

# Shared Philanthropic Data and Gaps Analysis: 2021 Report





## Letter of Gratitude

Greetings,

Six years ago, a small group of funders in Frederick County, Maryland, got together to talk about grantmaking: what grants management platforms we all used, and how we might leverage those platforms to simplify the application process for community organizations seeking funding. Somewhere in the midst of those conversations, someone asked the question: What if we could see all of our funding data pooled together, to see where there are gaps and overlaps? And then someone asked: What if we could overlay that on top of the Community Needs Assessment?

This report, the second of its kind, grew out of those questions, sparked by curious people asking what we might learn if we thought about our work collectively. Over several years, we got to know one another as individuals and as institutions, working through many (many) versions of data coding attempts before settling on the codebook used to draft our inaugural report on grants paid in 2020, with the help of Devereux Consulting, and that forms the basis for this report on grants paid in 2021.

Our hope is that sharing this information not only with each other as participating funders, but in this collective form with the larger community of Frederick County, will help us all see the many ways philanthropy supports our community and highlight ways we might better meet community needs. As our combined efforts continue into 2022 grantmaking and beyond, we are continuing to learn how we can improve our coding over time to better answer key questions about philanthropic dollars in Frederick County.

You'll see in the following pages an analysis that reflects the collaborative spirit and relational nature of social sector work in Frederick County. We hope you'll take time to read and engage with the data here and stay in the conversation with us as this project continues to evolve and we all work to support this incredible community we are fortunate enough to call home.

Sincerely,

*The Frederick Funders Group*

Prepared by Erik A. Devereux, Ph.D.,  
Devereux Consulting, Inc.,  
using grantmaking data provided by:



Loats  
Foundation,  
Inc.



William E Cross  
Foundation



## Executive Summary

Eleven philanthropies and other funders who support nonprofit organizations and community groups in Frederick County, Maryland, shared their 2021 grantmaking data using a common coding system. This report summarizes the combined 2021 grantmaking of these eleven funders with reference to several recent needs assessments conducted in the County. Note that this data only includes grants made by one program within Frederick County Government and that most of the County's spending on nonprofits is not included in the main body of this report but is described in a separate appendix.

### The key findings are as follows:

- Overall, the funders disbursed nearly \$13.3 million in 2021, about \$500,000 less than in 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 crisis.
- About 84% of this spending was on ongoing projects and 16% was for new initiatives.
- The 2021 grantmaking indicated a preference among the funders to support larger, more established nonprofit organizations as measured in terms of staff size, budget, and organizational age, and to fund interventions at the individual and organizational intervention scales.
- About 53% of the grants supported direct programs/services through restricted funding, 35% supported unrestricted general operations, and 9% supported capacity building by nonprofits.
- The breakdown of grants by topics/issues receiving total funding above \$100,000 was as follows:

Total Grants		
Topic/Issue	Regular Grants	Percentage
Human Needs - All Categories	\$6,428,178	48.41%
Education - All Categories	\$2,953,875	22.24%
Arts and Culture	\$1,190,480	8.97%
Religion and Spirituality	\$929,119	7.00%
Personal Development Non-Athletic	\$597,995	4.50%
Public Services - All Categories	\$444,796	3.35%
Historic Preservation	\$397,648	2.99%
Community/Economic Development	\$112,239	0.85%

- Within the spending on programs and services for human needs in 2021, 48% supported palliative interventions, 36% supported restorative/curative interventions, and 9% specifically went to support preventative approaches. In 2020, just 4% went to support prevention.
- About 48% of all spending in 2021 went to support nonprofits and community groups engaged with issues of poverty in Frederick County.
- Between 1% and 19% of total grants went toward purposes targeted at specific demographics of interest including women, the LGBTQ+ community, persons with disabilities, military veterans and their families, and persons learning English as a second language.

Further analysis found some noteworthy gaps within this funding related to recent human needs assessments completed in Frederick County. For example, the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment encourages a focus on diabetes and its co-occurrence with obesity, yet much of the funding related to physical health is focused on cancer. The analysis also found that there remains a need to focus more attention on mental health, which remains among the foremost needs in the County.

## Introduction and Overview

This report is the second output of an initiative among philanthropies and other funders of nonprofits and community organizations in Frederick County, Maryland, to share grantmaking data for the purpose of identifying gaps in their collective funding priorities. The initiative began in 2018 and produced the first report based on grantmaking during calendar year 2020 which was publicly released on September 1, 2021. That first report included emergency grants made in 2020, notably the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. This report is based on grantmaking during calendar year 2021 when Frederick County began to emerge from the peak of the pandemic.

The analysis presented below uses the shared grantmaking data in the context of a series of reports on human needs and other needs in Frederick County. The primary report is the 2018 Human Needs Assessment conducted by The Community Foundation of Frederick County and the update to that needs assessment completed early in 2022:

- Supporting families with children of all socioeconomic backgrounds
- Preparing for a growing elderly population
- Responding to substance use disorder including opioids and alcohol.

The 2022 update to the Human Needs Assessment emphasized three additional needs that intersect strongly with the 2018 assessment:

- Mental health
- Affordable housing
- Diversity and disparities in human needs based on income, age, gender, race, ethnicity, and location.

The analysis also references the 2022 Frederick County Community Health Needs Assessment Report that identified the following three health improvement priorities:

- Trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)
- Diabetes and its co-occurrence with obesity
- Mental health.<sup>2</sup>

This analysis is the second ever portrait of the extent of private philanthropy and other public funding in Frederick County, and, as such, represents a continuing era in transparency in the relationships between the participating funders and nonprofits active in the County. In addition to the focus on human needs, the grantmaking data includes spending on a wide range of issues including arts and culture, historic preservation, and public facilities such as parks. The participating funders coded their grantmaking data to include background information about the grant recipients (mostly 501c3 nonprofits), the demographics of the populations served by the grants, and several dimensions within the purposes of the grants. This report presents analysis that takes advantage of all these factors to drill down into the key findings from the 2021 data. Where possible, the 2021 findings are compared with those from 2020, keeping in mind that grantmaking at the peak of the pandemic was significantly influenced by that crisis.

The report proceeds as follows. The next section describes the methodology used to code and combine grantmaking data from the participating funders and prepare the analysis. The third section of the report presents key findings from the analysis of the combined data with an emphasis on notable gaps evident in the 2021 data. The fourth and final section of the report concludes with some additional observations and identifies next steps in this initiative.

---

<sup>1</sup> Available online at <https://www.frederickcountygives.org/Impact-Initiatives/Human-Needs-Assessment-Report>.

<sup>2</sup> The full report is available online at <https://health.frederickcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7489/2022-Frederick-County-CHNA-final>.

## Methodology

The participating funders worked with Devereux Consulting from 2019 through 2021 to design and improve a common coding system to be applied across all their separate grantmaking activities. A detailed manual explaining the coding system is available upon request from the Ausherman Family Foundation.<sup>3</sup> Most of the funders have implemented the system in their grants management platforms while a few continue to code their grantmaking data separately. The system features three major blocks of codes:

- **Organizational information about grants recipients** such as founding year, staff size, and annual budget.
- **Demographic information about persons served by grants** such as age and connection to specific groups of concern such as persons living with disabilities, the LGBTQ+ community, persons experiencing poverty, and military veterans.
- **Aspects of the work performed under grants** such as the *topic/issue* at hand, *overall purpose* of the grant (e.g., programs/services, general operations, capacity building), *scale of the intervention* (e.g., individual, family, or group), and, in the case of support for programs/services the *type of intervention* (e.g., palliative, restorative/curative, preventative).

The participating funders applied these common codes to all the grant payments made in 2021. (Some of these payment installments were for multi-year grants awarded in prior years.) The resulting data contains multiple installments for the same grant if those installments were paid in 2021. For the first time in this initiative, the participating funders provided coded data for grant requests that they denied in 2021.

The participating funders also supplied detailed lists of organizations they had funded over the prior five years. Devereux Consulting combined these lists, removed duplicates, and used Candid/Guidestar to verify official organizational names tied to their tax ID numbers. This list made it possible to standardize organizational information across the 2021 grantmaking data provided by each funder and to prepare statistics about the group of nonprofits and other groups that received grant installments in 2021. There are nearly 2,000 separate organizations in this list.

Devereux Consulting received the coded grantmaking data from the participating funders, combined the separate datasets, resolved issues with the coding of specific grant installments and denied grants, and produced the final dataset upon which this report is based.

### Important Note About the 2021 Data

One grantmaking program within Frederick County Government – the Community Partnerships Grants – joined the data sharing initiative in 2018. The grantmaking data for the analysis reported here does not include any other funding that Frederick County Government provided to nonprofit organizations outside of the Community Partnership Grants in 2021. Frederick County Government provides considerable support for nonprofit organizations in the human services field through numerous contracts and grants. ***The scope of Frederick County Government's overall impact on nonprofits in the county is not reflected in the analysis provided by this report.*** Please see the Appendix to this report for a letter from Frederick County Government referencing \$14 million in other contracts and grants with nonprofit organizations in 2021. Of that \$14 million, just under \$940,000 from the Community Partnership Grants is included in this report. An approximate estimate of the total funding offered to nonprofit organizations active in Frederick County in 2021 is \$26 million including the amount of grants from eleven funders detailed in this report.

---

<sup>3</sup> Contact Leigh Adams, Executive Director, Ausherman Family Foundation at [ladams@ausherman.org](mailto:ladams@ausherman.org) to receive a copy of the coding manual.



# Analysis of 2021 Grantmaking in Frederick County, Maryland

## The Big Picture

The 2021 grantmaking data supplied by the participating funders included 1,327 separate grant installments paid on 1,135 separate grants and data on the denial of 201 grant applications. When considered in terms of dollars, about 56% of the denied grant requests came from organizations who had or were already receiving grants from participating funders, and 44% of denied grant requests came from organizations not already receiving any other grants from these funders. The following table summarizes the total funding provided through these installments and the amount of grant requests that were denied:

Total Paid Grant Installments in 2021:	\$13,278,949	Total Denied Requests 2021:	\$3,161,377
		Denied to NPOs Receiving Installments:	\$1,879,671
		Denied to NPOs Not Receiving Any Installments:	\$1,281,706

The total amount of nearly \$13.3 million in annual grantmaking in 2021 is nearly the same as reported for 2020, despite the reduction in emergency grantmaking amidst the COVID-19 emergency. To put the nearly \$13.3 million in 2021 grantmaking in larger perspective relative to human needs in Frederick County, consider that Frederick County Government’s annual budget is approximately \$600 million, of which about half is spent on the public school system. Some of the more pressing needs in the County such as affordable housing and treatment for behavioral health issues require interventions that greatly exceed the capacity of private philanthropy.

The \$13.3 million in grants went out to 318 separate nonprofits and community organizations. The list of all known nonprofits and other organizations that have received funding from these funders over the past five years contains about 2,000 names. The 318 organizations that received funding in 2021 represent 16% of the total list.

\$13m

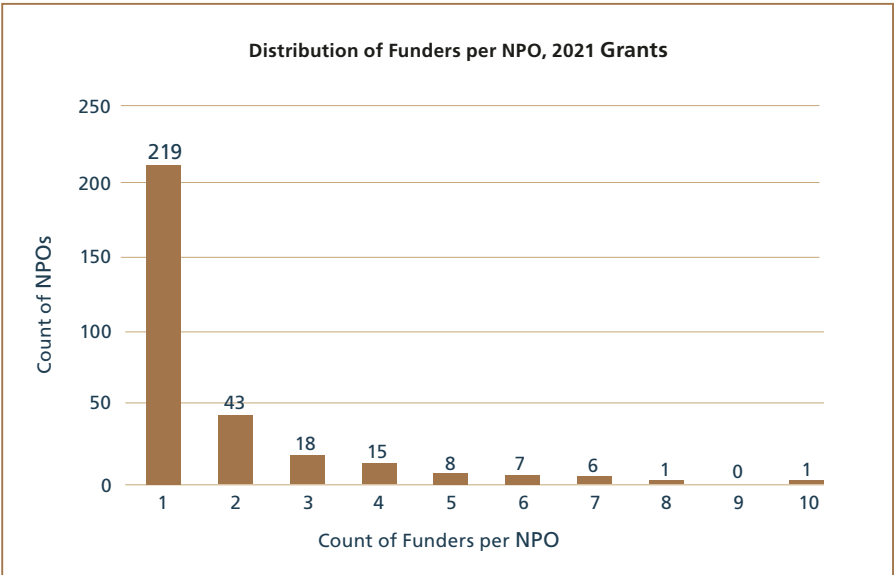
total grants

318

nonprofits and organizations

## Distribution of Support for Nonprofit Organizations

The 2021 grantmaking data allows for counting the number of funders supporting each nonprofit organization. The following chart presents the distribution of those counts across the 318 organizations that received grant installments.





This pattern shows that 219 (69%) of nonprofits received a grant installment from just one funder in 2021, and 15 out of the 318 organizations (5%) received grant installments from a majority of the eleven funders. Among those 15 organizations are those most connected to the needs identified by the assessments previously discussed; for example, the one organization supported by ten of the eleven funders focuses on mental health issues which are a priority across all the needs assessments. The funders may wish to explore whether the organizations receiving funding from a single source have other funding streams outside the County. If not, this raises concerns about their resilience in the face of future crises like the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Continuity of Funding

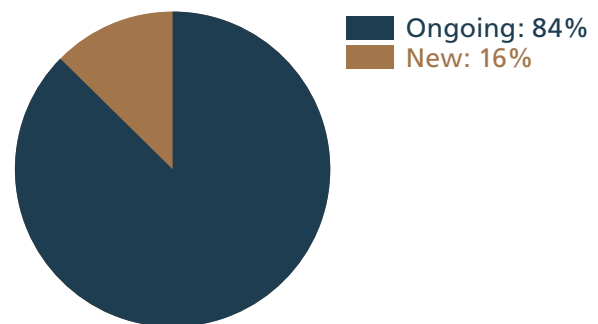
The coding system used for this project allowed the funders to indicate whether grants were funding programs with continuity over many years or funding new projects in 2021. The following table and pie chart break out the \$13.3 million in 2021 grants using this coding.

Project Continuity	Sum of Installments	Percent 2021	Percent 2020*
Ongoing Projects	\$11,219,580	84%	87%
New Projects	\$2,059,369	16%	13%
Grand Total	\$13,278,949	100%	100%

\*Provided for comparison. 2020 installment total was \$13,863,414.

This data indicates that the participating funders have focused their grantmaking predominately on ongoing projects rather than on new initiatives. Please note that this pattern in part may reflect the ongoing impact of COVID-19 which focused the attention of funders on sustaining programs deemed vital to helping Frederick County recover from the impacts of the pandemic.

### How Did Grants Support New Initiatives?

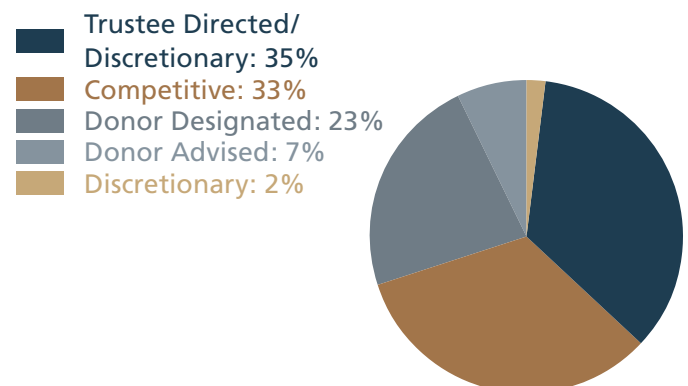


## Selection of Grant Recipients

The analysis indicates that about one-third (33%) of the paid installments in 2021 were determined by open, competitive application processes and two-thirds were determined by internal processes at the funders. Furthermore, the staff at the funders directly determined just 2% of all grant payments in 2021. Because the coding for selection method was changed for the 2021 data, it is not possible to present similar statistics from 2020.

Selection Method	Sum of Installments
Trustee Directed/Discretionary	\$4,707,625
Competitive	\$4,370,905
Donor Designated	\$3,074,154
Donor Advised	\$889,278
Discretionary	\$236,987
Grand Total	\$13,278,949

### How Were Grants Awarded?



## Funding by Purpose

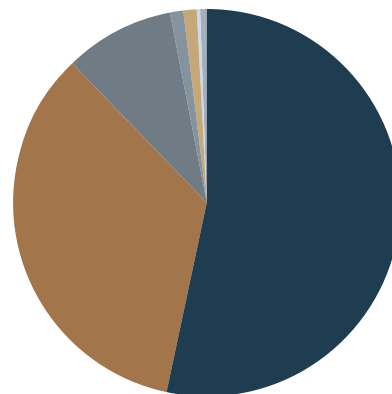
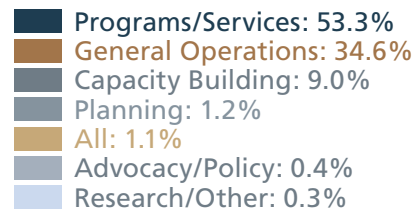
Grants can pay for many different purposes, but years of experience with nonprofit funding suggest a strong preference in philanthropy toward supporting specific programs and services through restricted grants. The following table and pie chart for the 2021 data show that this pattern is very evident among the participating funders. This table also is sorted from highest to lowest total amount and includes data on grant applications denied in 2021.

Total Grants					
Grant Purpose	Paid Installments 2021	Pct 2021	Pct 2020*	Denied Applications 2021	Pct Denied
Programs/Services	\$7,081,450	53.3%	51.7%	\$2,015,338	64%
General Operations	\$4,598,747	34.6%	29.2%	\$653,821	21%
Capacity Building	\$1,190,590	9.0%	16.2%	\$252,218	8%
Planning	\$163,918	1.2%	1.2%	\$240,000	8%
All	\$144,000	1.1%	0.6%	-	-
Advocacy/Policy	\$57,500	0.4%	0.4%	-	-
Research/Other	\$42,744	0.3%	0.7%	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$13,278,949</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$3,161,377</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Provided for comparison. 2020 installment total was \$13,863,414.

Frederick County is fortunate to have several funders willing to support nonprofit capacity building as a priority. Notable amidst an ongoing national conversation around the importance of flexible, unrestricted funding dollars, many funders in Frederick County are also willing to provide grants for general (unrestricted) operations. A noteworthy gap evident in the 2020 and 2021 data is support for advocacy, policymaking, and research. Given the substantial price tag associated with such issues as affordable housing and behavioral health/substance use, more advocacy may be required to move public sector funding in the direction needed to address these issues with spending commensurate with their costs.

## What Purposes Were Funded by Grants?



## Funding by Scale

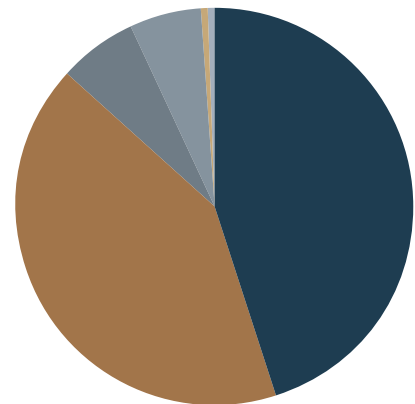
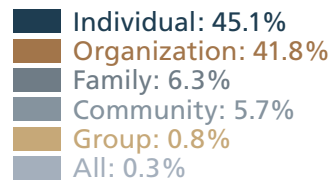
Scale pertains to the unit or level within society to which a grant's purpose is oriented. The following table and pie chart show that in the 2021 data the two largest amounts of spending were directed at the individual and organizational levels of scale.

Total Grants					
Scale	Paid Installments 2021	Pct 2021	Pct 2020*	Denied Applications 2021	Pct Denied
Individual	\$5,987,208	45.1%	42.3%	\$1,460,555	46%
Organization	\$5,554,227	41.8%	39.4%	\$1,118,590	35%
Family	\$835,667	6.3%	11.9%	\$171,740	5%
Community	\$756,286	5.7%	4.6%	\$147,785	5%
Group	\$100,061	0.8%	0.9%	\$117,494	4%
All	\$42,500	0.3%	0.9%	-	0%
Other/Unknown	\$3,000	0.0%	0.1%	\$145,213	5%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$13,278,949</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$3,161,377</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Provided for comparison. 2020 installment total was \$13,863,414.

Organizational scale means that a grant was funding work internal to a nonprofit or other grantee including general operations and capacity building. The prominence of this scale further emphasizes the willingness of funders in Frederick County to invest in the longer-term well-being of nonprofit organizations. One gap evident in the 2020 and 2021 data is the low level of grant spending on *group* level interventions that recognize potential differences within the population based on group identity.

### How Did the Grants Distribute in Terms of Scale?



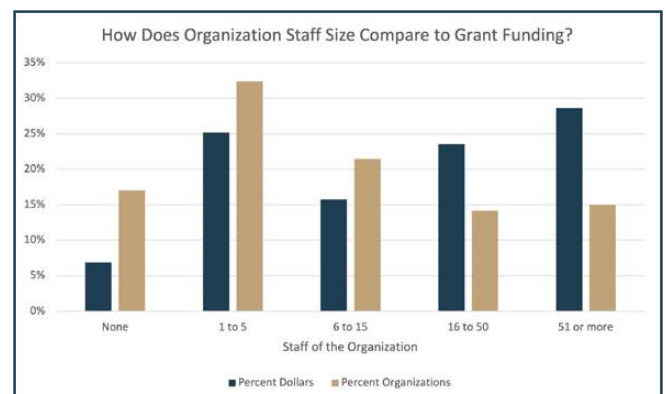
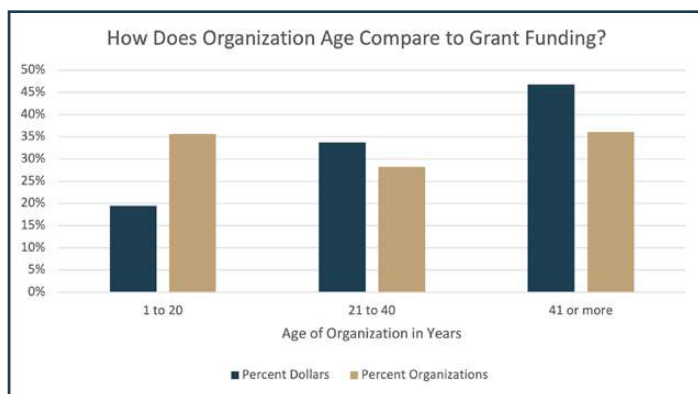
This pattern is confirmed by contrasting grant purpose with grant scale as presented in the following table from the 2021 data:

Grant Purpose						
Scale	Programs/Services	General Operations	Capacity Building	Planning	All Other	Grand Total
Individual	\$5,692,708	\$205,500	\$49,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$5,987,208
Organization	\$226,417	\$4,246,879	\$1,016,306	\$63,375	\$1,251	\$5,554,227
Family	\$825,667	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$835,667
Community	\$316,098	\$114,368	\$125,284	\$10,043	\$190,493	\$756,286
Group	\$20,561	\$9,000	\$0	\$70,500	\$0	\$100,061
All	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$32,500	\$42,500
Unknown	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000
Grand Total	\$7,081,450	\$4,598,747	\$1,190,590	\$163,918	\$244,244	\$13,278,949

Looking down the columns for Program/Services, General Operations, and Capacity Building, there is a preference across the participating funders for interventions at the individual, family, and community scales.

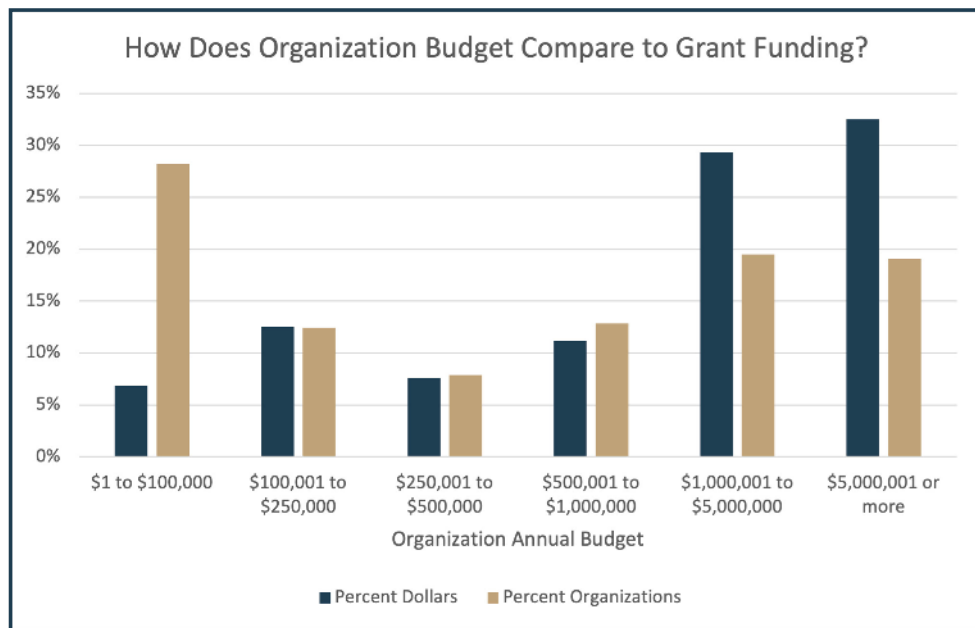
## Funding by Aspects of the Grantee Organizations

The 2021 grantmaking data includes three characteristics of the nonprofit organizations receiving grant installments: the age of each organization in years, the size of the staff in categories, and the budget of each organization in categories. This data makes it possible to compare the distribution of grants against the distribution of organizations in terms of these three characteristics. The following charts present those comparisons.





Taken together, the three charts show that the larger, more established nonprofit organizations received a higher share of grant installments in 2021 relative to their percentage of organizations in terms of age, staff size, and budget. For example, organizations 41 years or older received 47% of grant installments but were 36% of all funded organizations. Similarly, organizations with 51 or more staff received 29% of installments but were 15% of the funded organizations, and organizations with budgets of more than \$5 million received 32% of installments but were 19% of funded organizations. This analysis, combined with the analysis above of continuity of funding, has prompted discussions among the eleven funders regarding the accessibility of their grantmaking to younger, smaller nonprofits in Frederick County.



## Funding by Topic/Issue

**All Issues.** The funders coded every grant installment in terms of the topic/issue most connected to its intended purpose. In instances where a grant could pertain to more than one top-level topic/issue, the applicant or funder discretion was used to assign the grant to just one of the alternatives to avoid duplication. Within two top-level topics/issues – human needs and education – grants that pertained to more than one sub-topic were classified as having “multiple categories” also to avoid duplication. The following table and pie chart present an overall summary of spending in terms of topic/issue, sorted from largest total to least. Tables and charts further below explore the details of some of the largest issues in terms of spending.

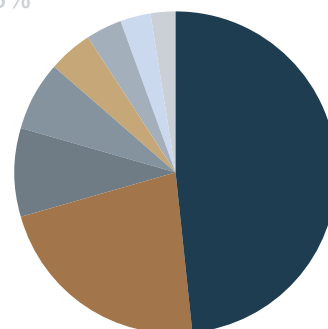
Total Grants					
Topic/Issue	Paid Installments 2021	Pct 2021	Pct 2020*	Total Denied 2021	Pct Denied
Human Needs - All Categories	\$6,428,178	48.4%	52.9%	\$2,074,297	65.6%
Education - All Categories	\$2,953,875	22.2%	16.5%	\$573,406	18.1%
Arts and Culture	\$1,190,480	9.0%	7.8%	\$78,450	2.5%
Religion and Spirituality	\$929,119	7.0%	3.9%	-	0%
Personal Development Non-Athletic	\$597,995	4.5%	4.2%	\$179,568	5.7%
Public Services - All Categories	\$444,796	3.4%	1.8%	\$43,362	1.4%
Historic Preservation	\$397,648	3.0%	1.7%	\$22,000	0.7%
Community/Economic Development	\$112,239	0.8%	9.6%	-	0%
Sports and Athletics	\$90,963	0.7%	0.3%	\$50,000	1.6%
Animal Welfare	\$47,658	0.4%	0.5%	\$34,352	1.1%
Civic, Public Affairs, and Governance	\$40,000	0.3%	0.1%	-	0%
Other Issues	\$31,340	0.2%	0.4%	\$102,500	3.2%
Environment	\$14,657	0.1%	0.0%	\$3,442	0.1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$13,278,949</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$3,161,377</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Provided for comparison. 2020 installment total was \$13,863,414.



The data from 2020 and 2021 consistently show human needs and education are the top two priorities for spending by the participating funders. One possible gap evident in the data is spending on issues related to the environment, perhaps intersected with disaster response. Frederick County, like most other areas of the United States, is showing increasing vulnerability to the consequences of climate change including problems related to ecosystem decline, invasive species, and natural disasters such as floods.

### What Issues Were Funded by These Grants?



**Human Needs.** The following table breaks down the \$6,428,178 in spending on human needs into specific issue categories. The table is sorted from highest total spending to lowest.

Human Needs Grants			
Topic/Issue	Regular Grants	Pct 2021	Pct 2020*
Health - Physical	\$2,317,872	36.1%	26.9%
Multiple Categories	\$961,179	15.0%	18.5%
Housing	\$867,656	13.5%	15.3%
Food	\$381,805	5.9%	8.3%
Health - Mental/Behavioral	\$349,576	5.4%	5.0%
Family Stability	\$280,786	4.4%	0.1%
Health - Substance Use/Addiction	\$257,104	4.0%	7.1%
Person Hosting	\$250,000	3.9%	0.8%
Personcare†	\$219,876	3.4%	4.4%
Personal Safety‡	\$207,894	3.2%	5.4%
Transportation	\$98,379	1.5%	2.4%
Employment/Job Training	\$92,387	1.4%	1.4%
Other Income Supports/Benefits	\$59,281	0.9%	2.3%
Human Rights	\$45,141	0.7%	1.2%
Services Navigation	\$39,241	0.6%	0.9%
<b>Human Needs Total</b>	<b>\$6,428,178</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Provided for comparison. 2020 paid installments for human needs totaled \$7,337,028.

†Personcare includes childcare, eldercare, and care for persons with disabilities.

‡Personal Safety includes services for persons suffering from abuse.



Within the subcategories related to health care, 2021 grantmaking spent a total of \$606,680 on the combination of substance use/addiction and mental/behavioral health or about 26% of the amount spent on physical health. This indicates that there remains a potential gap in spending priorities related to behavioral health issues relative to spending on physical health. Within the spending on physical health, the largest area of philanthropic giving related to a specific disease was for treatment of cancer. The grantmaking data available from 2021 does not support determining the level of giving for diabetes and its co-occurrence with obesity, as identified in the most recent Community Health Needs Assessment, but that certainly is much less than the giving related to cancer.

Looking at the older end of the age distribution, out of the 563 grant installments related to any human need, 144 (26%) specifically referenced seniors 65 to 80 and 115 (20%) referenced super seniors older than 80 years. These are nearly the same percentages as in the 2020 grantmaking data. The growing prevalence of seniors and super seniors in the Frederick County population requires continued attention to how grantmaking is serving their needs.



**Education.** The following table and pie chart break down the \$2,953,875 in spending on education into categories by education level. The table is sorted from highest total spending to lowest.

Education Grants			
Topic/Issue	Paid Installments 2021	Pct 2021	Pct 2020*
Colleget	\$2,153,690	72.9%	68.5%
K to 12	\$412,366	14.0%	16.4%
Beyond College ‡	\$162,860	5.5%	2.8%
Early Child	\$133,823	4.5%	8.2%
Employment/Job Training	\$47,597	1.6%	3.8%
Multiple Categories	\$43,539	1.5%	0.3%
<b>Education Total</b>	<b>\$2,953,875</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

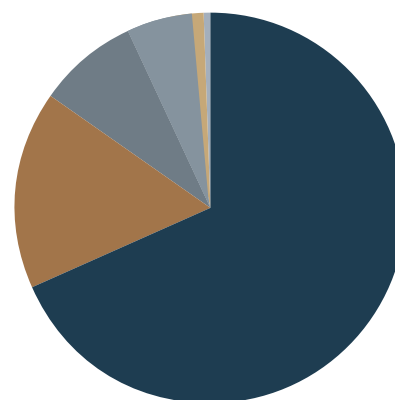
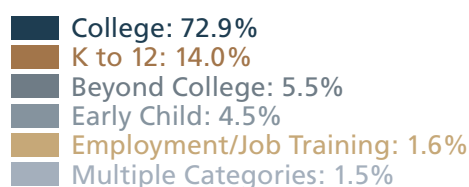
\*Provided for comparison. 2020 paid installments for education totaled \$2,202,686.

†Includes scholarships for individual students and grants directly to colleges and universities.

‡Pertains to support for postgraduate education of any type or level.

More than 75% of grants for education went to support college scholarships or funding for postgraduate education. Most of these grants came from donor-designated funds restricted to supporting college scholarships. In terms of the needs assessments, the relatively low percentage spent on early childhood education in 2020 and 2021 may merit further attention from the funders. There is a known need for high-quality early childhood education in Frederick County, especially in the context of supporting families with young children.

#### How Was Funding for Education Distributed?



Another finding from the 2020 and 2021 data is the relatively low spending on employment and job training. This issue has been a major focus of U.S. federal government programs with some participation by state governments. Recently, the role of community colleges in supporting training for careers that do not require a four-year degree has been a focus at the national level. The recent needs assessments in Frederick County have not prioritized job training. However, the national-level conversation about the issue may merit more attention from the funders.

## Intervention Modalities for Spending on Human Needs

Programs and services for addressing human needs can be palliative (treating or solving temporary symptoms), curative/restorative (attempting a permanent repair for a problem), or preventative (attempting to keep future problems from occurring). Policy analysis shows that investments in prevention have the highest returns. The following table and pie chart break down 2021 grantmaking on programs and services for human needs in terms of these intervention modalities, sorted from highest to lowest spending.

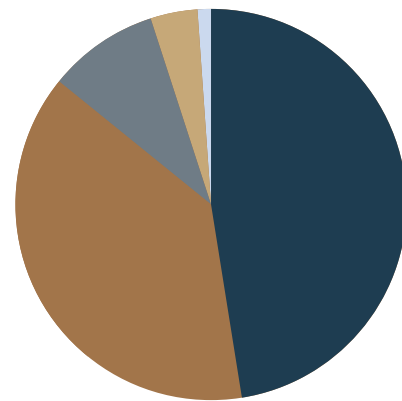
Human Needs Grant Payments for Programs/Services			
Intervention Modality	Paid Installments 2021	Pct 2021	Pct 2020*
Palliative	\$1,660,223.70	48.4%	60.5%
Restorative/Curative	\$1,233,350.42	36.0%	25.1%
Preventative	\$295,729.02	8.6%	4.3%
All Modalities	\$199,134.00	5.8%	8.5%
Not Applicable	\$39,949.15	1.2%	1.5%
Programs/Services Total	\$3,428,386.29	100%	100%

\*Provided for comparison. 2020 paid installments for human needs services totaled \$4,425,753.

The results show that 9% of 2021 grant dollars for programs/services addressing human needs were specifically focused on prevention compared to 48% on palliative responses and 36% on cures. While this is more than double the percentage from 2020, reflecting the shift away from palliative responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, the investment in prevention remains low. Prevention is well known to have difficulty competing for funding with palliative and curative modalities associated with specific organizations that have strong financial incentives to attract contracts and grants. For example, there seem to be more resources devoted to helping adults treat Type II diabetes than there are devoted to teaching youth healthy living habits from a young age. Many of the funders in Frederick County are relatively insulated from this politicized competition and conceivably could give prevention more attention and emphasis in their future grantmaking to diabetes prevention and other similar public health concerns.

### How Did Human Needs Grants Fund Different Interventions?

Palliative: 48.4%  
Restorative/Curative: 36.0%  
Preventative: 8.6%  
All Modalities: 5.8%  
Not Applicable: 1.2%



## Spending on Poverty

The coded grantmaking data includes information about whether persons and households experiencing poverty were a focus of work performed under a grant. The following table distinguishes two levels of poverty: extreme poverty, meaning that the persons affected are living below the federal poverty line and often unemployed, and ALICE, the United Way's classification for households that are, "Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed."<sup>4</sup> The following table and pie chart summarize the 2021 grantmaking in these terms. Please note that the dollar figures cover all grant purposes, not just programs/services.

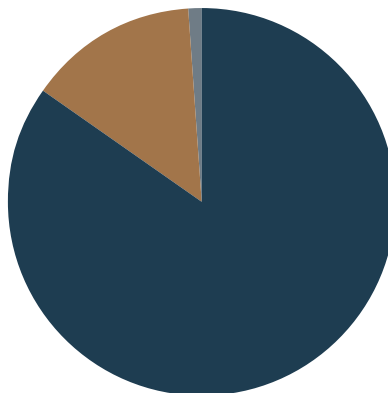
Grant Purpose		
Target Group	Paid Installments 2021	Percent 2021
Extreme Poverty & ALICE*	\$5,422,009	84.1%
ALICE* Only	\$931,586	14.5%
Extreme Poverty Only	\$91,739	1.4%
<b>Total for Poverty</b>	<b>\$6,445,335</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<sup>4</sup> ALICE in Frederick County: A Financial Hardship Study, by United Way of Frederick County. Available online at [https://www.unitedwayfrederick.org/sites/unitedwayfrederick.org/files/UWFC%202020%20Alice%20Report\\_110620.pdf](https://www.unitedwayfrederick.org/sites/unitedwayfrederick.org/files/UWFC%202020%20Alice%20Report_110620.pdf)

\*ALICE = Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed.

### How Did Grants for ALICE Families Relate to Grants for Extreme Poverty?

- Extreme Poverty & ALICE: 84.1%
- ALICE Only: 14.5%
- Extreme Poverty Only: 1.4%



Most of the \$6,445,335 in 2021 grants related to poverty were applied both to the population in extreme poverty and to the ALICE households and just over \$930,000 of that was targeted exclusively at the ALICE households. Of the \$13.3 million in grant funds expended in 2021, about 48% went to support nonprofits and community groups engaged with issues related to poverty. This is nearly the same level found in 2020 grantmaking data, though the economic impact of the COVID pandemic continues to increase demand for services for those experiencing poverty.



## Spending on Specific Demographics

Several demographic categories are coded in the grantmaking data, recognizing that these categories connect to current issues of specific concern for the funders and for the overall community. The following table summarizes 2021 grants that pertain to these categories and breaks out the spending by grant purpose. To be coded for a specific demographic, a grant should have made that demographic a central but not necessarily sole focus of its purpose. Please note that these are not exclusive categories – the same grant can be applied to multiple categories.

Demographic Category	Grant Purpose					Pct of Total*
	Programs/Services	General Operations	Capacity Building	All Other	Total 2021	
Women	\$350,263	\$55,346	-	-	\$405,608	3.1%
LGBTQ+	\$40,455	\$39,250	-	\$94,000	\$173,705	1.3%
Disability	\$2,287,545	\$175,014	\$31,000	\$22,000	\$2,515,559	18.9%
Veterans	\$2,058,959	\$57,586	\$8,000	-	\$2,124,545	16.0%
ESOL†	\$2,222,336	\$135,775	\$500	\$109,000	\$2,467,611	18.6%
<b>*Total = \$13,278,949</b>						

†English for Speakers of Other Languages.

### A note about coding for race and ethnicity

The coding effort for the 2021 grantmaking data included categories related to race and ethnicity. However, during that year the participating funders met to improve the coding system based on a careful review of the coding of data in 2020 which found systematic errors in how grants were associated with the race and ethnicity of populations impacted by the grants. The improvements to the coding system took effect too late to apply to the 2021 grantmaking data. The next report in this series on grantmaking in 2022 will include the first results related to race and ethnicity that accurately convey the emphasis of specific grants on those demographic factors.

In terms of gaps, the 2021 data shows that little funding went to support advocacy or research related to these demographic categories of interest. This same pattern was evident in the 2020 grant data. The participating funders are discussing why their grantmaking has tended to not support advocacy and research connected to women, the LGBTQ+ community, persons with disabilities, military veterans and their families, or persons learning English as a second language.

## Summary, Conclusion, and Next Steps

The data provided by the participating funders in this initiative included nearly \$13.3 million in grants paid in 2021, nearly the level paid in 2020 amidst the crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic. Detailed coding of the data allowed for comparing patterns in that \$13.3 million with priorities coming out of several recent human needs assessments. The large share of the total funding allocated to issues of poverty indicate that the participating funders are responding to many of the disparities in Frederick County brought into sharp relief by the pandemic. The patterns in the 2021 data continue to demonstrate some important strengths for philanthropy in Frederick County, including the funding for general operations (unrestricted) and capacity building.

There are some important limitations in the 2021 data primarily due to the absence of grantmaking numbers from several other funders active in the County. As noted at the beginning of this report, the County Government's total spending on nonprofits equals the funding reported here. The group of funders who initiated this project are engaging in outreach to these other sources to encourage their participation in future years. As more funders share their grantmaking data, and as additional years of data are collected to allow for year-over-year comparisons, these reports will provide an improved assessment of how support for nonprofits and community groups in Frederick County is helping to address the community-wide concerns evident in recent needs assessments.





**FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

Jan H. Gardner  
*County Executive*

*Rick Harcum, Chief Administrative Officer*

August 15, 2022

Dear Philanthropic Round Table Hosts and Attendees:

Thank you for the work you do on behalf of the residents of Frederick County. "Gaps Analysis of Philanthropy in Frederick County, Maryland: 2021 Report" is an impressive continued step in understanding the nonprofit funding landscape in our county.

Although only 2021 payment installments under the Frederick County Community Partnership Grants were analyzed as part of this important report, I want you to have a snapshot of the total funding provided to nonprofits by and through Frederick County Government. The sources of these dollars include local, state, and federal funds.

January – December 2021 Payments to Nonprofits:	
General Fund – Office for Children and Families	57,311.22
General Fund – Citizens Services MOU Administration	92,753.00
General Fund – Community Partnership Grants	938,129.72
General Fund – Non Departmental, Non County Agencies	1,143,340.34
General Fund – Miscellaneous	887,335.00
Housing Initiative Fund	462,500.00
Grants Fund (includes Emergency Rental Assistance Programs, Bounce Back Grants, and other pass through grant funding)	10,957,659.27
	<u>\$14,539,028.55</u>

Frederick County is fortunate to have so many funders willing to support and collaborate with local nonprofits. The information provided today most certainly will guide future funding decisions and help to address community-wide concerns revealed in recent needs assessments.

Regards,

  
 Jan H. Gardner  
 County Executive







For more information  
about the initiative  
behind this report,  
please contact  
Leigh Adams, Executive  
Director, Ausherman  
Family Foundation at  
[ladams@ausherman.org](mailto:ladams@ausherman.org)