

Corporate & Foundation Relations

Foundation Funding Opportunities

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Deadline: October 13, 2009

Innovative Digital Projects Invited for 2010 Knight News Challenge

The Knight News Challenge, an initiative of the [John S. and James L. Knight Foundation](#), seeks innovations that use new or available technology to distribute content in local communities. This international contest awards up to \$5 million per year for innovative platforms, tools, and services with the potential to inform and transform community news, conversations, and information distribution and visualization.

Anyone may nominate a project from anywhere in the world. To be eligible, projects must use open-source digital technology, must distribute news in the public interest, and must be tested in a local community.

Visit the News Challenge Web site for complete program information. [Link to Complete RFP](#)

Deadline: November 5, 2009

FINRA Investor Education Foundation Offers Funding for Research and Education Projects

The [FINRA Investor Education Foundation](#) supports innovative research and educational projects that give investors the tools and information they need to better understand the markets and the basic principles of saving and investing.

Of particular interest to the foundation are projects that expand the body of knowledge and/or provide practical materials that will have a positive impact on investor education or protection; that study methods to improve disclosure to investors about investments and financial services; that encourage investors to check the background of financial professionals prior to doing business with them; that empower young people that are about to enter the workforce to meet their financial goals; that better prepare older Americans for handling their finances during retirement; that encourage women and minority populations to take control of their financial future through investor education; and that advance practice, policy, and thought in the fields of investor education and protection.

The foundation awards grants to tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations and to state and other public colleges and universities.

There is no set minimum or maximum grant amount.

The first step in applying for a FINRA Foundation grant is the submission of the Project Concept Form. Forms can be submitted at any time during the year. Forms received by November 5, 2009, will be entered into the application process for a June 2010 funding decision.

Complete program guidelines are available at the foundation Web site. [Link to Complete RFP](#)

Deadline: October 5, 2009

Film Independent Accepting Applications for 2010 Directors Lab

[Film Independent](#) is accepting applications for its 9th Annual Directors Lab.

Sponsored by [Kodak](#), the Directors Lab is an intensive eight-week program designed to help directors who are prepping feature-length narrative films. The lab takes place in Los Angeles each winter.

The primary focus of the lab is on learning to work with actors and the rehearsal process. Fellows go through a mini-production, learning how to break down a script into a shot list, collaborate with cinematographers, and construct a scene in the editing process. A secondary goal of the program is to help advance the careers of lab fellows by introducing them to established film professionals who can advise them on both the craft and business of directing.

The program is open to first-time directors as well as filmmakers who previously directed shorts and features. Documentary projects are not eligible for application.

The lab is provided free to accepted filmmakers. Upon completion of the lab, filmmakers become Film Independent Fellows and receive year-round support, including access to Film Independent's annual film education offerings, the on-staff Filmmaker Advisor, and the Los Angeles Film Festival. Lab filmmakers are provided a cash stipend for their project and access to camera and sound packages.

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A maximum of eight projects will be selected. The application fee is \$55 for Film Independent members and \$75 for non-members.

Visit the Film Independent Web site for complete program information. [Link to Complete RFP](#)

Deadline: Various

Kresge Foundation Announces Two New Health Initiatives

The [Kresge Foundation](#) has announced two new granting opportunities to directly support community health organizations working to address the critical needs of underserved populations.

The Health Clinic Opportunity Fund is targeted to free clinics, public health clinics, and designated federally qualified health center look-alikes. The fund is designed to support and strengthen clinics' capacity to meet both the immediate and long-term health needs of their constituents. The initial round of proposals is due September 4, 2009, with awards made in December 2009. **A second round of proposals is due March 1, 2010.**

The foundation's Safety-net Enhancement Initiative is designed to demonstrate how community health centers can address health disparities, enhance service delivery and care, and improve outcomes through collaboration and regional partnerships. **Application details for this initiative will be posted on the Kresge Foundation Web site on September 1, 2009.**

These two new initiatives join an existing Kresge effort — Safety-Net Facility Improvement — which utilizes Kresge's traditional challenge grant approach in supporting clinic and hospital capital improvements. Two other new Kresge health-related programs include Healthy Environments, which focuses on reducing environmental risks for vulnerable children; and Emerging and Promising Practices, which stimulates new knowledge and innovative linkages across sectors to improve health.

To learn more about each effort, their goals, eligibility criteria, and the process for submitting Letters of Inquiry, visit the Health Program portion of the Kresge Foundation Web site.

[Link to Complete RFP](#)

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Asset Building in Low-Income Communities of Color, Part 2



This report by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies presents findings from the second year of an initiative to assess what works to enable low-income communities of color to build assets. It highlights predisposing factors and promising practices in 10 states that received low rankings on asset building for low-income people in the 2007-2008 Assets & Opportunity Scorecard. The featured states are: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Texas. This report not only examines asset building in these 10 states-most with sizable communities of color-but also compares these findings with those for states with high rankings on asset building for low-income people (Delaware, Hawai'i, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Vermont,

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Washington, and Wisconsin). The states with high rankings on asset building and small communities of color in general are analyzed separately in the first year project report entitled [Asset Building in Low-Income Communities of Color, Part 1: Predisposing Factors and Promising Practices in States Effective at Building Assets for Low-Income Residents \(Executive Summary\)](#). Date Published: July 2009 Price: \$0.00

 [Download the file](#)

Americans Less Engaged in Civic Participation, Volunteerism, Report Finds

Based on a survey of nearly 3,900 individuals, the report, *America's Civic Health Index 2009* (28 pages, PDF), found that almost three-quarters (72 percent) of survey respondents said they had cut back on the time they devote to civic participation, which includes time spent volunteering or performing other civic activities in their communities, and that low-income individuals (those making less than \$50,000 a year) were more likely to help others by providing food or shelter than respondents with a higher income. Overall, 50 percent of survey participants said they had given food or money to someone who was not a relative, 17 percent said they had invited a relative to live in their home, and more than 10 percent had taken in a non-relative.

The report, which was funded by the [Bill & Melinda Gates](#), [John S. and James L. Knight](#), and [McCormick](#) foundations, also found that religion and generational differences play major roles in civic engagement. Indeed, 40 percent of respondents who are frequent participants in religious services said they had increased their level of civic engagement. And while baby boomers had the lowest volunteering rate (35 percent) and members of the Millennial generation had the highest (43 percent), boomers were far more likely (38 percent) to provide material contributions such as food, money, and shelter than Millennials (28 percent).

"We had hoped [that] economic hardship might trigger more compassion as people saw real suffering and needs," said John Bridgeland, chairman of NCoC's advisory board and CEO of [Civic Enterprises](#). "While this is not true for volunteering, it is true for providing food and shelter. And people with the least means are giving the most."

Grantmakers Should Adopt Intergenerational Approach, Report Finds

In light of the rapidly changing demographics of American society, grantmakers should fund programs that cut across age divisions and look at the social and economic needs of society as a whole, pooling resources to improve outcomes for multiple generations, a new report from [Generations United](#) finds.

Despite preconceived notions about conflicting interests, there is no assurance that, in the current economic and political climate, cuts in services for one generation would go to support services for another generation. However, the report, *Stronger Together: A Call to Innovation for Funders of Children, Youth, Families and Older Adults* (6 pages, PDF), documents a number of key policy areas where the interests of youth, families, and older adults converge — including health care, family and medical leave, budget and tax policy, and the environment.

The report identifies a core set of intergenerational principles related to public policies and the tools to implement those principles, including a clear definition of intergenerational solidarity that extends beyond the family; commitment to using an intergenerational lens when developing or influencing policy; inclusion of the "missing middle" — both middle-aged people and those of middle income — in policy developments and reviews; a promise to avoid stigmatization and means testing; promotion of single interventions that positively affect multiple issues or populations; and a demonstrable connection between the social contract with children and older adults.

Launched by Generations United in December 2007 in collaboration with [Grantmakers in Aging](#), [Grantmakers for Children, Youth, and Families](#), and Just Partners, the Stronger Together initiative is supported by the [Annie E. Casey](#) and [Robert Wood Johnson](#) foundations.

"Our goal is to assist grantmakers in adopting a funding approach based on inclusion and shared values," said GU deputy director Jaia Peterson-Lent. "Foundations can transform neighborhoods by promoting and establishing intergenerational shared sites. Adult and child daycare facilities under the same roof, senior centers in schools, and schools operating as community learning centers are just a few of the many ways communities can use resources to connect generations rather than separate them."

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