

# 1 | Key Findings



This section includes an overview of U.S. giving trends in 2017 by donor and recipient type, including total amounts given and received and the rates of change in giving from 2016.

Total estimated charitable giving in the United States rose 5.2 percent between 2016 and 2017 (3.0 percent, adjusted for inflation), to \$410.02 billion in contributions. This increase reflects growth in giving to all the major recipient subsectors.<sup>1</sup>

 **Giving by individuals** totaled an estimated \$286.65 billion, rising 5.2 percent in 2017 (an increase of 3.0 percent, adjusted for inflation). Itemized giving comprised 84.4 percent of the total estimate for giving by individuals.<sup>2</sup> Giving by both itemizing and non-itemizing households increased, at 5.6 percent and 3.3 percent, respectively.

 **Giving by foundations** increased 6.0 percent, to an estimated \$66.90 billion in 2017 (an increase of 3.8 percent, adjusted for inflation). These figures are provided by the Foundation Center. Grantmaking by community foundations rose 11.0 percent from 2016. Grantmaking by operating foundations and independent foundations also increased, at 6.2 percent and 4.9 percent, respectively.<sup>3</sup>

 **Giving by bequest** totaled an estimated \$35.70 billion in 2017, increasing 2.3 percent from 2016 (a 0.2 percent increase, adjusted for inflation).

 **Giving by corporations** is estimated to have increased by 8.0 percent in 2017, totaling \$20.77 billion (an increase of 5.7 percent, adjusted for inflation). Corporate giving includes cash and in-kind contributions made through corporate giving programs, as well as grants and gifts made by corporate foundations. Corporate foundation grantmaking is estimated to have totaled \$6.09 billion in 2017, an increase of 4.5 percent (in current dollars) from 2016.<sup>4</sup>

 **Giving to religion** increased 2.9 percent between 2016 and 2017, with an estimated \$127.37 billion in contributions. Inflation-adjusted giving to the religion subsector increased 0.7 percent in 2017.

 **Giving to education** is estimated to have increased 6.2 percent between 2016 and 2017, to \$58.90 billion. Adjusted for inflation, giving to education organizations increased 4.0 percent.

 **Giving to human services** increased by an estimated 5.1 percent in 2017, totaling \$50.06 billion. Adjusted for inflation, giving to human services organizations increased by 2.9 percent.

-  **15.5%** **Giving to foundations** is estimated to have increased by 15.5 percent in 2017, to \$45.89 billion. Adjusted for inflation, giving to foundations increased 13.1 percent.
-  **7.3%** **Giving to health** is estimated to have increased by 7.3 percent between 2016 and 2017 (an increase of 5.1 percent, adjusted for inflation), to \$38.27 billion.
-  **7.8%** **Giving to public-society benefit organizations** increased an estimated 7.8 percent between 2016 and 2017, to \$29.59 billion. Adjusted for inflation, giving to public-society benefit organizations grew 5.5 percent.
-  **8.7%** **Giving to arts, culture, and humanities** is estimated to have increased 8.7 percent between 2016 and 2017, to \$19.51 billion. Adjusted for inflation, giving to the arts, culture, and humanities subsector increased 6.5 percent.
-  **4.4%** **Giving to international affairs** is estimated to be \$22.97 billion in 2017, a decline of 4.4 percent from 2016. Adjusted for inflation, giving to international affairs organizations declined 6.4 percent.
-  **7.2%** **Giving to environmental and animal organizations** is estimated to have increased 7.2 percent between 2016 and 2017, to \$11.83 billion. Adjusted for inflation, donations to the environment/animals subsector increased 5.0 percent.
-  **20.7%** **Giving to individuals** is estimated to have declined 20.7 percent (22.4 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars) between 2016 and 2017, to \$7.87 billion. The bulk of these donations are in-kind gifts of medications to patients in need, made through the patient assistance programs of pharmaceutical companies' operating foundations.
- Unallocated giving** was negative \$2.24 billion in 2017. This amount can be considered as the difference between giving by source and use in a particular year. This amount includes the difference between itemized deductions by individuals (and households) carried over from previous years. The tax year in which a gift is claimed by the donor (carried over) and the year when the recipient organization reports it as revenue (the year in which it is received) may be different.

## References

- 1 All data in this section are reported as estimates, which are subject to revision. To provide the most accurate estimates for charitable giving, as new data become available, *Giving USA* revises its estimates for at least the last two years. See more about how *Giving USA* calculates charitable giving by sources and uses in the “Brief summary of methods used” section of this report.
- 2 Itemized and non-itemized giving calculations include mega-gifts and disaster giving. See more about how *Giving USA* calculates charitable giving by sources and uses in the “Brief summary of methods used” section of this report.
- 3 Data were provided by the Foundation Center in April 2018 and are subject to revision. Data on giving by and to foundations are available in the Foundation Center’s Key Facts on U.S. Foundations reports, available at the Foundation Center’s website at [www.foundationcenter.org](http://www.foundationcenter.org)
- 4 Data on corporate grantmaking were provided by the Foundation Center in April 2018 and are subject to revision. Data on giving by and to foundations are available in the Foundation Center’s Key Facts on U.S. Foundations reports, available at the Foundation Center’s website at [www.foundationcenter.org](http://www.foundationcenter.org)