

# CSR Report - Grants Edition

A Corporate Social Responsibility Association Publication

## Grant Issues, Development & Management Report



Welcome to the latest edition of the CSR Report-Grants.

Corporate Social Responsibility embodies people, planet and profit. Grant management has a tremendous effect on CSR principles.

Sincerely,

John Hall  
Executive Director  
CSR Association



## GMN Conference Update

### Helpful Insights from the GMN Conference 2011 Seattle, WA



This CSR Report - Grants Edition includes the following interview with ZoomGrants® Founder and President Geoff Hamilton.

Hamilton was asked to share his thoughts on the recent Grant Managers Network (GMN) Annual Conference held in Seattle, Washington in March.

**CSR Report:** What was the general tone of the conference this year?



**GH:** *Collaboration seemed to be a common thread throughout the show, with colleagues in grant management from around the country sharing ideas that better serve our industry. At the conference there were 400-plus professionals who are dedicated to collaborating to further good works in our communities, which benefits everyone.*

**CSR Report:** Were some of the concerns focused on budget

## Featured Topic Foundation Giving Expected to Rise in 2011, Study Finds

Foundations expect to increase their giving in 2011 by sums that could allow them to surpass the amount they distributed before the recession caused a sharp decline in grant making, according to a new report.



Grant makers gave an estimated \$45.7-billion in 2010, according to figures recently released by the Foundation Center, a nonprofit research organization in New York.

That is about the same as last year and just 2.4 percent below the \$46.8-billion given in 2008, which was a record high.

Foundations in the survey predicted they would increase grants by 2 to 4 percent this year, which means giving could near or pass its 2008 peak, according to the center.

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issues that are impacting state and municipalities, as well as private foundations, a topic of discussion?

**GH:** *Yes, absolutely. More and more grant managers and professionals discussed accountability and oversight for how funds are distributed and accounted for, and that was in direct response to tightening budgets.*

**CSR Report:** Since your company ZoomGrants® is on the technology side of the business, offering online management tools and support, where do you see the technology heading in this industry?

**GH:** *The conference had numerous technology companies exhibiting their best practices and tools for the industry. This is a very positive trend for grant managers. As we continue to improve through competition, our applications will continue to address ever-changing needs in the industry. Like all technology, our programs must be liquid and evolve as the needs of our clients change. The attendees at the GMN Conference were great in sharing their needs and wants for products like ours. We listened, realized that we are already executing the applications they are looking for and fine tuning our processes even more to meet their needs.*

**CSR Report:** What seemed to be most important features on the technology side for the grant managers?

**GH:** *It was apparent that reporting features were important and that they may have been tied to the accountability and oversight we mentioned earlier. The 'use'-ability, in other words applications that are intuitive, were a hot topic for the attendees of the conference and of course price is always an important component.*

**CSR Report:** As a speaker, an exhibitor and as an attendee at the conference, what did you get out of the GMN Conference?

**GH:** *We learned as a technology partner in grant management that the professionals in our industry are a wealth of knowledge and we ended up listening a lot more than we were talking. While the technology piece helps streamline the grant manager's jobs and their respective mission of good works, it still comes back to people working with people. It was reassuring to see so many people involved in corporate social responsibility, whose focus on people, planet and prosperity are a priority. For over a decade, our company has made CSR principals an important part of our professional and personal mission statement. Working with like-minded people makes it much more enjoyable for our entire team.*

The CSR Report would like to thank Geoff Hamilton for this interview and his insights on the conference and on the impact technology is playing in grant management.

The 2012 GMN Conference will be held in San Antonio, Texas.

The CSR Report - Grants Edition will post more information about this conference in future publications.

## Legislative Update



## Foundation Spotlight

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people's health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty.

In the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people—especially those with the fewest resources—have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life.

Based in Seattle, Washington, the foundation is led by CEO Jeff Raikes and Co-chair William H. Gates Sr., under the direction of Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett.

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"The Corporate Social Responsibility Association (CSRA) has been formed as a member driven organization given the rising need for resources and collaboration geared toward a better understanding of the triple bottom line of people, planet and profit."

# Health and Education Programs Cut in Budget Deal

Federal health, education, and labor programs would be cut by \$13-billion under the compromise law makers and the White House backed Friday night to avert a government shutdown, according to The New York Times.



Even so, Head Start would get enough money to keep enrollment levels unchanged, The Wall Street Journal reports.

In addition, reductions will be made in housing and foreign aid, and all domestic agencies will face a total of \$1-billion in cuts, according to the White House.

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