



UTAH FOUNDATION

RESEARCH • ANALYZE • INFORM

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 2022

UTAH FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

2021

2022 Board of Trustees

Executive Board

Art Turner, *Chair*
Annalisa Holcombe, *Vice Chair*
Scott Parson, *Treasurer*
Kelly Mendenhall, *Secretary*
Chad Westover, *Immediate Past Chair*
Lloyd Allen
Ian Billingsley
Jonathan Campbell
Catherine Kanter
Carlton Christensen
Denise Dragoo
Alexandra Eaton
Michael Gregory
Andrew Gruber
Dave Kallas
Richard Lambert

Nathan Anderson
Neil Abercrombie
Scott Barlow
Craig Broussard
Benjamin Brown
Mark Buchi
Tom Christopoulos
Brad Cook
J. Philip Cook
Cameron Cowan
Bill Crim
Angela Dean
Cameron Diehl
Richard Ellis
Mike Fuller

Bryson Garbett
David Gessel
Julie Hatchett
Brandon Hendrickson
Matt Huish
Brent Jensen
Ben Kolendar
Dennis Lloyd
Linda Makin
Peter Mann
Dustin Matsumori
Drew Maggelet
Celeste McDonald
Brad Mortensen
Dale Newton

Rich Nye
Angie Osguthorpe
Mike Peterson
Wayne Pyle
Stan Rosenzweig
Tim Sheehan
Harris Simmons
Nick Starn
Juliette Tennert
Dave Thayer
Amy Tieu
Heidi Walker
LaVarr Webb
David Woolstenhulme
Thomas Young

Contact Us

Peter Reichard, *President*, peter@utahfoundation.org
Shawn Teigen, *Vice President/Director of Research*, shawn@utahfoundation.org
Christopher Collard, *Senior Analyst*, christopher@utahfoundation.org
Megan Luther, *Outreach Coordinator*, megan@utahfoundation.org

About the Utah Foundation

The Utah Foundation's mission is to produce objective, thorough and well-reasoned research and analysis that promotes the effective use of public resources, a thriving economy, a well-prepared workforce and a high quality of life for Utahns. The Utah Foundation seeks to help decision-makers and citizens understand and address complex issues. The Utah Foundation also offers constructive guidance to improve governmental policies, programs and structures.

The Utah Foundation is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit research organization.

Support Our Work

The Utah Foundation relies on the support of business and civic leaders and average citizens to produce the high-quality, independent research for which we're known. To become a member or sponsor one of our projects or programs, contact us at 801-355-1400.



UTAH FOUNDATION
RESEARCH • ANALYZE • INFORM

P.O. Box 387
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110
utahfoundation.org

Highly Productive. Nationally Recognized. Rock Solid.

Our work in 2021 is guiding education leaders. It has made a direct impact on air quality policy. It has ushered in a new era of transparency in economic development incentives, as the Utah Office of the State Auditor issued new guidance based on Utah Foundation's analysis to ensure better compliance with national accounting standards pertaining to incentives. We are shedding bright new light on the social fabric, housing challenges, infrastructure funding and the emerging green economy. We participated in conferences, hearings of public bodies and symposia, and met with dozens of civic leaders and elected officials. Our work was covered in the news media well more than 120 times.

With 12 major reports, 12 podcasts, 12 op-eds, 11 briefs, 3 videos, 3 Breakfast Briefings and 1 online tool, the Utah Foundation ended 2021 with 54 unique work products. That's more than one work product per week.

In 2021, no organization in the nation won more honors from the Governmental Research Association. Among the recognitions:

The award for **Most Distinguished Research** for the Utah Foundation's Paying for Water Series.

The award for **Best Data Visualization** for our online Citizen Redistricting Tool.

The award for **Best Short-Form Writing**, for the Utah Foundation's work on housing affordability.

A certificate of merit for **Best COVID-19 Response**, for a variety of publications and activities to assist the public and policymakers.

A certificate of merit for **Best Original Commentary**, for the op-ed, "Why should we care about educational attainment?"

Tapping into Utah's Blossoming Telework Capacity

Following up on our 2020 report *Work Away from Work: The Challenges and Promise of Teleworking*, in 2021 we published *The Way Home: The Shift to Telework and its Air Quality Ramifications*. Released in January, the report played a key role in legislation to promote telework among state agencies on bad air days. The series was made possible with support fromUCAIR.

Getting Timely Data to the Public, Policymakers and the Press

In 2020, seeing that the public, policymakers and the press were looking for guidance on the impacts of the pandemic, we launched a new series of briefs called Significant Statistics. We continued the series with 11 installments this year, on topics ranging from housing affordability to education spending to population growth.

BY THE NUMBERS:

12

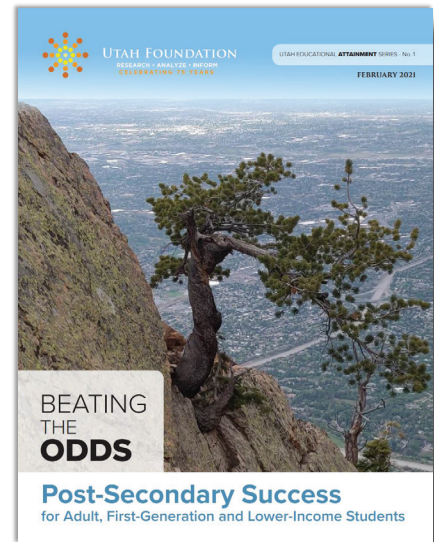
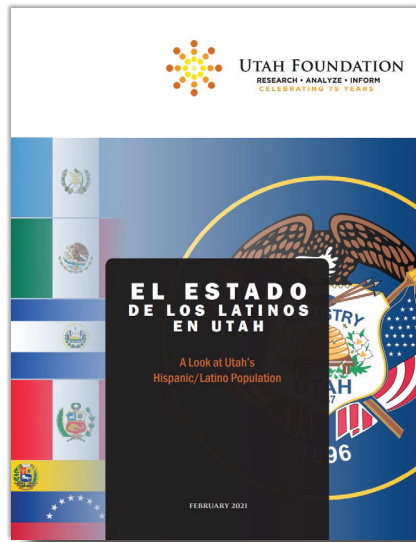
MAJOR REPORTS

BY THE NUMBERS:

5

NATIONAL HONORS





The Pivotal Importance of Boosting Educational Attainment

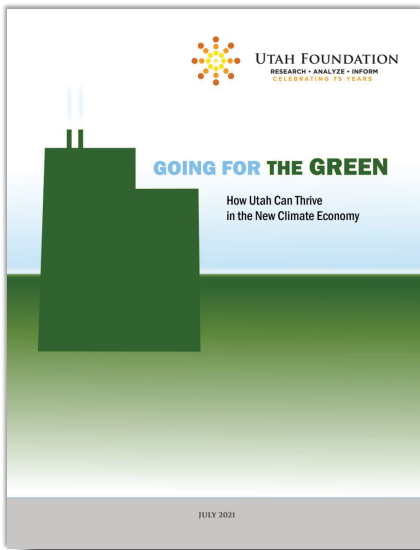
Hispanic business, civic and elected leaders asked the Utah Foundation to explore the state of Utah’s Hispanic population. In response, we issued *El Estado de los Latinos en Utah: A Look at Utah’s Hispanic/Latino Population*. The February report highlighted the importance of educational attainment to economic success. The Utah Division of Multicultural Affairs provided support. Also in February, we launched our series on post-secondary educational attainment with *Beating the Odds: Post-Secondary Success for Adult, First-Generation and Lower-Income Students*. The report was broadly embraced by the state board and post-secondary institutions across the state. Additional installments in the series will emerge in 2022. The report was made possible with support from the Utah Board of Higher Education and the Brent and Bonnie Jean Beesley Foundation.

BY THE NUMBERS:
11
 BRIEFS



An Innovative Approach to Transportation Funding

Continuing its work around taxation and infrastructure funding, the Utah Foundation in March issued *Measuring the Miles: Road Usage Charges in Utah*. The report provided an unflinching look at the pitfalls and potential of a controversial transportation funding source. Thanks to the Utah League of Cities and Towns and the Wasatch Front Regional Council for providing support.



BY THE NUMBERS:
120+
 MEDIA APPEARANCES

Addressing Clean Economic Development Opportunities

As part of its portfolio, the Utah Foundation undertakes consulting work and projects commissioned by public and private entities. We completed two commissioned reports this year, both addressing Utah’s emerging green economy. During the summer, we released an in-depth look at the challenges and opportunities attending the international shift to a cleaner, greener economy. *Going for the Green: How Utah Can Thrive in the New Climate Economy* was funded by Western Resource Advocates. We drilled deeper on the green economy issue in October, with an economic analysis of the IPP Renewed energy project in Millard County. *Plugging into the Future of Electricity: The Economic Impacts of the IPP Renewed Project* was funded by the Intermountain Power Agency.

Working with Civic Leaders to Address Unfolding Homelessness Challenges

We completed our three-part series on homeless service providers in August with a comprehensive exploration of gaps in Salt Lake County’s service network. While the analysis focused on the state’s largest county, the analysis was meant to serve as a template for other local governments. The series received project-based grant support from the Hemingway and Sorenson Legacy foundations, as well as Salt Lake County.



SPECIAL EVENTS

In 2021, the Utah Foundation staged three Breakfast Briefings and our Annual Luncheon. Our May Breakfast Briefing on health care costs and accessibility was sponsored by Intermountain Health Care. Our Briefings on mental health in August and air quality in October were both sponsored by the Garbett Family Foundation.

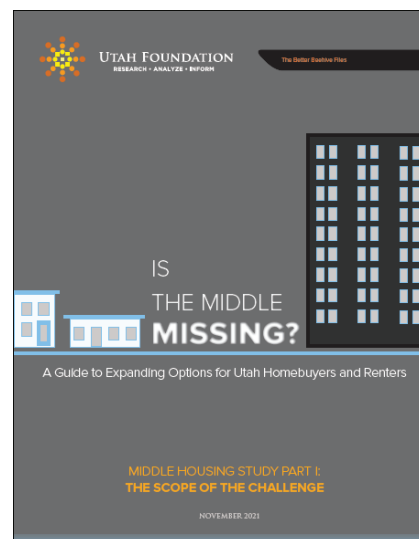
Our Annual Luncheon in September honoring Gov. Mike Leavitt was a sold-out affair. It featured Shaylyn Romney Garrett, co-author with Robert Putnam of *The Upswing: How American Came Together a Century Ago and How We Can Do It Again*, with an introduction from Sen. Mike Lee.



How Strong is Utah’s Social Capital?

September saw the launch of our Social Capital Series with a report on civic engagement. It drew attention not only from the media, but also groups seeking to boost citizenship. The second report, released in November, focused on social trust. It revealed that Utah is one of the nation’s most trusting – and trustworthy – states. The third Social Capital report so far was released in December. It explored the strength of associational life in Utah. Thanks to the George S. and Dolores Dore Eccles Foundation for making the series possible.

Opening Up the Playbook to Expand Housing Opportunities



In November, we launched our multi-part study on the so-called “missing middle” of the housing market. The first revealed shocking challenges emerging in the housing market. The second, released in December, provided an overview of “middle” housing across Utah’s most populous counties. Additional installments in the series are forthcoming in 2022. Thanks to Salt Lake County, the Sorenson Legacy Foundation, the Utah League of Cities and Towns, the Wasatch Front Regional Council, and Y2 Analytics for providing support to the study.

Meeting Citizens Where They Are

In recent years, we have begun producing online videos summarizing our work; we produced three videos in 2021, on Utahns’ top concerns and the political divide. We produce our “Utah Thrives” podcast on a monthly basis. We also write op-ed commentaries highlighting our work on a monthly basis, for the *Deseret News*, the *Salt Lake Tribune* and other dailies.

BY THE NUMBERS:

4

EVENTS

BY THE NUMBERS:

3

ONLINE VIDEOS

The Utah Foundation closed 2021 having achieved its year 2025 target for financial strength four years ahead of schedule.

An Expanding Support Base

Of course, we depend on our supporters to make our work possible. In 2021, they lifted us to new heights and have us marching in 2022 stronger than ever. The Utah Foundation in 2018 crafted a strategic plan with clear goals for financial stability. We closed 2021 having achieved our 2025 target for financial strength – four years ahead of schedule.

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead to 2022, the calendar is brimming with new reports in the works. We'll see four more subject matter reports in the Social Capital Series; two more reports in our Post-Secondary Attainment Series; two more subject reports in the Missing Middle Series; a report on infill development; a report on building codes and air quality; and a report on digital learning.

And there will be even more to come in 2022. In short, we're looking forward to another extraordinary year. Thanks to our friends and supporters, who make it all possible.

BY THE NUMBERS:

12

OP-ED ARTICLES

BY THE NUMBERS:

12

PODCASTS



UTAH FOUNDATION

RESEARCH • ANALYZE • INFORM

PLATINUM MEMBERS



GEORGE S. AND DOLORES DORÉ ECCLES
FOUNDATION

WellQuest Living



RioTinto



BUILDING AMERICA®



THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
FOUNDATION

The Brent and Bonnie
Jean Beesley Foundation



GOLD MEMBERS



ZIONS BANK®



LAWRENCE T. & JANET T.
DEE FOUNDATION



SILVER MEMBERS

AMD Architecture
American-Pacific Corp.
CBRE
Management & Training Corp.

Molina Healthcare
Northrop Grumman
Staker Parson Companies

Wells Fargo
Western Governors University
Wheeler Machinery
Workers Compensation Fund

BRONZE MEMBERS

Brigham Young University
Cottonwood Heights
Community Foundation of Utah
Deloitte
Denise Dragoo
Dixie State University
Fidelity Investments
Granite School District
HDR Engineering
Holland & Hart

J Philip Cook, LLC
Key Bank
Magnum Development
my529
Ogden City
Revere Health
Stan Rosenzweig
Salt Lake Chamber
Salt Lake Community College
Sandy City
Snow College

Thatcher Chemical
University of Utah
United Way of Salt Lake
Utah Farm Bureau Federation
Utah Hospital Association
Utah State University
Utah System of Higher Education
Utah Policy
Utah Valley University
Weber State University
West Valley City

Top 12 Utah Foundation Findings of 2021*

1. From 2010 to 2021, an inflation-adjusted mortgage payment with 10% down on a median-priced Utah home increased by \$469 from \$1,131 to \$1,600. Over time, the cost of lower-priced homes has increased more than higher-priced ones, so the attainability of homeownership with affordable mortgages has disappeared for some Utahns.
2. In Davis, Salt Lake, Utah and Weber counties, about 14% of housing units are middle housing. This suggests that there may be room to expand these options to meet the evolving needs of Utah's population.
3. While road usage charge programs are primarily meant to address the deficiencies of the motor vehicle fuel tax as a revenue generator, they can be crafted to address other policy objectives as well, such as improvements to traffic congestion and air quality.
4. In response to the Utah Foundation's survey on unmet needs in their service areas, homeless service providers most often identified the need for more housing options, such as emergency beds, transitional housing and long-term housing (38% of total gaps reported).
5. A targeted push for periodic remote work – coinciding with periods of poor air quality – would produce improvements in emissions to counter the particulate matter during winter inversions and ozone smog during hot summer days. (Tie.)
5. Student data analytics should be used to examine the return on investment for post-secondary programs can help to ensure governmental support and tuition is used in the best way possible to meet students' educational goals. (Tie.)
5. Utah compares favorably on our measures of social trust [fraud and federal corruption convictions, violent crime, and breach of trust penalties]. The Beehive State outperforms the nation at large across the board. (Tie.)
8. Utah is already an innovator in renewable natural gas, geothermal energy, battery storage, and carbon capture and storage, which suggests that Utah is well-positioned to lead with those and other climate-focused strategies. (Tie.)
8. Voter turnout in Utah has improved in recent election cycles – after having languished near the very bottom nationally. The state rank surged to 13th among the 50 states in the 2018 midterm election. However, in the 2020 presidential election cycle, Utah ranked only 39th nationally and sixth among the eight Mountain States. (Tie.)
10. Hispanic Utah households have the highest median income of any Hispanic population in the Mountain States. However, the median income overall in Utah is about 25% higher than that of the Hispanic population. (Tie.)
10. The IPP Renewed construction period, most of which will take place from 2022 through 2026, will represent a \$2 billion investment, increasing the state's gross domestic product up to 0.18% annually from 2022 through 2026. It will directly support an average of 500 jobs annually during this period, which will in turn support up to an additional 600 jobs across the state. (Tie.)
10. Utah is at or next to the top in the nation on four of the six measures of participation in community life [charitable giving, volunteerism, religious and neighborhood participation]. On the other two measures [professional and non-professional organizations per capita], however, Utah is below average – and in last place on one. (Tie.)

*As determined by Utah Foundation's Board of Trustees in December 2021.



UTAH FOUNDATION
RESEARCH • ANALYZE • INFORM

P.O. Box 387
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110
utahfoundation.org

UTAH FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

2021