



Responsibilities of Board of Directors

The Organization: Grantmakers In Health (GIH) is an educational organization serving trustees, executives, and staff of foundations and corporate giving programs. Its mission is to help grantmakers improve the health of all people by building grantmakers' knowledge, skills, and effectiveness, and fostering communication and collaboration among grantmakers and with others.

GIH is the professional home for health grantmakers, a place they can turn to for strategic guidance and information on broad subject areas. It generates knowledge and communicates information about health issues and grantmaking strategies that work in health.

The Board: The GIH Board of Directors consists of individuals who are:

- trustees, executives, or seasoned program officers of a U.S. grantmaking organization;
- representative of the diversity of health philanthropy across the following dimensions: geographic location; asset size; gender, racial, and ethnic groups; political ideology; foundation type (such as community, corporate, independent); and geographic focus of grantmaking (for example, national, state, or local);
- selected for personal characteristics thought to be useful on a board of directors (specific skills related to governance, finance, communications, programming; and leadership in the field); and
- able to work effectively with colleagues as a governing body.

While the bylaws of the organization permit a board of up to 30 members, the board has sought to keep the number of directors consistent with an effective group process. The board currently has 22 members.

Responsibilities of the Board: Responsibilities of GIH board members include:

- establishing and promoting the organization's mission and vision,
- being ambassadors for the organization,
- accepting fiduciary responsibility for the organization's operations,
- hiring and reviewing the performance of the CEO, and
- acting as a resource to the staff.

Terms of service are for three years, and an individual may serve for two consecutive terms. The board meets three times a year (typically in March, June, and November in conjunction with other GIH meetings). Board members must commit to attending at least two-thirds of the board meetings during their tenure and are expected to attend all major GIH events. Board members are also expected to serve on at least one standing committee with standing committee work conducted primarily by telephone conference calls. Board members are expected to pay for their own travel and accommodations related to board meetings.