Approaching the MacArthur Foundation

The MacArthur Foundation supports creative people, effective institutions, and influential networks building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. The Foundation is placing a few big bets that transformative change is possible on the world’s pressing social challenges, including over-incarceration, global climate change, and nuclear risk.

The Foundation is not accepting proposals from universities at this time but please contact Foundation Relations for possible partnering opportunities.

Overview
The Foundation’s Big Bets areas include Nuclear Challenges, Climate Solutions and Criminal Justice as described below. The foundations giving to date tops $222M with the majority of awards in the $100K - $500K range.

Nuclear Challenges: The Foundation fosters collaboration, igniting the public’s imagination, and sparking new ideas about how to eliminate the threat of nuclear weapons.
- Decrease weapons-useable nuclear material
- Identify political and technical solutions to inform effective decision-making
- Work includes policy-relevant scholarship, stakeholder engagement, outreach and dissemination of policy prescriptions; and advanced education on nuclear threat
- Supported areas of work include:
  1. Nuclear fuel cycle policies
  2. Global governance of nuclear material production and stockpiles
  3. Technical aspects of nuclear energy plans and policies

Update:
May 16, 2016
Chancellor Gilman visits the MacArthur Foundation in Chicago.

John D. MacArthur (1897-1978) developed and owned Bankers Life and Casualty Company. His wife Catherine served as the director of the Foundation.
Climate Solutions: The program seeks to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2025.

- Support global leadership and cooperation
- Initial grants focused on the United States
- Other efforts within and between the United States, China, and India

Criminal Justice: The program addresses overincarceration by changing the way America thinks about and uses jails.

- Address the disproportionate impact on low-income individuals and communities of color
- Presently supports 20 jurisdictions to design and implement plans for creating fairer, more effective local justice systems using innovative, collaborative, and evidence-based solutions.
- In 2016, ten jurisdictions will be selected to implement their plans for reform.
- Invest in research and data analytics and in a robust communications campaign.

MacArthur Fellows: The MacArthur Fellowship is a grant to individuals who show exceptional creativity in their work and the prospect for still more in the future.

- Designed to provide recipients with the flexibility to pursue their own artistic, intellectual, and professional activities in the absence of specific obligations or reporting requirements.
- $650K over 5 years
- No limits on age or area of activity
- Individuals cannot apply for this award; they must be nominated.
- Nominators are selected by the foundation from foundation board members, selection committee members, past nominators, and various experts across the country

UCI Awardees

2015

David Goldberg, Digital Media & Learning Competition, $1,625,000
Beth Cauffman, Juvenile Justice Study, $1,000,000

Websites

Big Bets: https://www.macfound.org/learning/
UCI Foundation Relations: http://grants.give.uci.edu/