

Pull out your current policy and check the box next to any coverage you can confirm is already in place — anything unchecked is worth a quick conversation with your advisor. Coverage checklist for private, corporate, and community foundations and other grantmaking organizations. Priorities reflect typical exposure for this class; confirm against your actual grantmaking and investment activities.

CORE

PREVALENT

SITUATIONAL

— Core: almost always needed · Prevalent: commonly carried by businesses in this class · Situational: depends on specific exposure

COVERAGE	WHY THIS BUSINESS NEEDS IT	PRIORITY
☐ Directors & Officers	Covers board and officer decisions on grants, investments, and governance — the core exposure for a foundation.	CORE
☐ Crime / Fidelity	Covers theft by employees, trustees, or others with access to funds.	CORE
☐ Social Engineering / Funds Transfer Fraud	Covers grant payments diverted by fake bank-change requests — often excluded or sublimited under crime.	CORE
☐ Cyber / Privacy Liability	Covers breaches of donor, grantee, and scholarship applicant data and grants portals.	CORE
☐ Excise Tax / Penalty Coverage (D&O Extension)	Some D&O policies reimburse managers for IRS excise taxes where insurable — confirm whether yours does.	PREVALENT
☐ Fiduciary Liability	Needed if you sponsor a retirement or benefit plan for staff.	PREVALENT
☐ Employment Practices Liability	Covers claims by staff; often part of the D&O package.	PREVALENT
☐ Commercial General Liability	Covers injuries at offices, convenings, and events.	PREVALENT
☐ Media Liability	Covers defamation and copyright claims from reports, publications, and websites.	SITUATIONAL
☐ Special Events Liability	Covers galas, award events, and convenings.	SITUATIONAL
☐ Property / Fine Art	Covers office contents and any art or collections owned.	SITUATIONAL
☐ Workers' Compensation	Required for employees.	SITUATIONAL

COMMON COVERAGE GAP FOR THIS CLASS

The gap most often missed by foundations is payment fraud. Fraudsters target grant payments by hacking grantee email or grants portals and changing bank details — one foundation lost \$1 million of a \$2 million grant this way — and standard crime policies often exclude voluntary transfers or cap social engineering at a small sublimit. Family foundations add a second gap: self-dealing with board or family members brings IRS excise taxes that many D&O policies won't pay. Confirm your social engineering limit, and require a call-back to a known number before changing any grantee's bank account.

IMPORTANT — PLEASE READ

This checklist is a free educational tool from Cory Washington & Co. to help you review your own coverage and have a more informed conversation with a licensed insurance professional. It is general information only — not insurance, legal, or financial advice, and not a recommendation to buy, change, or cancel any policy. The Core / Prevalent / Situational labels describe general patterns observed for this class of business — what is commonly carried, not a personalized recommendation or needs analysis for your specific operations. Coverage terms, availability, limits, and requirements vary by policy, carrier, and state, and only the language in your actual policy governs what is and isn't covered. Checking or leaving blank any item above does not indicate that you are adequately insured or under-insured. Using this checklist does not create a client, agency, or fiduciary relationship. Always consult a licensed professional about your specific situation.