

Of the \$356 million from foundations available for women and girls of color (WGOC) in 2017<sup>1</sup>, \$81,000, about **0.02%**, was specified as benefitting Middle Eastern women and girls. The median size of grants benefitting Middle Eastern women and girls was \$8,500 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 Middle Eastern<sup>4</sup> women and girls made up 3.4% 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 MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN AND GIRLS?

Organizations that work primarily with Middle Eastern women and girls responded from 21 U.S. states and the District of Columbia

About half (51.5%) are inclusive of gender non-conforming people in their work

Middle Eastern organizations are most likely to work with both women and girls equally (63.6%), with none working only with women and very few working only with girls (3.0%)

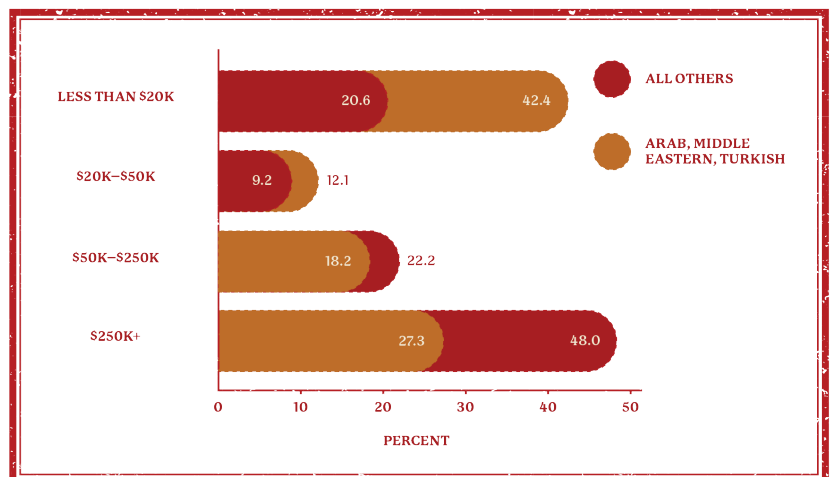
**53.1% of organizations were led by women and girls, and about three in ten (30.3%) were founded by women and girls**

**COMMON TOPICS INCLUDE:** health equity (63.6%), reproductive justice (57.6%) and criminal justice (54.5%)

**COMMON STRATEGIES INCLUDE:** community organizing or base building (36.4%), service delivery (30.3%) and policy advocacy (24.2%)

Organizations that work primarily with Middle Eastern women and girls use an average of 1.1 strategies

More than half (54.5%) of organizations that focus primarily on Middle Eastern women and girls have a budget of less than \$50,000, and more than two in five (42.4%) 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 MIDDLE EASTERN WGOC ORGANIZATIONS, 2018

## WHAT IS THEIR FUNDING SITUATION?

---

Only 33.3% receive foundation funding

All organizations that took the survey have some form of government funding (state, local or national), most of which is local or municipal government funding

Organizations focused on Middle Eastern women and girls experience barriers to foundation funding, including challenges looking for funding opportunities (36.4%), excessive administrative work for grant success (34.4%) and a lack of opportunities relevant to the types of work they do (27.3%).

Funding for organizations that focus on Middle Eastern women and girls is unevenly distributed. Although organizations that focus primarily on Middle Eastern women and girls responded to the survey from 21 states, organizations in only 5 states (i.e., Illinois, Maryland, New Mexico, New York, Virginia) and the District of Columbia received foundation grants.

## WHAT IS NEEDED TO EXPAND SUPPORT?

---

### NAME THE DISPARITY.

Organizations led by Middle Eastern women and girls have small annual budgets and almost none reported foundation funding for their demographic.

### TRACK FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES.

Foundations should identify aspects of the work of Middle Eastern women and girls that fit into other funding strategies, including work that is:

- ◊ Intergenerational. Organizations working with Middle Eastern

women and girls were most likely to work equally between generations

- ◊ Supportive of feminist or women's work that includes gender non-conforming people
- ◊ Intentional about prioritizing community organizing or base building, the delivery of needed services and mutual aid or policy advocacy
- ◊ Strategic. Centering reproductive, economic and criminal justice

### INCREASE ACCESS.

Foundations can dismantle funding barriers for organizations working with Middle Eastern women and girls by reducing excessive administrative obstacles and strengthening their outreach to organizations working by and for this demographic who identified needing more expertise to look for funding.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Grants were included here if they had any search terms related to Arab, Middle Eastern or Turkish.

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

---