



Vision & Mission

Vision: We envision a courageous community of philanthropists, leading innovative work that results in an equitable South defined by justice, hope and opportunity for all.

Mission: We strengthen Southern philanthropy, welcoming our members to listen, learn and collaborate on ideas and actions to help build an equitable, prosperous South.

Overview

Philanthropy Southeast is the premier philanthropic network for courageous leaders, ideas and resources focused on the American South and U.S. Caribbean territories. We connect our members to experts, innovations and best practices in philanthropy while promoting peer-to-peer learning and leadership development. By coming together, we spark transformative work that achieves lasting impact, advances equity, and builds a brighter future for the South, its communities and all its people.

General Criteria

Philanthropy Southeast membership is open to grantmaking philanthropic organizations, or philanthropic individuals, headquartered or with giving programs in the Southeast and U.S. Caribbean territories. The 11 states in our region are Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. Philanthropy Southeast represents a wide range of organizational grantmaking members. Constituencies within Philanthropy Southeast membership include:

- Bar association foundations
- Community foundations
- Corporate foundations and giving programs
- Donor-advised funds
- Giving circles
- Grantmaking public charities
- Federated funds (including United Way organizations and arts funds)
- Health legacy (or health conversion) foundations
- Operating foundations
- Philanthropic individuals
- Private and family foundations
- State and local associations of grantmakers
- Supporting organizations

The following criteria also apply:

1. *A prospective member's core interest in joining Philanthropy Southeast is a desire to improve the quality of its own grantmaking, to improve the field of grantmaking, and to support the people, communities and nonprofits in the South.*
 - a. As such, the organization will not use its membership to solicit donations, market itself, or otherwise seek benefits other than those stated in Philanthropy Southeast's mission.
 - b. The organization agrees to abide by and be held accountable to the Philanthropy Southeast's Statement of Principles and Code of Conduct.
2. *A significant portion of the prospective member's mission is to make charitable grants and/or awards to unaffiliated entities in its service area.*
 - a. The organization accepts solicited and/or unsolicited applications, within its funding priorities.
 - b. The organization does not restrict its giving solely to subsidiary chapters, member organizations, or affiliates.

- c. The organization makes at least two grants annually to organizations with which it is not affiliated.
3. *The organization is not directly governed by a governmental entity.*
 - a. The organization is governed by an independent board not controlled by a unit of government or by a governmental agency.
 - b. The organization's grantmaking and other decisions are made by the board (or by a group designated by the board) and not directed by a unit of government or by a governmental agency.
 - c. Funding for the organization may come from a governmental entity, but the organization's decision-making and leadership must be largely independent.
 4. *Grants totaling at least \$25,000 are made annually to non-affiliated grantees.*

If the above criteria are met, applications for membership will be reviewed by the Philanthropy Southeast Membership Committee comprised of staff, current members, and Trustees of Philanthropy Southeast. Final recommendations are submitted to the Philanthropy Southeast Board of Trustees for final action. Philanthropy Southeast reserves the sole right to determine an organization's eligibility for membership.

If at any time an existing Member fails to meet or comply with these guidelines, it may be removed from Membership in Philanthropy Southeast.

Member Categories

As a reference, Philanthropy Southeast typically considers the following types of grantmaking organizations for membership:

1. **Bar Association Foundations.** A foundation typically created by and related to a state or local bar association to support legal services for the poor, to improve the administration of justice, to promote professionalism in law practice, to aid children involved in the justice system, to advance the legal system through historical study, and for other similar charitable purposes.
2. **Community Foundations.** A public, grantmaking foundation which serves a geographically defined region; has a broadly defined mission to serve and improve the quality of life within its region; is supported by a broad range of donors within its community; and is governed by a local board reflective of its community.
3. **Corporate Foundations and Giving Programs.** Either:
 - a. A private, grantmaking foundation whose assets are derived primarily from the contributions of a for-profit business, or
 - b. A grantmaking program established and administered within a profit-making company. (i.e., grants are made directly to charitable organizations from the corporation).
4. **Donor-Advised Funds.** A fund held by a community foundation or other public charity (which itself is not otherwise a member), where the donor or representatives of the donor recommend charitable grants from the fund.
5. **Federated Funds.** A centralized campaign where one organization raises money for its member agencies. These annual workplace giving campaigns raise millions of dollars for distribution to local, state, and national nonprofit organizations. Examples include United Ways, United Arts Funds and the Combined Federal Campaign. Federated funds that are active grantmakers are eligible for membership.
6. **Giving Circles.** A pooled fund that makes charitable grants and is managed and directed by the fund's donors.
7. **Grantmaking Public Charities.** An organization (other than a community foundation) that receives its financial support from a broad segment of the general public and makes charitable grants.
8. **Health Legacy Foundations.** A foundation created from the sale, lease, merger, or other disposition of the assets of a nonprofit health care entity (hospital, health system, health plan, or specialty care facility) and which makes charitable grants to support the health and other needs within the community which the health care entity previously served.
9. **Operating Foundations.** A foundation that uses a substantial portion of its income for the direct conduct of programs.

10. **Philanthropic Individuals.** An individual or family engaged in significant charitable grantmaking without the use of a formal, organizational structure – such as a foundation or a donor-advised fund – for their giving.
11. **Private Foundations (includes Independent and Family Foundations).** A private, grantmaking foundation typically created with funds derived from a single source (such as an individual or family) and managed and directed by its own trustees or directors.
12. **State and Local Associations of Grantmakers.** A membership group of organizations and individuals who practice philanthropy in a specifically defined geographic area. Eligibility is typically determined on a case-by-case basis, and provided that the association:
 - a. has 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status;
 - b. maintains a governing Board of Directors; and
 - c. is not a member of the United Philanthropy Forum.

The benefits of membership are offered only to the organization's staff and Board of Directors (and not to the underlying members of the association).

13. **Supporting Organizations.** Organizations created for charitable purposes under the oversight or control of another organization, typically a community foundation. Supporting organizations qualify as a public charity (and not a private foundation) because it has a close relationship with another publicly supported 501(c)(3) organization. These organizations must meet the eligibility guideline requiring prospective members to provide charitable support to two or more unrelated external organizations on an annual basis.

If you have questions, please contact Jaci Bertrand at jaci@philanthropysoutheast.org or (404) 524-0911.