

[Media Contact: Hannah Smith](#)

Exponent Philanthropy Releases 2025 Foundation Operations & Management Report: Key Trends in Foundations With Lean Operations

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Exponent Philanthropy, the largest philanthropic network dedicated to foundations with lean operations, has released its 2025 [Foundation Operations & Management Report \(FOMR\)](#). Based on responses from more than 300 foundations, this annual benchmarking study provides insights into how these funders are adapting their leadership, governance, grantmaking, and investment strategies to maximize impact.

Key Findings

- **Catalytic Leadership in Philanthropy (CLIP) Gains Momentum:** Sixty-eight percent of foundations reported maintaining authentic relationships with communities, and 65% collaborated with other funders to amplify their impact.
- **Equity and Inclusion Remain a Focus:** While racial equity remains a priority, disability inclusion efforts lag, with only 7% of funders implementing related strategies.
- **Grantmaking Becomes More Flexible, but Multiyear Funding Lags:** Seventy-five percent of foundations provided general operating support grants, yet only 28% offered multiyear general support, limiting nonprofits' long-term stability.
- **Board Diversity Improves:** Twenty-seven percent of foundations now have two or more people of color on their board, and the percentage of all-white boards dropped to 58% in 2023, continuing a five-year trend of increasing diversity.
- **Gender Pay Gap Widens:** Despite women making up 71% of foundation CEOs, they earned just 73 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts.

“Foundations with lean operations play a crucial role in building strong communities, and this report offers a roadmap for how they can lead with impact,” said Paul D. Daugherty, CEO of Exponent Philanthropy. “By embracing Catalytic Leadership in Philanthropy, funders can move beyond grants and drive lasting change.”

To download the full report, visit [Exponent Philanthropy's website](#).

About Exponent Philanthropy

Exponent Philanthropy is the largest philanthropic membership association in the U.S. dedicated to funders with lean operations. Our members include private, operating, corporate, and community foundations; charitable trusts; families; individual donors; giving circles; donor-advised funds; and more. For nearly 30 years, we have supported funders at every stage of their philanthropic journey with resources, connections, and peer networks to help them give with impact. Discover the benefits of membership at exponentphilanthropy.org