**Local Philanthropy**

Philanthropy has produced countless benefits to American society that have extended across generations. [INSERT YOUR OWN EXAMPLE OF HOW YOUR FOUNDATION HAS BENEFITTED THE COMMUNITY YOU SERVE. FOR INSTANCE, DISCUSS A SPECIFIC PROGRAM YOU FUND THAT HAS HELPED DRIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SERVED THE NEEDY, PROVIDED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, ETC. IN THE LAWMAKER’S DISTRICT] is just one example of how foundations like the [FOUNDATION NAME] spur innovation and serve our communities. Foundations like ours have a unique ability to think outside the box and create results in ways government and the for-profit sector often cannot.

**Charitable Giving in America[[1]](#footnote-1)**

Government funds account for only about one-third of the revenues of America’s nonprofit organizations. The rest comes from private giving:

* American individuals, foundations, and corporate giving programs donated an estimated
**$335 billion** to charitable causes in 2013.
* Total giving by all types of foundations was an estimated **$49 billion** in 2013. Giving by community foundations grew 5.7 percent in 2013.
* Independent (family and private) foundations, operating foundations, and community foundations all **increased the amount they gave** in 2013 compared to 2012.

**Philanthropy in** [YOUR STATE]

**We urge you to consider the impact of tax policy on philanthropy as you make decisions on how to reform the tax code.**

* [INSERT NUMBERS ON CHARITABLE GIVING, NUMBER OF FOUNDATIONS AND CHARITIES, AND FOUNDATION GIVING, IN YOUR STATE, AVAILABLE FROM YOUR REGIONAL ASSOCIATION, AND ALSO AVAILABLE HERE FROM INDEPENDENT SECTOR: <https://www.independentsector.org/state_profiles>].

Limiting charitable giving incentives or making changes to the tax code that limit foundations’ flexibility or constrain our business operations would impede the sector’s ability to employ millions of people, support vital services, and develop innovative solutions to our most pressing challenges.

Small changes to the tax code can make a big difference in the lives of our constituents. With the economy struggling to fully recover and America’s nonprofit sector asked to do more with less, now is not the time to diminish the ability of philanthropy.

[INSERT LOCAL OR STATE LEVEL EXAMPLES OF HOW TAX POLICY CHANGES THAT DECREASE THE VALUE OF CHARITABLE GIVING INCENTIVES OR IMPOSE A DAF PAYOUT RATE, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD HURT YOUR WORK AND THOSE YOU SERVE]

**Philanthropy Supports Thriving Communities**

Philanthropic giving is a deep-rooted American value, linked to thriving communities and a sustained economic recovery. Largely supported through philanthropy, America’s nonprofits:

* Generate more than **$1 trillion** every year in the form of jobs and human services;
* Employ one in ten U.S. workers, providing **13.7 million jobs**. In [YOUR STATE] alone, nonprofits employ [INSERT EMPLOYMENT NUMBER FROM YOUR STATE, AVAILABLE HERE: <https://www.independentsector.org/state_profiles>].
* Pay employees roughly 9 percent of total wages paid in the U.S. – nearly **$600 billion** a year.
1. Giving USA 2014: The Annual Report on Philanthropy, available here: <http://www.givingusareports.org/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)