

Summary comparison of the Ford and Gates Foundations

	Gates Foundation	Ford Foundation
Timeline	Not to exist in perpetuity. Goal is to spend all of its resources within 50 years after Bill and Melinda's deaths.	Perpetual.
Size	Gates Foundation (grants): \$29.9B.* Gates Foundation Trust (investments): \$29.7B.*	\$10.4B.**
Foundation Type	Private operating foundation.	Private non-operating foundation.
Tax Filing	990-PF.	990-PF.
Trust or corporate form	Two-entity structure: the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (grants) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Trust (investments). Both entities are tax-exempt private foundations that are structured as charitable trusts.	Originally incorporated under the Michigan General Corporation Act.
Trustee independence	Closely-held; foundation grant-making trustees are Bill Gates, Melinda Gates, Bill Gates, Sr., and Warren Buffett. Bill and Melinda are the only trustees of the investment trust.	Board currently consists of 12 trustees, majority of whom must be independent.
Grant-making areas	Global Development Program, Global Health Program, United States Program.	Eight issue areas encompassing democratic and accountable government, economic fairness, educational opportunity and scholarship, freedom of expression, human rights, sexuality and reproductive health and rights, social justice philanthropy, sustainable development.
Grant-making advice	Global Development Program Advisory Panel, Global Health Program Advisory Panel, and United States Program Advisory Panel.	Regional program officers.
Other governance	Management committee that oversees the foundation's efforts. CEO and nine division executives.	Seven governing committees: Executive, Investment, Audit, Management, Program, Proxy, and Membership.

* As of January 1, 2009 (from 990-PF tax filing)

** As of September 30, 2009 (from 990-PF tax filing)

Additional sources: Gatesfoundation.org, Fordfoundation.org

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