

Africa Grantmakers' Affinity Group

The Africa Grantmakers' Affinity Group (AGAG) is a membership network of funders who have different approaches and interests but share a common interest in connecting with and learning from their peers. We believe that a global network of diverse, knowledgeable, and connected funders will help to grow and strengthen the impact of private philanthropy targeting Africa. Our mission is to promote philanthropy to benefit African communities that is robust, effective, and responsive.

As a diverse network of practitioners that is guided by its members, AGAG is positioned to recognize sudden developments that require an immediate response, as well as ongoing issues requiring more sustained attention.

Our Values

- **Diversity and Respect:** We are committed to fostering an inclusive environment that reflects the diversity of the field, promotes mutual respect, and advances equality.
- **Accountability and Transparency:** We hold ourselves to the highest standards of ethical and transparent conduct in our work.
- **Knowledge and Learning:** We value knowledge, learning, candor, and critical thinking and believe that gathering, curating, and sharing information is essential to our mission.
- **Collaboration and Partnership:** We believe that collaboration and partnership are critical to leveraging philanthropy for positive change.

Our Assumptions

- **Philanthropy is an ecosystem.** We recognize the philanthropic community as a diverse ecosystem of approaches and interests. We understand that our focus on formal philanthropy that uses grants as its primary mechanism for giving is but one of many.
- **Inclusion and collaboration are necessary.** We recognize that there are many entry points in working with civil society at all levels, from informal and grassroots organizations to academic, medical, and research institutions and public policy think tanks. We advocate sustained and increased funding to organizations and individuals working for positive change.
- **Local context matters.** We recognize that organizations that serve their communities and have built a relationship of mutual trust are well-positioned to understand the local context. Investing in local organizations helps to build and strengthen infrastructure and leverage the knowledge and experience within communities to affect changes at all levels.
- **Building bridges between those working inside and outside of Africa is essential.** Tensions between philanthropy actors based inside and outside of Africa whose approaches and interests differ reflect an environment that spans countries, cultures, and regulatory settings. We believe this diversity of information, experiences, and perspectives presents a rare opportunity for the cross fertilization of ideas.

- **Success requires tenacity.** We recognize that building relationships and establishing communications among the various partners inside and outside of Africa is a process with incremental progress that is affected by changes in leadership and in the sector as a whole.

Our Approach

Our work is organized around three approaches to leveraging philanthropic resources and cultivating a shared commitment across diverse audiences to support positive change for African communities.



We organize annual conferences, meetings, and webinars to convene new and experienced funders to build an informed and knowledgeable network of practitioners.



We conduct research, curate information, and disseminate it through our virtual and in-person meetings and communications platforms to bridge the information gap about trends in funding targeting Africa.



We take a proactive approach to building partnerships and use a cross-cutting focus that provides a framework to connect diverse organizations and issues and to partner with other philanthropy serving organizations working in closely aligned issue areas.

How AGAG Adds Value

AGAG provides one of the few peer learning opportunities where funders working in different geographic and thematic areas share what they are learning and can examine how their work relates to each other and within a broader geographic context.

AGAG facilitates professional development through exposure to peers with different skills and expertise, which helps to foster an understanding of the interplay between the social and economic barriers facing communities across Africa.

AGAG focuses on current and practical information and knowledge and provides a platform where the next generation of funders can draw on the wisdom, expertise, and historical knowledge of those with a longer history of working in the field.

AGAG is an information hub for program staff whose responsibility is to identify and work with partner organizations and stay ahead of new developments. AGAG is particularly helpful for those with few or no dedicated staff, such as small foundations and those with modest funding portfolios, because it provides a central information source by which funders stay connected with their peers.

AGAG has a global reach through its engagement with organizations and funders based inside and outside of Africa, providing a forum where an even wider spectrum of funders can build relationships

and understand how their contributions fit within the broader regional landscape. Exposure to diverse viewpoints helps members to innovate effective strategies.

Who Can Join?

We welcome staff members and trustees of grantmaking organizations and individual grantmakers regardless of their location who support our mission, vision, and values. Staff members primarily responsible for fundraising are not eligible to participate as members. Consultants and trustees can only participate as the designated representative of an eligible organization and must adhere to our no-solicitation policy. There are two membership categories, individual and organization.

Individual members are staff members of eligible organizations with responsibility for grantmaking, philanthropy advisors who manage a grantmaking portfolio, and individual grantmakers who have a formal mechanism for their funding.

Organization members are grantmaking organizations who want to support our work as part of their institutional commitment to funding targeting Africa. All staff with responsibility for grantmaking can participate in AGAG activities as members.

Organizations eligible for membership must meet the following criteria:

- grants or funding are used for charitable purposes
- the majority of funding comes from non-government sources
- funding is awarded through a request or invitation for proposals or a competitive process open to multiple individuals or organizations
- It has a formal grant application and disbursement process

Eligible organizations include:

- Private independent foundations, family foundations, corporate foundations, charitable trusts, and giving programs
- Operating foundations that fund programs other than the programs operated by the foundation
- Public charities and community foundations who make grants using more than 50% of their budget to fund multiple organizations
- Faith-based funding programs not restricted to a specific religious group that make grants to multiple organizations
- Institutional philanthropy advisors who manage donor advised funds that make grants

Why Join?

Being a part of this unique and diverse network of practitioners signals your recognition of the important role AGAG plays in supporting the philanthropy sector. Membership has its advantages and direct benefits include:

- Special rates for annual conferences and other events
- Priority invitations to webinars, conferences, receptions, networking calls, and other activities
- Co-sponsorship opportunities for meetings and events
- Use of the member list serv to communicate with the diverse network of peers funding in Africa
- Advice and facilitation in convening other funders to discuss issues related to funding in Africa
- Access to staff knowledge and expertise of the philanthropy landscape related to funding in Africa
- Professional development and leadership opportunities to serve on panels and moderate sessions

How to Join

If you are ready to join this unique network, please complete our [on-line Membership Application](#) and review the attached information about Membership Contributions.

For funders who prefer to support our work through grants or general operating or project specific support, we can develop a proposal based on the funder guidelines.

All membership applications are reviewed for eligibility and approval is determined by the leadership of the Africa Grantmakers' Affinity Group and requires the timely payment of membership contributions.

If you have questions about your eligibility or status of your application, please send an email to contactus@agag.org with "membership" in the subject line or contact us through [our website contact form](#).

Africa Grantmakers' Affinity Group is a project of Tides

www.africagrantmakers.org

Twitter: [@agagafrika](https://twitter.com/agagafrika)

Facebook: facebook.com/agagafrika

Membership Contribution Form

The Africa Grantmakers’ Affinity Group (AGAG) is a membership network of funders who have different approaches and interests but share a common interest in connecting with and learning from their peers. We believe that a global network of diverse, knowledgeable, and connected funders will help to grow and strengthen the impact of private philanthropy targeting Africa.

Membership supports our annual conferences, meetings, webinars, special research projects, and publications that help new and experienced funders connect with their peers and learn about issues that affect their work.

There are two membership categories, individual and organization. For organization members, all staff with responsibility for grantmaking can participate in AGAG activities as members. For funders who prefer to support our work through grants or general operating or project specific support, we can develop a proposal based on the funder guidelines.

If you have questions about selecting the appropriate membership category, please send an email to contactus@agag.org with “membership” in the subject line.

Membership is based upon a calendar year and is not prorated. Renewals are due by February 15th.

Membership Options for Organizations	Contribution
Leadership Circle support demonstrates a high level of commitment to AGAG’s mission, vision, and values. Leadership Circle members are recognized in Annual Conference materials and registration fees are waived for two staff members.	Above \$50,000
Sustaining Circle support recognizes the role that AGAG plays and helps to sustain its work. Sustaining Circle members are recognized in Annual Conference materials and registration is waived for one staff member.	\$30,000 - 50,000
Supporting Circle support enables the network to expand its reach. Supporting Circle members are recognized on the AGAG website and staff members can attend the Annual Conference at the member rate. The following suggested levels of contribution are based upon the organization’s annual budget (\$US) for grants targeting Africa.	
Africa grants above \$15 million	\$10,000
Africa grants more than \$5 million up to \$15 million	\$6,000
Africa grants more than \$500,000 up to \$5 million	\$3,000
Africa grants up to \$500,000	\$1,500
Grantmaking public charities (or their equivalent) headquartered outside of the United States (this category includes waived Annual Conference registration for one staff member).	\$2,600
Membership Options for Individuals	
Individual support demonstrates an interest in being a part of the network and can attend the Annual Conference at the member rate.	\$600
Individual support from staff members of grantmaking public charities (or equivalent) headquartered outside of the United States demonstrates interest in being part of the network and can attend the Annual Conference at the member rate.	\$350

(as of January 2019)

Membership Contribution Payment

The Africa Grantmakers' Affinity Group (AGAG) is a project of the Tides Center that serves as our fiscal agent. All payments are made to Tides Center/AGAG.

Membership Contributions can be made using the following methods. For more details on how to submit membership contributions, please contact ebutler@agag.org

Credit Card

VISA, Master Card, or American Express accepted.

Check

Checks must be drawn on a U. S. bank in U. S. dollars.

Checks should be made payable to Tides Center/AGAG

Wire Transfer and ACH/EFT