In 2018, Fidelity Charitable® donors in the Boston metro area reached a giving milestone, topping $600 million in recommended grants to charity—including $340 million in support to local organizations. The city ranked highly for giving in six of the eight charitable sectors, demonstrating the broad reach of Boston’s philanthropic spirit—and its top ranking for giving to the health sector displays how Boston entwines philanthropy with its proud tradition of innovation and healthcare.

**Most Popular Charitable Sectors**

1. **Education**
2. **Human Services**
3. **Health**

**Most Popular Nonprofits Supported by Fidelity Charitable® Donors in the Region**

1. Pan-Mass Challenge
2. Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
3. WGBH Educational Foundation
4. Boston University
5. Partners Healthcare System
6. The Greater Boston Food Bank
7. Pine Street Inn
8. Harvard University
9. Rosie's Place
10. Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston

**Statistics**

- **Number of Giving Accounts**: 9,635
- **Number of Grants**: 124,645
- **Total Grant Dollars from Region**: $606.7M
- **Average Grant Amount**: $4,867
- **Average Number of Grants per Giving Account**: 12.9
- **Percentage of Grant Dollars to Local Charities**: 56%
Highlights in Boston giving

Generous grantmaking
Donors in Boston give more to the causes they care about, with an average grant amount of $4,867—19 percent higher than the national average of $4,092. Boston donors are also more actively engaged in recommending grants. Averaging 12.9 grants per Giving Account® in 2018, they were more active than the national average of 10.4.

Consistent local support
In 2018, Boston donors showed their dedication in supporting causes close to home and heart, with 56 percent of grant dollars going to local charities—significantly higher than Fidelity Charitable's national average of 42 percent. Bostonians’ charitable support is so consistent that the charities on their top 10 list of local nonprofits are the same 10 as 2017.

Head of the lists
Boston appears on top 10 lists for giving to six of the eight charitable giving sectors—one of the only cities to be highly ranked in numerous sectors. Boston ranks first for giving to both environment and animals and health, and ranks highly for education (second), arts and culture (second), human services (second) and society benefit (fourth). Boston-area donors are less likely to support religion or international affairs, the only two sectors for which Boston didn’t rank.

GIVING SECTOR SPOTLIGHT

Health
Fifty-nine percent of Boston Giving Accounts sent support to organizations in the health sector in 2018, making it one of the most popular sectors in the region. The area is home to more than 20 hospitals, including Massachusetts General and Brigham and Women’s Hospital, which are both ranked among the best healthcare institutions in the country by U.S. News & World Report. Boston has always been a preeminent center for healthcare and medical research, so it’s no surprise that Boston’s philanthropy reflects this proud history.

Most popular health charities supported by donors from the Boston area:
- Pan-Mass Challenge
- Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- Partners Healthcare System

The data for this report was obtained from Fidelity Charitable’s internal reporting database and looks at Fidelity Charitable activity in calendar year 2018. For additional detail on reporting methodology, visit FidelityCharitable.org/geography-of-giving.

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