



**A RESOURCE FOR POLICYMAKERS  
TO HELP YOU  
BETTER SERVE YOUR CONSTITUENTS**

**In fiscal year 2004-5, 1,530 Upstate New York grantmaking organizations in 52 counties invested \$495.3 million in the nonprofit economy\*. Their trustees, volunteers and staff are your constituents.**

The Grantmakers Forum of New York is a regional association of grantmakers whose members include funders from all parts of Upstate New York – from Chautauqua and the Southern Tier to Lake Placid and the Hudson Valley. Member philanthropic organizations include family and independent foundations, public charities and community foundations, corporate foundations and business giving programs, federated funds like United Way, government agencies distributing funds to nonprofits, and families/individuals.

The Grantmakers Forum of New York (GFNY) works in your region to: engage more local people and organizations in philanthropy; strengthen the effectiveness of those already engaged; and provide unbiased, up-to-date information about regional giving and issues facing your constituents. The primary mission of GFNY makes it ideal to bring together community stakeholders representing different perspectives. From housing, to economic revitalization, to education, to youth – the list is endless. Our member foundations are solving problems in your region and have information you may need. As the nonprofit sector becomes ever more crucial to our economic vitality, we wanted you to know of these valuable resources. Here are just a few ways grantmakers and policymakers can work effectively together.

**As Educators** – The Grantmakers Forum and our members can help extend your knowledge about:

- The scope and activities of foundations and nonprofits in your area;
- The regional patterns of charitable giving and the impact on the region's economy;
- How foundations and nonprofits get things done and how they can help policymakers accomplish their goals;
- Specific issues facing your constituents, what foundations and nonprofits may have done about them, and who the trusted leaders are on those issues in your region.

**As Resources** – The Grantmakers Forum and our members can be trusted resources for public officials.

We can:

- Spot trends and needs in the community and, in a timely manner, alert policymakers to issues that may need their attention;
- Help policymakers address difficult political situations within the community and connect with nonprofit leaders;
- Provide formal or informal support for issues or legislation that are important to the advancement of philanthropy in the region.

To learn more about the Grantmakers Forum of New York and to share your own ideas about how your colleagues and ours can more effectively work to build New York's future, contact Liz Wilder, Executive Director.

\*Figures from The Foundation Center.