

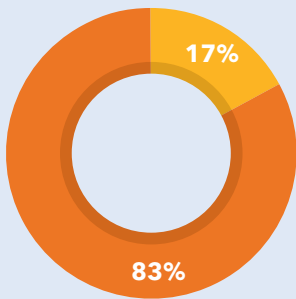


# Faith-Based Public Foundations: Identifying the Field and Assessing its Impact

Faith-based public foundations have over \$90 billion in assets.

In 2015, they contributed over \$8 billion to charitable causes.

17% of all active U.S. public foundations are faith-based.



Number of Active Foundations in the U.S.\*

**33,000**  
Faith-based Foundations

**159,000**  
Secular Foundations

\* Active foundations are foundations that gave at least one grant in the previous 5 years

## Comparing Faith-Based and Secular Public Foundations

### Total Assets



AVERAGE

**\$13.6 M**

MEDIAN

**\$1.6 M**



AVERAGE

**\$11 M**

MEDIAN

**\$1.1 M**

### Annual Grant Allocations



AVERAGE

**\$1.3 M**

MEDIAN

**\$190 K**



AVERAGE

**\$1.1 M**

MEDIAN

**\$150 K**

On average, faith-based foundations have more assets and allocate more grant funds than their secular counterparts.

### PERCENTAGE OF FOUNDATIONS Receiving No Government Funding



**95%**



**89%**

### PERCENTAGE OF FOUNDATIONS Giving Funding to Foreign Grantees



**50%**



**28%**

Compared to secular foundations, faith-based foundations are more likely to receive no government funding and give funding to foreign grantees.



Faith-based Foundations



Secular Foundations

### For Both Faith-Based and Secular Foundations...



**69%**

have a conflict of interest policy.



**49%**

have a whistleblower policy.



**52%**

have a document retention policy.



**14%**

of their total expenses are comprised of operating expenses.

Despite common assumptions that "secular" organizations are more efficient and structurally sound, faith-based and secular foundations do not differ on measures of ethics and spending efficiency.



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Data source: U.S. public foundations' 2015 IRS Form 990 filings.