



COMMUNITY PHARMACY FOUNDATION
COMPLETED GRANT SYNOPSIS

Private Health Foundation Funding: Creating A Roadmap for Pharmacy Investigators

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Objectives	
1) Investigate the funding patterns of ten private health foundations in the United States. 2) Assess the ten private foundations’ funding priorities and recent grant offerings in the past two years. 3) Create a roadmap for encouraging proposal submissions to private foundations by pharmacy researchers in partnership with community pharmacists.	
Methods	
Design	This project completed its objectives through the following actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grant funding activity for 10 selected foundations was described as a means to raise awareness of the connectivity between grant program goals and community pharmacy interests. ▪ Grant application opportunities for pharmacy researchers were identified by reviewing the grant programs of selected private healthcare foundations. ▪ A road map for increasing proposal submissions to private health foundations was created.
Study endpoints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •
Results	
<p>The 10 foundations reviewed varied in geographical focus from the entire nation to one state and varied in the scope of priorities from broad health care reform issues to very specific disease-related issues (e.g. AIDS, women’s health). Foundations were only chosen if there was a perceived potential interest in community pharmacy practice. Seven foundations provide funding awards on a national basis while three limit giving to state awardees.</p> <p>Total funding awarded, the number of awards and the percentage given to health-related projects varies among the foundations. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation distributed the most awards consistently from 2008 to 2010, in addition to awarding the largest total amount of \$260,736,212 in 2010 alone. Total award funding and the number of awards distributed have declined considerably for most of the foundations. Since foundations tend to distribute a given percentage of their assets or investment income, this trend is likely linked to the recent economic recession. The John A. Hartford Foundation and the Duke Endowment were the only foundations to demonstrate an increase in total funding amounts in 2010.</p> <p>Both foundation awards and priorities were categorized and the percentage related to the health categories was calculated for each foundation. The foundations all supported health-related projects designated as patient care services, patient outcomes, and healthcare quality. Awards that focused on team care, technology, and health policy were not commonly funded. The local private foundations such as Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation, the Duke Endowment and the California Endowment funded a significant percent of public health</p>	

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related projects.

National and state foundations provide significant dollars to health-related priorities that are similar to the priorities of pharmacy researchers. These foundations could be excellent funding sources for pilot programs, local demonstration projects, and model of care evaluations. An 8-step roadmap for pharmacist investigators was outlined.

Conclusion

Private foundations offer an important avenue for research support for community pharmacy practice models. Understanding the foundation funding landscape via these analysis and consideration of the *Foundation Directory Online, Professional* website will help pharmacy investigators learn where and how their ideas may best find traction. An 8-step roadmap for seeking foundation funding was outlined. While the collaborative efforts required by some foundation applications can be time-consuming and fraught with compromises, these efforts can increase the likelihood that the research is acceptable to the community, applicable to routine patient care, and designed for sustainability.