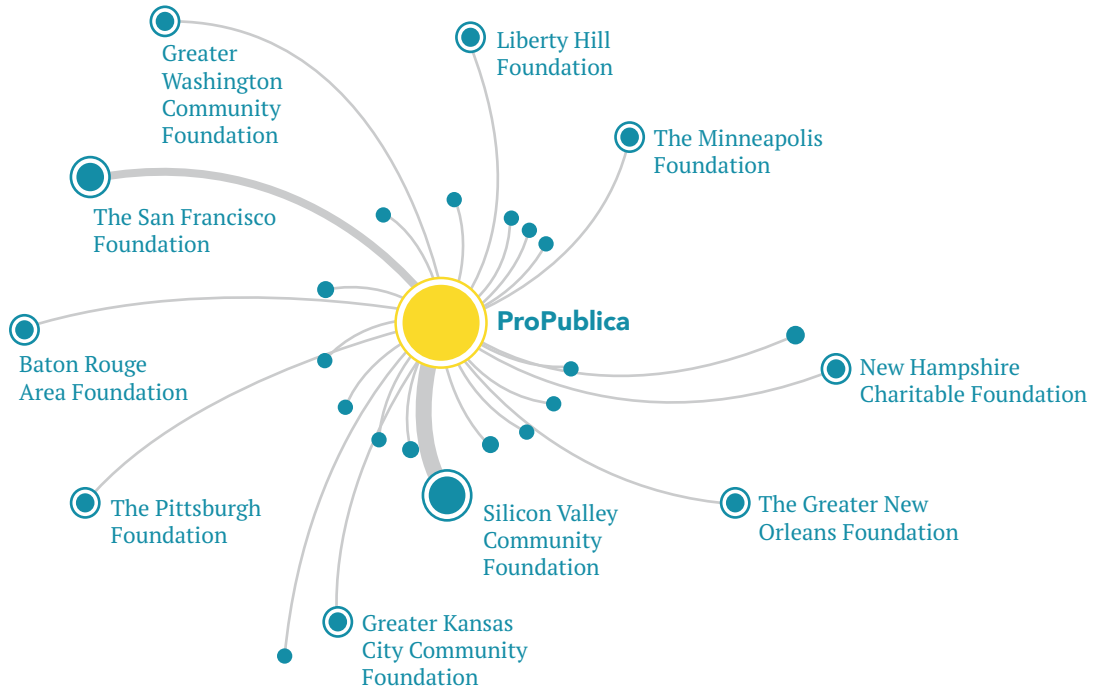
Grants where recipient is ProPublica from funders based in United States; starting in year(s) 2009 to present; where funder is a Community Foundation

Women Make Movies

Grants where recipient is Women Make Movies to organizations based in United States; starting in year(s) 2009 to present; where funder is a Community Foundation

Chalkbeat

Grants where recipient is Chalkbeat from funders based in United States; starting in year(s) 2009 to present; where funder is a Community Foundation

Crisis Text Line

Grants where recipient is Crisis Text Line to organizations based in United States; starting in year(s) 2009 to present; where funder is a Community Foundation

Government Accountability Project

Grants where recipient is Government Accountability Project from funders based in United States; starting in year(s) 2009 to present; where funder is a Community Foundation

Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting

Grants where recipient is Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting to organizations based in United States; starting in year(s) 2009 to present; where funder is a Community Foundation

Conclusion

This data report clearly shows the significant role that community foundations are playing in funding media within their own communities and on the national level. While the bulk of giving across many media types is concentrated to just a handful of community foundations, the scope of giving today is an encouraging sign that community foundations are recognizing the importance of supporting media as part of a larger strategy to build and sustain healthy communities.

By looking at community foundation support by region and media subject, this report offers a clearer picture of who's funding what, and where. It also reveals giving to a wide range of media platforms and projects, with the majority of community foundation support going toward Media Content and Platforms, followed by Telecommunications Infrastructure. Additionally, it offers the clearest picture yet of how much community foundation support is being directed toward Journalism, News and Information.

But there is much more to uncover, and we hope to use this report to spark conversation across community foundations. In particular, we want to better understand the level of giving by donor-advised funds compared to discretionary funding by program staff, and whether community foundations have mandates to ensure a certain percentage of giving remains in the region.

We look forward to convening community foundation staff in the coming months to refine the field's understanding of its role in media philanthropy and welcome suggestions for discussion questions to advance our shared knowledge.

Appendix I: Understanding the Media Data Map

Clarifications on the media data map:

The data map only shows grantmaking investments, not other financial instruments such as loans or equity stakes. Funders submit the data for their giving to Foundation Center, which then codes grants according to grant description and other details. As noted above, grants included in the media map include a wide range of approaches that some funders don't consider part of their media work. For example, a funder supporting development of web content for educational use might consider that an education grant, rather than a media grant for an educational outcome. Recognizing that the scope of the taxonomy developed in partnership with Foundation Center includes media-related grants outside of some funders' portfolios, readers are encouraged to explore the map themselves using search parameters that fit their funding guidelines.

The top-level taxonomy includes:

- Media Content and Platforms
- Telecommunications Infrastructure
- Media Applications and Tools
- Media Access and Policy
- Journalism, News and Information

Within these wider categories of funding there are 25 sub-categories, including radio, film and video, mobile media, media justice, internet access, freedom of expression, investigative journalism, etc.

Definitions

MEDIA CONTENT AND PLATFORMS

Television
Support for television production and broadcast. Includes support for producers of public television, cable television, community access television, broadcasting in schools, and interactive television.

Radio
Support for radio production and broadcast, including public radio stations. Also includes support for radio stations, which offer programming designed for community residents who are blind or visually impaired (radio reading services).

Web-based media

Support for the World Wide Web. Includes support for traditional websites (shopping, online versions of print publications, etc.) and Web 2.0 platforms, which allow for creation and exchange of user-generated content (social media, blogs, etc.) and content shared on the Web (YouTube, Pandora, etc.). Does not include email, fax, Internet access, instant messaging, and other computer network-related services.

Film/video

Support for film and video (educational, documentary, cultural, religious, etc.) and activities that promote public appreciation of film and video. Also includes support for activities that encourage new, foreign, and independent filmmakers, film expositions and festivals, and screenings of old or difficult to obtain films in noncommercial facilities.

Print

Support for print publishing and distribution, including university press, literary press, newspapers, magazines, and printing houses. Does not include journalism, retail sale of books, or where publishing a newsletter, journal, or directory is one of many activities for an organization.

Audio

Support for recorded and reproduced sound using analog or digital technology. Recordings may be of music, spoken word performance, interviews, or audio versions of media originally in another format.

Mobile media

Support for small, handheld portable devices, including mobile phones, smartphones, MP3 players, small game players, digital cameras, and tablets, and applications developed for use on these devices.

Media content and platforms, general

Support for newspaper, television, cable, video, film, website, or radio production, training and programming, and/or educational programs related to the media. Includes support for associations of writers.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

Telecommunications

Support for organizations that furnish point-to-point communications services, whether intended to be received aurally or visually. Includes support for establishments primarily engaged in providing paging and beeper services, leasing telephone lines or other methods of telephone transmission, such as optical fiber lines and microwave or satellite facilities, and reselling the use of such methods to others. Also includes support for organizations that are involved in policymaking, information-sharing, research, or other activities related to telephone, telegraph, and telecommunications systems.

Internet and Broadband

Support for electronic mail, facsimile transmission services (fax), Internet, broadband, instant messaging (IM), Usenets, Internet forums, Voice-over-Internet-Protocol (VoIP) services, electronic community networks, and other computer network-related organizations. Does not include cell or mobile phone networks and services, cable providers that bundle Internet access with television and telephone service, or media posted and networked on the World Wide Web.

Internet access

Support for policies and services that ensure users have the appropriate digital technologies and connectivity necessary for access to information and media, especially access to broadband internet.

Telecommunications infrastructure, general

Support for information and communications technology (ICT) and the services which provide, maintain, and manage ICT. Includes telecommunications utilities, equipment, and services, Internet provision and governance, "cloud" data processing and management, and other large-scale digital services.

MEDIA APPLICATIONS AND TOOLS

Interactive games
Support for games that use an interactive environment, device, or program, such as a computer game, video game, electronic game, or arcade game, for play by one or more players. The play can be for entertainment, education, competition, social interaction, and/or other purposes. Gaming can involve simulations, role-playing, strategy, puzzles, virtual reality, elements of chance, and tests of skill, knowledge, or creativity. These games can be played on a range of platforms, including small handheld devices, consoles, computers, and large screens.

Geographic Information Systems
Support for geographic information systems (GIS) that capture, manage, analyze, and present geographical data for use in projects, applications, and enterprises. Data can be captured by remote sensing, Global Positioning Systems (GPS), field techniques, or by collecting spatially referenced data (e.g. addresses). Presented most often in map form, although other graphical displays may also be used.

Media applications and tools, general
Support for electronic technology and software that assist in the creation, structuring, and delivery of information, communications, data, entertainment, artwork, and other content. These technologies are often interactive, digital, networked, and/or user-generated.

MEDIA ACCESS AND POLICY

Media democracy
Support for promoting policies, approaches, and technologies that serve democratic principles of openness across a range of media, including entertainment, information, opinion, public data, and news available to all citizens. Includes support for efforts to promote wide and equitable access to media outlets and telecommunications services, promote fair and neutral provision of information services, and encourage inclusive public discourse through these channels.

Media justice
Support for giving a voice to traditionally marginalized communities based on race, class, income, geographic, and social barriers and addressing systemic barriers to media participation, ownership, and representation. Also includes support for efforts centered on media to achieve other social justice aims.

Media literacy
Support for efforts to develop and increase the public's ability to find, understand, use, and create media and information. Includes support for media education that develops the ability to "access, analyze, evaluate, and communicate" information delivered in varied ways.

School and public library media centers
Support for libraries funded and/or operated by public officials or by K-12 schools, which maintain a collection of books, manuscripts, and periodicals, offer a place for reading and study, and/or provide general library services to the community or school. In addition, these centers or programs must provide access to collections of material in other media (as television and radio programs, eBooks, recordings, films, videos, and others), access to online or electronic sources of information and instruction, or education on digital and electronic media.

Open government
Support for promoting the right of citizens, public interest groups, and the media to information held by federal agencies unless it falls into one of the categories explicitly exempted by the Freedom of Information Act.

Freedom of Expression/First Amendment
Support for promoting the right of the press to freedom of expression without censorship or other restrictions by government. Also includes support for promoting the right of the media to maintain confidential sources and those who maintain defense funds to pay the legal expenses of media representatives involved in freedom-of-the-press cases.

Intellectual property

Support for legal policies and services that apply to intangible assets, such as artistic works, discoveries, inventions, symbols, and designs. Includes protection of the author's moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary, or artistic production. Also includes overuse or overextension of protections, such as copyright and patent.

Media access and policy, general

Support for the right and ability of the public to have direct access to media content and the right and ability of a content provider to have direct access to the public. This includes access to appropriate technologies, full and complete data, a wide range of information sources, and resources that allow transparency and comprehensibility in communication.

JOURNALISM, NEWS AND INFORMATION

Investigative journalism

Support for reporting on a subject of interest or importance, often a single event or a narrowly defined topic, which is based on deep, extensive research of long duration. The research may consist of interviews, data collection, document analysis, database searches, and traditional research techniques using primary sources. It is often delivered or communicated in long or serialized form.

Constituency journalism

Support for news gathering and distribution by a particular group of people for a particular group of people, such as youth media and ethnic media. A form of alternative journalism that focuses on the information needs of a particular population, as well as on ownership, distribution, and identity issues of the group.

Citizen journalism

Support for news gathering and distribution that involves the active participation of public citizens in all stages of the process. A form of alternative journalism that is most often participatory, activist, civic-minded, and reported quickly.

Advocacy journalism

Support for news gathering, distribution, and analysis that deals with specific issues and delivers an opinion about those issues. It can be contained in opinion and editorial pages of mainstream media or in alternative media outlets that have transparent points of view on an issue or group of issues.

Journalism education and training

Support for schools or colleges that prepare students for careers in journalism, as well as training programs, fellowships, and other opportunities for midcareer education.

Journalism, news, and information, general

Support for journalism, public information, and public education provided through media outlets. Includes support for general news and information, reporting on current events, stories and information in specific subject areas, and public service announcements.

Grants include a wide range of approaches that some funders don't consider media, including religious organizations funding books and print distribution, under the banner of freedom of expression; mobile banking apps aimed at improving banking access in low-income countries; and internet connections across library networks.

In addition, while the map tracks funding institutions, including community foundations, private foundations, operating foundations, corporate foundations, and governmental sources, it does not include individual donors or accurate data on governmentally-linked funding organizations.