

# Dialogue About Collaborative Funding

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AIDS

## A CONVERSATION AMONG HIV/AIDS FUNDERS at the International AIDS Conference ■ August 2006 - Toronto

This Dialogue report is intended to share the main themes of a recent international funder meeting sponsored by FCAA and the Ford Foundation. With support from the Ford Foundation and other partners, FCAA will continue to encourage similar opportunities for dialogue among philanthropic funders. We invite grantmaker participation, input, and recommendations — please contact us at [info@fcaaid.org](mailto:info@fcaaid.org) or visit our website at [www.fcaaid.org](http://www.fcaaid.org).

The sixteenth International AIDS Conference was held in Toronto from August 12-18, 2006. Organized around the theme “Time to Deliver,” it focused on the promises and progress made to scale-up HIV treatment, care, and prevention. On the evening of August 16, FCAA and the Ford Foundation co-sponsored an event to convene 75 participants from more than 30 grantmaking organizations for a discussion about the current challenges and opportunities in HIV/AIDS philanthropy.

The funders’ meeting opened with remarks from Dr. Helene Gayle, President and CEO of CARE USA and co-chair of the 2006 International AIDS Conference. Dr. Jacob Gayle, Deputy Vice President for the Ford Foundation, provided an overview of the Ford Foundation’s new Global Initiative on HIV/AIDS. Philanthropic resource tracking data from the United States and Europe were presented by Sunita Mehta, FCAA Executive Director, and Peter Laugharn, Director of the Bernard van Leer Foundation. Finally, a panel of four speakers, moderated by Dr. Thomas Coates, Director of the UCLA Program in Global Health, set the stage for dialogue about HIV/AIDS grantmaking. The panel included:

- o **Todd Summers**, Senior Policy Officer for Global Health, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- o **Jennifer Kates**, Director of HIV/AIDS Policy, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation
- o **Michelle Coffey**, Senior Philanthropic Advisor, Tides Foundation
- o **Anil Soni**, Director of Pharmaceutical Services, Clinton HIV/AIDS Initiative

*“Philanthropic grantmakers play an important role in sponsoring innovation, filling gaps, and imparting energy to ventures that the public sector can’t or isn’t ready to fund. But we have to challenge ourselves: how can grant dollars be allocated and used most effectively? How can grantmakers make the greatest contribution?” Dr. Helene Gayle, CARE USA*

*“In HIV/AIDS philanthropy today, we are challenged to mobilize unprecedented financial resources against a global epidemic. But our greater challenge and potential limit is our ability to harness our collective mandates, expertise, and strategic thinking about responses against HIV.” Dr. Jacob Gayle, The Ford Foundation*

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**Dr. Jacob Gayle**  
The Ford  
Foundation

Toward the mission of serving as a resource for innovative people and institutions worldwide, the Ford Foundation has a long history in supporting efforts against HIV/AIDS and related social, economic, and human rights challenges. Recently, the Ford Foundation has engaged in a collaborative process to develop a new Global Initiative on HIV/AIDS, emphasizing support of leadership, accountability, equity, and partnership. The Ford Foundation welcomes input about its global efforts and potential support of partnerships on HIV/AIDS policies and practices at [HIVinitiative@fordfound.org](mailto:HIVinitiative@fordfound.org). [www.fordfound.org/HIV](http://www.fordfound.org/HIV)



**LaTida Lester**  
Saint Luke's Foundation  
of Cleveland, Ohio

As an example of a local HIV/AIDS funding coalition, the Saint Luke's Foundation is a major partner in AIDS Funding Collaborative in Cleveland, established in 1994 to provide leadership, funding, and infrastructure support in northeastern Ohio. Supporting a broad range of HIV prevention, education, direct treatment and service, capacity building, public policy, and advocacy, the AIDS Funding Collaborative is supported by private and public foundations, city and county governments, and the local United Way. [www.saintlukesfoundation.org](http://www.saintlukesfoundation.org)

Sunita Mehta, Executive Director of FCAA, presented data from the August 2006 FCAA resource mapping report "U.S. Philanthropic Commitments for HIV/AIDS." This year's FCAA resource tracking report found that HIV-related grant commitments by U.S.-based philanthropies totaled approximately \$346 million in 2004. Total commitments fell by 12% from the year before due to a normal fluctuation in commitments by the biggest HIV-related grantmaker, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Total HIV-related grantmaking increased by 20% in 2004 among U.S.-based grantmakers other than the Gates Foundation. The FCAA report documented a substantial increase in corporate giving and an increase in the percentage of U.S. grantmakers funding international AIDS efforts. It also noted the relatively small share of domestically oriented HIV-related grantmaking dedicated to the Southeast region of the country, given that there are more people living with AIDS in the South than in any other U.S. region. In 2007, FCAA plans to research and produce an updated analysis of HIV/AIDS grantmaking covering the years 2005 and 2006.

*"Private philanthropy is a catalyst providing bold and creative leadership within the movement to eradicate HIV/AIDS. Through timely philanthropic initiatives, particularly collaborative ones, the sector can support proven-effective interventions that may be too controversial for many public institutions and governments to support alone." Sunita Mehta, Funders Concerned About AIDS*

*"Significant untapped potential exists for HIV/AIDS grantmaking by European (and American) foundations. Our resource mapping efforts are helping us to understand where this potential lies, and to motivate donors to make grants in this area." Peter Laugharn, European HIV/AIDS Funders Group*

Peter Laugharn, Director of the Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF), and Chair of the European HIV/AIDS Funders Group (EFG), presented the latest information about grantmaking by European foundations and charitable trusts. For the year 2005, the group identified 75 non-governmental HIV/AIDS funders based in Europe who reported a total amount of 80 million euros in HIV/AIDS-related grantmaking, all in the developing world. This report by the EFG recommends greater strategic grantmaking by philanthropy to address gaps and catalyze new efforts, particularly on aspects of HIV prevention and in regions such as Eastern and Southeastern Europe. The report also recommends improved coordination among funders, and resource allocations that aim for maximum leveraging, short-term adaptability to HIV/AIDS program needs, and long-term vision for impact and change.



**Dr. Anu Gupta**  
Johnson  
& Johnson

During the past three years, the Johnson & Johnson Contributions Program has dedicated more than \$20 million in grantmaking against HIV and AIDS. Johnson & Johnson is a major contributor to HIV/AIDS-related funding partnerships, including:

- o the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
- o the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS through its partner UNIFEM,
- o the Global Fund for Children and the Firelight Foundation,
- o the National AIDS Fund's Generations Program, and
- o the Collaborative Fund for HIV Treatment Preparedness.

[www.jnj.com](http://www.jnj.com)



**Jennifer Astone**  
Firelight Foundation

Firelight Foundation supports and advocates for the needs and rights of children orphaned or affected by AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. Firelight recognizes that it can extend the impact of both its grantmaking and advocacy by forming partnerships and strategic alliances. As one example, Firelight has worked with four partners—the Bernard van Leer Foundation, American Jewish World Service, the Pan African Children’s Fund, and UNICEF as well as 23 endorsers—to publish a resource guide, *From Faith To Action: Strengthening Family and Community Care for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Sub-Saharan Africa*, which describes and promotes community-based approaches for caring for children’s needs. [www.firelightfoundation.org](http://www.firelightfoundation.org)

**Collaboration and partnership** were a major focus of discussion. Participants noted the challenges of bridging across different missions, grantmaking strategies and methods, and levels of engagement and expertise in HIV-related topics. Discussion also touched on practical aspects of communications, timing, accountability in collaborations, and the benefits of partnership, including improved strategic thinking, decision-making, short-term relevance, and long-term sustainability.

*“Communities, and particularly people living with HIV, have a powerful role to play in grantmaking, especially for their knowledge on changing local HIV/AIDS priorities and needs for monitoring and evaluation.”* **Theo Sowa, African Advisory Board Member, Stephen Lewis Foundation**

*“Grantmakers should invest and trust in community capacity to determine local needs. Cultivating leadership by grassroots activists, and our own ability to listen, is central to our process and quality of decision-making about grants.”* **Michelle Coffey, Senior Philanthropic Advisor, Tides Foundation**

*“Partnerships have given us a way to invest significantly larger multi-year grants to targeted issues. These include the Caribbean Broadcast Media Partnership on HIV/AIDS, the Collaborative Fund for HIV Treatment Preparedness, the National AIDS Fund Challenge Grants, and the Syringe Access Fund.”* **Scott Campbell, Executive Director, Elton John AIDS Foundation**

*“Good mechanisms, such as the Global Fund for Women and the African Women’s Development Fund, already exist to engage multiple grantmakers in coordinated small grants programs.”* **Adisa Douglas, Program Director, Public Welfare Foundation**

*“We need to work on the definitions and systems for donor accountability, particularly to bridge the distance between funders and local programs in large international funding initiatives.”* **Todd Summers, Senior Policy Officer for Global Health, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**



**Todd Summers**  
Bill & Melinda Gates  
Foundation

The world’s largest philanthropic HIV/AIDS grantmaker, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation supports development of new tools, technologies, and evidence-based knowledge to combat HIV and AIDS, and the systems and strategies to ensure that people can benefit from these advances. Funding priorities also include support of advocacy to raise awareness of global health issues, cultivate and train new leaders, build and use evidence for policy-making, increase financial and human resources dedicated to health, and improve delivery and demand for health interventions. [www.gatesfoundation.org](http://www.gatesfoundation.org)



**Stuart Burden**  
Levi Strauss  
Foundation

A leading corporate HIV/AIDS grantmaker, the Levi Strauss Foundation targets its funding to challenge HIV-related stigma and discrimination, support disproportionately affected and underserved communities, and increase the availability of and access to clean syringes to prevent the spread of HIV through needle sharing. The Syringe Access Fund is a notable example of collaboration among grantmakers, initiated in 2004 and awarding more than \$1 million in 2006 in small grants with funding support of Elton John AIDS Foundation, Irene Diamond Fund, Levi Strauss Foundation, National AIDS Fund, and Tides Foundation.  
[www.levistrauss.com](http://www.levistrauss.com)

Echoing the larger AIDS conference, participants discussed the challenge of ensuring scale-up of HIV/AIDS interventions, with examples presented by the Gates Foundation and Clinton HIV/AIDS Initiative. Addressing gaps in information was also seen as a crucial issue, with foundations playing an important role in generating evidence-based recommendations and consistent communication of policy facts.

*"The strength of our relationships and partnerships contribute a lot to our ability to enable and leverage action by governments, companies, and others." Anil Soni, Director of Pharmaceutical Services, Clinton HIV/AIDS Initiative*

*"Many aspects of HIV/AIDS force us to work in new ways. Foundations have an opportunity to look at the innovations and achievements in HIV-related philanthropy and apply these to other issues." Jennifer Kates, Director of HIV/AIDS Policy, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation*

*"HIV/AIDS grantmakers are confronted with some stark challenges, including a severe underinvestment in public health throughout the world. For example, regarding global HIV prevention, it can be claimed that the world hasn't even yet begun to truly bring interventions to scale." Dr. Thomas Coates, Director, UCLA Program in Global Health*

Also, in line with a major theme of the Toronto AIDS conference, grantmakers recognized the continuing pattern of rapid changes in the global HIV/AIDS epidemic and the changing tools and resources being brought to bear against HIV/AIDS. This prompted several participants to recommend further work to continually anticipate these future changes and plan for the consequent funding needs.

**HIV/AIDS Facts:** In 2006, five million people will become newly infected with HIV and nearly three million will die of AIDS-related illness. Around the world, nearly 40 million of us live with HIV. This is entirely preventable. Proper policies and programs can prevent HIV epidemics and slow their course. With political commitment, evidence-based interventions, and social and financial support, communities and individuals can successfully access HIV-related treatment, care, and prevention. While total financial resources for addressing the AIDS epidemic reached \$8.3 billion in 2005, the pandemic continues to significantly outpace the global response. UNAIDS estimates that in 2006 alone, there will be a funding gap of more than \$6 billion, and the need for funding to meet HIV-related prevention, treatment, care, and support will only grow in the coming years.

## FCAA: Your resource for HIV/AIDS grantmaking

As a network of more than 1500 philanthropic grantmakers engaged in the fight against HIV/AIDS, Funders Concerned About AIDS (FCAA) works to mobilize philanthropic leadership, ideas, and resources to end the HIV epidemic and to address its social and economic consequences.



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