Carnegie Corporation of NY

Strengthening Democracy Program: Carnegie is focused on fostering a pluralistic, vibrant democracy through the civic integration of immigrants, support for nonpartisan voter education and engagement, and voting rights.

This includes the following focus areas:

- **Field Building**: Through support for state and local groups aiding immigrant communities
- **Strategic Communications**: Informing the immigration reform debate and providing messaging for communities
- **Policy Development**: Improving federal and state policies regarding immigration and civic integration
- **Nonpartisan Civic Engagement**: Encouraging legal residents to become American citizens and informed voters

Charles Koch Foundation

Charles Koch Foundation supports educational initiatives in economics, philosophy, entrepreneurship, criminal justice, and other disciplines that have a direct impact on opportunities to thrive.

- **Criminal Justice Reform**: The Foundation supports research that emphasizes human dignity and enhances public safety, with a particular focus on reducing overcriminalization, recidivism, and barriers to second chances for ex-offenders.
- **Tolerance and Free Speech**: Supports research, educational programs, and dialogue focused on enabling a more tolerant society through modeling civil discourse and protecting press freedom.
- **Foreign Policy**: Supports new voices and sound scholarship that speaks to America’s enduring interests and policies that will make our country safer.
- **Economic Freedom**: Supports research on the barriers that prevent people from working, innovating, and creating value for themselves and their communities.

Ford Foundation

Civic Engagement and Government Program (International and U.S.)

International: We support efforts to protect and expand civic space, and to strengthen civil society’s ability to inform, engage, and mobilize diverse communities. Ford supports research, advocacy, and networking aimed at protecting and expanding civic space, and reversing global trends toward destabilization and constraint. We also work to ensure a more effective and inclusive system of political participation that addresses the demands of marginalized communities, and that works towards a more inclusive, vibrant democracy.

U.S.: We invest in efforts to make governments more representative, and to ensure that the rules for political participation are fair and inclusive. And we work to help emerging leaders address injustice and inequality in their own communities. Anticipated outcomes include: protecting voting rights, strengthening the census, building a body of empirical research on voter motivation and civic engagement, and making sure all people, especially those who have historically been excluded, have a role in decision-making.

*Ford does not have open RFPs, they accept idea submissions.*

Hewlett Foundation

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation funds a broad range of initiatives including education, the environment, global development and peacekeeping, arts, cybersecurity, democracy, effective philanthropy and the San Francisco Bay Area.

Established in 1966, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation was founded by William Hewlett, co-founder of the Hewlett-Packard technology company, and his wife, Flora. The Foundation works nationally and internationally in education, environment, global development, performing arts and cyber policy. It’s Bay Area program supports community development and programs for disadvantaged youth. The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has announced a new grantmaking program aimed at strengthening its investments in America’s democratic institutions.

Launched in 2019 as a time-limited effort focused on strengthening U.S. democracy, the Madison Initiative will begin the foundation's new U.S. Democracy Program. With an annual grantmaking budget of more than $22 million — the same as the Madison Initiative's budget in 2019 — the program will work to advance five priorities: advocating for and upholding key values and norms of U.S. democracy, including pluralism, political tolerance, negotiation, and compromise; reducing the fearfulness of Congress by modernizing and reclaiming its capacity and culture of deliberation, leadership, and civility; improving campaigns and election processes to better represent the diversity of eligible voters; combating the negative impacts of digital disinformation; and providing support for research, data, media, and collaboration that informs and improves the work of philanthropists, scholars, advocates, journalists, political reformers, and policymakers.

Knight Foundation

The Knight Foundation has been committed to helping the public better understand the effects of technology on political landscapes and elections.

Their Trust, Media, and Democracy Program advances a multi-disciplinary approach to addressing problems of disinformation and declining trust in media by supporting technologists, journalists, academic institutions and others passionate about solving the information challenges of our day. There is also an Elections and Voting program area. Knight sees engagement in the democratic process as more than just the act of voting. It should be embedded in every part of civil life, extending before and after an election.

Knight announces and operates select funding opportunities on a quarterly basis with deadlines. They also accept general LOI’s on a rolling basis.

Omidyar Network

Remaking Capitalism

New Economy: To support healthy societies and create opportunities, economies must become more democratic and equitable, with a redefined social contract among businesses, the state, and individuals.

Worker Power: Dignified work enables dignified lives. Healthy economies, societies, and democracies are only possible when workers are empowered to bargain for better work and can access fair share of economic success.

Property Rights: Providing and protecting people’s rights to property is essential to creating opportunity for the world’s poor.

*Omidyar proactively seeks investments based on network of partners and connections. Does not accept unsolicited proposals.*

Open Society Foundations

Themes: Democratic Practice, Economic Governance and Advancement, Education, Equality and Antidiscrimination, Health and Rights, Justice Reform and the Rule of Law

- **Equality and Antidiscrimination**: Supports groups that speak out and live up to the promise of diverse communities as vehicles for social change. It works with communities to influence and shape norms, standards, and values that support the rights of all people, including those who are marginalized, oppressed, or discriminated against.

- **Racial Justice in the USA**: OSF supports groups that work on a range of issues affecting communities of color, including the racial wealth gap, a justice system that disproportionately incarcerates African Americans, and overly punitive school discipline policies. It has also focused on efforts to improve opportunities for black men and boys in the United States, and to support the development of the next generation of minority communities across the country.

- **Statelessness**: Pursues legal action to address statelessness, which can fuel conflict and exclude entire communities from access to their rights.

- **Policy Development**: Improving federal and state policies regarding immigration and civic integration.

- **Field Building**: Through support for state and local groups aiding immigrant communities

- **Strategic Communications**: Informing the immigration reform debate and providing messaging for communities

- **Nonpartisan Civic Engagement**: Encouraging legal residents to become American citizens and informed voters

- **Global Dynamics**: To reduce the risk of global instability by promoting deeper understanding of domestic and foreign policy developments in the Euro-Atlantic and Asia regions and their implications for U.S. and global security, with particular attention to Russia and China.

- **Transnational Movements and the Arab Region**: To improve conditions in the Arab region by empowering Arab social scientists to address political, economic, and social drivers underlying conflict, and advance new approaches to transnational funding.

*Omidyar proactively seeks investments based on network of partners and contacts. Does not accept unsolicited proposals.*

*The Omidyar group is also the funder for The Democracy Fund, a bipartisan foundation which uses the approach of “systems mapping.” The first three maps of focus include Local News and Participation, Congress and Public Trust, and Statelessness.*

Prospect and Alignment

Omidyar Ventures

1. Main Topic Areas: Criminal Justice, Health, Education, Public Finance (U.S.-Focused)

Policy, Law, and Research seek to improve projects in the U.S. focused on improving public safety and fiscal outcomes. We work with partners to analyze enforcement trends, test policing strategies, and build a toolbox of effective responses and cross-agency partnerships to improve public safety and fiscal outcomes. And we help implement promising reforms, then rigorously study their impact on crime rates, local budgets, officer safety, and public confidence, particularly within communities most affected.

Tax Policy: funds organizations that studies tax policies, evaluate efforts, and seek sound strategies to improve economic mobility and address inequality. G sets aside advisors to policymakers on how to design tax codes to achieve short- and long-term goals, provide expert testimony to Congress and state legislatures, and have developed state-of-the-art modeling tools to help the impact of major reforms.

Retirement Policy: funds research on public and private retirement plans to gain insight into how to improve these systems, and we partner with governments to create stronger safety nets while balancing budgeting challenges. We support efforts to improve the retirement security of workers, including the expansion of public programs that automatically enroll employees into IRA's and comments by policymakers to increase funding for pension plans.

Policy Labs: Arnold launches talks to pair public officials with data analysts and social scientists to learn more about taxpayer needs and demand for data services. Some of the top researchers in the country are now working with government leaders to use advanced methods of data analysis and research to evaluate the impact of existing policies and develop new ideas about how to address pressing social issues.
**Governance/ Democracy Prospects**

- Combating the corrupting influence of money in politics by supporting the adoption of public financing of electoral campaigns, including judicial elections, and selected other reforms to enhance the integrity of representative democracy.
- Increasing opportunities for meaningful citizen participation in democratic systems through election and voting reforms, including improvements in voting rights, election laws, redistricting processes, and election administration.
- Supporting movement-building strategies for systemic reform of democratic institutions to advance economic and racial justice.

The Rockefeller Brothers Fund announced in 2020 that it will boost its grantmaking by $48 million over the next five years in support of efforts to advance racial justice, strengthen U.S. democracy, and generate new economic thinking to address global climate change.

The commitment includes $10 million over three years to launch a racial justice initiative that builds on the fund’s work with justice, governance, and civic culture organizations to identify solutions for dismantling structural racism in America.

---

**Smith Richardson Foundation**

- Their Democratic Governance program seeks to “establish conditions for equitable economic growth by strengthening the institutions for democratic governance, particularly those related to public security, access to justice and financial inclusion.”
- They influence the lives of individuals and families.

---

**Russell Sage Foundation**

- The Russell Sage Foundation (RSF) is one of the oldest charitable foundations in the United States. In its early years, the funding focus at RSF revolved around improving the social and living conditions for marginalized populations across the country. The foundation is now exclusively dedicated to “strengthening the methods, data, and theoretical core of the social sciences.” Its main grantmaking programs are in Behavioral Economics, Future of Work, Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration, and Social, Political, and Economic Inequality.
- RSF’s Behavioral Economics program funds “research that uses insights and methods from psychology, economics, sociology, political science and other social sciences to examine and improve social and living conditions in the United States,” as well as a two-week summer institute and small grants for doctoral students. Future of Work grants fund research into the “causes and consequences of the deteriorating quality of low-wage jobs in the United States,” including “offshoring of manufacturing and immigration,” the “decline of unions and technological change,” and the “role of job search behavior on the employment and wage outcomes of women and minorities in the post-recessionary U.S. labor market,” among others. The Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration program supports “multi-disciplinary perspectives on questions stemming from the significant changes in the racial, ethnic, and immigrant-voting composition of the U.S. population,” and “evaluates the extent to which these changes have affected elections and communities and the way they influence the lives of individuals and families.”

---

**Tinker Foundation**

- The Tinker Foundation oversees three major grantmaking programs. Its Field Research and Visiting Professors programs support academic research in Latin America, while its Institutional Grants seeks “effective policy changes to state, and municipal levels. In terms of human capital development, the Foundation has been supporting work to identify how schools can become more productive by, for example, increasing the quality of the teacher workforce or adopting more effective curricula. Because success in the contemporary economy requires individuals to acquire education and training beyond high school, the Foundation is building a portfolio of projects on post-secondary education. Finally, the Foundation is supporting work on the criminal justice system that will examine whether costs can be lowered while still protecting public safety.”

---

**Rockefeller Brothers Fund**

- The Democratic Practice–U.S. program works to enhance the quality of American democracy through support for high leverage opportunities at the federal, state, and local levels (including New York City as the Fund’s home).
- Goal: Advance a Vital and Inclusive Democracy in the United States
- In the United States, the fund supports innovative strategies to strengthen and broaden participation in the practices and institutions of democratic governance, foster greater transparency, accountability, and responsiveness of government institutions, and promote social, economic, and racial justice in our democratic systems.
- Strategies:
  - Supporting movement-building strategies for systemic reform of democratic institutions to advance economic and racial justice.
  - Increasing opportunities for meaningful citizen participation in democratic systems through election and voting reforms, including improvements in voting rights, election laws, redistricting processes, and election administration.
- The Rockefeller Brothers Fund announced in 2020 that it will boost its grantmaking by $48 million over the next five years in support of efforts to advance racial justice, strengthen U.S. democracy, and generate new economic thinking to address global climate change.

The commitment includes $10 million over three years to launch a racial justice initiative that builds on the fund’s work with justice, governance, and civic culture organizations to identify solutions for dismantling structural racism in America.