



## Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

**The Organization:** Grantmakers In Health (GIH) is a nonprofit, educational organization dedicated to helping foundations and corporate giving programs improve the health of all people. Its mission is to foster communication and collaboration among grantmakers and others, and to help strengthen the grantmaking community's knowledge, skills, and effectiveness. Our vision is better health through better philanthropy.

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

- represent the diversity of health philanthropy across a variety of personal and professional dimensions, including demographics, life experience, professional skills, geographic location, organization size and assets, and type of health funder.
- are active members of the board or staff of a U.S. grantmaking organization in health philanthropy, or individuals from health or another social sector who can make a valuable contribution to the work of the organization;
- are able to contribute to the board's effectiveness because of specific skills related to governance, finance, communications, programming, or leadership in the field; and
- are able to work effectively with colleagues as part of a governing body.

While the bylaws of the organization permit a board of up to 21 members, the organization has sought to keep the number of directors consistent with an effective group process. The board currently has 18 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.

Board terms begin with a new board member orientation. Terms of service are for three years, with the possibility of renewal for a second consecutive term. The board meets four times a year (typically in March, June, September, and November). Board members must commit to attending at least two-thirds of the board meetings during their tenure, and are expected to serve on at least one standing committee. Board members are also expected to attend the GIH Annual Conference on Health Philanthropy and Fall Forum, as well as other major GIH events. Board members are expected to cover the costs of their own travel, accommodations, and registration fees related to board meetings and other GIH events. In terms of giving, board members based at philanthropic institutions are expected to secure Funding Partner contributions from their organizations. Although not required to do so, some board members have also led the charge in providing GIH with additional program and operating support funding to support issue-specific staff time and program activities.