



# ALASKA

## Grantmaking increased 12% between 2014 and 2016 in Alaska.

Education and arts and culture topped funders' priority lists in Alaska at 25% and 18% of total grant dollars, respectively. The state attracted significant funding from grantmakers based in the Lower 48, including a \$1.2 million grant from the California-based Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. The funds helped the Alaska Humanities Forum develop the Alaska Salmon Fellows program, which facilitates conversations about the iconic fish among a cross-section of leaders in salmon policy, management, industry, activism, research and cultural sectors.

Alaska received a larger share of funding for arts and culture as well as the environment when compared to other states in the region.

### Top 10 Foundations Awarding Grants to Recipients in Alaska, 2016<sup>\*</sup>

1. Rasmuson Foundation (AK)
2. Mat-Su Health Foundation (AK)
3. United Way of Anchorage (AK)
4. Margaret A. Cargill Foundation (MN)
5. Alaska Community Foundation (AK)
6. Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (NY)
7. Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (CA)
8. Juneau Community Foundation (AK)
9. M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust (WA)
10. Fidelity Charitable (OH)

TOTAL GIVING  
BY 386 FUNDERS TO  
960 ORGANIZATIONS: **\$100.6 MILLION**

MEDIAN GRANT: **\$5,328**

NUMBER OF GRANTS: **2,607**

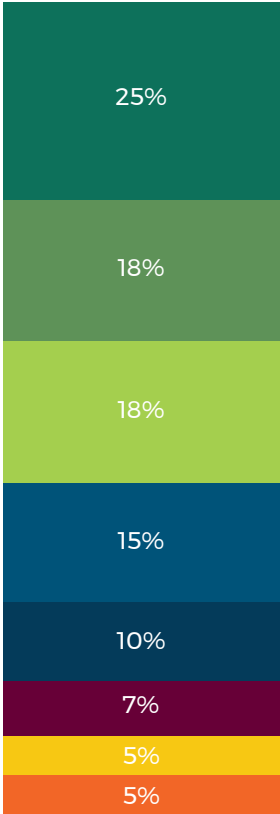
CHANGE IN  
GIVING BETWEEN  
2014 AND 2016:\* **▲ + 12%**

- **Alaska Community Foundation** awarded \$50,000 to Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward for the expansion of their maritime engineering education program. Alaska Community Foundation also awarded \$24,860 to the City of Point Hope to establish and garner mentoring partnerships between Point Hope Elders and Inupiaq language learners of the Tikigaaq dialect.
- **The CIRI Foundation** provided \$10,000 to the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School in Anchorage, which offers a curriculum focused on Alaska Native values, academic achievement, social and emotional learning, and growth.
- **Kumin Foundation** gave \$10,000 to the Anchorage Museum for their Art Lab program, an open-ended art studio where people can create and compose art using materials provided.

Yet the proportion of grant dollars flowing to Alaska was lower for both health and education than its Northwest neighbors. One notable exception, among others, was a \$750,000 award from Mat-Su Health Foundation to Matanuska Community Health Care, a sustainable facility for The Alaska Children's Place, which offers support to children and families impacted by child abuse and neglect.

\*Based on matched set of funders awarding grants to Alaska.

### Distribution of grants to Alaska-based recipient organizations by issue focus, 2016\*\*



- Education
- Arts and Culture
- Health
- Human Services
- Environment and Animals
- Public Affairs
- Sports and Recreation
- Community and Economic Development

\*\*Includes individual categories for which at least 5 percent of grant dollars were allocated. Grants may occasionally be for multiple issue areas and would thereby be counted more than once.

### RASMUSON FOUNDATION Sustained funding of museums supports vibrant arts culture in Alaska

In 2016, Anchorage-based Rasmuson Foundation awarded a \$420,000 grant to Museums Alaska, the state association of museums and cultural centers that works to build capacity and support outreach and education among its members. The grant continued Rasmuson Foundation and Museum Alaska’s partnership that began in 2003 to help museums and cultural centers acquire art by currently practicing, Alaska-based artists as well as to support museum professionals in managing their collections.

From 2003-2016, Rasmuson Foundation distributed nearly \$3 million in grants to 33 museums. In total, the grants have helped purchase more than 1,100 individual works of art by about 500 Alaska artists. Since the collection program’s inception in 2013 through 2016, a total of \$400,000 went to museums for collection management projects.

“For many Alaska museums and cultural centers, acquiring art or undertaking small collection projects would likely not be possible without these funds. The art acquisition fund can increase an artist’s visibility and lead to other opportunities. Over the long term, these mechanisms preserve art for future generations to enjoy,” said Sharity Sommer, a program officer at Rasmuson Foundation.

Rasmuson Foundation President and CEO Diane Kaplan stated: “Artists help us examine the human condition which is demonstrated through creative expression in the form of visual and performing arts, cultural traditions, literary arts and media. Artists help interpret complex phenomena or simply convey the great beauty that surrounds us in our natural world. We hope the Art Acquisition Fund has made a difference for artists and museums in the state, and that we are further along in creating an important and invaluable permanent collection of contemporary artwork for Alaskans.”

#### ENDNOTE

<sup>9</sup>The data in this report includes information from the data sources described in the Methodology section. Only those organizations that responded to our requests for information or had reliable information publicly available elsewhere have been included in this report.

# METHODOLOGY

This report is based on the analysis of two closely-related datasets from 2014 and 2016 collected by or reported to Foundation Center, now operating as Candid, by December 31, 2018:

- Analysis of the fiscal year (FY) 2016 philanthropic giving to the Northwest relies on data from 73,813 grants totaling \$2.97 billion from a national sample of 7,445 funders that awarded at least one grant of \$1,000 or more to the six-state region — Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming.
- Analysis of the changes in giving to the Northwest between FY's 2014 and 2016 uses a matched subset of 4,253 funders so as not to distort data due to changes in the funders in each year.

Dollar amounts may represent the full authorized grant award, or the amount paid in that year, depending on how the foundation reports its activity. Similarly, FY 2014 and FY 2016 may include grants awarded in late 2013 and late 2015, respectively, depending on a foundation's fiscal calendar. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number, leading to some figures reflecting slightly more than 100% totals. Dollar amounts are rounded to the tenth place.

## ABOUT THE DATA

**What data was collected?** This report includes grants data, primarily, but also foundation-administered programs, program-related investments and mission-related investments, collectively called “transactions.”<sup>9</sup> The data come from:

- IRS Forms 990 and 990-PF
- Lists provided directly by funders
- Foundation websites
- Other sources (including news and press releases or via partner organizations); learn more on Candid's website at [candid.org](http://candid.org).

New since 2016, each reported transaction is now machine-coded according to Candid's Philanthropy Classification System. The change increased the number of grants in the database and provides a more comprehensive picture of the philanthropic sector.

Candid manually reviews machine-assigned codes for transactions of \$250,000 or more made by 1,000 of the largest U.S. foundations, as well as for some special projects. The automated system uses a deliberately conservative methodology to track grant recipients that primarily work with people of color by population group, focusing on:

1. Identifying the population served by the transaction.
2. If there is no beneficiary population associated with the transaction, then Candid identifies the population served by the recipient organization.

Some transactions benefit multiple population groups, such as African Americans and LatinX Americans. In these cases, the full dollar amount is allocated for each beneficiary population, since it's not possible to specify the share of support that is intended for each population group.

For detailed information about Candid's Philanthropy Classification System or to learn more about how the data were classified visit the website at [taxonomy.candid.org](http://taxonomy.candid.org).

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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