

2008 Grantee Analysis

A baseline analysis of 2008 grantees

FRESNO REGIONAL FOUNDATION

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Introduction

For the year 2008, the Fresno Regional Foundation was determined to learn more about the non-profit organizations that reached out to them. There were many questions, but they all pointed to the larger issue of whether or not the organizations serving the Fresno area reflected the region's people.

This idea was then complemented by a series of studies put out by the Greenlining Institute regarding the involvement of minorities in the direction of non-profits. One Greenlining study of grants given in 2005 showed that 12% of grants given nationally and 17% of grants given in California went to minority-led organizations. In California, the average percent of grants given to minority led organizations was 14.7. Only 11.6% of the total money given went to minority-led organizations, but the average percent of dollars given was 12.3%. Such results were disappointing when the demographic make-up of California was considered.

With this in mind, the Fresno Regional Foundation set out to learn about their practices in grant-making. This is a long-term project, one which will continue year by year as data is added. This year's results are only a baseline, a starting point from which the Foundation can learn and develop as necessary.

Methodology

The following analysis consists of grant application to the competitive grant cycles. The data is from 167 grant applications representing 131 Community Benefit Organizations. Two Applicants, Sunnyside High School and the Howard K. Watkins Photographic Archive, did not report demographics for their board of directors because they are community groups with fiscal agents, as such these groups were not included in this analysis. However, Sunnyside High School and the Howard K. Watkins Photographic Archive did receive a grant in at least one grant cycle.

For the purposes of this analysis, a minority-led organization will be defined as an organization with more than 50% minority of the board members. The Greenlining study we compared results with uses an alternative definition encompassing staff members and population served by the grant. Our 2008 Grantmaking data is not complete enough to be statistically significant to be compared to the Greenlining definition. This problem has been remedied and in the coming years we hope to be able to track our improvement with a more comprehensive definition of minority-led organizations.

Analysis Overview

The 131 Organizations we analyzed consisted of board members from numerous ethnic groups. The ethnic demographics are as follows: about 61.9% of total board members were Caucasian, 16.8% Latino, 8.3% African-American, 4.0% Asian, 4.5% of other ethnicities, and 4.5% of Board Members chose to not disclose their ethnic background. As we progress in our data collecting and analysis we hope to identify valuable information about trends impacting minority leadership within these organizations.

Fresno Regional Foundation accepted and reviewed 131 grant applicants in 2008. They awarded 44 grants and of those 44, 10 were awarded to minority-led organizations. When examining the Boards of these organizations receiving the 44 grants we discover the following: These organizations had boards that were predominantly Caucasian (69.8%), Latinos represented 14.4%, African-Americans represented 3.3%, Asians represented 3.3%, other ethnicities represented about 2.4%, and 6.8% of board members chose not to disclose their ethnicity. When this is compared to the statistics gathered from the Census Bureau regarding the six counties served by the Fresno Regional Foundation¹, discordance is discovered. These counties identify as 4.7% African-American, 6.3% Asian, 37.8% Caucasian, 50.1% Latino, and 2.2% other ethnicities.

Although the number of grants going to minority-led organizations in no way reflects the ethnic breakdown of the Central Valley, compared to the 2005 Greenlining study which showed 17% of grants awarded in California as going to minority-led organizations, the Fresno Regional Foundation was successful in distributing its grants to ethnically diverse organizations representing 22.7% of grantees.

The Fresno Regional Foundation granted a total of \$650,143.00 in the 2008 competitive grant cycles; of this total dollar amount, \$211,100.00 (32.47%), were distributed to minority-led organizations. This includes \$10,000.00 to African-American led non-profits, \$149,800.00 to Latino led non-profits, and \$55,237.00 to minority-led organizations. Again, the money awarded to each race is not reflective of the ethnic breakdown of the Central Valley, but it is far closer to the breakdown than either the California average or the national one.

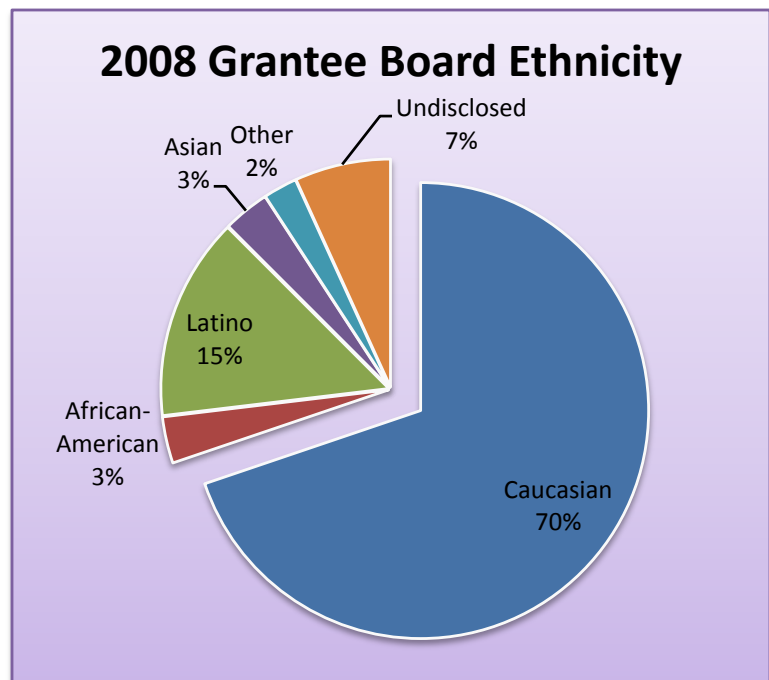


Figure 1: 2008 Grant Distributions by Ethnicity

Analysis by Income Bracket Served

Although there was not enough data to do a full analysis by income bracket served, a preliminary look shows that organizations serving higher income brackets have less variation of race among their board than organizations serving the homeless, those in poverty, and those with low income. It also shows that groups serving all income brackets and middle income brackets have an average of 50.1% women² on their boards, which is slightly higher than the general average.

¹The six counties served by the Fresno Regional Foundation being Fresno, Kings, Madera, Merced, Tulare, and Mariposa counties.

² According to the Census Bureau, approximately 49.2% of the people in the Fresno region are women. Only 43.9% of the boards analyzed were women, however, 46.13% of the boards that received grants were women.

Analysis by Program Area

This section includes an overview of the 2008 Grant Program Areas. For the Foundation, a grant program area has an allocated budget for grant-making. The Foundation has three grant cycles: Arts & Culture, Youth and Human Services. Each of these grant cycles is also a program area because they do have an allocated budget. Within the Youth grant cycle, the Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) grant-making initiative had an allocated budget for grant-making in the area of teen pregnancy prevention. The Human Services grant cycle was similar to Youth; it included the Air Quality grant-making initiative, which also had a grant-making budget. Collectively, these reflected the grant-making priorities of the Foundation.

Air Quality

During 2008 there were 10 applicants for the Air Quality grants, four of which were minority-led. We awarded 4 grants, with two grants awarded to organizations that were minority-led. These organizations, Californians for Pesticide Reform and West Fresno Health Care Coalition, Inc., are Latino and African-American led, respectively. A total of \$65,000.00 was awarded and \$30,000.00 (46.2%) went to minority led non-profits.

Arts & Culture

In the Arts and Culture Grant Cycle, 43 organizations applied and 12 organizations (27.9%) were minority-led. FRF awarded a total 11 grants, with two organizations being minority-led. The total dollar amount awarded was \$140,600.00 and \$19,800.00 (or 14.1%) granted to, two minority-led organizations.

Human Services

The Human Services Grant Cycle was our second largest number of applicants, it had 42 applicants. 14 of the 42 applicants were minority-led, representing 33.3%. The Foundation awarded 13 grants. The Chicano Youth Center was the only minority-led group to receive a grant award of \$10,000.00 representing 12.3% of the total grant dollars. While this grant cycle garnered the most applicants it did not have the most grant funds, the Human Services grant cycle had a total of \$81,507.

Teen Pregnancy:

FRF had 17 organizations apply for a Teen Pregnancy Prevention grant and 8 of these applicant organizations, representing 47.1%, were minority-led. Three organizations were awarded a total of \$203,000.00, in grant funds. The only minority-led organization to receive funds was Fresno Barrios Unidos, whose board consists of five minority members.³ Fresno Barrios Unidos was granted 49% of the total dollars awarded.

³ Three of the seventeen organizations with no minorities on the board received grants from the Foundation (Comprehensive Youth Services, Inc., Foothills Community Mediation Center, and Friends of the Auberry Library). There were six non-profits that were one hundred percent minority-led, only one of which was multicultural (Fresno Barrios Unidos). Fresno Barrios Unidos was the only fully minority-led non-profit to receive a grant. Again, this data will not become statistically significant until the Fresno Regional Foundation has collected years of data, but it is a start.

Youth

The Youth grant cycle had the most grant funding and the largest number of applicants in 2008. There were 55 applicant organizations and 17 of these organizations were minority-led. A total of 13 grants were awarded and only 4 were minority-led organizations. These 4 organizations received \$51,300 (34.2%) of the total \$150,036.00 awarded in the youth grant cycle.

Summary

The Fresno Regional Foundation's 2008 Grants Program served as a benchmark for the grant-making institution. This was the first year the Foundation collected applicant information, grantee data and began an analysis of its grant-making. In summary, the Foundation identified that it awarded 44 competitive grants in the 2008 grant cycles (Arts & Culture, Youth and Human Services). There were 10 grants awarded to minority-led organizations representing 22.7% of total grantees. This exceeded the national average of 12% and the California average of 17%.

Additionally, the 44 grant awards totaled \$650,143, of this amount, \$211,100.00 went to 10 minority-led organizations. This means minority-led organizations received 32.47% of total grant funding and they represented 22.72% of the Foundation's grantees.

While the Central Valley is an ethnically diverse region, it is clear that the leadership, of the organizations applying to the Fresno Regional Foundation, is not as diverse. However, the Foundation demonstrated that it did exceed national and state averages in a few grant-making areas.

Since all organizations did not provide complete information, it is difficult to provide a complete, accurate analysis. Furthermore, there is not enough data to provide any conclusions or infer causal relationships.

However, this year's results are only a baseline. The Foundation will continue to collect applicant information and grantee data so it can continue to learn more about Community Benefit Organizations in the Central Valley.

Note about the researcher: Allison Jaech served as an intern for the Fresno Regional Foundation during the summer of 2009. Allison is from Fresno, but is currently a sophomore at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.