



Our
Community
Foundation

For a Greater Birmingham

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

OUR VISION

A just, prosperous, and unified region where every person is empowered to reach their full potential.

OUR MISSION

To ignite passion for transformational change.

OUR CORE VALUES

Lead | Inspire | Innovate | Include

HISTORY

Our Community Foundation was founded in 1959 by a group of generous, dedicated leaders as a public endowment to support enduring change and success for the community. Although the issues facing our community have changed over the past six decades, our commitment to supporting our region remains steadfast. We continue to galvanize the passion of philanthropists, nonprofits and leaders to empower communities, create opportunity, grow capacity, and build charitable resources for a brighter future for a Greater Birmingham.

TYPES OF FUNDS

COMMUNITY CATALYST FUNDS: Philanthropic venture funds that allow the Community Foundation and its donors to make transformational investments that benefit the greater Birmingham community.

DESIGNATED: Donors can choose to create a long-term charitable resource to benefit one or more nonprofits.

DONOR ADVISED: These funds allow individuals, families and businesses to be part of the work of the Community Foundation, while also supporting their favorite charities and organizations. Donor Advised Funds are like having a private foundation, but with greater tax advantages and fewer administrative burdens.

FIELD OF INTEREST: Many donors have a specific area of philanthropic interest they want to support; a Field of Interest Fund allows them to do this without having to specify any particular organization.

AGENCY ENDOWMENTS: These funds allow individual nonprofit organizations to start and build an endowment, using the professional services of the Community Foundation.

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

Total Assets

\$418 Million

New Gifts in 2025

\$104 Million

Grants made in 2025

\$81 Million

Number of Grantmaking Funds

598

Fund size: Minimum Investment

\$15,000 most funds

\$50,000 Catalyst fund

\$200,000 Scholarship fund

Average fund size

\$408,000

Largest fund

\$35 Million

Community grants Since 1959

\$716 Million

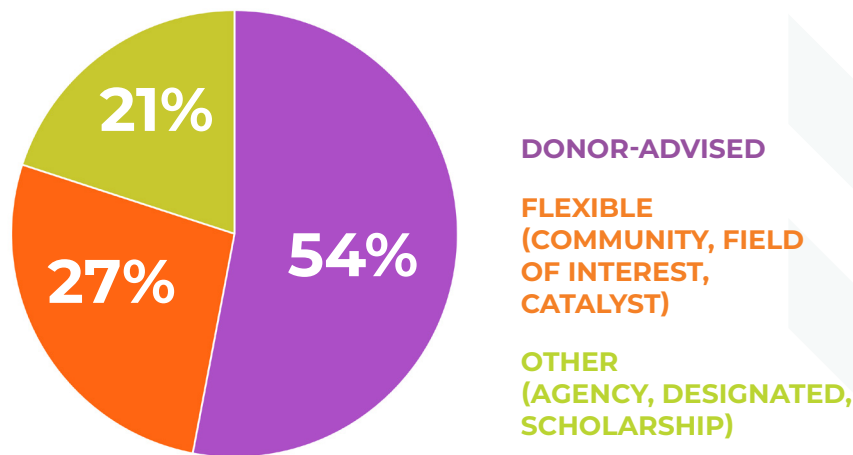
Year founded

1959

Counties served

Blount, Jefferson, St. Clair, Shelby, and Walker counties

GRANTMAKING FUNDS BY ASSET TYPE



GRANTS AND INITIATIVES

GRANTS: Grants made to Birmingham region nonprofits through our competitive grantmaking process come from Community and Field of Interest Funds. In 2025, the Foundation awarded \$3,116,000 to 121 organizations to support our five priorities identified by the community:

- Creating Economic Opportunity for All
- Overcoming Persistent Poverty
- Nurturing Thriving Communities
- Driving Regional Cooperation
- Fostering Equity and Inclusion.

Donors designated more than \$69 million through Donor Advised Funds to support causes they are passionate about, including education, community and economic development, faith organizations, social services, and arts and culture.

PROACTIVE INITIATIVES: To maximize our positive impact on the region, the Community Foundation develops and implements largescale, multi-year initiatives. Working with donors, nonprofit organizations, and local leaders, we identify key concerns and develop initiatives to address concerns and accelerate opportunities.

Current initiatives include: Mental Health, Greater Birmingham Community of Hope (focused on supporting and strengthening families and communities), Regional Cooperation, Inclusive Economic Opportunity, Microtransit, and Summer Learning Loss.

IMPACT INVESTMENTS: In 2024, the Foundation made its first ever Impact Investments, strategically invested capital that makes a positive social impact while providing a small financial return. These investments support Opportunity Alabama’s Cultural Center in Titusville, which will provide a hub for youth workforce training and enrichment, and Woodlawn Foundation’s Cottages at Georgia Road, which will provide affordable rental housing to low-income residents.

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A HIGHER STANDARD

CFNS

ACCREDITED FOUNDATION

The National Standards Seal indicates official confirmation from the Council on Foundations that we have met the most rigorous standards in philanthropy. It affirms our commitment to financial security, transparency and accountability. It says our grant-making includes an open, competitive process designed to address the changing needs of our community.



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