

# GRANTMAKER FOCUS

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HEALTH

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## Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

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The foundation was created in 1944 by international business pioneer Conrad N. Hilton, who founded Hilton Hotels and left his fortune to help the world's disadvantaged and vulnerable people. For the foundation, communities are not just geographic areas, but underserved groups of people.

**Program Information:** The foundation currently conducts strategic initiatives in six priority areas: providing safe water, ending chronic homelessness, preventing substance abuse, helping children affected by HIV and AIDS, supporting transition-age youth in foster care, and extending Conrad Hilton's support for the Catholic Sisters.

### ► Financial Information:

Total Assets: \$2.5 billion (FY 2014)

Amount Dedicated to Health-Related Grants: \$50 million (FY14)

### ► Special Initiatives and/or Representative Health and Human Services Grants:

- **Youth Substance Use Prevention and Early Intervention** – This initiative focuses its investment on Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment to advance learning regarding substance use disorder prevention and early intervention for youth ages 15 to 22. Goals are to ensure that health providers have the knowledge and skills to identify and address risky substance use; expand access to, increase funding for, and strengthen implementation of prevention and early intervention approaches; and strengthen the evidence base and foster learning to improve prevention and early intervention (more than \$10 million annually).
- **Ending Chronic Homelessness** – This Los Angeles-focused initiative includes major efforts to improve complex physical and mental health conditions and control health care costs. Working with various government agencies in Los Angeles County, the foundation helped establish a mechanism that has leveraged \$18 million in public funds for local housing subsidies for frequent users of the county's health system. Funding supports a project that helps local private hospitals identify homeless individuals who are the most costly to serve and most in need of supportive housing, and connects them to appropriate services (more than \$10 million annually).
- **Overcoming Multiple Sclerosis** – The foundation seeks a cure and improved quality of life for people living with multiple sclerosis (MS). This program helps ensure that those living with progressive MS have access to wellness programming and services that can help preserve quality of life through efforts

such as the Marilyn Hilton MS Achievement Center, a partnership with the MS Society and University of California-Los Angeles Department of Neurology. The foundation also invests in research, such as through the Marilyn Hilton Award for Innovation in MS Research (\$4 million annually).

- **Providing Access to Safe Water** – The foundation aims to increase access to safe water for over one million people through scalable, sustainable systems that fit within a comprehensive approach to water, sanitation, and hygiene. The foundation supports water programs in Ethiopia, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, India, and Mexico (more than \$10 million annually).
- **Helping Young Children Affected by HIV and AIDS** – The foundation has a multifaceted approach to meeting the needs of children from birth to age five in HIV-affected communities in eastern and southern Africa. By integrating early childhood development as part of a broader package of services (including health, nutrition, protection, and poverty alleviation), the foundation seeks to mitigate harm and ensure that children thrive (more than \$10 million annually).

### Role of Philanthropy in Meeting Pressing Needs:

*"Philanthropy is at its best when it responds to pressing needs of the world's most vulnerable communities with swift action and flexibility, in partnership with other sectors.*

*With respect to partnership, we believe there is an unprecedented opportunity for philanthropy to increase its impact on global health by being knowledgeable about the universal 2016 Sustainable Developing Goals. Where appropriate, the sector should associate itself with the new country- and community-based collaborative efforts being established to improve the prospect of the goals being achieved."*

### Edmund J. Cain

Vice President,  
Grant Programs

