



1 Key Findings

This section includes an overview of U.S. giving trends in 2018 by donor and recipient type, including total amounts given and received and the rates of change in giving from 2017.

Total estimated charitable giving in the United States rose 0.7 percent between 2017 and 2018 (a decline of 1.7 percent, adjusted for inflation), to \$427.71 billion in contributions.¹ Adjusted for inflation, charitable giving reached its second highest level ever.

Sources

↓ **1.1%** **Giving by individuals** totaled an estimated \$292.09 billion, falling 1.1 percent in 2018 (a decline of 3.4 percent, adjusted for inflation).

↑ **7.3%** **Giving by foundations** increased 7.3 percent, to an estimated \$75.86 billion in 2018 (an increase of 4.7 percent, adjusted for inflation). These figures are provided by Candid. Grantmaking by community foundations rose 10.2 percent from 2017. Grantmaking by operating foundations and independent foundations also increased, at 4.9 percent and 7.2 percent, respectively.²

= **0.0%** **Giving by bequest** totaled an estimated \$39.71 billion in 2018, staying flat compared to 2017 with a 0.0 percent increase from 2017. When adjusted for inflation, giving by bequest experienced a -2.3 percent decline.

↑ **5.4%** **Giving by corporations** is estimated to have increased by 5.4 percent in 2018, totaling \$20.05 billion (an increase of 2.9 percent, adjusted for inflation). Corporate giving includes cash and in-kind contributions made through corporate giving programs, as well as grants and gifts made by corporate foundations. Corporate foundation grantmaking is estimated to have totaled \$6.88 billion in 2018, an increase of 6.5 percent (in current dollars) from 2017.³

Uses

↓ **1.5%** **Giving to religion** declined 1.5 percent between 2017 and 2018, with an estimated \$124.52 billion in contributions. Inflation-adjusted giving to the religion subsector declined 3.9 percent in 2018.

↓ **1.3%** **Giving to education** is estimated to have declined 1.3 percent between 2017 and 2018, to \$58.72 billion. Adjusted for inflation, giving to education organizations declined 3.7 percent.

- = 0.3%** **Giving to human services** declined by an estimated 0.3 percent in 2018, totaling \$51.54 billion. Adjusted for inflation, giving to human services organizations declined by 2.7 percent.
- ↓ 6.9%** **Giving to foundations** is estimated to have declined by 6.9 percent in 2018, to \$50.29 billion. Adjusted for inflation, giving to foundations declined by 9.1 percent.
- = 0.1%** **Giving to health** is estimated to have had flat growth of 0.1 percent between 2017 and 2018 to \$40.78 billion. Adjusted for inflation, giving to health declined by 2.3 percent.
- ↓ 3.7%** **Giving to public-society benefit organizations** decreased an estimated 3.7 percent between 2017 and 2018, to \$31.21 billion. Adjusted for inflation, giving to public-society benefit organizations declined 6.0 percent.
- = 0.3%** **Giving to arts, culture, and humanities** is estimated to have stayed relatively flat, with growth of 0.3 percent between 2017 and 2018, to \$19.49 billion. Adjusted for inflation, giving to the arts, culture, and humanities subsector declined by 2.1 percent.
- ↑ 9.6%** **Giving to international affairs** is estimated to be \$22.88 billion in 2018, an increase of 9.6 percent from 2017. Adjusted for inflation, giving to international affairs organizations grew 7.0 percent.
- ↑ 3.6%** **Giving to environmental and animal organizations** is estimated to have increased 3.6 percent between 2017 and 2018, to \$12.70 billion. Adjusted for inflation, donations to the environment/animals subsector increased 1.2 percent.
- ↓ 2.6%** **Giving to individuals** is estimated to have declined 2.6 percent (4.9 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars) between 2017 and 2018, to \$9.06 billion. The bulk of these donations are in-kind gifts of medications to patients in need, made through the patient assistance programs of pharmaceutical companies' operating foundations.

Unallocated giving was \$6.53 billion in 2018. This amount can be considered as the difference between giving by source and use in a particular year. This amount includes the difference between itemized deductions by individuals (and households) carried over from previous

years. The tax year in which a gift is claimed by the donor (carried over) and the year when the recipient organization reports it as revenue (the year in which it is received) may be different.

REFERENCES

- 1 All data in this section are reported as estimates, which are subject to revision. To provide the most accurate estimates for charitable giving, as new data become available, Giving USA revises its estimates for at least the last two years. See more about how Giving USA calculates charitable giving by sources and uses in the “Brief summary of methods used” section of this report.
- 2 Data were provided by Candid in April 2019 and are subject to revision. Data on giving by and to foundations are available at www.candid.org
- 3 Data on corporate grantmaking were provided by Candid in April 2019 and are subject to revision. Data on giving by and to foundations are available at www.candid.org