

Of the \$356 million from foundations available for women and girls of color (WGOC) in 2017¹, about \$9 million, about **2.6%**, was specified as benefitting Indigenous women and girls. The median size of grants benefitting Indigenous women and girls was \$30,000 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 Indigenous⁴ women and girls made up 6.7% 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 INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS?

Organizations that work primarily with Indigenous women and girls responded from 31 U.S. states and the District of Columbia

More than half (52.3%) are inclusive of gender nonconforming people in their work

Indigenous organizations are most likely to work with both women and girls equally (41.5%), with a few working only with women (12.3%) or only with girls (6.2%)

62.5% of Indigenous organizations are led by women and girls, and about a quarter (26.2%) were founded by women and girls

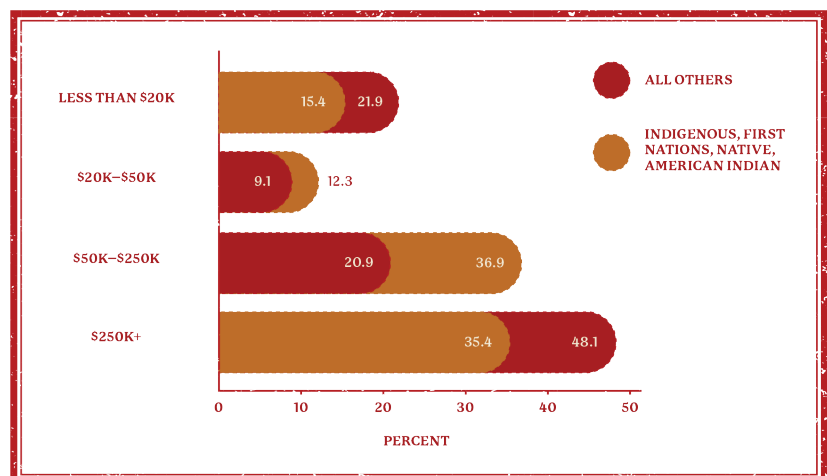
COMMON TOPICS INCLUDE: health equity (61.5%), education or employment in STEM (61.5%) and economic justice (60.0%)

COMMON STRATEGIES INCLUDE: service delivery (58.5%), community organizing or base building (53.8%) and voter registration (49.2%)

Organizations that work primarily with Indigenous women and girls use an average of 2.4 strategies

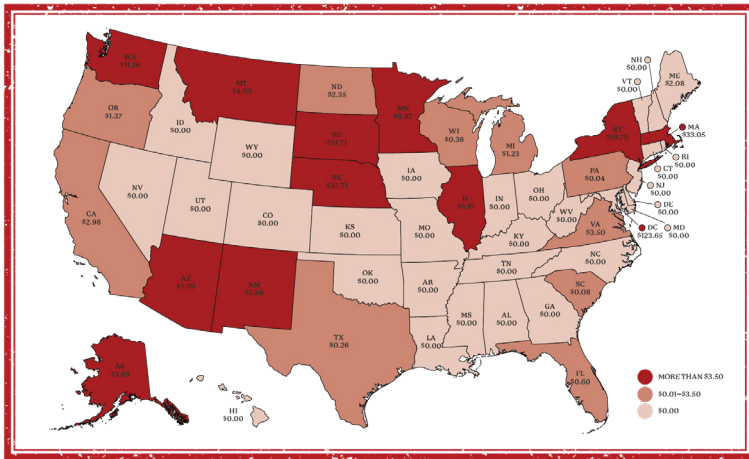
Despite being home to the second largest Indigenous population in the United States,⁵ Oklahoma is among the states where no foundation grants were reported for Indigenous women and girls.

More than a quarter (27.7%) of organizations that focus primarily on Indigenous women and girls have a budget of less than \$50,000, and more than one in seven (15.4%) 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 INDIGENOUS WGOC ORGANIZATIONS, 2018

WHAT IS THEIR FUNDING SITUATION?



FOUNDATION FUNDING PER INDIGENOUS WGOC, 2017

Only 16.9% receive foundation funding

90.8% receive government funding on some level (state, local or national)

Funding for organizations that focus on Indigenous women and girls is unevenly distributed. Although organizations that focus primarily on Indigenous women and girls responded to the survey from 31 states, 28 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 Indigenous women and girls.

Organizations focused on Indigenous women and girls experienced barriers to foundation funding, including identifying opportunities relevant to the populations or groups they serve (36.9%), challenges looking for funding opportunities (32.3%) and excessive administrative work for grant success (31.2%).

WHAT IS NEEDED TO EXPAND SUPPORT?

NAME THE DISPARITY.

Organizations led by Indigenous women and girls experience 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 Indigenous women and girls that fit into other funding strategies,

including work that is:

- ◇ Intergenerational. Organizations working with this demographic were most likely to work equally with women and girls of any age
- ◇ Supportive of feminist or women's work that includes gender non-conforming people
- ◇ Intentional about prioritizing the delivery of needed services, mutual aid, community organizing or base building, or voter registration
- ◇ Strategic. Centering health equity,

education or employment in STEM or economic justice

INCREASE ACCESS.

Foundations can dismantle funding barriers for organizations working with Indigenous women and girls by reducing excessive administrative barriers and strengthening their outreach to organizations working by and for Indigenous women and girls who identified needing more expertise to look 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 Indigenous, First

Nations, Native and/or American Indian.

5 National Congress of American Indians Policy Research Center, 2014. Indian Country Demographics. Available at: <http://www.ncai.org/about-tribes/demographics>, accessed June 30, 2020.

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