



The Philanthropic Collaborative

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MAYORS SPEAK OUT...

"Foundation grantmaking is fundamental in helping to improve the lives of families during time of economic crisis. Private and community resources, when quickly targeted to local community needs, can play a major role in collective efforts to get local economies back on track. We have seen foundation giving in the Mile High City leverage positive social change with meaningful, measureable results."

John W. Hickenlooper
Mayor, City of Denver, CO

"Some in our communities have been devastated by the economic crisis, which has taken a toll on municipal and state resources" said Providence Mayor David Cicilline. "While the responses from the federal and state governments are critically important, we cannot lose sight of the targeted and timely response from community foundations. Without their work, many more individuals and families would fall through the cracks in our system. Foundations are effective because they are part of our community, know the people, can bring aid to where it's needed most and act with speed and precision. They also embody another important attribute - they are able to provide assistance without the red tape and bureaucracy."

This entrepreneurial approach is what makes them so effective and welcome in our efforts to ensure people have the means to weather this economic storm."

David Cicilline
Mayor, City of Providence, RI

Boulder's Community Foundation rests at the heart of our town. The Community Foundation elevates and focuses on local social issues of concern, and then works with partners to find solutions. Our non-profits rely on the foundation to protect their assets and support them. The Community Foundation helps make Boulder the very best it can be.

Susan M. Osborne
Mayor, City of Boulder, CO

"In the City of Detroit, we have found working with the foundation community has been beneficial for our community and our residents. The foundations allow the City to stretch current budget dollars to plan for the future while continuing to provide services to the residents. The study by The Philanthropic Collaborative is representational of the impact foundations have on the City of Detroit"

Dave Bing
Mayor, City of Detroit, MI

"I've said many times that government cannot do it all by itself. It must be a citizen movement. Organizations like the Toledo Community Foundation and the Stranahan Foundation help provide aid during times of economic distress for people who may otherwise slip through the cracks. We have to be involved as a community and philanthropy plays a vital role in our ability to provide for our citizens."

Michael P. Bell
Mayor, City of Toledo, OH

The economic circumstances that have affected the country have definitely trickled down to New York State, and then to the municipalities. This has also affected the city's ability to fund capital purchases. Our police department, in conjunction with needs of the fire department, submitted a request to replace a very aged mobile command vehicle. The first year the request was made, it simply did not make it into the capital budget. The need was definitely great, but choices had to be made. The following year, the police department revived the request. The city agreed that the vehicle needed replacement, but since the vehicle is used multi jurisdictionally throughout the county and on a major university campus, it was suggested that the police department seek out supportive funding.

The Triad Foundation stepped up to the task and offered approximately 25% of the funding. The city supported 50% of the funding. The Triad Foundation offered to find additional contributions, as did the city. With the buzz word of intermunicipal cooperation and cost sharing, this vehicle purchase was the first with such a unique cost sharing structure. The leadership of the Triad Foundation enabled the city to purchase this vehicle, contributing to public safety in our community in a time when funds are very scarce.

Carolyn Peterson
Mayor, City of Ithaca, NY

The city of Boston has a long history of collaborating with the philanthropic community to develop programs and policies that benefit the people of Boston. These partnerships are deep, with foundations showing a willingness to spend resources on research and policy development, as well as provide direct grants. These informed collaborations benefit the city and strengthen its programs and services for residents.

For example, the Barr Foundation is a private foundation with a long history of supporting both community organizations and city initiatives. In their most recent strategic plan, the Barr Foundation will concentrate funding on two issues critical to the city's success: education and climate change. Barr has become a critical partner through its funding of the Boston Public School system, alternative educational approaches, early education, and out-of-school programs. In addition, Barr focuses resources on mitigating climate change, concentrating on building energy efficiency through retrofits, comprehensive planning and zoning reform, and high-quality transportation options.

The Boston Foundation, the city's community foundation, similarly is dedicated to the well being of Boston and its citizens. The foundation fully embraced Mayor Menino's challenge of doubling the college completion rate for the Boston Public Schools class of 2011 and launched Success Boston, the city's college achievement initiative. The Boston Foundation leads this challenge, providing funding and research, and convening the public schools, local college and universities, the Boston Private Industry Council, and nonprofit youth agencies in support of a single goal: ensuring Boston's youth are ready to enter and succeed in college.

Thomas Menino
Mayor, City of Boston, MA