

A Data Brief on Organizations Serving  
**ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER  
WOMEN AND GIRLS**

in the United States

**POCKET  
CHANGE**

How Women and Girls of  
Color Do More with Less

Of the \$356 million from foundations available for women and girls of color (WGO) in 2017<sup>1</sup>, less than \$3 million, about **0.8%**, was specified as benefitting Asian and Pacific Island (API) women and girls. The median size of grants benefitting API women and girls was \$10,940 compared to a median of \$35,000 for all foundation grants reported to Candid in 2017.<sup>2</sup>

A 2019 survey<sup>3</sup> about the work and funding of organizations based in the United States and its territories found that organizations focused on API<sup>4</sup> women and girls made up 9.0% of respondents. This data brief is intended to highlight the work and funding situation for these organizations, primarily to help them raise funds to support their work but also to inform interested donors.

## WHO ARE ORGANIZATIONS BY AND FOR API WOMEN AND GIRLS?

Organizations that work primarily with API women and girls responded from 33 U.S. states and the District of Columbia

About half of API organizations are inclusive of gender nonconforming people (49.4%) and trans women (46.0%) in their work

More than half (59.8%) work only or mostly with API girls; only 1.1% work with API women without including girls in their work

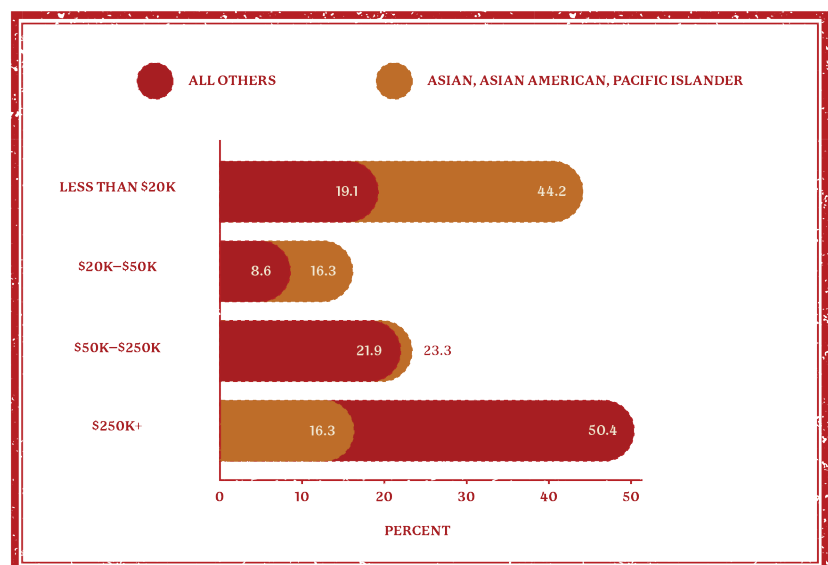
**64.7% of API organizations are led by WGO**

**COMMON TOPICS INCLUDE:** reproductive justice (64.4%), economic justice (63.2%) and criminal justice (63.2%)

Common strategies include: service delivery (71.3%), community organizing or base building (57.5%) and voter registration (47.1%)

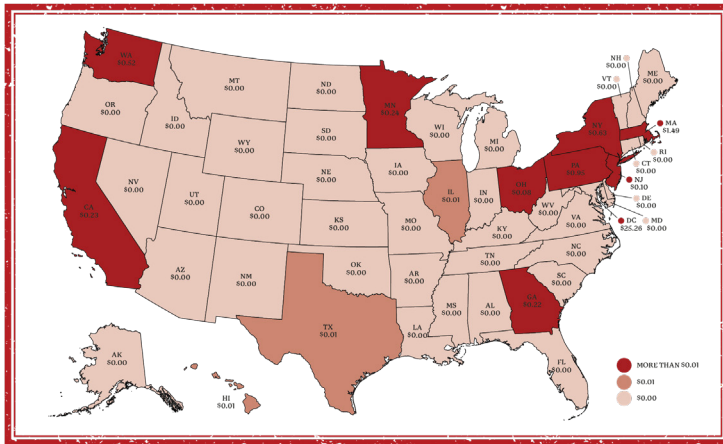
Organizations that work primarily with API women and girls use an average of 2.5 strategies

Three-fifths (60.5%) of organizations that focus primarily on API women and girls have a budget of less than \$50,000, and nearly half (44.2%) have an annual budget of less than \$20,000. Such small budgets make it difficult to employ paid staff and to maintain programming.



REVENUE FOR API WGO ORGANIZATIONS, 2018

## WHAT IS THEIR FUNDING SITUATION?



FOUNDATION FUNDING PER API WGOC, 2017

Funding for organizations that focus on API women and girls is unevenly distributed. Although organizations that focus primarily on API women and girls responded to the survey from 33 states, 38 states reported no foundation grants dedicated to organizations like these. A number of states in the Mountain West, Midwest and South reported no funding per woman or girl of color for organizations that focus on API women and girls.

Only 9.3% receive foundation funding

88.4% receive government funding on some level (state, local or national)

Low levels of foundation funding can make it difficult for organizations to do political work, such as community organizing, base building and voter registration

Organizations focused on API women and girls experience barriers to foundation funding, including identifying opportunities relevant to the populations or groups they serve (40.2%), lack of funding opportunities that include the types of work they do (34.9%) and encountering unresponsive funders when they reach out to them (33.7%).

## WHAT IS NEEDED TO EXPAND SUPPORT?

### NAME THE DISPARITY.

Organizations led by API women and girls experience all funding barriers more acutely than other organizations that took the survey. Many have small annual budgets, do not have foundation funding and may be located in states with no funding for their demographic.

### TRACK FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES.

Foundations should identify aspects of the work of API women and girls that fit

into other funding strategies, including work that is:

- ◇ Intergenerational. More than half of organizations focused on API women and girls work only or mostly with API girls
- ◇ Inclusive of gender nonconforming people
- ◇ Intentional about prioritizing service provision, mutual aid, community organizing or base building, or voter registration

- ◇ Strategic. Centering reproductive, economic and criminal justice

### INCREASE ACCESS.

Foundations can dismantle funding barriers for organizations working with API women and girls by publicly naming an interest in supporting them and the multiple strategies they use in their work and being more responsive to groups that do apply for funding.

1 Source: Candid, 2019. Data provided through an authorization memo between Strength in Numbers Consulting Group, Inc. and Candid. Data include grants awarded or authorized by U.S.-based independent, community, corporate, operating foundations, and grant-making public charities in 2017 for giving in the United States and territories and include search codes “women and girls and any ethnic/racial minority”. See [https:// taxonomy.candid.org/ populations](https://taxonomy.candid.org/populations) for further information. The data in this report are based on available

data through the Candid database and are not comprehensive of all grants awarded by all U.S. foundations.

2 Candid, April 2020. Key Facts on U.S. Nonprofits and Foundations. Available at: <https://www.issuelab.org/resources/36381/36381.pdf>, accessed May 20, 2020.

3 The survey conducted by Strength in Numbers Consulting Group included 979 organizations that self-identified as by and for WGOC in the United States and its territories.

4 Grants were included here if they had any search terms related to Asian, Asian American or Pacific Islander.

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