



UTAH FOUNDATION

RESEARCH • ANALYZE • INFORM

P.O. Box 387
Salt Lake City, UT 84110-0387

801.355.1400
utahfoundation.org

Study: Utah Leads Nation on Social Capital

Social Capital Index Caps Eight-Part Series Measuring Various Aspects of Life in Utah

(July 20, 2022) – Today, the Utah Foundation releases the eighth report in its Utah Social Capital Series with *The Network of Relationship: Utah’s Social Capital Index*. This installment takes together the findings of the previous seven reports released since September 2021, which examined dozens of metrics across seven categories. The Beehive State compares remarkably well.

Among the findings of the new report:

- In 2021, Utah had the **highest level of social capital in the nation**, and has consistently been among the top states during the previous eight years. North Dakota and Minnesota also consistently rank high.
- Utah’s Social Capital Index score stands at 94, **higher than 2013 and 2017** when the index stood at 84 and 79, respectively; this score is based off a combination of the seven social-capital categories.
- Utah is in the top third of states in terms of **civic engagement**.
- Utah ranks third in the nation when it comes to **social trust**.
- Utah’s robust **community life** is one of the biggest differentiators compared to other states, with high levels of charitable donations, volunteerism, religious service attendance and participation in community projects. It ranks second in the nation in this category.
- Utah performs best in the nation on the factors related to **family life** – driven primarily by its high levels of marriage and children in married families.
- Utah is in the middle of the pack when it comes to **social cohesion**.
- While Utah is fifth in the nation when it comes to the **focus on future generations**, it has seen a substantial decline since 2013.
- Utah is fifth in the nation when it comes to **social mobility**.

Utah Foundation President Peter Reichard said that, while the ongoing series led the research team to suspect Utah would perform strongly once the team assembled an index, the findings of the new report “surprised even us.”

“Utah performs strongly in six of our seven categories and above the national average on all seven. As a result, Utah comes in first in the nation and far above average in its composite social capital score,” Reichard said. “But if you look closer, the numbers also reveal some problem areas.”

The Network of Relationship: Utah’s Social Capital Index is available on the Utah Foundation website at www.utahfoundation.org. Special thanks to the **George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation** and the **Lawrence T. & Janet T. Dee Foundation** for providing project-based support to the Utah Social Capital Series.

Contact:

Peter Reichard
President, Utah Foundation
(801) 355-1400, ext. 1 / (385) 501-7474
peter@utahfoundation.org

Christopher Collard
Senior Analyst, Utah Foundation
(801) 355-1400, ext. 6
christopher@utahfoundation.org

* * *

Founded in 1945, 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.