

2021

GRANTMAKING REPORT

Published September 2022

**GROUP HEALTH
FOUNDATION**



OUR PEOPLE ARE **EVERYWHERE**

Imaginative, bold, and accountable leaders all throughout the state are working toward systemic change every day. On Tribal lands, in rural areas, in big cities, and in smaller towns, community organizations and leaders take care of their people, disrupt narratives about whose voices matter, and challenge the status quo. We are incredibly proud and humbled to be supporting them.

This 2021 Grantmaking Report is an overview of the growing number of community organizations Group Health Foundation is supporting in our second full year of significant grantmaking. It was an incredible year of learning for us. We connected with, heard from, and made grants to hundreds of organizations. Across thousands of interactions, community leaders shared so much of themselves and offered what was top of mind for them in 2021.

- Communities were worried about the housing crisis, political turmoil, lies and disinformation, inflation, and the looming economic downturn. **At times, it felt as if there was not enough room to dream about the future.**
- **The COVID-19 pandemic continues to define the moment.** Communities faced untold loss. Organizations shifted—and then shifted again—to meet needs and access recovery funds, only to have to pivot again toward an uncertain tomorrow.
- **Organizations are building to win.** Organizations are committed to power-building work, reflective and accountable leadership, and meaningful partnerships that, in the words of one organization, go beyond the “performative collaboration that some funders demand of us.”
- **Community-based assets are growing.** More groups have unlocked new funding sources, and some are investing in capital assets, such as property. Many have also started to invest more in their own staff, internal capacity, and ongoing growth.

What we are learning is stretching and shaping our longer-term grantmaking strategies. One of our most important lessons that will stay with us is this: We can fund racial justice work *and* work toward geographic equity at the same time. We don’t have to choose between people of color or people living in rural Washington, because for many people in our state, they are both. The same goes for other communities to whom we hold ourselves accountable: immigrants, LGBTQIA+ people, people with disabilities, people living on low incomes, and other communities whose dreams are too often overlooked and underfunded by foundations like ours.

Thank you for reading this report, and thank you for your patience as we continue to build our team, capacity, and systems. As we refine our data collection and analyses, we will continue to publish the latest and most accurate information we have available about our grantmaking.

Until then, we will carry with us these words, offered to us in 2021 by grantee organization Racial Equity Commission—a cross-racial, woman-of-color-led project—in Whatcom County: **“We’re mighty, resilient, and determined. We believe large-scale systems work can be done, and that may make us optimists. Holding that optimism in our hearts is in and of itself a constant act of revolution.”**

With optimism in our hearts,

Carmen Berkley and Steven Cole-Schwartz
Vice Presidents of Programs

 Learn more about our grantmaking:
bit.ly/GHFgrantmaking

2021
**HIGH-
LIGHTS**

\$62M **TOTAL**
grantmaking

607 grants and
contributions

97%

of grants were
“core” or “general
operating” support

77%



of grants were made to organizations
led by and for Black, Indigenous, and
other people of color

30

Tribal nations
received funding

34

(out of 39) counties in
Washington where grantee
organizations primarily work



statewide convenings for
community leaders to connect

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORTED

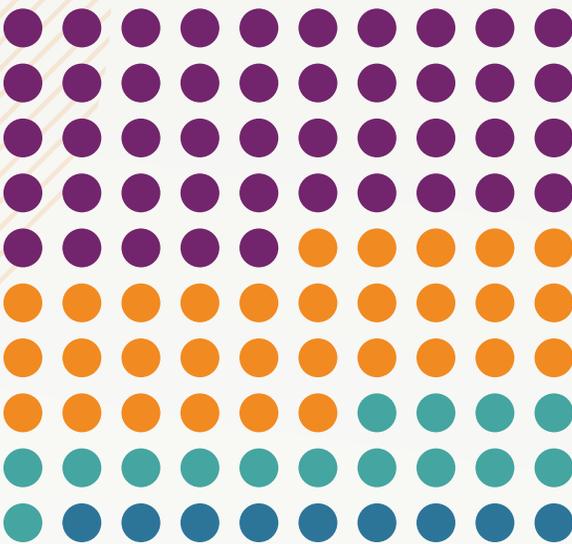
From the beginning, GHF has been working to accurately understand the leadership identities and the organizational identities of the groups we fund. This information is how we offer a transparent look at our grantmaking, and helps us hold ourselves accountable to the communities we serve.

An important distinction is organizational identity versus the identity of a leader. For example, based on the definitions we have adopted, it is possible for an organization’s executive director to be a cisgender Black woman, but the organization she leads be considered a historically white institution.

 Why we ask organizations for their racial identities: bit.ly/WhyWeAsk

Who received grant dollars?

How grant dollars were distributed by organization identity



45% (\$28.2M)

Culturally specific organizations are created by and for people of a specific racial or ethnic identity group and are accountable to that community.

31% (\$19.2M)

Multiracial or multicultural organizations have leadership and staff representative of multiple racial or cultural identities.

15% (\$9.2M)

Historically white-led organizations are founded, formed, and primarily led by white people.

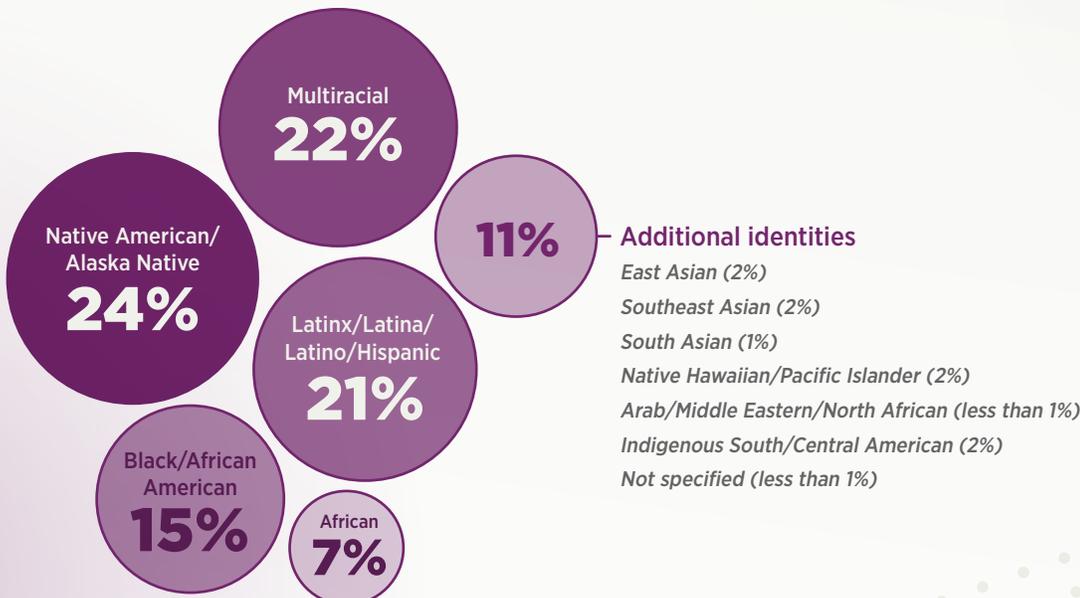
9% (\$5.7M)

Cross-racial organizations bring together constituencies of different races and ethnic identities to share power for the purpose of advancing justice.

Nearly half of our 2021 grant dollars supported culturally specific organizations. Here is a look at how those organizations identified in terms of who they are and serve.

 Understand our definitions for organization identity: bit.ly/OrgDefinitions

How grant dollars were distributed among culturally specific organizations



On the API and multicultural categories

GHF has stopped using the “Asian/Pacific Islander” category at the request of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander organizations. When organizations identify as “API,” we categorize them as multiracial or multicultural. This category may also include organizations that self-identified both as “Black and African,” “Latinx and Indigenous,” or “East Asian and Southeast Asian,” for example.

More leadership identities and lived experiences

In addition to race and ethnicity, we were interested in learning other ways an organization's leadership reflects the communities they serve. We look at this from several angles: gender, race, disability, sexuality, and other lived experiences. Here are some of the most common identities and experiences that were reported by grantee organizations.

Transgender and/or gender expansive people

IMMIGRANTS

MILITARY VETERANS
People experiencing homelessness

CAREGIVERS

SURVIVORS

QUEER PEOPLE

DISPLACED PEOPLE

PEOPLE WHO HAVE LIVED IN FOSTER CARE

PEOPLE OF FAITH

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY



Our process doesn't just end with hiring a director of color.
THAT IS ONLY THE START.

• • •
Magaly Solis,
Executive Director of La Casa Hogar



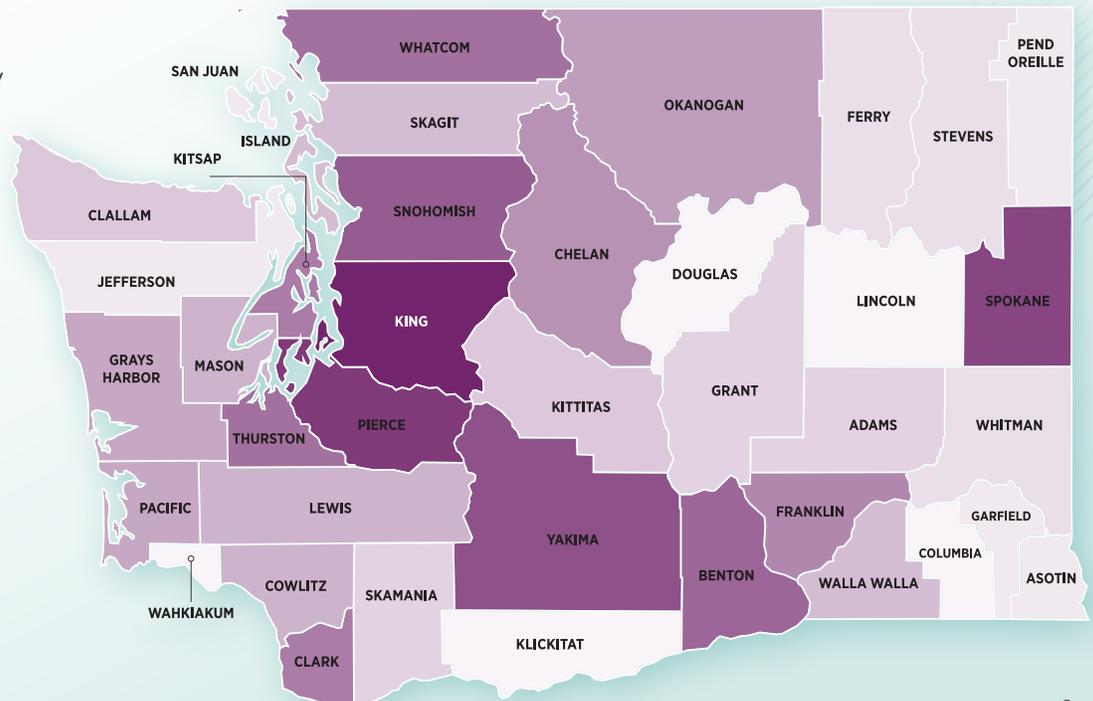
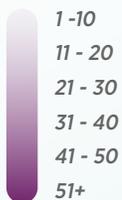
Read our conversation with Magaly about her transition to become the organization's first Latina executive director: bit.ly/MagalySolis

Where do grantee organizations mostly work?

We offer grantee organizations the opportunity to identify their location, namely the primary county where they work. This doesn't exactly give us a full picture of how grant dollars are being distributed throughout the state, but looking at organizations' home counties does give us an idea where our resources are going—and where we need to improve in the future. Grantees include organizations whose work is statewide and organizations that primarily identify with their traditional Tribal homelands, which are not determined by county lines.

Additionally, about 10 percent of our dollars, or 28 grants, were directed to out-of-state organizations whose advocacy work affects communities in Washington state.

Number of grants





A screenshot from our virtual 2021 Shaping the Future convening.

STAYING CONNECTED

Washington communities have taught us that connection is essential to building trust and power across our state. Last year, we partnered with community leaders to host Shaping the Future 2021, our second convening for more than 200 grantee organizations. The two-day, virtual event brought leaders together who are building a better Washington, united by their shared belief that a more equitable and just future starts with getting to know more about each other. Here are some insights we heard from some of the many powerful leaders in attendance:

“ I’m looking at the Black trans women and femmes who are in our organization, The Washington Black Trans Taskforce, our clients—they’re all stuck in survival. I want us to get in a place where we are able to think about a future, where we’re actually able to actually vision and dream and that means having some relative safety, protection, and comfort. ”
Jaelynn Scott, Executive Director, Lavender Rights Project

“ We don’t want just these tiny, piecemeal victories. We want to end poverty. We want to end homelessness. We want to end incarceration. But we know that we can’t do that in isolation and I think nobody can do it in isolation. ”
Aaron Scott, Co-Founder, Chaplains on the Harbor

“ I want to do a traditional transfer of community power. I want to teach people what was taught to me. ”
Toni Lodge, CEO, NATIVE Project

In addition to Shaping the Future, we held two town halls for organizations interested in applying for a Community Learning Grant, and two gatherings specifically for Systems, Power, and Action grantee organizations. All offered different kinds of learning for us, but foremost is while the pandemic created undeniable obstacles, communities were determined to care for each other — from mutual aid to organizing, leaders across our state are working together to transform power for future generations.

ABOUT **GROUP HEALTH FOUNDATION**

Group Health Foundation is a 501(c)(4) grantmaking organization serving Washington state. We work to transform the balance of power to ensure equity and racial justice across the state and beyond.

For more information, visit
www.grouphealthfoundation.org.

