Washington, D.C.

Washington is known for politics, but the advocacy and nonprofit work that go hand-in-hand with government also make the nation’s capital fertile ground for philanthropy. Fidelity Charitable® donors here expanded their philanthropic footprint in 2018, growing the number of Giving Accounts in the area by 30 percent and recommending more than $176 million to charity. Donors in Washington balance a broad mix of local, national and international priorities—taking the top spot in the national rankings for the international affairs sector while also supporting their local community with more than half of their grant dollars.

3,483
NUMBER OF GIVING ACCOUNTS

45,528
NUMBER OF GRANTS

$176.6M
TOTAL GRANT DOLLARS FROM REGION

$3,880
AVERAGE GRANT AMOUNT

13.1
AVERAGE NUMBER OF GRANTS PER GIVING ACCOUNT®

52%
PERCENTAGE OF GRANT DOLLARS TO LOCAL CHARITIES

MOST POPULAR CHARITABLE SECTORS
1
EDUCATION
2
HUMAN SERVICES
3
RELIGION

MOST POPULAR NONPROFITS SUPPORTED BY FIDELITY CHARITABLE® DONORS IN THE REGION

1 WETA
2 American University
3 So Others Might Eat
4 Capital Area Food Bank
5 The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington
6 Bethesda Chevy Chase Rescue Squad
7 Bread for the City
8 Smithsonian Institute
9 United States Holocaust Memorial Council
10 Martha's Table

FIDELITY Charitable™
Make more of a difference
Highlights in Washington, D.C. giving

Active and engaged in giving

Washington donors were actively engaged in philanthropy in 2018—recommending more than 45,000 grants to charity—a 31 percent year-over-year increase. The region averaged 13.1 grants per Giving Account® in 2018—26 percent higher than the national average of 10.4.

Leading the rankings

The D.C. metro area dotted the rankings in 2018—appearing on lists for giving to six of the eight charitable sectors. The region moved to first on the international affairs list and sent significant support to arts and culture (ranked fifth), education (sixth), society benefit (sixth), environment and animals (eighth) and human services (tenth). The only sectors for which D.C. did not appear are health and religion.

Focus on the District

Fifty-two percent of donors' total grant dollars stayed in the local community in 2018—notably higher than the national average of 42 percent. Human services organizations dominate the list of most popular local nonprofits—reflecting donors' awareness of the significant income inequality among capital residents and commitment to addressing the needs of its most vulnerable populations. Donors here are also strong supporters of the world-class museums in the city, such as the Smithsonian Institute and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

GIVING SECTOR SPOTLIGHT

International affairs

Humanitarian crises across the world captured the heart and generosity of Washington donors in 2018—fueling the region's first-place ranking for support in the international affairs sector. Support for this sector in general is often influenced by current events, and Washington residents pay attention. For example, Giving Account support for refugee assistance organization HIAS quadrupled year-over-year, influenced by world events—from the humanitarian crisis in Yemen to controversial immigration policies at the U.S.-Mexico border. As a center for government and politics, the international feels local in Washington, which is evident in its donors' giving priorities.

Most popular international affairs charities supported by donors from the Washington area:

- Doctors Without Borders
- International Rescue Committee
- HIAS

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.

Fidelity Charitable is the brand name for Fidelity Investments® Charitable Gift Fund, an independent public charity that sponsors a donor-advised fund program. Various Fidelity companies provide services to Fidelity Charitable. The Fidelity Charitable logo is a service mark, and the Fidelity Charitable name and Fidelity are registered service marks, of FMR LLC, used by Fidelity Charitable under license. Giving Account® is a registered service mark of the Trustees of Fidelity Charitable. 892649.1.0