

# ABOUT THE SPONSORS

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The **Michigan Nonprofit Association** (MNA) is sponsoring publication of *Michigan in Brief 1998–99* as part of the nonprofit/philanthropic sector’s strategy to prepare for the new public policy environment that will follow from the November 1998 elections. The 1999–2000 session of the Michigan Legislature will be the first elected under the full effect of term limits. The many new members in this and subsequent bodies must quickly learn how state government works and rapidly gain knowledge about a multitude of complicated issues; this reference book will help them.

With over 450 active members, the MNA’s mission is to promote awareness and effectiveness of Michigan’s nonprofit sector and to advance the cause of volunteerism and philanthropy throughout the state. The association’s objectives and priorities are as follows:

- Foster ways in which the nonprofit, government, and private sectors can confront common issues and concerns and collaborate to help people in need
- Encourage voluntary giving and service
- Educate the public about the nonprofit sector’s scope and values
- Help nonprofit organizations meet their management, organization, and technical needs
- Take an active role in shaping public policy that affects the nonprofit sector

The **Michigan Public Policy Initiative** (MPPI) is the public policy arm of the MNA. It was developed in cooperation with the Council of Michigan Foundations (CMF) and with the support of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The Initiative will be an assertive voice for the nonprofit sector, actively working with leaders in the public and private sectors to influence public policy.

*Michigan in Brief 1998–99* is the first phase of a three-part program to develop and carry out the Michigan nonprofit sector’s public policy strategy. The second phase will comprise a series of pre-election informational forums and seminars for members of the private, public, and nonprofit sectors. Following the 1998 election, the MPPI will sponsor educational programs and briefings for elected officials, legislative staff, and policymakers on issues important both to the nonprofit sector and policymakers.

The third phase will focus on forming collaborative relationships among nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and research and higher education institutions. The Initiative will identify and disseminate the results of public policy research being conducted at Michigan colleges and universities and identify areas in which further research is needed. For further information about the MPPI, please contact the Michigan Nonprofit Association, 29 Kellogg Center, East Lansing, Michigan 48824-1022; (517) 353-5038.

Cosponsor of *Michigan in Brief 1998–99* is the **Council of Michigan Foundations**. Established in 1973, the CMF is a nonprofit, membership association of 400 private, family, community, and corporate foundations and corporate-giving programs that make grants for charitable purposes. The mission of the CMF is to enhance, improve, and increase philanthropy in Michigan.

The CMF supports both existing and developing grant-making foundations with specialized publications, training events, a FAX-on-Demand service, advocacy with state and federal policymakers, and on-site consultation. In addition, the CMF networks with organizations serving the nonprofit sector and grant seekers. The 11th edition of the CMF's *Michigan Foundation Directory* will be published in fall 1998 along with the biennial *Survey of Michigan Foundation Philanthropy and Information for Seeking Foundation and Corporate Grants*.

The CMF has two supporting organizations: The Michigan AIDS Fund is a collaborative effort by public and private philanthropy that supports endeavors to prevent the spread of AIDS and to alleviate suffering for those infected and affected by it, and the Michigan Community Foundations' Youth Project supports the growth of community foundations and involvement of high school youth as grant makers with community-foundation youth-advisory committees.