

CMPA is a non-profit, non-partisan research organization which is affiliated with George Mason University. It receives funding from a wide range of donors. Recently the progressive group Media Transparency (a project of Media Matters Action Network, described in Wikipedia as “a left leaning political project begun in 1999 which monitors the financial ties of conservative think tanks to conservative foundations.”) incorrectly claimed that the vast majority of CMPA’s funding comes from conservative foundations.

MT’s analysis purports to show that CMPA belongs among these conservative think tank by virtue of having received substantial funding from conservative foundations. It documents the receipt of \$2,668,916 over a twenty year period from conservative sources such as the Olin, Scaife, and Smith Richardson foundations.

However, MT then erroneously concludes that “the overwhelming proportion of CMPA’s funding comes from conservative foundations.” Their error lies in ignoring the substantial contributions that CMPA received from liberal and other non-conservative sources. These sources include such unlikely “conservative” supporters as the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Natural Resources Defense Council, the Council for Excellence in Government and National Council of La Raza.

The following lists 19 non-conservative funders who together accounted for **\$1,766,500** in contributions to CMPA over the past fifteen years:

CMPA FUNDING SOURCE/ AMOUNT/ FISCAL YEAR RECEIVED\*

Atlantic Philanthropic Services \$25,000 FY1999

Alliance for Better Campaigns \$60,000 FY2004-05

Aspen Institute \$10,000 FY1999

Benton Foundation \$25,000 FY1999

College-University Resource Institute \$40,000 FY1999

Council for Excellence in Government (CEG) \$273,500 FY2000-03

Federal Judicial Center \$10,000 FY1993

Ford Foundation\*\* \$105,000 FY1997-98

Guggenheim Foundation \$22,500 FY1993

Headwaters Group \$50,000 FY2007

Joyce Foundation \$60,000 FY2003

Kaiser Family Foundation \$184,500 FY1996

Kellogg Foundation \$98,500 FY2002, 2005

Markle Foundation \$433,000 FY1993, 1995-96

National Council of La Raza \$21,500 FY1993, 1995

Natural Resources Defense Council \$60,000 FY2000

Pew Charitable Trusts \$208,000 FY2000-2002

Rockefeller Brothers Fund \$75,000 FY2001

U.S. Commission on Civil Rights \$5,000 FY1993

**TOTAL 1993-2008 \$1,766,500**

\*Fiscal year runs Aug 1 to July 31, e.g., FY2000 started Aug 1999, ended July 2000. .

\*\* Subcontracted through CEG, but proposal and final report sent directly to Ford.

CMPA is a non-profit, non-partisan research organization which is affiliated with George Mason University. It has monitored every presidential election since 1988 using the same methodology, in which trained coders tally all mentions of candidates and issues and all evaluations of candidates.