Reader’s Guide to the Form 990-PF

A private foundation must make its annual Form 990-PF available for public inspection. The Kresge Foundation (hereinafter, the “Foundation”) posts this form for download on the Web site, www.kresge.org. The Form provides information about the Foundation’s financial and charitable activities for the year as well as assesses any taxes owed by the Foundation to the IRS.

The tax return form and rules can be complex, so we hope that this Reader’s Guide will aid you in gaining a better understanding of our form. We have provided answers to some frequently asked questions as well as a table of key data points and their relevance by topic related to the return.

Frequently Asked Questions

Payout

How much was Kresge required to distribute in 2024?
The Foundation was ***required*** to distribute $199,450,283 as shown on Page 8, Part X, line 7. The term the IRS uses for the minimum 5 percent payout is the distributable amount. The ***actual*** amount of adjusted qualifying distributions for the Foundation in 2024 was $229,604,073 as shown on Page 8, Part XI, line 4.

How is the required payout calculated?
The IRS rules require the Foundation to pay out 5 percent of its average non-charitable use assets, which is equivalent to the investment assets and any other assets that are not used directly in the charitable work of the Foundation, adjusted for income tax and recoveries of amounts previously treated as qualifying distributions. This calculation is summarized on Page 8 in Parts IX and X of the return.

What types of disbursements count toward Kresge’s annual payout requirement?
Grants paid, program-related investments, exempt operating costs (those that further the charitable purpose of the Foundation), and amounts paid to acquire assets used directly in carrying out charitable purpose, all count toward payout.

Administrative and Other Costs

What were Kresge’s 2024 exempt expenses as a percentage of qualifying distributions and as a percentage of average assets?

Total exempt expenses as a percentage of qualifying distributions was 16.19 percent (calculated as $37,170,067 Page 1, Part I, line 24, column (d) divided by $229,604,073 Page 8, Part XI, line 4). Survey results of peer foundations with greater than $1 billion in average assets reveal exempt expenses as a percentage of grant payout of 18.45 percent for 2023 (latest available data).

Frequently Asked Questions (Continued)

Total exempt expenses as a percentage of average assets was 0.95 percent (calculated as $37,170,067 Page 1, Part I, line 24, column (d) divided by $3,928,083,689 Page 8, Part IX, line 5). Survey results of peer foundations with greater than $1 billion in average assets reveal exempt expenses as a percentage of average assets of 1.09 percent for 2023 (latest available data).

Taxes and Other

What kind of taxes does Kresge pay?
The Foundation is exempt from income taxes under IRS rules. However, the Foundation is required to pay 1.39 percent excise tax on net investment income. Net investment income includes interest, dividends, net realized capital gains, and other investment income, minus expenses for managing investments. The net investment income figure used in this calculation is shown on Page 1, Part I, line 27b, column (b). The 2024 net investment income was $175,937,912. In 2024, a 1.39 percent excise tax rate resulted in tax of $2,445,537 as shown on Page 3, Part V, line 5 of the 990-PF.

The Foundation is also subject to unrelated business income tax under IRS rules due to the nature of income derived from some of the investment vehicles held in the investment portfolio. This tax is calculated using a flat 21% corporate tax rate.

The Kresge Foundation 2024 990-PF Key Data Points

Topic	Line Reference	Dollar Value/Percent	Comments
Administrative and other costs	Page 1, Part I, line 24, column (d) and Page 8, Part XI, line 2	$37.17M	Consists of direct grant-making expenses including salaries and operating costs of the staff who make and manage the grants, direct charitable expenses such as consulting and convening costs paid to support the work of our grantees, administrative costs to operate the Foundation, including salaries and benefits for support functions such as finance and human resources, professional fees, office expenses, assets acquired, etc. Represents the costs allocated toward charitable purposes that are included in the Foundation's qualifying distributions in Part XI.
Grants paid	Page 1, Part I, line 25, column (d)	$170.02M	Represents grants approved and paid in 2024. The Foundation also made $22.41M of PRI's in 2024 for a grand total in giving of $192.43M.
Tax based on investment income	Page 3, Part V, line 5	$2.45M	The Foundation had a net gain position for 2024. The Foundation's excise taxes, calculated as 1.39 percent of its net investment income as shown on Page 1, Part I, line 27b, column (b).
Compensation of officers, directors, and trustees	Page 6, Part VII, line 1(c)	$3.86M	The attached statement (number 19 in the return) provides a listing of 2024 compensation and benefits paid to the Foundation's Officers and Board Trustees.
Compensation of five highest paid employees (other than officers, directors, and trustees)	Page 6, Part VII, line 2(c)	$2.90M	Although the return doesn't display this total, the Foundation provides a listing of the 2024 compensation and benefits paid by person for the highest paid employees.
Summary of program-related investments	Page 7, Part VIII-B, Total	$22.41M	Describes the program related equity investments and below market rate loans made to organizations.

Topic	Line Reference	Dollar Value/Percent	Comments
Minimum investment return	Page 8, Part IX, line 6	$196.40M	The minimum investment return is generally 5 percent of the total fair market value of the Foundation's non-charitable use assets.
Distributable amount	Page 8, Part X, line 7	$199.45M	Represents the minimum amount the Foundation must distribute by the end of 2025 as qualifying distributions.
Adjusted qualifying distributions	Page 8, Part XI, line 4	$229.60M	The amount the Foundation actually spent for charitable purposes for the year.
Actual distribution ratio	Page 8, part XI, line 4 divided by Page 8 Part IX, line 5	5.85%	Although the return doesn't display this ratio, it can be calculated for the 2024 year. The required minimum distribution ratio is 5.0 percent.
Cumulative excess distributions	Page 9, Part XII, line 9(a)	$62.21M	The amount of excess distributions that the Foundation may carryover and apply toward following years.