

Of the \$356 million from foundations available for women and girls of color (WGOC) in 2017¹, less than \$15 million, about **4.2%**, was specified as benefitting Black women and girls. The median size of grants benefitting Black women and girls was \$18,000 compared to a median of \$35,000 for all foundation grants reported to Candid in 2017.²

A 2019 survey³ about the work and funding of organizations based in the United States and its territories found that organizations focused on Black American⁴ women and girls made up 29.0% 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 BLACK WOMEN AND GIRLS?

Organizations that work primarily with Black women and girls responded from 45 U.S. states and the District of Columbia

Nearly two-thirds (67.0%) are inclusive of trans women in their work

More than half (54.7%) work only or mostly with Black girls; none worked only with Black women without including girls in their work

82.1% of organizations are led by women and girls, versus 70.2% of organizations that do not work primarily with Black women and girls

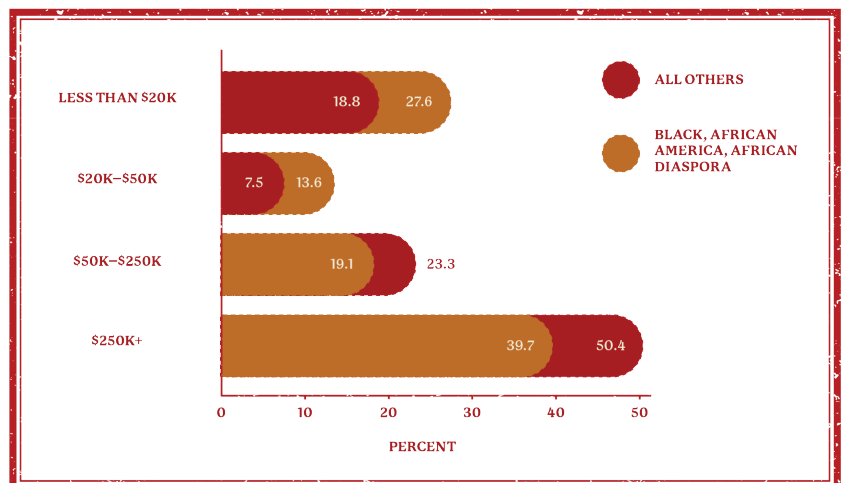
COMMON TOPICS INCLUDE: economic justice (79.1%), reproductive justice (78.7%) and criminal justice (72.7%)

COMMON STRATEGIES INCLUDE: service delivery (83.7%), community organizing or base building (79.4%) and voter registration (72.7%)

Organizations that work primarily with Black women and girls use an average of 3.5 strategies

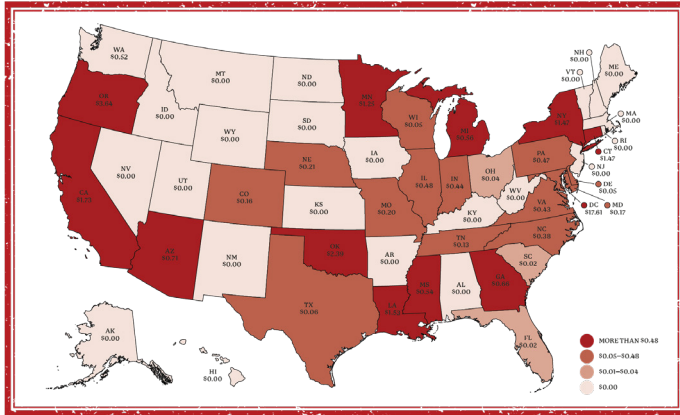
According to the Institute for Women's Policy Research, Black women had a higher voting rate when compared to all other racial groups of men and women in the last two presidential elections, yet they remain underrepresented at every level of federal and state political office.⁵

About two in five (41.2%) organizations that focus primarily on Black women and girls have a budget of less than \$50,000, and more than a quarter (27.6%) 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 BLACK WGOC ORGANIZATIONS, 2018

WHAT IS THEIR FUNDING SITUATION?



FOUNDATION FUNDING PER BLACK WGOC, 2017

Only 22.1% receive foundation funding

81.3% receive government funding on some level (state, local or national)

Funding for organizations that focus on Black women and girls is unevenly distributed. Although organizations that focus primarily on Black women and girls responded to the survey from 45 states, less than half (23) of states reported no foundation grants dedicated to organizations like these. A number of states in the Mountain West and Midwest reported no funding per Black woman or girl for organizations that focus on their demographic.

Organizations focused on Black women and girls experience higher levels of all barriers to foundation funding, including identifying funding and opportunities relevant to their communities and the work they do, encountering unresponsive funders and excessive administrative work for grant success. The barrier to funding opportunities not including the types of work they do—such as service delivery—is significantly higher for them than for other organizations by and for WGOC (56.6% versus 41.8%)

WHAT IS NEEDED TO EXPAND SUPPORT?

NAME THE DISPARITY.

Organizations led by Black 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 Black women and girls that

fit into other funding strategies, including work that is:

- ◇ Intergenerational. More than half of organizations focused on Black women and girls work only or mostly with Black girls
- ◇ Inclusive of trans women and girls
- ◇ Intentional about prioritizing the delivery of services and mutual aid and supports community organizing, base building, or voter registration

- ◇ Strategic. Centering reproductive, economic or criminal justice

INCREASE ACCESS.

Foundations can dismantle funding barriers for organizations working with Black women and girls by reducing excessive administrative obstacles 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> 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 Black, African American

or African Diaspora. 5 Institute for Women’s Policy Research, June 2017. The Status of Black Women in the United States. Available at: <https://iwpr.org/wpcontent/uploads/2020/08/The-Status-of-BlackWomen-6.26.17.pdf>, accessed June 30, 2020.

SUGGESTED CITATION Howe, E.E. and Frazer, S. (2020) Pocket Change: A Data Brief on Organizations Serving Asian and Pacific Islander Women and Girls in the United States. The Ms. Foundation for Women: New York, NY. forwomen.org. Access date.