



2023

Our Region, Our Giving



Table of Contents

- 01 — Who We Are**
- 03 — A Welcome**
- 04 — Our Respondents**
- 07 — Where We Give**
- 10 — Our Commitment**
- 13 — How We Give**
- 15 — Thinking Ahead**
- 16 — Take Aways**



STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Philanthropy DMV believes that a racially just and equitable region must be the vision for all of philanthropy – across all funding priorities, geographic scopes, and types and sizes of giving vehicles.

Philanthropy DMV is a place for us all... for all of us committed to a racially just and equitable Greater Washington region.

We:

- Convene: Create spaces to learn about community issues from experts and from each other
- Advocate: Harness philanthropic influences and partnerships to increase attention to and investments in neighborhoods, communities, and the region.
- Mobilize: Catalyze collective action of members and stakeholders towards systems change around key issues that impact the region

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Convene

WRAG's role: FACILITATOR FOR MEMBER/SECTOR LEARNING

- Sharing practices and lessons learned from how philanthropy advances racial equity
- Offering identity-centered and issue-focused learning forums (e.g., women of color in philanthropy, criminal justice, education)³
- Providing affinity learning opportunities and forums (e.g., corporate foundations, family foundations)
- Providing opportunities for funders to improve their practice (e.g., participatory grantmaking, approaches to learning and evaluation, trust-based philanthropy, etc.)
- Offering convening opportunities inclusive of all sectors including nonprofits, public sector, etc.

Advocate

WRAG's role: ADVANCE COLLECTIVE ACTION

- Organizing funders to exert collective influence⁵ and to be responsive to issues in the Greater Washington region's communities
- Creating platforms and support for collective philanthropic action
- Connecting funders with local organizers, policy advocates and other nonprofits to plan and execute initiatives addressing priority issues

Mobilize

WRAG's role: INFLUENCER OF CAPITAL AND RESOURCES TO THE GREATER WASHINGTON REGION SOCIAL SECTOR

- Leveraging relationships with philanthropy nationwide to influence more philanthropic investments in the Greater Washington region
- Liaising with local and federal government to make case for more resources flow to equity-centered the Greater Washington region's nonprofits
- Aligning investments through public-private partnerships
- Building partnerships with other local and national PSOs in the region and conveners of nonprofits

Message From Our President & CEO

In this year's Our Region, Our Giving report, our collaborative efforts shed light on the dynamic landscape of philanthropy. The urgent need for systemic change is evident, reflected in our strategic framework. As leaders, we're actively adapting to rectify disparities in grantmaking processes, thinking through how to reduce barriers and making our giving more accessible. Our focus on critical causes in the Greater Washington region underscores the impact our wide-reaching support can have. We are still adjusting to a new normal, one that prompts a re-evaluation of what it means to work, connect, and give across the DMV. Your dedicated contributions stand pivotal in steering our philanthropic actions, guiding us toward a more equitable, justice-focused and impactful future. Looking to next year, we'd love to see increased participation in the Our Region, Our Giving survey; your participation in this report supports our ability to provide relevant data to our thriving sector.



TOGETHER, WE'RE POISED TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT STRIDES, FOSTERING A PHILANTHROPIC COMMUNITY THAT RESONATES WITH PURPOSE AND CENTERS JUSTICE.



Respondents

A special appreciation for the 2023 Respondents and participants in this year's survey

Alexandria Office of the Arts

Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties

Crimsonbridge Foundation

Diane & Norman Bernstein Foundation

Diverse City Fund

Eugene & Agnes E. Meyer Foundation

Greater Washington Community Foundation

Healthcare Initiative Foundation

Howard and Geraldine Polinger Family Foundation

if, A Foundation for Radical Possibility

Luther I. Replogle Foundation

New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

Peace For DC

Share Fund

The City of Alexandria - Office of Housing

The Comfort Family Foundation

The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation

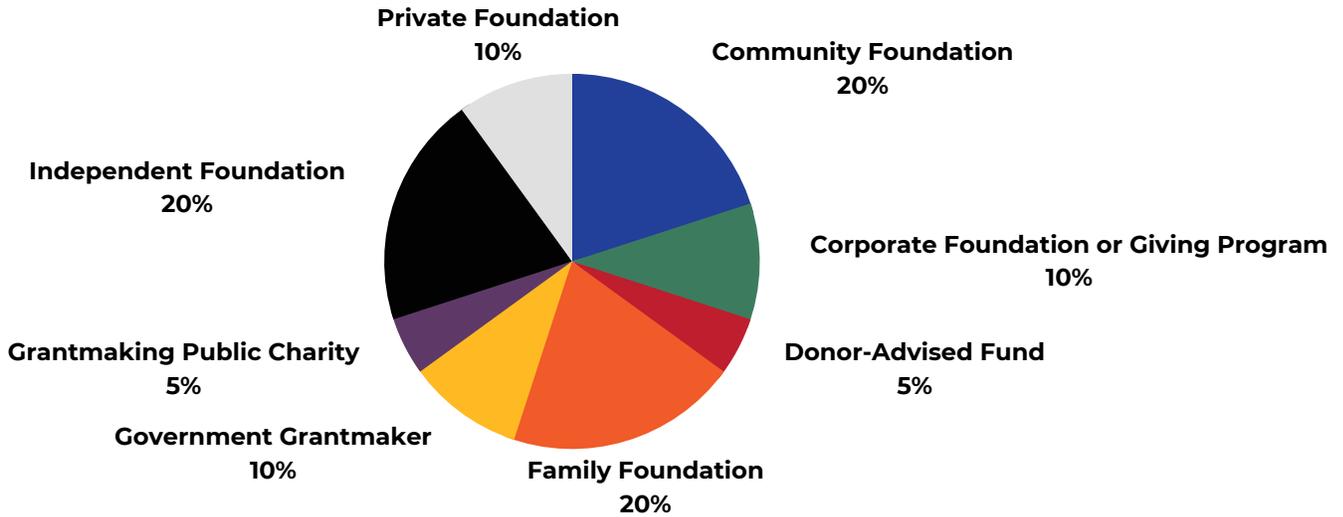
Washington Area Women's Foundation

Washington Gas

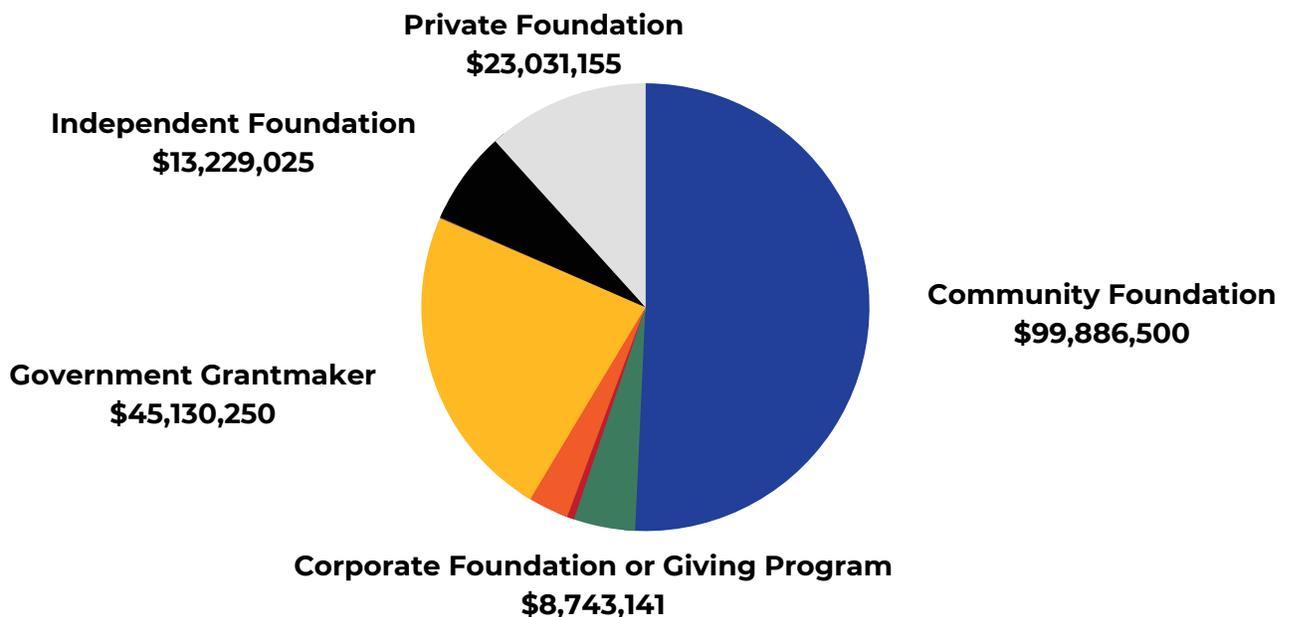
World Bank

Respondents

Respondents had a productive year in 2022 giving **\$196,897,304** with organizational grant making ranging from \$40,000 to \$45,000,000.



Respondents show a diverse array of philanthropic types with the most common being Community, Family or Independent Foundations (20% respectively) and accounted for approximately 60% of the reported giving.



Respondents Overview

An organization's tenure offers an interesting view into different giving perspectives. There are organizations less than 10 years old and some with over 100 years of recorded giving. Those differences may illustrate the changing giving strategies.

Mature Givers

Respondents with 10 to 50 years of giving records (40%) accounted for more than half of the funding reported (51%). They are typically Community Foundations.

20%

Foundational Phases

About one in 6 respondents (20%) have been giving for 10 years or fewer. These organizations were more likely to prioritize Racial Equity and Justice than other groups.

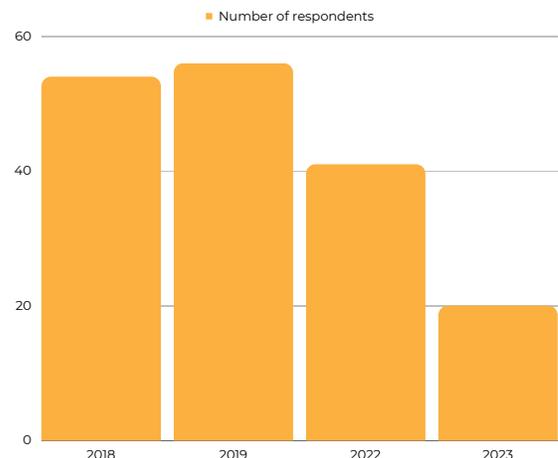
40%

Long term Committed

Organizations with more than 50 years of giving accounted for 25% of the funding reported in this survey. They were typically Corporate, Family, or Independent Foundations and were more likely to give via "General Operating Support" than their counterparts.

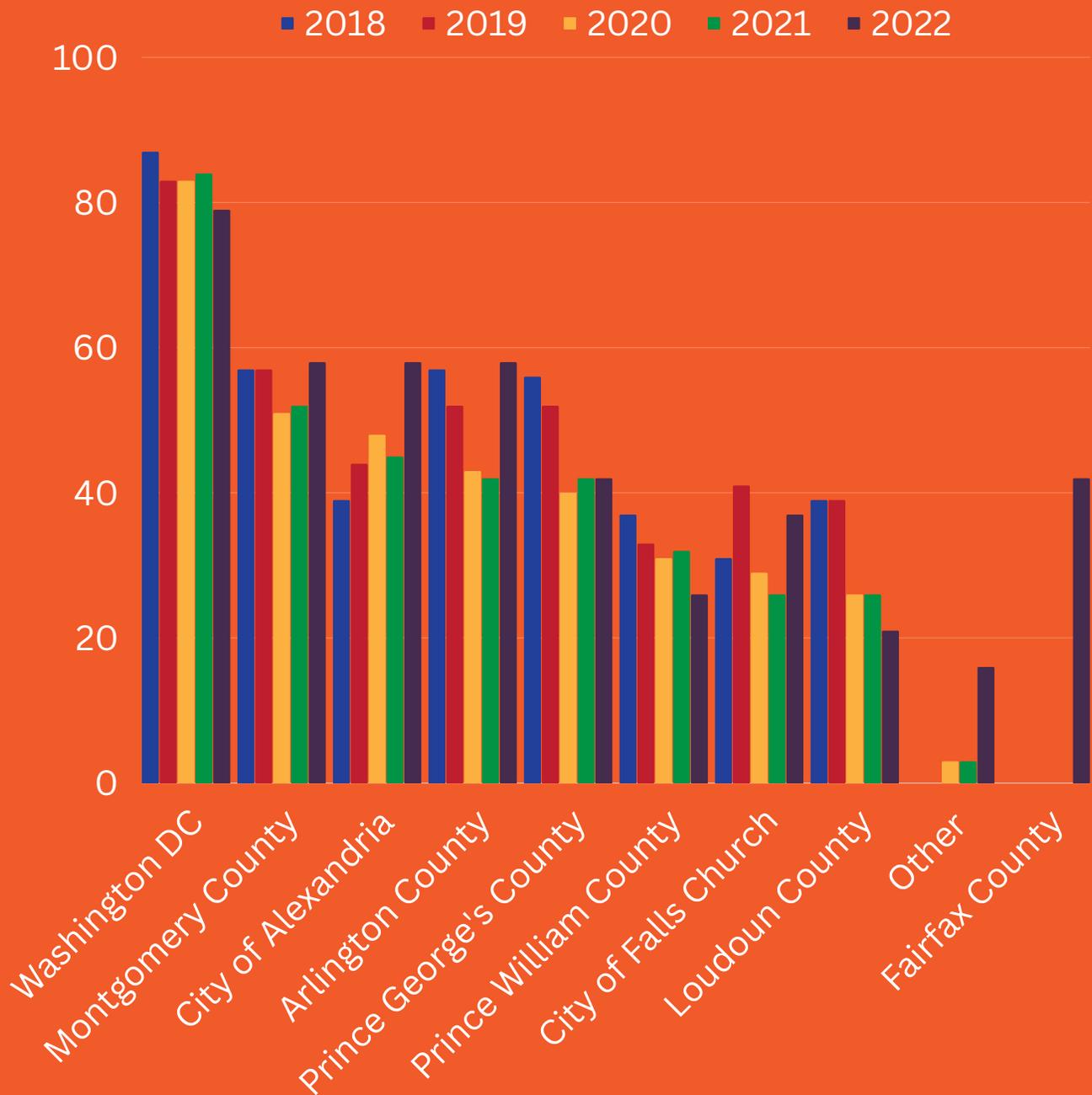
40%

While the insights gleaned within this report can give an understanding to our partners, we transparently identify the limitation of our analysis. We are not intending to minimize or over generalize our partners. Our participation rate for this survey was 51% lower than the prior year and consequently, our ability to speak to the dynamics of our partners is limited.



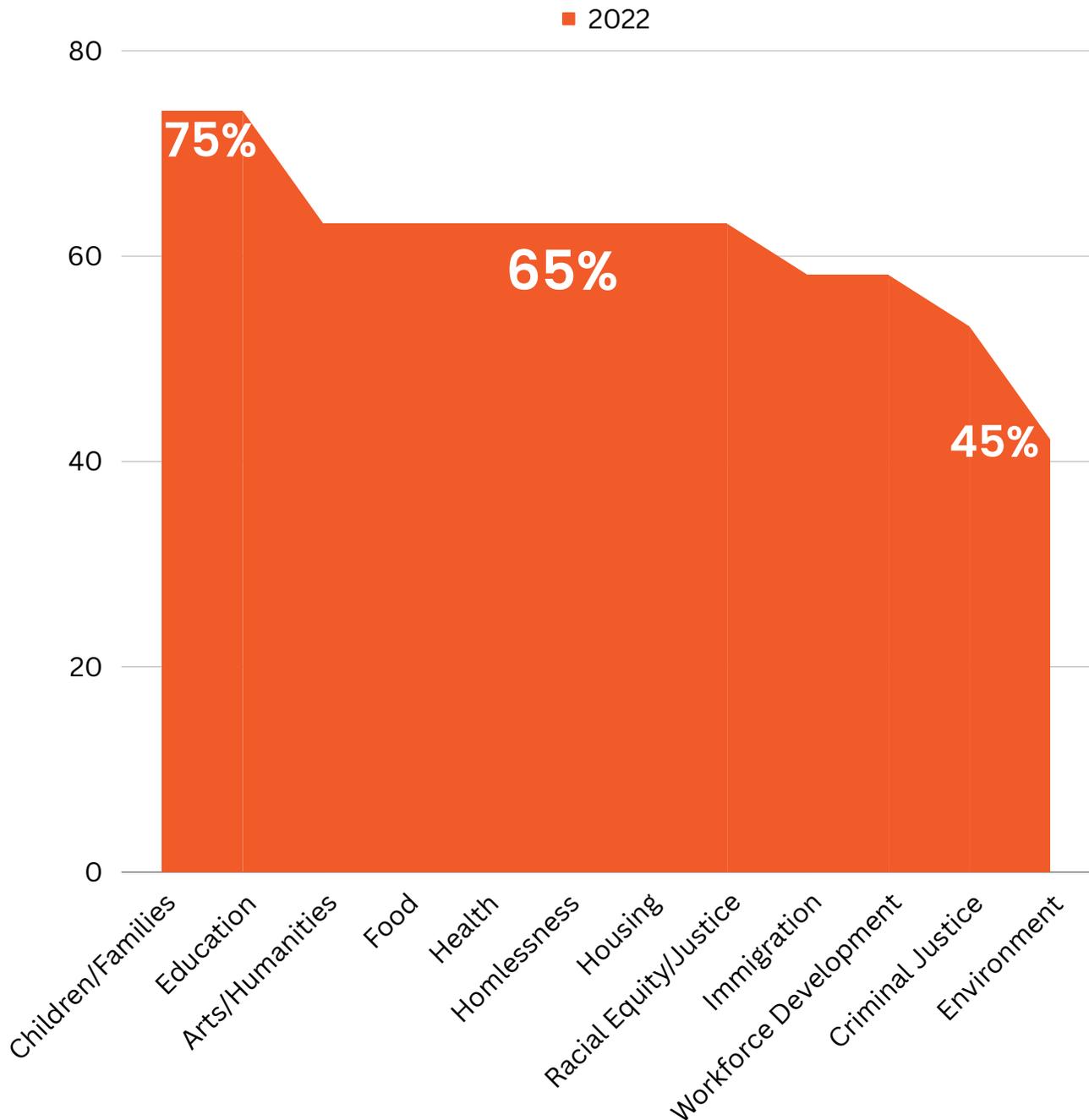
Where Our Respondents Give

When asked where their funding goes, our partners have shown an enormous commitment to the Greater Washington region with consistent year-to-year engagement in the respective counties and District of Columbia. Fairfax county had previously unintentionally been withheld from previous data collection but has considerable funding with 42% of respondents giving to the county in 2022.

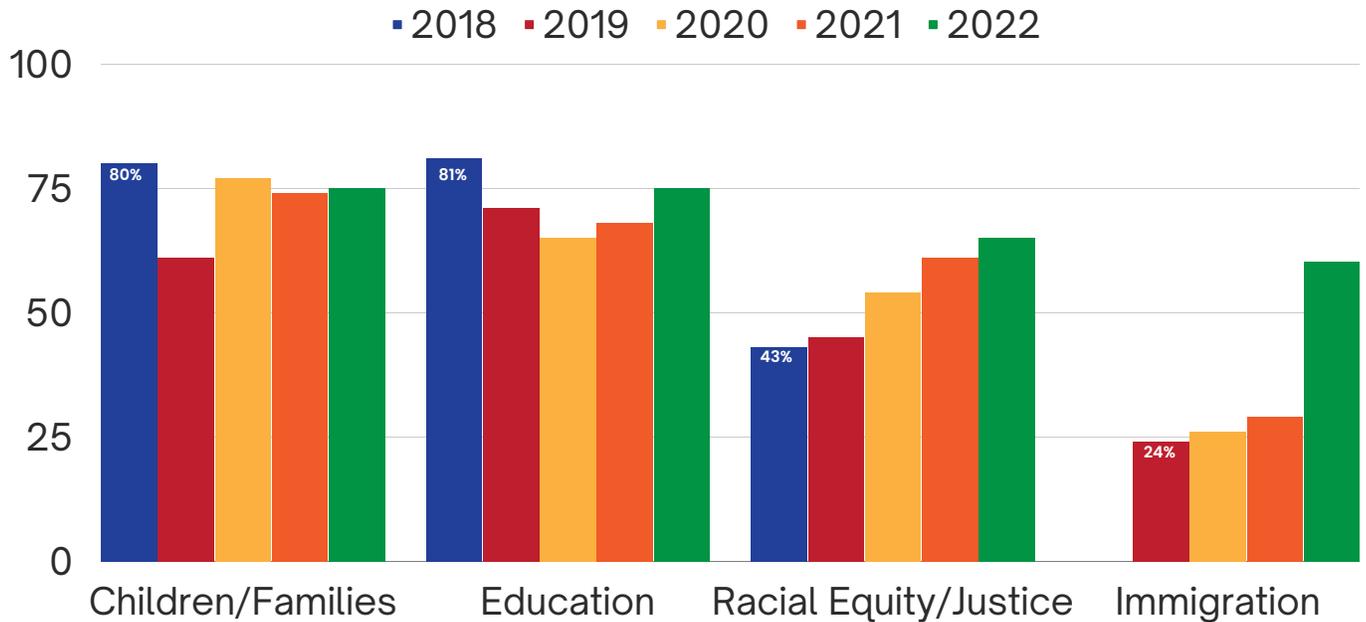


What Our Respondents Give To

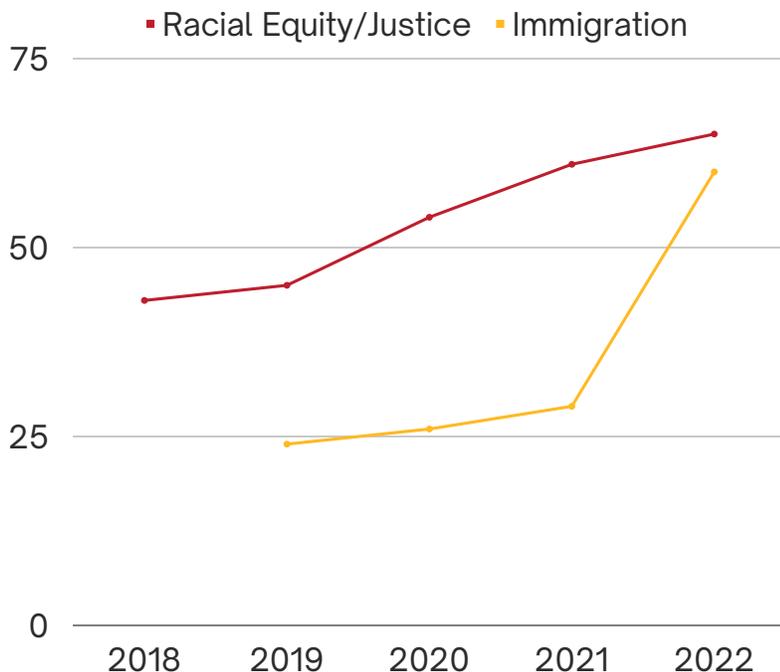
In 2022, most respondents (75%) gave to causes related around Children/Families and Education with Racial Equity/Justice, Arts/Humanities, Food, Housing, Health and Homelessness all receiving supports from 65% of respondents. Other areas of interest were Workforce Development (60%), Immigration (60%), Criminal Justice (55%) and the Environment (45%)



Priority Changes Over Time



While **Children/Families** and **Education** have both remained high interest areas for our respondents, the last 5 years have seen a large growth in interest in **Racial Equity/Justice** (a 51% increase since 2018) and **Immigration** (150% increase since the category was introduced in 2019 reporting).



Racial Equity / Justice
65% of respondents in 2023 listed Racial Equity / Justice as a priority area. This has seen consistent year over year interest amongst respondents

Immigration
60% of respondents in 2023 identified Immigration as a priority area. This area has grown exponentially in the last year.

Our Commitment to Racial Equity and Justice

In 2018, Philanthropy DMV's Board of Directors voted to elevate the pursuit of racial equity to an ongoing organizational commitment. Like many in our community and across the country, philanthropy has been on a journey to understand the depth, breadth, and impact of structural racism and implicit bias. That journey has made clear to us the urgency with which the philanthropic sector must leverage all of its resources to dismantle structural racism, examine implicit biases within the sector, and commit to creating a racially equitable and just society. We believe that it is the role of Philanthropy DMV to encourage and enable members that are also committed to this work. To have this level of commitment, We have worked to embed racial equity into all that we do as an organization, both internally and externally.

In 2021, Philanthropy DMV launched a new strategic framework naming racial justice as our north star. To that end, our updated vision is:

We believe that a racially just and equitable region must be the vision for all of philanthropy – across all funding priorities, geographic scopes, and types and sizes of giving vehicles.

Philanthropy DMV is a place for us all.... for all of us committed to a racially just and equitable Greater Washington region.

Philanthropy DMV organizes, equips, invests in, and activates its members, partners, communities, and other stakeholders for a more racially just and equitable Greater Washington region.

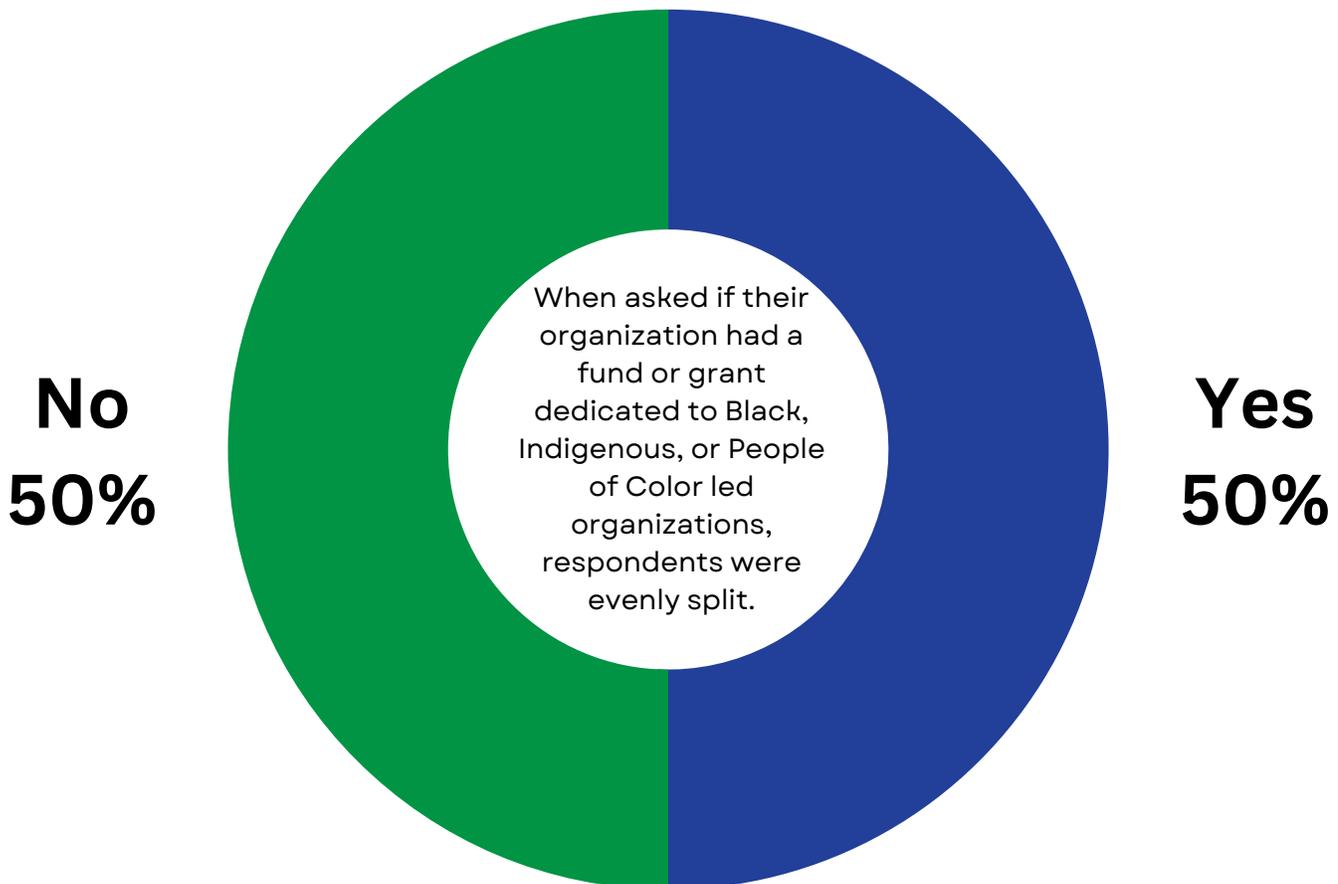
Racial Equity and Justice

A considerable amount of respondents have the terms Racial Equity or Racial Justice named in mission statements or strategies.

Racial Equity is named in Mission Statements or Strategy



Racial Justice is named in Mission Statements or Strategy



Most organizations are actively seeking educational opportunities and trainings around Racial Equity and some are evaluating their grantmaking strategies as well.



Discussed the differences between Racial Equity and Racial Justice grantmaking strategies



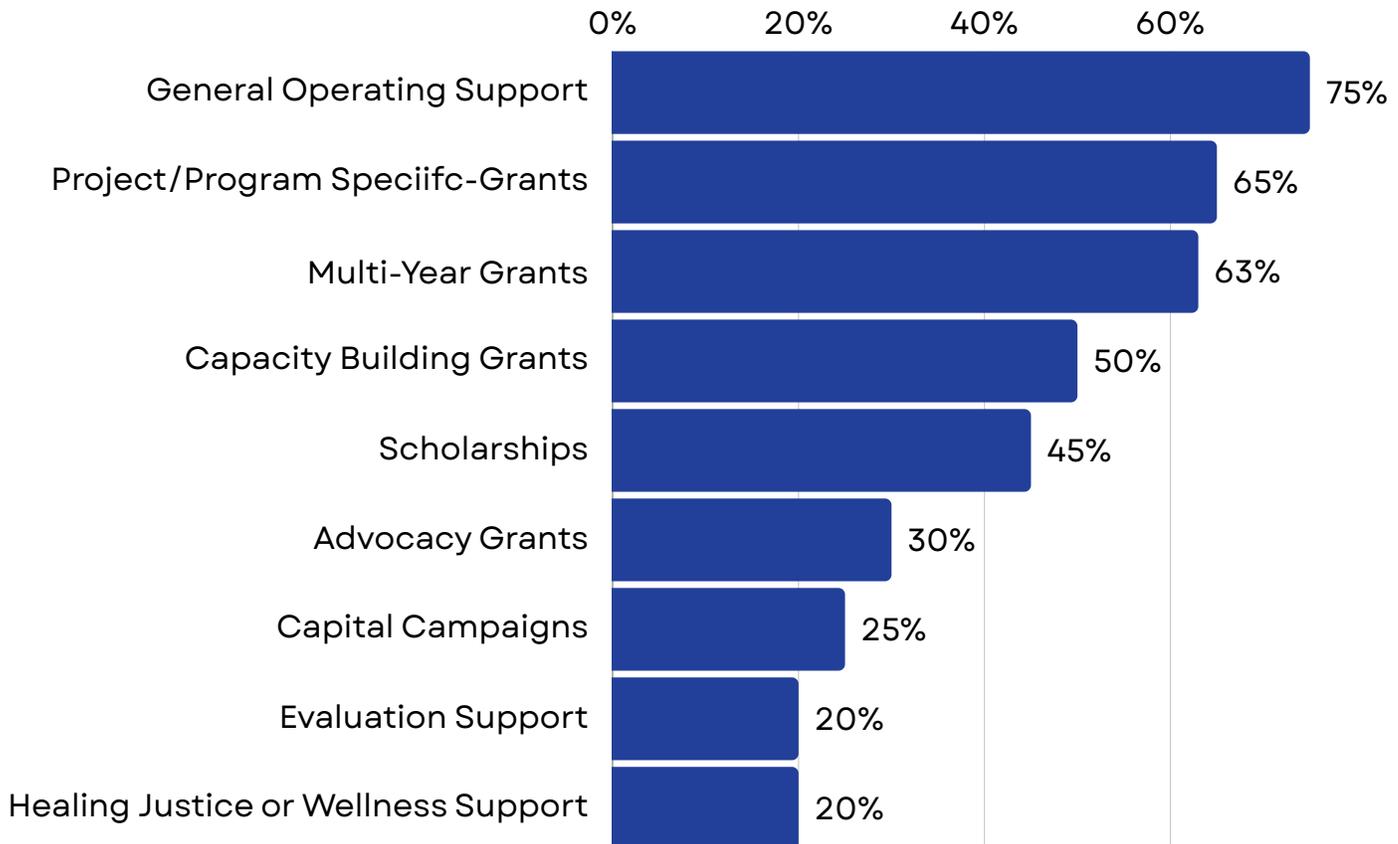
Completed training around Racial Equity

Racial Equity and Justice Practices

Respondents noted ways they have updated their processes to help minimize inequity in their grant making. Throughout the years, those practices have been applied with varying degrees of consistency but providing feedback to organizations after grant decisions were made has been the most utilized practice. Other strategies used include increasing giving beyond 5% (20%), conducting participatory grantmaking (20%), and funding cash transfers or guaranteed income (5%).

Ways our respondents are addressing racial equity in their grant-making practices	2021	2022	2023
Provided feedback to organizations after grant decisions were made	67%	75%	60%
Reduced the burden in grant application processes	63%	58%	50%
Reduced the burden of reporting requirements	58%	58%	50%
Supported collaborations	67%	71%	45%
Developed shared language around racial equity	25%	32%	30%
Developed shared language around racial justice	20%	25%	25%

How Our Respondents Give



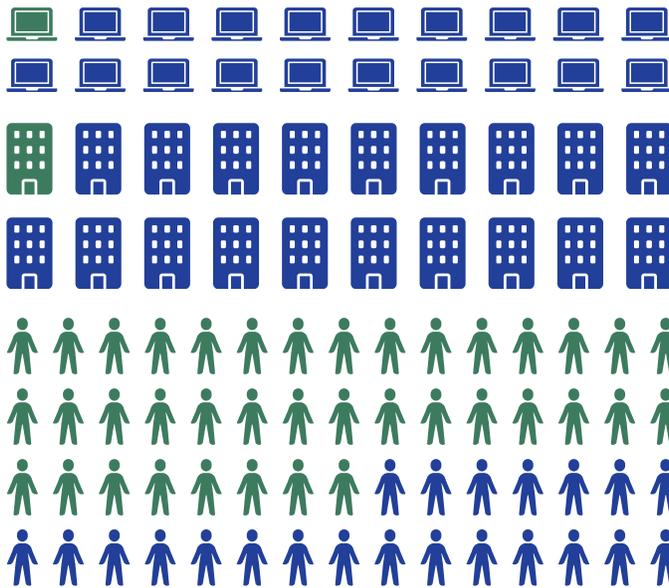
In 2022, the largest majority of respondents noted supporting Direct Services (70%). However, most respondents have diverse strategies that include supporting multiple types of organizations.

More than half (55%) noted their grantmaking supported advocacy and civic engagement, respectively. While 45% focused their supports on organizing efforts.

“
[Our Organization] is funding work that supports sustainable salaries, based on the local self-sufficiency standards.
”

Responding to Covid

Covid changed the way many respondents gave and worked. 37% responded they gave grants specific to Covid-19 in 2022 with 25% having given more than the prior year. This equated to more than \$2,209,400 in Covid-19 related grantmaking.



About 10% of respondents are split between completely remote or completely returned to the office.

The remainder of the respondents work a hybrid where employees set their work days. Most (25%) work within the office 3 days per week.

In addition to changing work patterns, 25% of respondents re-evaluated grantmaking strategies, 20% re-evaluated grantmaking priorities and 20% increased grant budgets.

Thinking Ahead

When asked about their overall investment strategy, many organizations are still in the early phases of shifting resources but are planning to be more intentional in their giving.

“

Our Organization is shifting our endowment to be values aligned over the long term. At this time, we are focused on adding in values alignment and impact investing with our new investments.

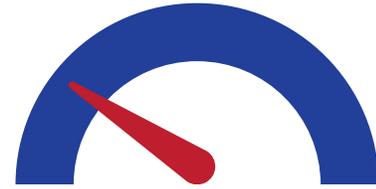
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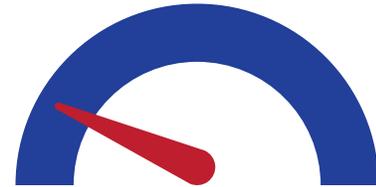
This survey has caused me to plan to review our grant/loan application language to more intentionally describe how we evaluate investment impact in terms of equity.

”

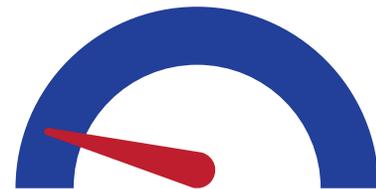
*IMPACT INVESTMENTS ARE DEFINED AS INVESTMENTS MADE INTO COMPANIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND FUNDS WITH THE INTENTION TO GENERATE SOCIAL OR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ALONGSIDE A FINANCIAL RETURN.



21% have taken on an impact investing strategy



16% have updated investment policy to make more equitable investments



11% have shifted investments to remove funds from areas contradicting their organization's strategy

Take Aways

Our Respondents' participation in the survey has been immensely appreciated, providing invaluable insights that illuminate the dynamic nature of philanthropy. The collective engagement and commitment have been pivotal in uncovering diverse strategies and urgent needs within the philanthropic landscape. Moving forward, there's a sense of optimism and hope and shared dedication to instigating positive change, embracing diverse perspectives, and addressing pressing societal needs. Together, there's a palpable sense of resilience and purpose, steering towards a future where philanthropy is more equitable and impactful.



Giving Strategies and Organizational Support

While general operating support is still the predominant giving strategy, a great deal of funders are still giving through program and project restricted grants. As funders explore what types of organizations they support (e.g., direct service, organizing, etc.), they should also be strategizing about what support is most needed by these organizations to support operations, infrastructure, and staffing.



Continuing to Embrace Racial Equity and Justice

While these numbers show a dedicated effort to embed racial equity and justice into the philanthropic landscape, it should be noted that there's a stark difference in internal training versus external implementation. As we build our knowledge, we should consider the ways in which we shift our work to reflect this analysis. Also, funders should consider what justice-aligned giving strategies are most impactful for grantee partners, especially as they continue to underscore the need to support racial equity and racial justice initiatives in our communities.



Avoid Backsliding

We are in a critical era of philanthropy where a dedication to racial equity and justice remain essential. With continued attacks on democracy, knowledge sharing, and truth telling, a desire for freedom and liberation will require us to dig deep and continue to support this work in meaningful ways.