About the SECF Member Survey
Every two years, SECF conducts a survey to learn more about our members, the state of Southern foundations, and how we can best serve, support, champion and strengthen philanthropy in the region. This year’s survey also included critical insights on diversity, equity and inclusion and Passing Gear philanthropy – the use of multiple forms of philanthropic capital aimed at addressing the root causes of community challenges.

Methodology: Results are from a survey of SECF members conducted in July/August 2018 for SECF by Geo Strategy Partners. The information provided is derived from responses provided by 221 people representing 166 unique organizations. Some responses reflect only information received from the most senior member of an organization.
Staff sizes appear to be increasing, but overall size varies widely among different types of foundations.

Foundations with *five or fewer full-time* staff:

- **63%** 2016
- **51%** 2018

A majority reported adding new staff in the last two years – and many others report they will in the next year.

Added new staff in the last two years:

- **51%**

Expect to add new staff in the next 12 months:

- **33%**

Community foundations employ the largest number of full-time employees on average.

Number of *full-time* staff by foundation type:

- **Community Foundations**: 12 FTEs
- **Independent Foundations**: 10 FTEs
- **Health Legacy Foundations**: 8 FTEs
- **Family Foundations**: 4 FTEs
KEY FINDINGS REPORT
Why Members Join & Stay
SECF’s philanthropic community and network is, by far, the top reason foundations join.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Percentage of Respondents</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Networking Opportunities</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research on Philanthropic Trends</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership Development</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative Updates</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Policy Education</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative Updates (Ranked No. 1)</td>
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Primary reason for joining:

- Networking/Community: 47%
- Access to Benefits & Resources: 22%
- Programming & Events: 18%
- Other Reasons: 19%

Networking was also rated as the most important benefit overall – research on trends was a strong second.
KEY FINDINGS REPORT
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Members indicated strong interest in new offerings from SECF focused on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) within philanthropy.

Ranking of *top 3* potential offerings:

- **40%** | DEI within Philanthropy
- **40%** | Engagement Strategies
- **37%** | Trustee Education

A majority report they are trying to advance diversity, equity and inclusion, but want to do more.

Level of *commitment* to DEI:

- **22%** | We are leaders in the field in advancing DEI
- **61%** | We make an effort to advance DEI, but we need to do more
- **17%** | Not at all/not applicable

Most member activity related to DEI has been informal.

Activity related to *advancing* Diversity, Equity & Inclusion:

- **65%** | Informally discussed these topics during a meeting.
- **29%** | Provided training or facilitated discussion for staff.
- **24%** | Adopted or revised internal policies.
- **24%** | Developed a grantmaking or program framework.
- **23%** | Hosted/sponsored a community forum.
In addition to financial capital, most SECF members report deploying reputational, intellectual and social capital to achieve their goals.

Forms of philanthropic capital used:

- **Financial**: 88%
- **Reputational**: 69%
- **Intellectual**: 64%
- **Social**: 59%
- **Moral**: 37%

Smaller foundations rely heavily on social capital – larger funders use their reputations to their advantage.

*87% of community foundations reported leveraging reputational capital*
KEY FINDINGS REPORT
Public Policy
Most member involvement with public policy comes at the local and state levels.

Involvement with public policy:

- **50%** Local
- **43%** State
- **29%** Federal

On the federal level, members want SECF to prioritize establishing a universal charitable deduction above all other issues.

Issues considered a *top priority* (ranked in top 3):

- **52%** Promote and expand the charitable deduction to non-itemizers
- **43%** Clarify federal rules for nonprofit advocacy and lobbying
- **38%** Permit private foundations to lobby under the same rules as charities
- **29%** Restructure the estate tax to promote charitable giving
- **27%** Oppose minimum payout requirements for donor-advised funds
KEY FINDINGS REPORT
Members In Their Own Words
Philanthropy as the South’s Passing Gear is an important source of data. It would be helpful for SECF to create spaces for discussions about how philanthropy can advance equity in the region.

We value the association and what it brings to us and to the philanthropic sector at large.

SECF is very innovative with program offerings and opportunities for engagement.

I enjoy the ways I am engaging with SECF especially through the Hull Fellows Program. I know there are many more ways that I could engage in the future.

This is a group of our peers.

We all face similar challenges living in the South and it is highly beneficial to me to learn about what my peers are doing to address some of our common challenges – what is working for them and why and what is not working and why.