

Community Foundation: a New Idea to Promote the Development of Community Autonomy

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Abstract: Community Fund Association was invented and developed in America. The Community Fund Association is based on the principles of democracy, and it appreciates the loyalty and thoughtfulness to the members of the community. This point has influenced the construction of the community effectively.

Key Words: Community Fund Association;community;community self-disciplined ; roots democracy

1. The emergence, development and characteristics of community foundations

1.1 The so-called community foundation is a foundation organization established by the residents of an area to more effectively solve the public problems in the area. "At the beginning of the 20th century, with the rapid advancement of industrialization and urbanization in the west, various social contradictions emerged one after another, among which the problem of slums in emerging industrial cities became the focus of many problems. In order to jointly solve the problems of public safety and public service in homogeneous population settlements, community funds came into being. In 1914, the president of Cleveland Trust Co., Ltd Redrick Gerben initiated the establishment of the Cleveland community foundation, which is considered to be the pioneer of the community foundation. He has also won the reputation of "the father of the community foundation."

1.2 After nearly a hundred years of development, community foundations have many self characteristics in the source, use and management of funds. First, the diversification of capital sources. Individual donation, community enterprise donation and other foundation investment can become the source of Community Foundation funds. There are two categories: prestigious entrepreneurs in the region and ordinary citizens in the community. Most of the sponsors are Local celebrities, they come forward to establish, formulate purposes and provide start-up funds. Ordinary citizens either make inheritance donations or make various donations. Second, the diversification of managers. In the United States, most of the staff managing community funds are people with good higher education and dedication. In addition to a small number of formal staff, most of them are volunteers in the community, or "volunteers". They not only contribute their finances, but also devote their time and energy to work hard to improve the welfare and public services of the community. Third, the value orientation of public interest in fund operation. Community fund is considered to exist and operate to solve the practical public problems of the community. For example, timely repair and maintain the community's water supply system, donate the community's schools and libraries, help residents with difficulties in

the community, improve the community living environment, and so on. Therefore, community fund is to maintain and promote the public interests of the community, not based on profits.

2. Localization construction strategy of Community Foundation

2.1 Actively legislate and create an orderly and stable legal environment for the development of community foundations.

As a public welfare undertaking, if there is no good legal guarantee, even if it is born for the purpose of "good", it will eventually lead to "evil" because of the non exclusive and non competitive "public service dilemma". On June 1, 2004, the State Council promulgated and implemented the regulations on the administration of foundations, replacing the measures for the administration of foundations promulgated in 1998, which is a great breakthrough in the management system of foundations. Due to the background of the times, the "measures" do not regulate many problems such as the organizational form, internal decision-making procedures, financial accounting system, asset use management and social supervision mechanism of the foundation, so that the foundation has no rules to follow in many links of specific operation. The lack of legal system makes the foundation with limited resources and development space lack of strong institutional support and policy guarantee. In such an environment, the development of the foundation is easy to be deformed.

2.2 Debate on the dual management system of foundations.

Dual management system means that in the process of registration, the registration authority is responsible for the final approval and registration of foundations, foundation branches, foundation representative offices and overseas foundation representative offices; The business competent unit shall be responsible for the preliminary examination of the foundation and its branches, representative offices and representative offices of overseas Foundations. In terms of management, the registration authority is responsible for the annual inspection of foundations and representative offices of overseas Foundations, the daily supervision and management of activities carried out in accordance with these regulations and their articles of association, and the punishment of violations of these regulations in accordance with the law. The competent business unit shall be responsible for guiding and supervising the foundations and representative offices of overseas Foundations to carry out public welfare activities in accordance with the law and the articles of association, be responsible for the preliminary review of the annual inspection, and cooperate with the registration authority and other law enforcement departments to investigate and deal with illegal acts.

2.3 Develop "multi-directional" sources of funds to ensure the sustainable development of community foundations. It is slightly different from the diversified sources of funds of community foundations in western developed countries. Considering the weak economic foundation of our country, especially the Limited surplus funds of enterprises and residents' income. Therefore, our community fund should draw money from the government to the enterprise; From organization to individual; From international to domestic; From foreign aid to self financing, so as to accelerate and effectively promote the establishment and effective operation of community foundations.

3. The significance and Prospect of community foundation to the development of community autonomy in China

3.1 Promote the "de administration" of community autonomous organizations.

One of the most important causes of community administration lies in the financial dependence of community autonomous organizations on the government. From the perspective of economic sources, neighborhood committees largely depend on the financial allocation of the government. The office expenses of the neighborhood committee, the wages of the full-time and employed cadres of the neighborhood committee shall be paid by the public finance of the district government. Therefore, it is hard to imagine the situation in which the neighborhood committee accepts the benefits and supplies of the government rather than obedience. The community foundation can help the community autonomous organizations get rid of some government financial pressure to a certain extent, which helps to highlight their own will. Because of the diversity of fund sources, it will inevitably bring the demands of a variety of stakeholders and break the government's direct and indirect monopoly on grass-roots affairs management.

3.2 Strengthening the concept of democratic autonomy of community residents.

If community residents do not have a good concept of autonomy, it is impossible to achieve real community autonomy, which has become a consensus. The community foundation can effectively awaken and encourage the sense of autonomy of community citizens by virtue of its wide inclusion of the material interests of community citizens. Community foundation is to use everyone's money to better solve everyone's affairs. Because it is related to everyone's material interests and public welfare, every community resident and organization has sufficient reasons and motivation to publish and even affect the direction of each expenditure. It can be said that this has greatly promoted the awakening and maturity of the concept of citizen autonomy, and it is also a good democratic training for citizens to participate in and discuss politics.

3.3 It provides an opportunity for the cooperation between government, market and community autonomous organizations.

To realize such an ideal state of cooperation, the first is the practical withdrawal of government power in the field of specific social affairs management; Secondly, the third sector or citizens' active involvement in community autonomy and community public welfare affairs; Finally, there is the active involvement of the market in relevant non pure public affairs, which brings efficiency and benefits to community public services. The community foundation can be said to have found an ideal platform for running in the relationship between the three subjects.

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