



# Family Economic Security 2015 Survey Findings

## **Prepared for Regional Briefings:**

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Oakland, California

Washington, D.C.

Atlanta, Georgia

Detroit, Michigan

## Are community foundations around the U.S. working to increase the economic security of families in their communities? If so, what are they doing?

CFLeads sought to answer those questions through an electronic survey of U.S. community foundations in December 2014 and January 2015. The survey gathered data on efforts by CFs, of various sizes, to help low-income families:

- get and keep employment,
- increase their knowledge of proven resources and services to help grow financial assets, and
- build long-term economic stability and social mobility.

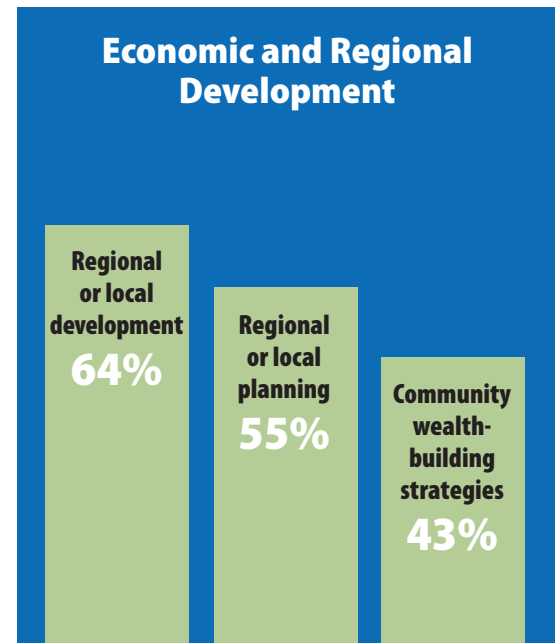
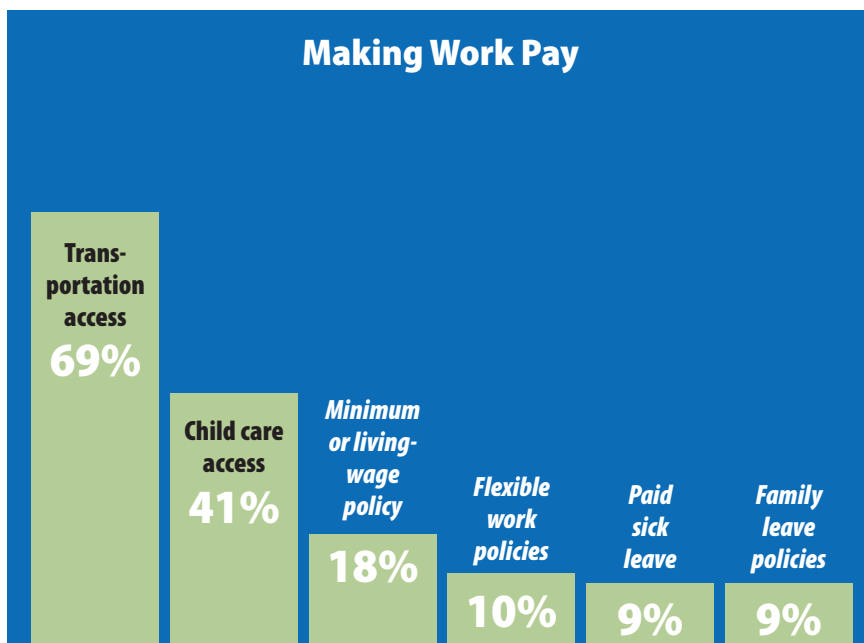
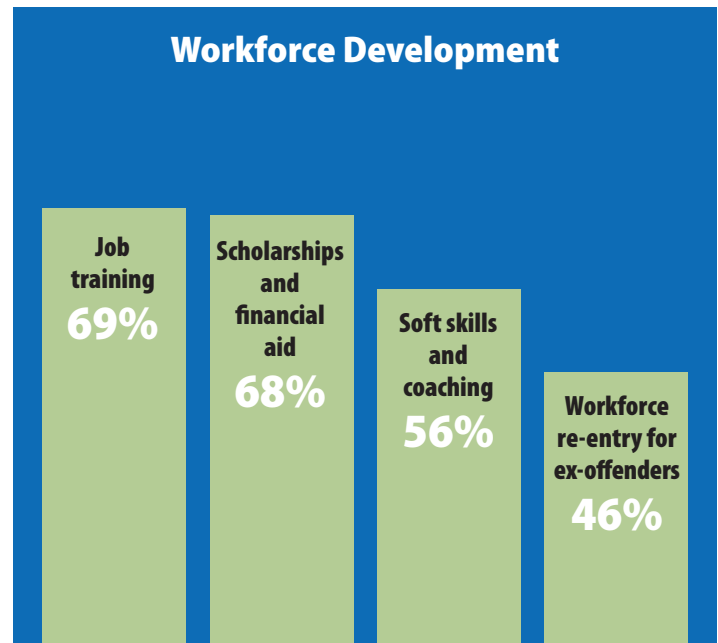
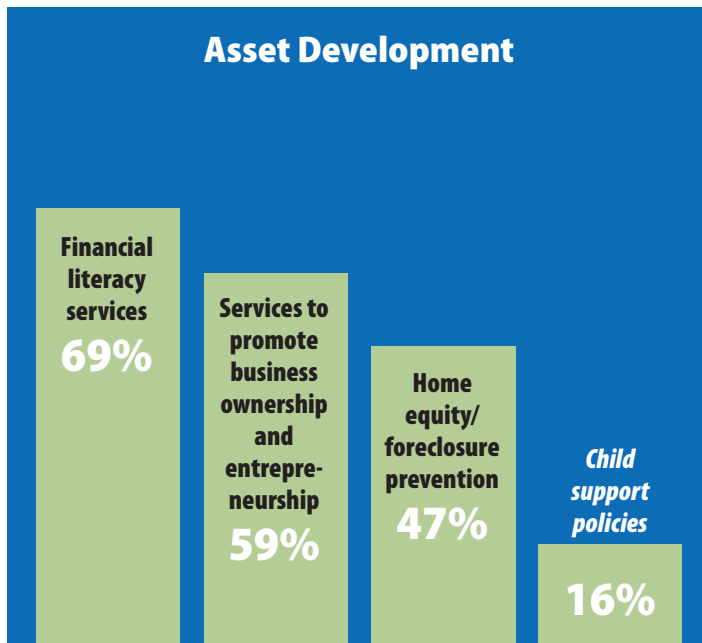
The survey asked CFs to identify their grantmaking and non-grantmaking activities in four specific categories:

- 1. Asset Development:** programs and policies — for example, financial-literacy and debt-reduction services — that help low-income people increase their income and financial security.
- 2. Workforce Development:** programs and policies — e.g., job training and scholarships — that build skills and improve employability.
- 3. Making Work Pay:** programs and policies — e.g., paid sick leave and increases in the minimum wage — that build the value of work and make it easier for low-income people to keep the jobs they get.
- 4. Economic and Regional Development:** programs and policies — e.g., transportation planning, community wealth-building strategies — that improve the overall economic environment, including for low-income workers.

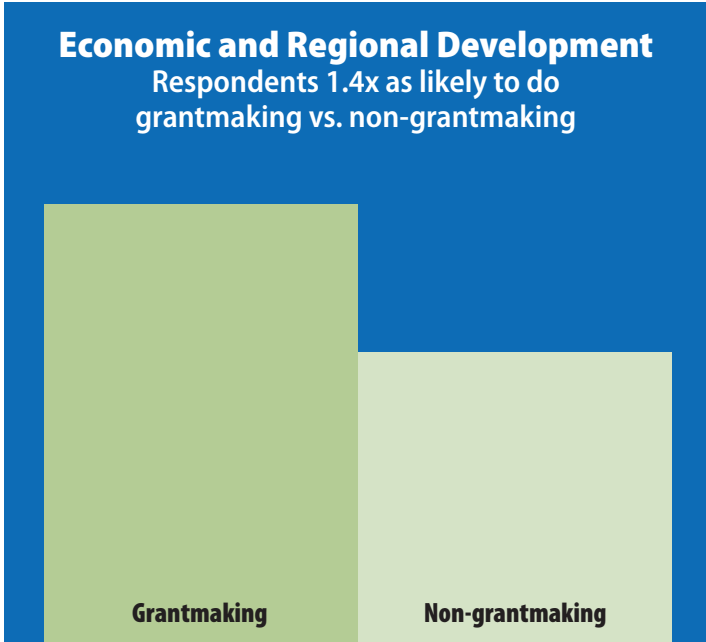
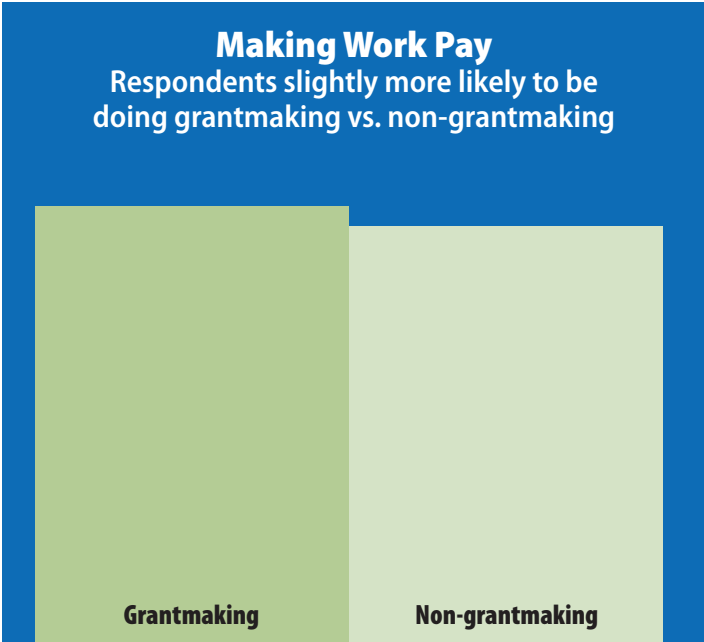
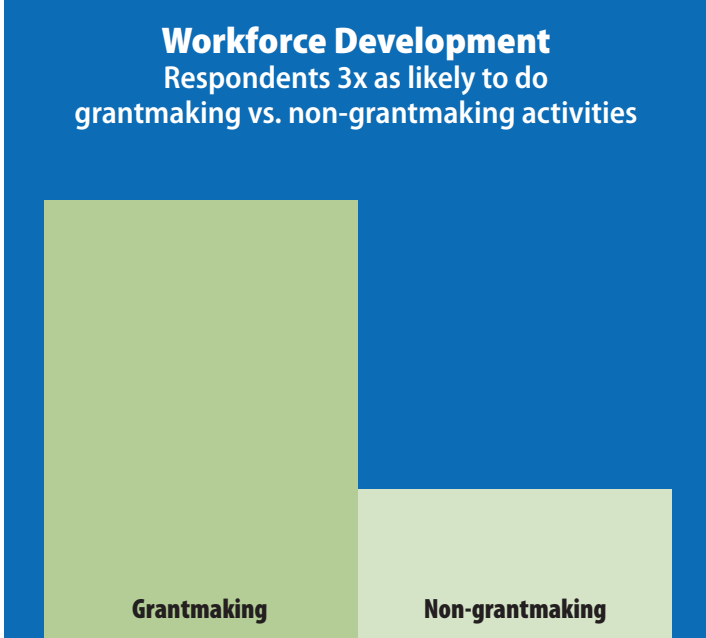
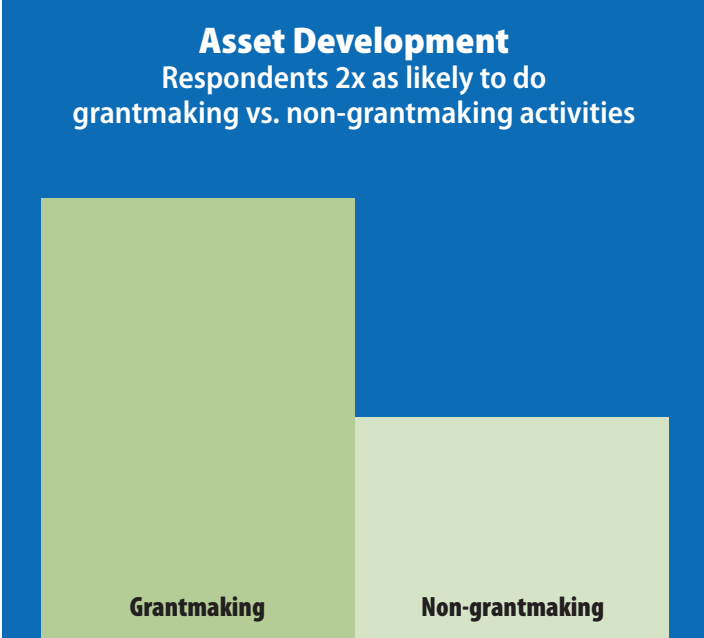
In all, 117 CFs responded to the survey — including 59% of the 100 largest community foundations. The overall response rate was 17%.

## **Finding 1: Community foundations working to increase family economic security (FES) are involved in many kinds of grantmaking and non-grantmaking activities.**

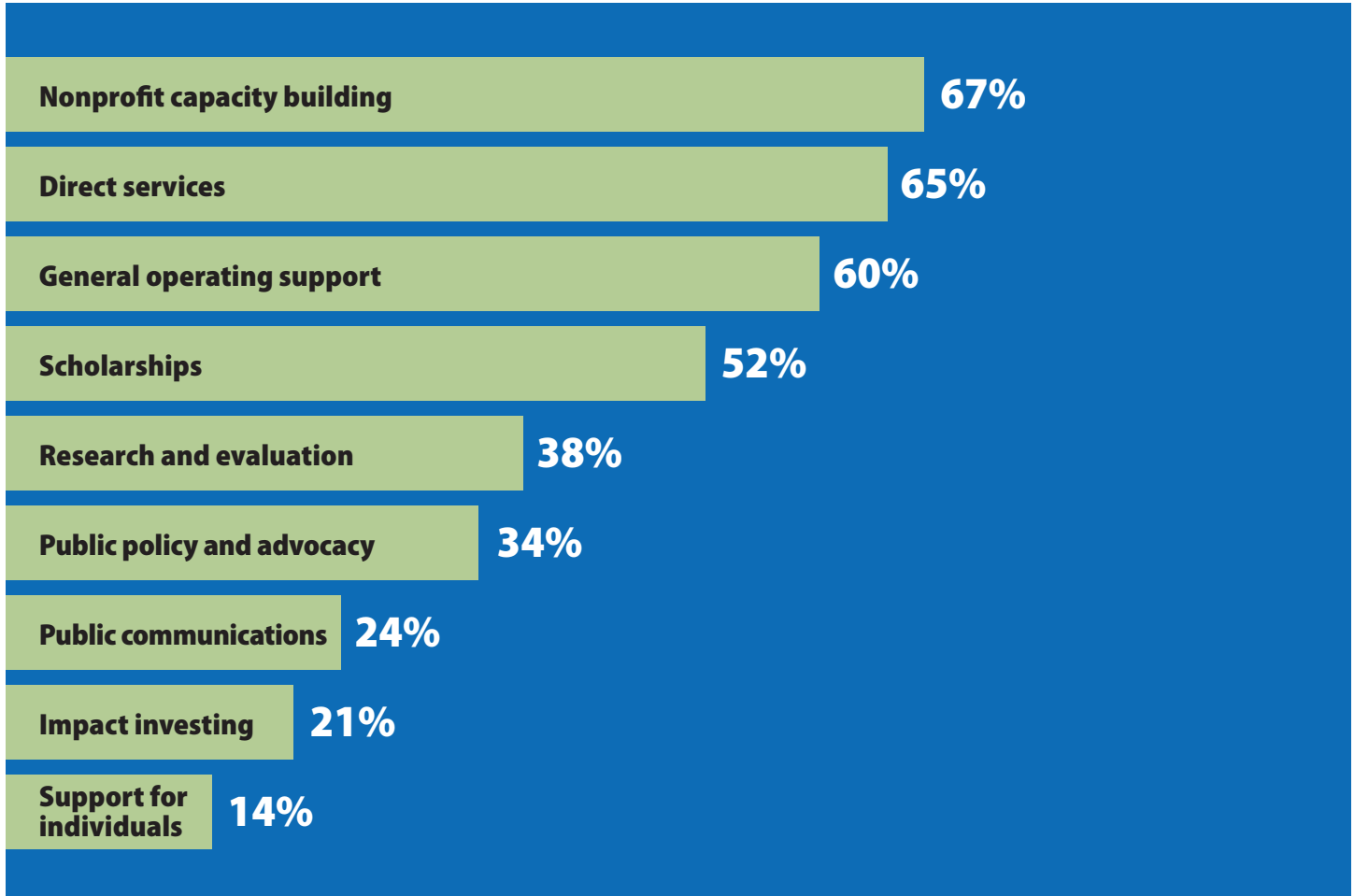
Ninety percent of respondents — including CFs of all sizes, in all regions — are working on FES issues. Among those involved with FES issues, 100% are engaged in four categories in some way. Areas in which survey respondents are most — *and least* — involved:



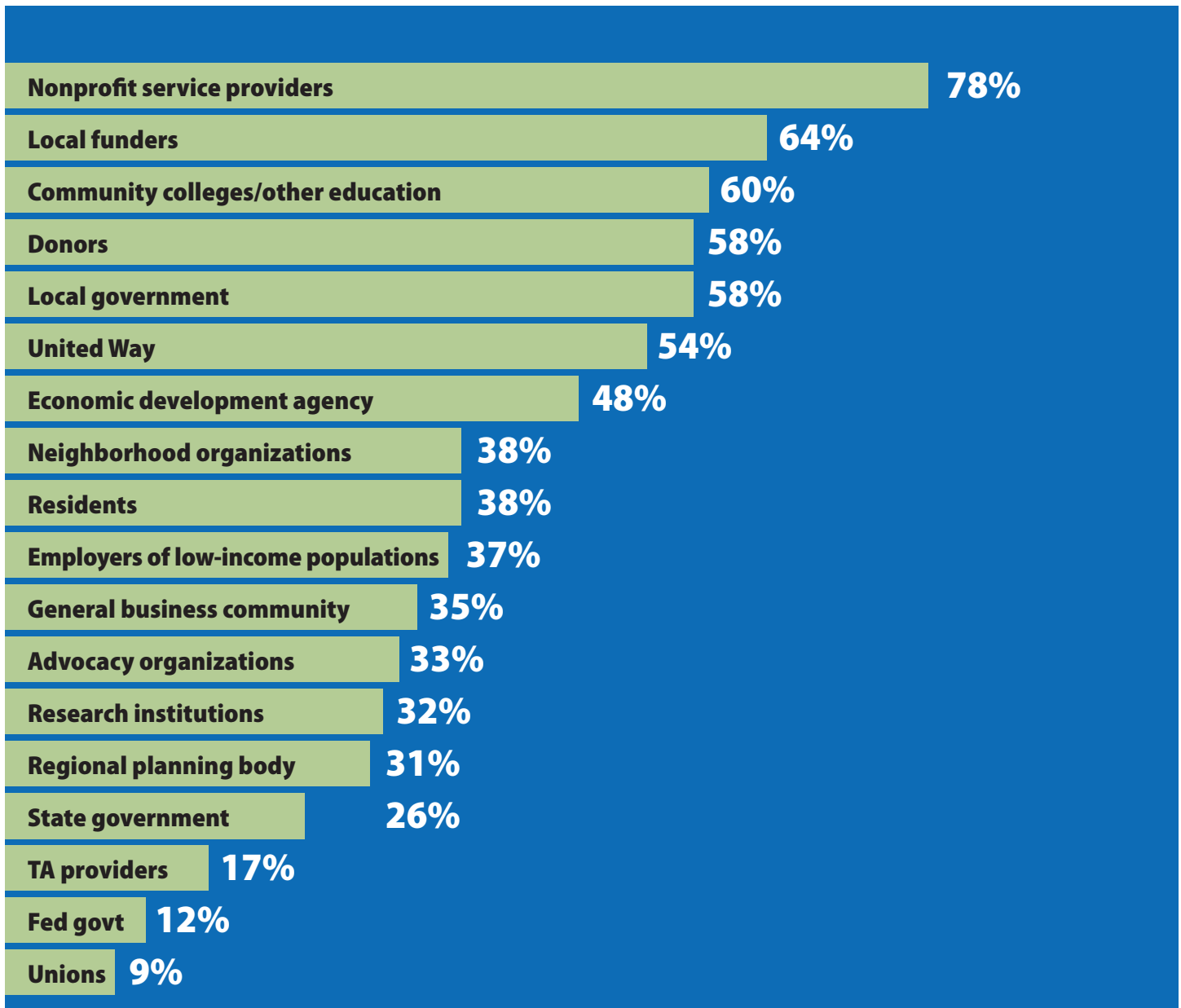
**Finding 2: The portfolio of grantmaking and non-grantmaking activities varies considerably by program area.**



***Finding 3: Most survey respondents focus on four kinds of FES-related activities: nonprofit capacity building, direct services, general operating support, and scholarships.***

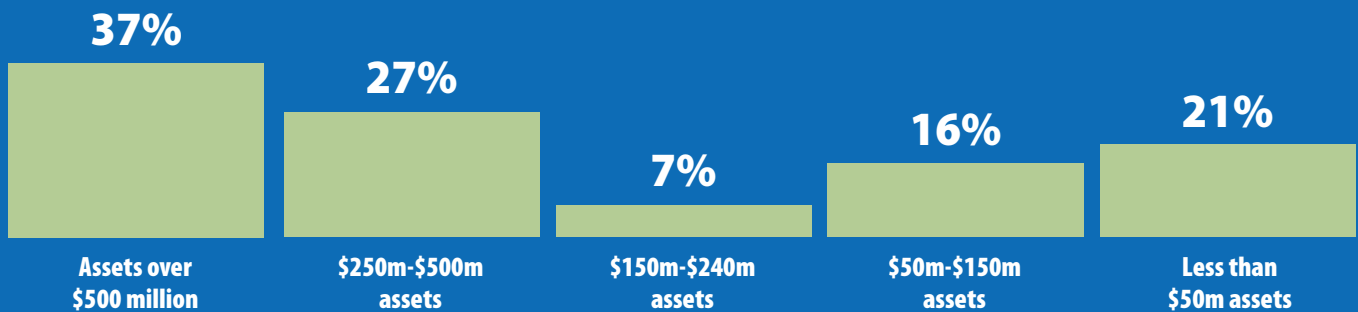


**Finding 4: Most survey respondents work with several community partners on FES-related initiatives. The most common partners are nonprofit service providers and local funders of all kinds; among the least common are state and federal government.**

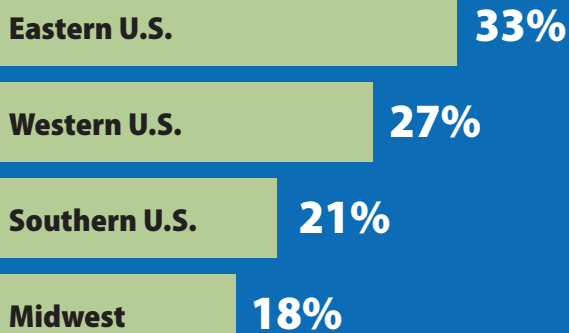


**Finding 5: Almost one quarter (24%) of survey respondents say they are “fairly” or “very” involved in public policy activity — but this varies considerably by asset size and region of the country.**

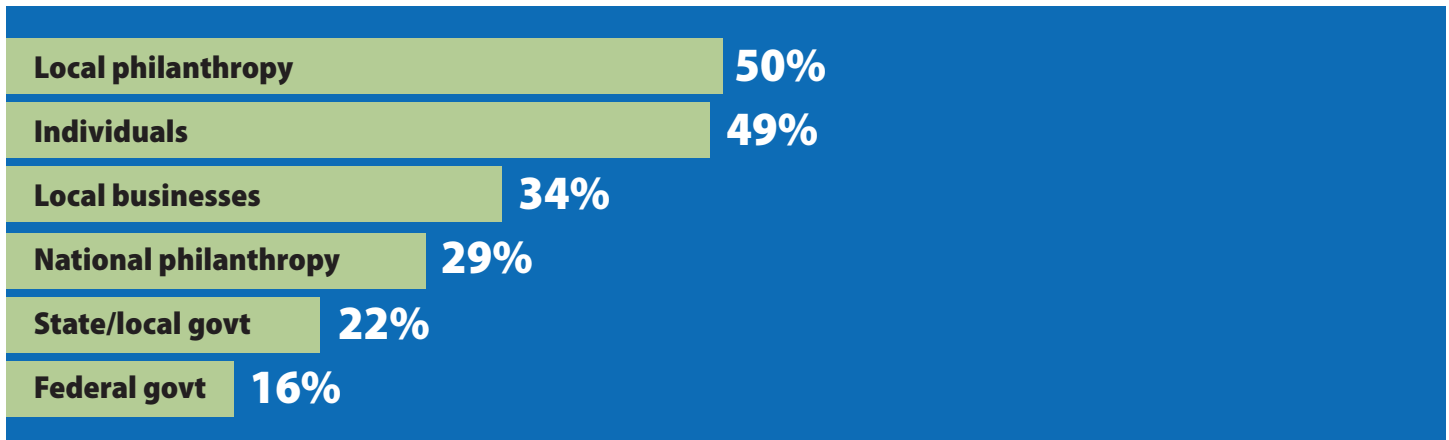
**CFs “fairly” or “very” engaged with public policy**



**CFs “fairly” or “very” engaged with public policy, by region**



***Finding 6: Almost all survey respondents raise funds to support their own and/or community efforts to increase economic security of vulnerable families. Local philanthropy and individuals are the most common sources.***



CFLeads is a dynamic network of community foundations committed to building stronger communities through community leadership.

To learn more, visit us at [www.cfleads.org](http://www.cfleads.org).

*CFLeads is grateful to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for its partnership and support of this important work building family economic security.*