Our community continues to be strong and resilient as we navigate the congoing strain of the COVID-19 pandemic and work together to meet the unprecedented challenges of our time. Continuing the trend from 2020, our generous donors have increased their giving in response to critical needs and support the most vulnerable across the state. From welcoming our new community members from Afghanistan to providing direct cash relief to those most affected by the pandemic to fostering innovation and investing in the people working in Utah's social sector, CFU is honored to serve as the hub where donors and mission-driven organizations are building a thriving community, together.

Over $105 million in grants were made by funds at the Community Foundation of Utah in 2021, which was a steep increase over 2020.

This yearly increase in granting highlights how committed our donors are to meeting community needs. It also demonstrates how vital community foundations are in bringing people together to address pressing challenges. We believe that community-centered philanthropy enables all Utahns to contribute to our community today, ensuring a brighter tomorrow. CFU is proud to be your partner in this important work!
THE NUMBERS

$105 million+
Granted out in 2021

$170 million
Assets under supervision

221
Number of funds

23.59%
Donor advised fund distribution rate

1100+
Total grants

485
Unique grantees
Meeting basic needs during the pandemic
At the end of 2020 CFU teamed up with the Salt Lake City Mayor’s Office, University Neighborhood Partners, Comunidades Unidas and Utah Community Action to launch the Raise Up SLC initiative. The program provided $1.5 million in direct cash relief to over 1,700 households in Salt Lake City to help meet basic needs including rent, food and health care.

Supporting our newest community members
CFU created the Utah Afghan Community Fund to welcome and support the 865 Afghan refugees resettling in Utah. We have surpassed the initial goal of raising $1 million and funds are being distributed through community partners to supplement public funding and ensure our new community members are equipped to thrive. The fund is a partnership with Governor Spencer J. Cox, World Trade Center of Utah, International Rescue Committee Utah, Catholic Community Services, Utah Muslim Civic League, representatives of Zions Bank and members of the Afghan community and highlights the power of community driven philanthropy to meet urgent needs.

Leading in philanthropy
CFU was awarded the Foundation Spirit of Giving Award as part of Utah Philanthropy Day. The award recognizes CFU as an organization that is committed to bringing people together to solve pressing challenges across the state. This award is a celebration of our donors, who tripled their giving in the last year, and highlights how much impact their continued generosity has in our community.

Give for Good Collaborative
In the coming years, philanthropy will play a growing role in supporting innovative and audacious solutions to our community’s most pressing issues. Continuing our partnership with the Walton Family Foundation, we spent 2021 developing an initiative allowing future donors to participate in an experiential learning journey with us, to dive deeper into philanthropy with the goal of developing a more collaborative, equitable and impact-driven giving community. Launching in 2022, the Give for Good Collaborative will bring together an inaugural cohort of donors seeking to experience the latest discussions, trends and practices in philanthropy, culminating in a $10,000 investment into our community with funds provided by CFU and the Walton Family Foundation.

Creating experiential learning opportunities in social impact
In 2021, CFU launched a new partnership with Morgan Stanley to convene and support their graduate student Fellows from the University of Utah. The program pairs students with local nonprofit organizations to introduce them to the importance of community development work. As part of this partnership, CFU also secured funding to provide an opportunity for the students to participate in a grantmaking process to local organizations so they can also experience the power of philanthropy in action.

Supporting innovative solutions to community challenges
The Social Investors Forum (SIF) made its first Mission Related Investment in Portal Entryways, a tech startup making smarter and safer ADA doors. Mission Related Investments provide the unique ability to utilize charitable dollars to invest in scalable businesses focused on social impact. SIF also granted catalytic funds to Switchpoint Community Resource Center to launch Rise Garden, which provides water-efficient produce to feed the local homeless community while creating a sustainable revenue stream by selling on-demand to local restaurants.
Social Investors Forum

The Social Investors Forum deployed nearly $350,000 to support innovative and financially sustainable projects designed to meet pressing needs in the Utah community. By continuing to host the initiative virtually, Social Investors Forum was able to engage with nonprofits across the state.

Invest in Success

In partnership with American Express, CFU facilitated Invest in Success, a leadership cohort of twelve nonprofit professionals across Utah focused on building skills in strategic management, organizational finance, board governance, and change leadership to help take their organization to the next level. The initiative also provided funding for three projects focused on helping organizations build capacity in innovative and sustainable ways.

Virtual Road Trip

CFU met virtually with almost 100 nonprofit organizations across the state in 2021 to better understand the needs, opportunities and trends within our community. We have been impressed with how adaptable and resilient nonprofits have been as they weather ongoing challenges. What we learned on this journey will be critical in driving our community work going forward.

Salt Lake City Youth Athletic Grant

The Youth Athletic Grant program supported $45,000 in competitive sports scholarships to low-income students residing in Salt Lake City. This positions underrepresented students to receive college scholarships through their participation in a competitive sports program.

Executive Leadership Cohort

CFU brought together a group of nonprofit leaders across the state for a workshop led by Gary Kennedy focused on entrepreneurial principles for social sector leaders with the goal of helping organizations incorporate business principles into their mission-driven work. The cohort continued to convene to discuss collaborative solutions to pressing issues in Utah’s social sector.

Utah Ethical Leadership Awards

The Utah Ethical Leadership Awards are a collaboration of the Community Foundation of Utah, the Daniels Fund, and the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative at the University of Utah’s David Eccles School of Business. This initiative recognizes leadership in Utah businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government entities that embody best practices in ethical behaviors. The 2021 awardees were Zions Bank, CAPSA and Salt Lake County COVID-19 Response.

Utah Grantmakers Alliance

The Utah Grantmakers Alliance provides local family foundations and donor advisors access to a welcome space to discuss philanthropy, learn from each other, and practice meaningful giving for the greatest good. We were joined this year by Sharna Goldseker, a leading expert in next-gen giving, to address how next-gen donors are ushering in an “impact revolution” to achieve real, observable results from their giving and really move the needle on some of our biggest social sector challenges.

Silicon Slopes Computer Science Fund

Playworks Utah was awarded $300,000 from the Silicon Slopes Computer Science Fund to craft programming that helps Computer Science teachers utilize the power of play to improve their classroom experience. Play It Forward employs a three phase strategy to relieve - disrupt stress for educators and students, reframe - build stronger, safer and more developed communities through social emotional learning, and refresh - foster a positive, engaging workplace environment for Computer Science educators.
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Nonprofit Endowment Partners

The Community Foundation of Utah is proud to partner with leading organizations serving Utah for generations to come. Through establishing an endowed fund, nonprofit partners foster perpetuity and resilience to better address tomorrow's challenges. As a resource for our community, the Community Foundation is honored to sponsor the following nonprofit partner endowments, ensuring a brighter future for all Utahans:

Columbus Dignity Through Work
Fourth Street Clinic
FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake
Repertory Dance Theatre
Susan E. Carroll Salt Lake Cap Head Start
Turn Community Services
Utah Nonprofits Association
Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy
Over two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, we are amazed to see the continued tenacity and strength of our community. We have heard from nonprofits across the state that they are struggling with burnout and shortages of necessary resources like staff and funding, but they are still showing up and serving their communities. During these trying times we are seeing Utahns come together in inspiring ways regardless of differences in their backgrounds, income or beliefs, and confronting challenges with a community driven approach.

2021 was a year of incredible learning and growth for our community and here at CFU we are excited to see what the future holds. Whatever challenges come our way, we are built to last and continue serving our community for years to come. We are Utah’s partner in philanthropy, bringing together donors and mission-driven organizations to build a thriving community.

Thank you for working with us to build a brighter future!

SO, how can you help?

We enable all Utahns to contribute to our community today, ensuring a brighter tomorrow.