

A photograph of three diverse women smiling. The woman on the left has dark curly hair and is wearing a yellow shirt under a denim jacket. The woman in the middle has short hair and is wearing a black and white striped shirt. The woman on the right is wearing a maroon hijab and a green jacket. The background features a large lime green abstract shape on the left and a pattern of smaller lime green dots on the right.

# Washington Area Women's Foundation

**2020 Community  
Investment Report**



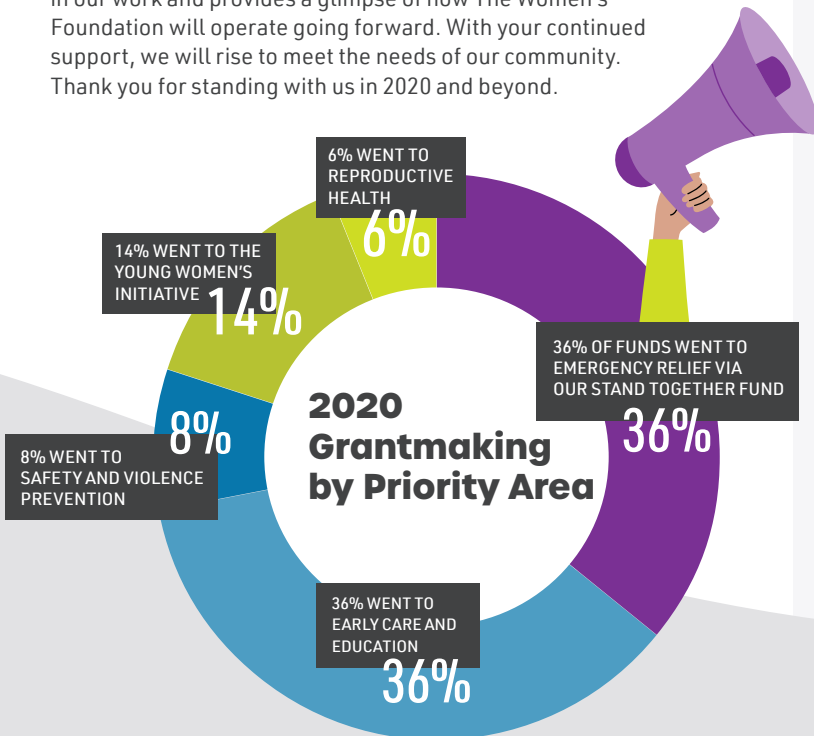
WASHINGTON AREA  
**WOMEN'S**  
FOUNDATION

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# Washington Area Women's Foundation is evolving.

In 2020, we moved money into community more quickly, reduced barriers and burdens in our investment processes, and provided greater flexibility and trust to our partners.

We are proud to share this overview of the community investments we made in calendar year 2020, which reflect our ongoing evolution. This report highlights bright spots in our work and provides a glimpse of how The Women's Foundation will operate going forward. With your continued support, we will rise to meet the needs of our community. Thank you for standing with us in 2020 and beyond.



## Stand Together Fund

We launched the Stand Together Fund in 2020 in response to the disproportionate impact on women and girls of color of the converging public health and economic crises. With your support, we invested in organizations providing culturally specific support to survivors of sexual and domestic violence and worked with community partners to distribute cash assistance to care workers. In the Washington, DC region, each of these populations are more likely to be women of color and/or immigrant women.

**63%**

of Stand Together Fund investments went to organizations supporting survivors.

**37%**

of Stand Together Fund investments went directly to care workers in need.

## Mission

We are a community-supported foundation that invests in the power of women and girls of color in the Washington, DC region.

## What We Do

Women and girls of color make change happen.

While too often unsung, the work of women and girls of color have advanced human rights and gender, racial and economic justice in our communities for decades. Our theory of change is that by increasing resources to, and recognizing the leadership of, women and girls of color, they will ignite needed change.

### We put our theory into action by:

Making grants to organizations that are actively pursuing gender, racial and economic justice and awarding women and girls of color and gender expansive people of color directly; and

Centering the voices and lived experiences of women and girls of color and gender expansive people of color to influence policymakers and the local philanthropic sector to advance gender, racial and economic justice.

Since our founding in 1998, we have awarded close to

**\$15 MILLION**

in grants to more than 205 local community-based organizations and individuals.

With your help, in 2020 we awarded

**\$1,025,550**

to 44 community-based organizations and individuals across the Washington, DC region.

These investments have the potential to benefit:

**3,000**

early childhood educators and 40,000 families with young children throughout the region

**3,500**

survivors of sexual or domestic violence throughout the region

**5,000**

Six young women of color recipients of **Rock Star Fund** awards and more than

young women and gender expansive youth of color in DC



**Our investments open doors to opportunity for both individuals and organizations. In 2020,**

**72%**

went to groups with women or gender expansive people of color at the helm.

**44%**

went to groups with operating budgets of \$1M or less.

**18%**

of grants were direct cash assistance or cash awards to women, young women and/or gender-expansive youth of color.

**73%**

of grants awarded were for general operating dollars.

**26%**

of grants went to groups with one or no full-time staff.



I think, on a just human level, The Women's Foundation is great at connecting with Grantee Partners. It's you telling us "Hey, how are you doing? Let's check-in, what are you needing?" that I really appreciate. I think there is a humanity piece you do so so well. Because there is flexibility from grants reports and all of that from other funders, but The Women's Foundation is so good at truly engaging with myself and my team as people.

– Grantee Partner

**We advocate alongside community partners to amplify their message and policy agenda.**

**In 2020, we:**

- represented the interests of women and girls in our community on more than 10 advocacy coalitions and philanthropic collaboratives.
- supported our partners in influencing more than 12 local and state policies that benefit women, girls and their families.



I had a lot of help and guidance, as a first-time grant applicant and a bilingual grant applicant. I had a lot of insecurity on writing the narrative and Washington Area Women's Foundation helped me a lot.

– Grantee Partner

**Examples of advocacy coalitions**

- DC Girls Coalition
- Under3DC
- Montgomery Moving Forward's Early Childhood Education Workforce Advocacy Coalition

**Philanthropic collaborative examples**

- Early Care and Education Funders Collaborative
- Resourcing Radical Justice

**Policy changes include**

**\$6.4 MILLION**

in emergency grants to child care development centers in DC and an increase in per-pupil allocation for Virginia state-funded preschools.

Most days I am without work as families are afraid to drop off their children at our day care. I am no longer able to send money to my mother in Guatemala as I have been barely meeting rent. This makes it difficult for my mother, as Guatemala has also been heavily impacted by the pandemic. As the head of the household, I am barely able to afford rent and basic utilities.

– Direct cash assistance recipient



# Expenses as a Portion of Our Budget

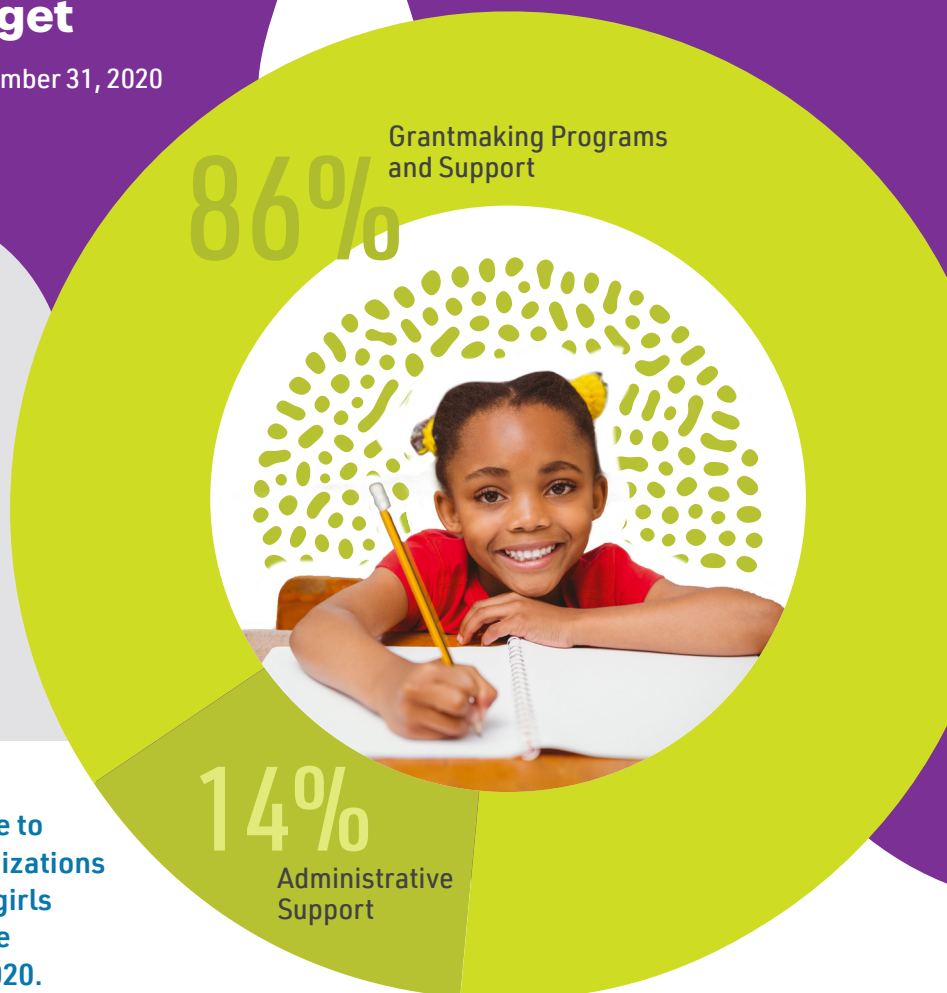
January 1–December 31, 2020



Furthermore, the pandemic has affected me emotionally, bringing me much anxiety in how I will earn money to pay the bills and support my family. I cannot seem to find employment. Although businesses are trying to get up and running, for the moment there is no work. Sometimes I only work once a week and must take public transportation because no one will take me. They are afraid of driving me to work, as they are afraid of contracting the virus. When buses are full, I cannot get to work on time.

– Direct cash assistance recipient

**The Women's Foundation has been fortunate to work with over 205 community-based organizations working to improve the lives of women and girls across the Washington region. Below are the Grantee Partners we have worked with in 2020.**



10 youth of color Rock Star Awardees  
 ASHA for Women  
 Asian-Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project  
 Ayuda  
 Bright Beginnings  
 Briya Public Charter School (on behalf of Multicultural Spanish Speaking Provider Association)  
 Building Bridges Foundation  
 Community Advocates for Family and Youth  
 DC Association for the Education

of Young Children  
 DC Family Child Care Association  
 DC Fiscal Policy Institute  
 DC Girls Coalition  
 DC Primary Care Association  
 DC Rape Crisis Center  
 DEAF Dawn  
 District Alliance for Safe Housing  
 Home Care Partners  
 House of Ruth  
 Ikram Foundation  
 Infant Toddler Family Day Care  
 LIFT-DC  
 Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children

Maryland State Family Child Care Association  
 Nonprofit Montgomery  
 Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children  
 Prince George's Child Resource Center  
 Rights4Girls  
 Silence Kills  
 SPACES In Action  
 Tahirih Justice Center  
 The Safe Sisters Circle  
 Virginia Anti-Violence Project  
 Voices for Virginia's Children  
 Wonders Early Learning and Extended Day (on behalf of Equity in Early Learning Initiative)

**Learn more about Washington Area Women's Foundation and find the full list of our Grantee Partners on our website!**

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