

**Shared
Philanthropic
Data and
Gaps Analysis:
2024 Report**



2024 Report prepared by the Michael S. P'09 and Marlene B. Grossnickle Young '76, H'14, P'09 Data Driven Frederick Center at Hood College, using grantmaking data provided by:



In 2018, a small group of Frederick County funders created a collaborative platform for sharing grantmaking data. What began as an effort to identify funding gaps and foster transparency has evolved into a robust annual report that informs strategic decisions across the nonprofit sector.

As we present the 2024 report, we are pleased to share a story of strategic growth. Total philanthropic investment rose to nearly \$15 million—a 4.2% increase over 2023—while reaching 374 nonprofit organizations, 23 more than the prior year. This combination of increased funding and broader reach reflects a maturing philanthropic ecosystem where funders are making intentional choices about where and how to deploy resources. Notably, investment in new initiatives grew from 16% to 20% of all funding, signaling a growing appetite for innovation alongside sustained commitment to proven programs.

This year's analysis reveals important shifts in how Frederick County addresses community priorities. Human needs remain the dominant focus, with housing, healthcare, and mental health services continuing to attract significant collaborative support. The convergence of multiple funders around key organizations, with some receiving support from eight or nine independent sources, demonstrates shared recognition of both urgent need and organizational effectiveness.

Our hope is that the data and insights contained within these pages will serve as both a reference and a springboard for further engagement. We invite funders, nonprofits, and community leaders alike to delve into these findings, share their perspectives, and join us in shaping a philanthropic landscape that is increasingly transparent, equitable, and impactful.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support. We look forward to continuing this journey together, leveraging data to spark innovation and deepen our collective impact in Frederick County.

Sincerely,
Data Driven Frederick and the Frederick County Philanthropic Funders Collaborative

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Executive Summary

Strategic Growth:

How Frederick County's funders increased investment while reaching more organizations

In 2024, something interesting happened in Frederick County's philanthropic landscape. Total funding grew from 14.4 million to nearly 15.0 million, while the community's 12 major funders managed to reach 23 more nonprofit organizations than the previous year.

This is a story about strategic growth and evolution.

Metric	2024	2023	Change
Total Funding	\$14,989,419	\$14,382,166	+4.2%
Number of Grants	1,338	1,434	-6.7%
Organizations Funded	374	351	+6.5%
Average Grant Size	\$10,349	\$10,043	+3.0%
Participating Funders	12	12	--

With a 4.2% increase in total funding, 2024 saw more nonprofit organizations receive support, with the average grant size increasing by 3%. This reflects a strategic approach to impactful giving across a broader base of organizations.

More dollars, smarter distribution, broader impact.

\$15.0M

Total Funding

374

Organizations Served

1,338

Grants Awarded

\$10,349

Average Grant*

* The \$1,142,075 pooled scholarship entry represents an aggregated total of many individual scholarships awarded to students, not a single grant. This amount is included in the Total Funding figure but is excluded from the Average Grant Size calculation to avoid skewing the metric.



Funding by Funder Type

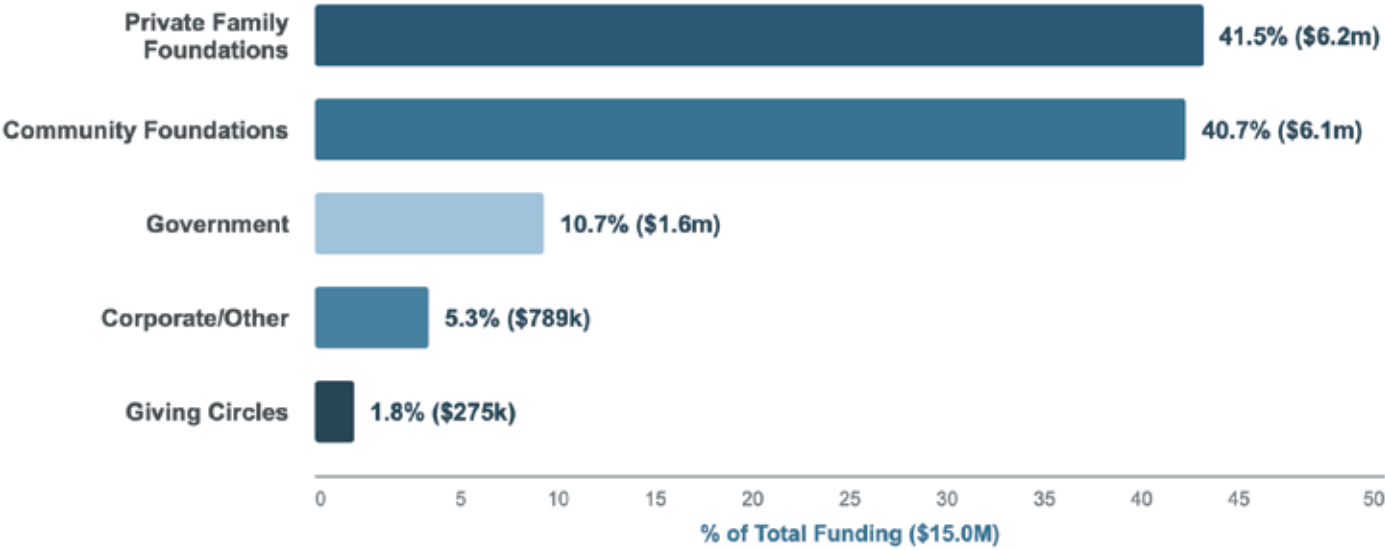


Figure 1: Funding by Funder Type

Chapter 1: The Funder Landscape

74%

of all giving comes from just 3 funders

Frederick County's philanthropic giving is concentrated among a relatively small number of funders. Three sources account for nearly 74% of all giving, while the remaining nine funders contribute 26% of the total.

Funding Concentration

Funder	Investment	Share
Community Foundation of Frederick County	\$6.1M	40.7%
Ausherman Family Foundation	\$2.5M	16.9%
Delaplaine Foundation	\$2.4M	16.0%
Remaining 9 Funders	\$4.0M	26.5%

The Full Roster by Type

Funder Category	Funders	Grants	Investment	% of Total
Private Family Foundations	6	464	\$6,222,561	41.5%
Community Foundations	1	623	\$6,094,499	40.7%
Government Sources	2	178	\$1,599,098	10.7%
Giving Circles	1	22	\$275,000	1.8%
Corporate/Other	2	51	\$789,262	5.3%

The Community Foundation of Frederick County's role is particularly notable. With 623 grants, nearly half of all grants made, it functions as the philanthropic backbone of the county, supporting organizations across every sector and issue area.

Private family foundations, while representing only 6 of 12 funders, account for nearly 41% of all funding. Government sources contribute just under 11% of funding but often provide critical operational support and serve as validators for other funders.

Chapter 2: Where the Money Goes

Funding by Continuity

A significant finding for 2024 is the shift in how funders balance ongoing support with new investments. The increase in new initiative funding from 15.1% to 20.1% indicates growing willingness to support innovative approaches.

Category	Grants	Amount	% of Total
Ongoing Programs	952	\$10,979,319	73.2%
New Initiatives	267	\$3,017,253	20.1%
Unspecified	119	\$992,848	6.6%

Year-Over-Year Continuity Shift

Funding Type	2024	2023	Change
Ongoing Programs	73.2%	77.2%	-4.0 pts
New Initiatives	20.1%	15.1%	+5.0 pts
Unspecified	6.6%	7.8%	-1.2 pts

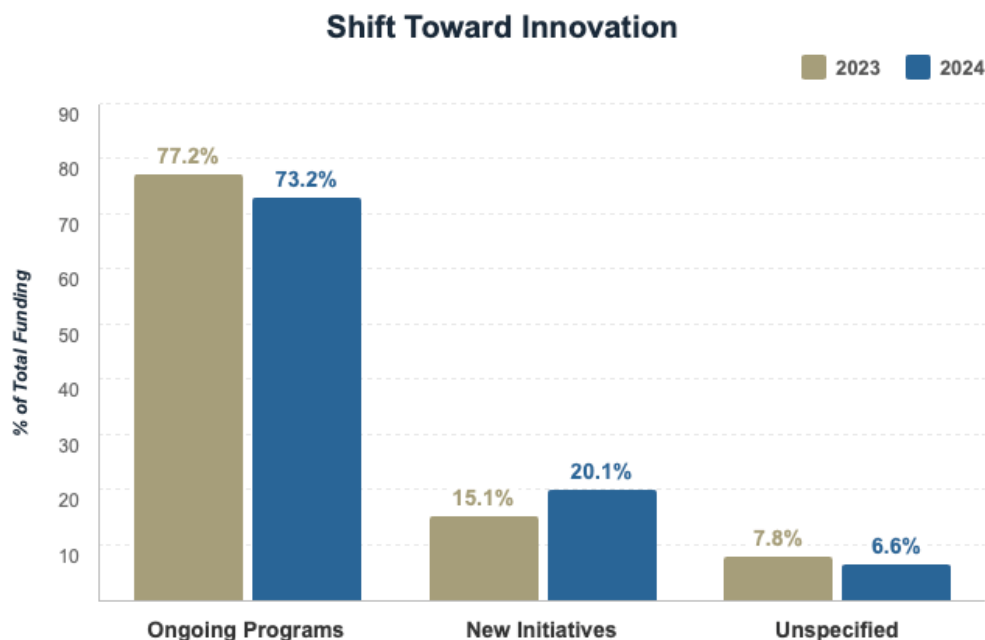


Figure 2: Strategic shift toward innovation funding, 2023 vs. 2024



This nearly 4-percentage-point jump represents over \$3 million in investments in innovation and new approaches. Funders are becoming more comfortable with risk, more willing to try new approaches, and more responsive to emerging community needs.

Continuity of Funding Over the Last Five Years (Excluding unspecified records for each respective year)

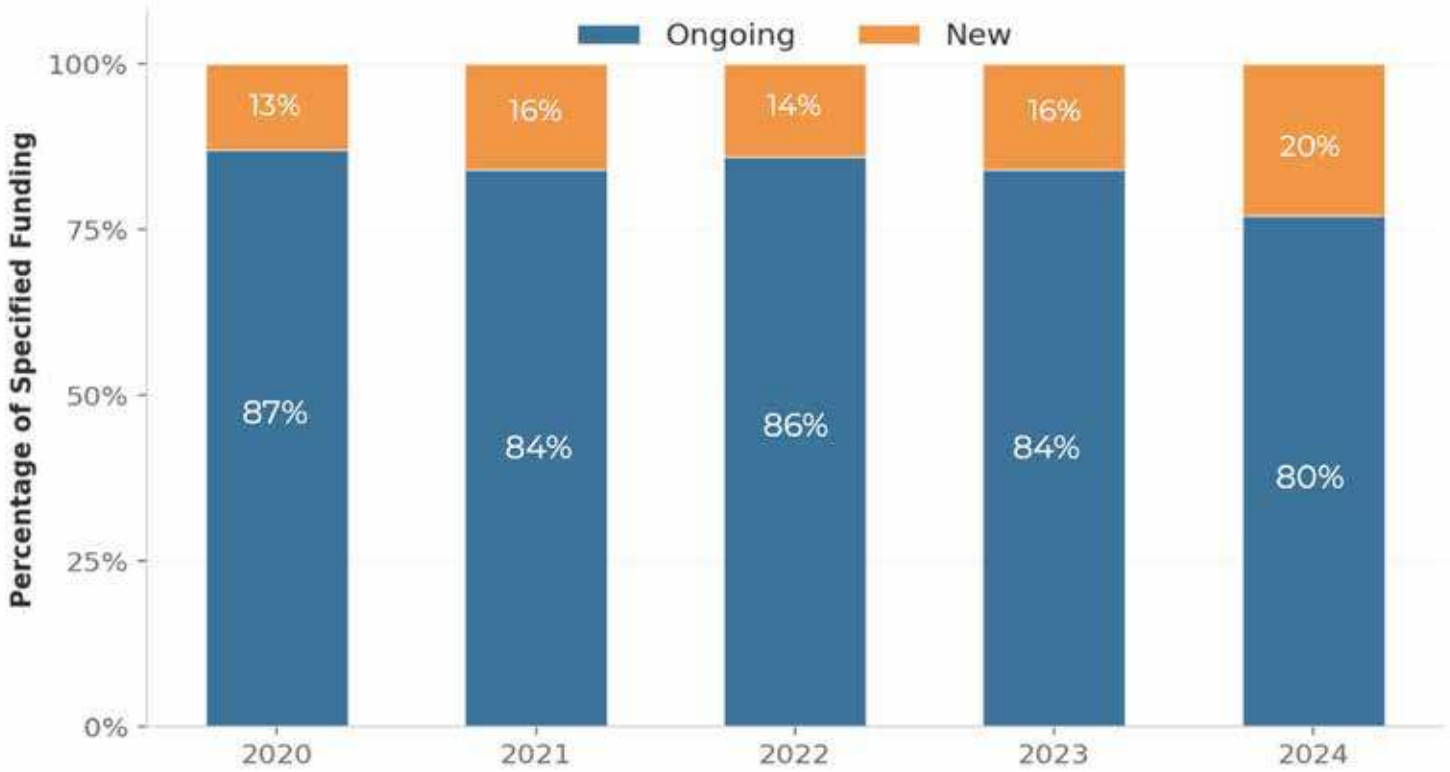


Figure 3: Continuity of funding over the last five years (excluding unspecified records)

Looking at the five-year trend, ongoing funding has consistently dominated the portfolio, ranging from 84–87% between 2020 and 2023. In 2024, however, that share dropped to 80% of specified funding, while new initiative funding rose to 20%—the highest proportion in the five-year period. This shift suggests funders are increasingly willing to invest in fresh approaches and emerging community needs, even as multi-year commitments remain the backbone of the region’s philanthropic strategy.

Funding by Purpose

Purpose	Grants	Amount	% of Total
Programs/Services	704	\$7,805,453	52.1%
General Operations	445	\$5,026,620	33.5%
Capacity Building	70	\$1,357,499	9.1%
Planning & Evaluation	15	\$369,696	2.5%
Advocacy/Policy	6	\$61,158	0.4%
Other/Unspecified	98	\$368,993	2.5%

Programs and Services dominate the funding landscape at 52.1% of total giving, reflecting funders' continued emphasis on direct service delivery to community members. This category includes scholarships, direct client services, and program-specific grants that put philanthropic dollars to work immediately. General Operations support at 33.5% remains significant, providing nonprofits with the flexible, unrestricted funding essential for organizational stability and sustainability. Capacity Building maintains a meaningful presence at 9%, signaling ongoing investment in strengthening the nonprofit sector's infrastructure and effectiveness.



Chapter 3: The Human Needs Imperative

\$7.9 Million

53% of all funding flows to human needs

More than half of all philanthropic dollars in Frederick County, 53%, address human needs. This continued concentration reflects a clear-eyed recognition that basic needs—housing, healthcare, food security, and personal safety—remain urgent priorities for too many residents. The \$7.9 million flowing to human needs organizations represents the philanthropic community's unwavering commitment to the most vulnerable members of our community.

The specifics within human needs reveal evolving priorities and a growing understanding that community challenges rarely fit into neat boxes. Funders increasingly support organizations addressing multiple, interconnected needs rather than siloed interventions, recognizing that homelessness intersects with mental health, that poverty intersects with healthcare access, and that family stability depends on employment, transportation, and childcare working together.

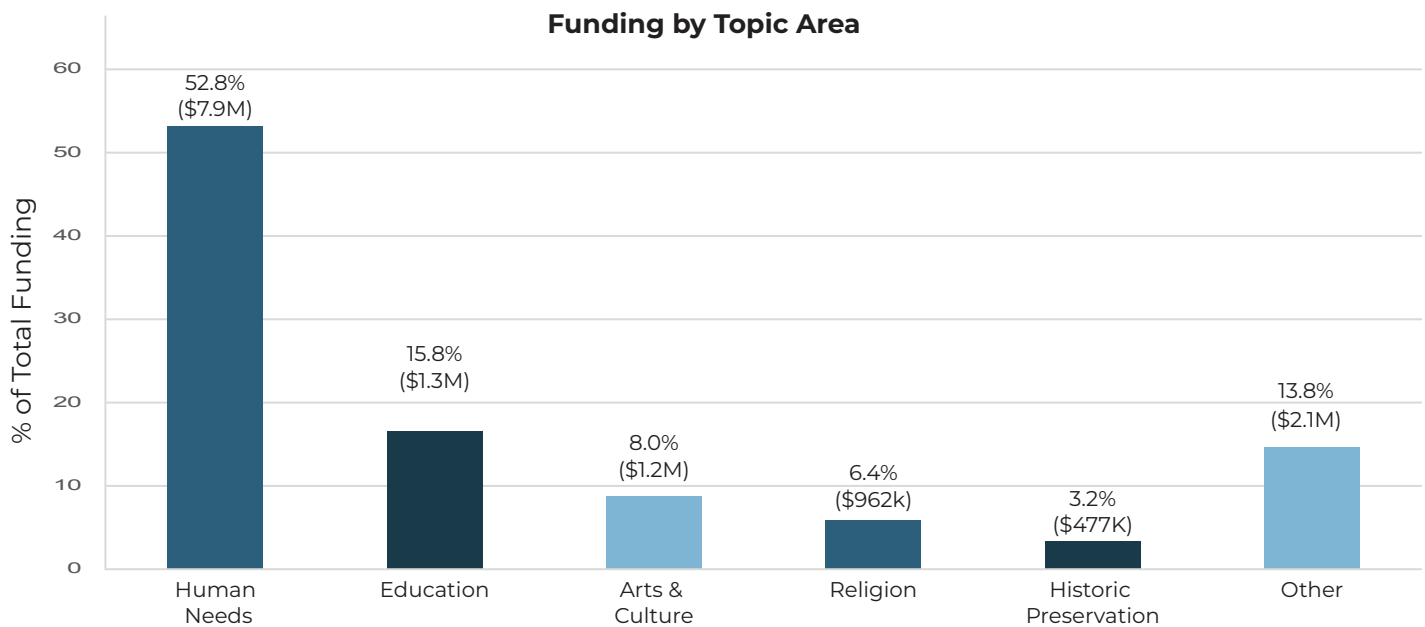


Figure 4: Detailed distribution of funding by topic area
(Note: This does not include the pooled scholarship entry)

Within this broad category, housing and homelessness prevention, health and wellness services, and food security programs attract the largest share of investment. These priorities reflect both the community's most pressing needs and the capacity of local nonprofits to deliver effective interventions. The diversity of organizations receiving human needs funding—from established social service agencies to grassroots community groups—demonstrates that funders value both proven approaches and emerging voices in addressing persistent challenges.

Human Needs Deep Dive

\$7.9 million flowed to human needs organizations, distributed across critical subcategories:

Subcategory	Amount	% of Human Needs
Multiple/Complex Needs	\$2,260,895	28.6%
Health - Physical	\$1,506,584	19.0%
Housing	\$1,281,587	16.2%
Personal Safety	\$499,198	6.3%
Health - Mental	\$413,741	5.2%
Transportation	\$346,440	4.4%
All Human Needs	\$341,775	4.3%
Family Stability	\$260,199	3.3%
Food Security	\$239,892	3.0%
Substance Use/Addiction	\$210,521	2.7%
Employment/Job Training	\$189,281	2.4%
Personal Care	\$143,567	1.8%
Human Rights	\$92,094	1.2%
Financial Services	\$57,050	0.7%
Other (Navigation, Income support)	\$64,030	0.8%
TOTAL HUMAN NEEDS	\$7,906,852	100%

The Rise of Multiple/Complex Needs

The emergence of "Multiple/Complex Needs" as the largest subcategory tells an important story: funders increasingly recognize that community challenges do not fit into neat boxes. Homelessness intersects with mental health. Poverty intersects with healthcare. Transportation affects employment. Food insecurity connects to child development.

Housing Remains Critical

Housing-focused organizations received \$1.28 million across 102 grants in 2024, making housing the third-largest human needs subcategory at 16.2% of all human needs funding. The average housing grant of approximately \$12,565 exceeds the overall grant average of \$10,349, reflecting funders' recognition that housing interventions require substantial investment to achieve meaningful impact.

The trajectory over five years tells a compelling story. Housing funding has more than tripled since 2020, growing from approximately \$348,000 to \$1.28 million. This sustained increase reflects both the escalating affordability crisis in the Washington-Baltimore metropolitan region and the philanthropic community's deepening commitment to addressing it.

Housing Funding: Five-Year Trend

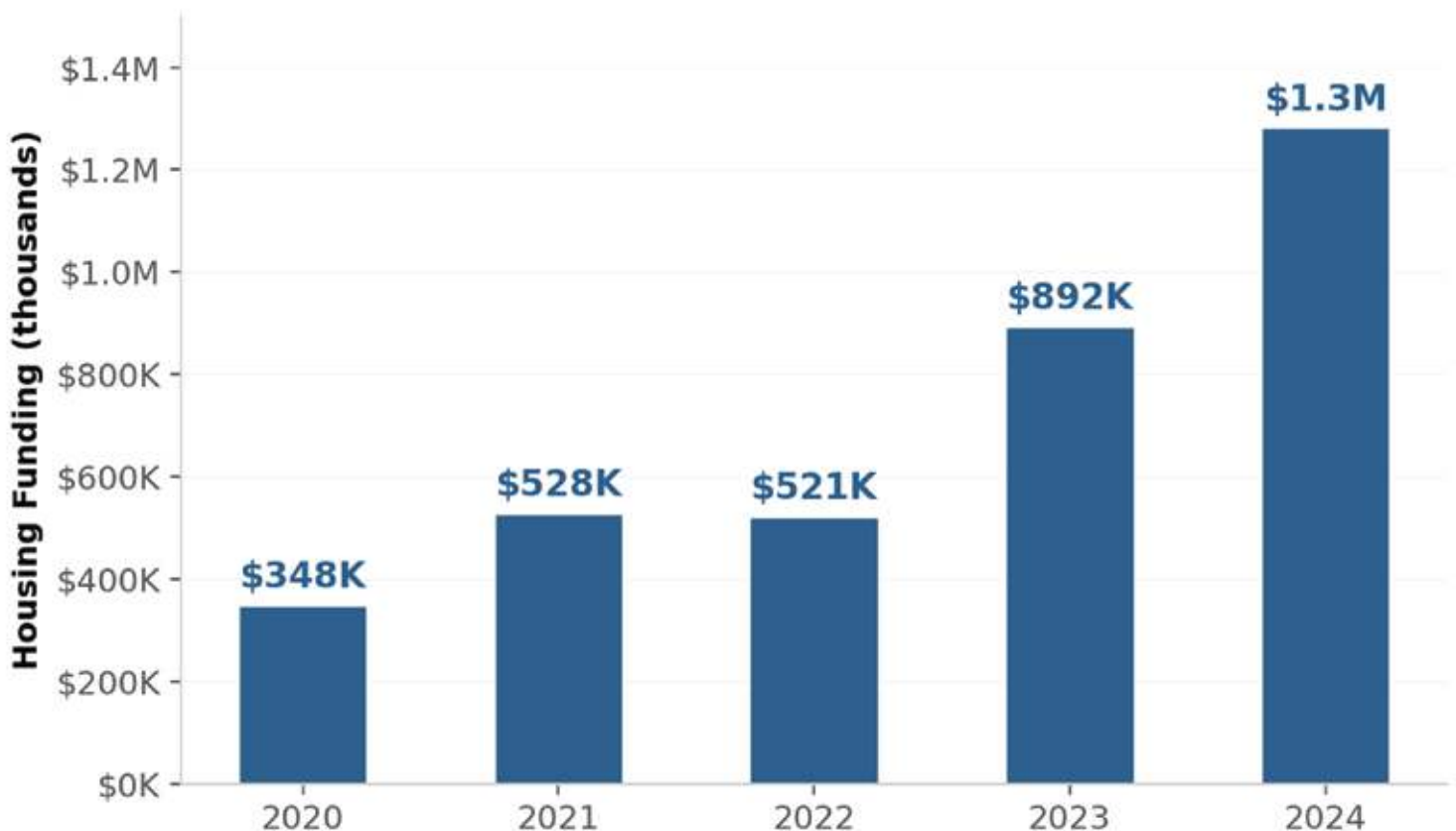


Figure 5: Housing funding has more than tripled since 2020

The housing challenge in Frederick County extends well beyond literal homelessness. Rising costs, limited supply, and the widening gap between housing expenses and household incomes affect a growing number of families, including ALICE households who struggle to afford basic necessities despite regular employment. The \$5.4 million directed to ALICE populations and \$3.6 million to those in extreme poverty ensure that housing-related interventions reach those most in need.

Philanthropic approaches to housing span the full continuum: emergency shelter and rapid rehousing for those in crisis, prevention programs that help families avoid homelessness through rental assistance and eviction prevention, transitional support with case management, and investments in longer-term affordable housing solutions. Multiple organizations addressing housing attracted support from 7 or 8 funders each, placing them among the most collaboratively supported in the entire dataset. This convergence signals that the philanthropic community views housing stability as foundational to progress on virtually every other social challenge.

Mental Health Gains Ground

Mental health funding reached almost \$414,000 in 2024, representing growing awareness of behavioral health needs. The explicit attention to mental health, separate from physical health, marks a maturation in how funders think about wellness.



Chapter 4: Beyond Human Needs

Arts, Faith, Education, and Heritage

The Arts Revival

After a challenging period, arts and culture funding increased to \$1.2 million (8.0% of total funding). This represents growth from 2023's 5.4% share, though it remains unclear whether this reflects a sustained trend or specific one-time gifts.

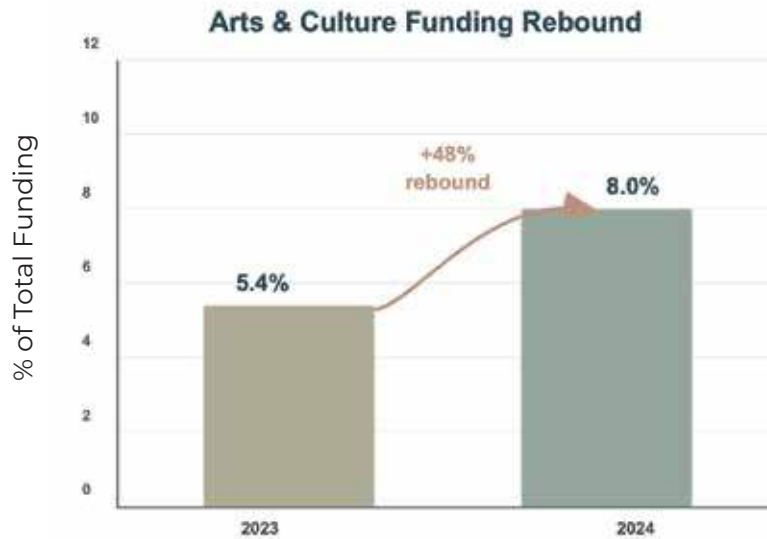


Figure 6: Arts funding rebound from 2023 to 2024



The Faith Sector

Religious and faith-based organizations received \$962,000 across 52 grants in 2024, representing 6.4% of total philanthropic investment. This marks a notable year-over-year shift in the dataset: faith-based funding increased four-fold from approximately \$245,000 in 2023, reaching one of its higher levels in recent years.

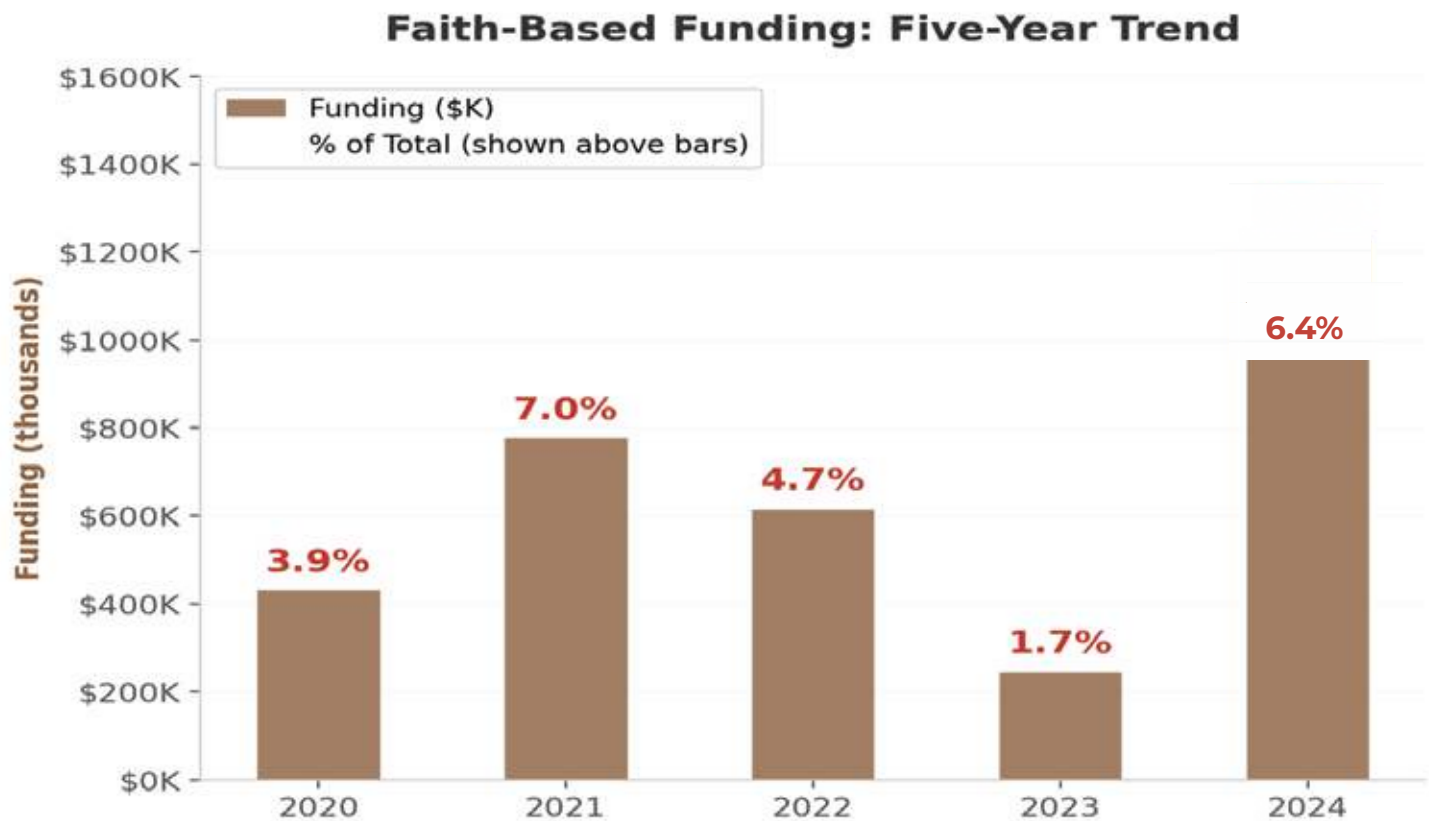


Figure 7: Faith-based funding increased substantially in 2024

The five-year trend reveals considerable volatility in this category, with funding ranging from a low of 1.7% in 2023 to the current 6.4%. The 2024 increase appears driven primarily by a small number of significant capital investments rather than a broad-based increase in congregational support. When a handful of large grants for building renovations, expansions, or historic preservation flow to faith-based organizations in a given year, the overall category can shift dramatically.

Beyond their core spiritual missions, faith communities serve as critical community infrastructure in Frederick County. Many congregations operate food pantries, clothing closets, counseling services, after-school programs, and emergency response operations. Religious facilities serve as gathering spaces for community groups, recovery programs, and civic organizations. Depending on how funders code their grants, support for these community-serving functions may appear under Religion or under other categories like Human Needs, making the true philanthropic footprint of faith-based organizations larger than the Religion category alone suggests.

Whether this elevated funding level persists or represents a one-time spike driven by capital projects will become clearer in future reporting years. What the data does confirm is that faith-based organizations remain significant players in Frederick County's community infrastructure, and when major capital needs arise, the philanthropic community responds with substantial investment.

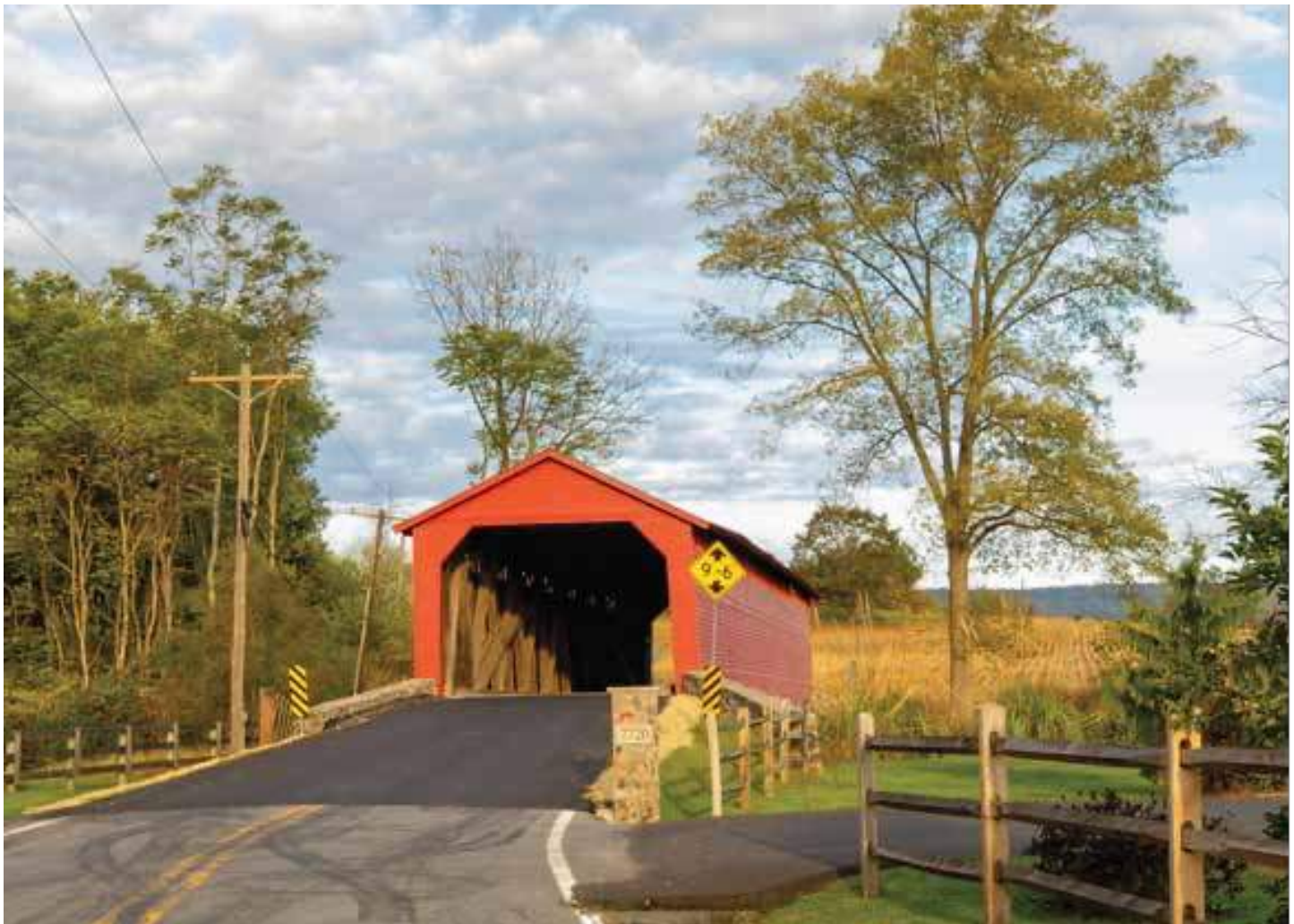
Education at All Levels

Education funding totaled approximately \$2.4 million across multiple levels:

Education Level	Amount	% of Total funding
Higher Education (College)	\$1,679,364	11.2%
K-12 Education	\$462,403	3.1%
Other Education	\$229,155	1.5%
Early Childhood	\$50,947	0.3%

Historic Preservation

Frederick County's commitment to its heritage shows in the \$477,223 (3.2%) directed to historic preservation, supporting the maintenance and restoration of historic sites, buildings, and cultural landmarks.



Historic preservation: Utica Mills Covered Bridge, a Frederick County landmark

Chapter 5: The Convergence Effect

When multiple funders independently decide to support the same organization, that is a powerful signal about community priorities. This convergence—funders arriving at similar conclusions independently—provides nonprofits with more stable, diversified funding bases.

NPO Funding Diversity

Number of Funders	NPOs	% of Total
1	257	68.7%
2	52	13.9%
3	30	8.0%
4	9	2.4%
5	11	2.9%
6+	15	4.0%

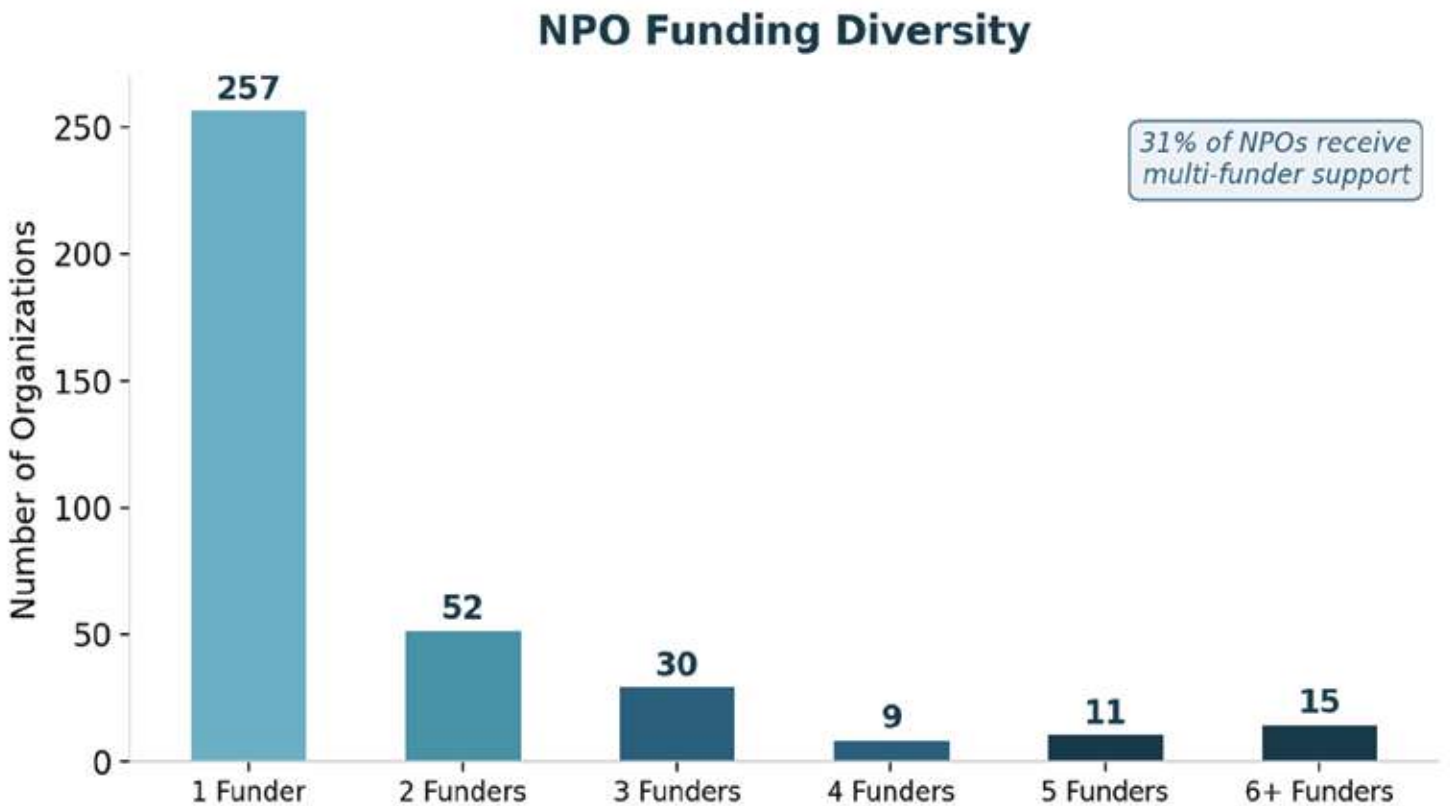


Figure 8: Number of funders supporting each organization

31% of nonprofits now receive multi-funder support, up from 29% in 2023.

While most organizations (69%) receive funding from a single source, 31% of NPOs benefited from multiple funders in 2024, up from 29% in 2023.

Peak Funder Convergence

One of the most telling indicators of community priority is funder convergence: when multiple independent funders each decide to support the same organization. In 2024, the highest convergence score reached nine funders supporting a single organization focused on domestic violence and personal safety services. This level of independent alignment signals broad community recognition of both urgent need and organizational effectiveness.

Overall, 31.3% of funded organizations received support from two or more funders in 2024, up from 29% in 2023. While most organizations (68.7%) rely on a single funding source, the gradual increase in multi-funder support points toward a maturing philanthropic ecosystem where funders are increasingly aligned around shared priorities.





Among the 15 organizations receiving support from six or more funders, clear patterns emerge in where funders converge. Housing and homelessness services, health and personal safety, broad community infrastructure organizations, and culturally specific service providers consistently attract the widest base of philanthropic support. These high-convergence organizations tend to address needs that are both urgent and multi-dimensional, creating alignment opportunities across funders with different priority areas.

For nonprofit organizations, diversified funder support provides more than financial stability. It serves as an implicit endorsement that can attract additional resources, enables more confident long-term planning, and positions organizations as natural hubs for collaborative initiatives. For funders, the convergence patterns in the data offer valuable intelligence about where the philanthropic community collectively sees the greatest needs and the most effective responses.

Chapter 6: Grant Size Analysis

The size of a grant says something about the relationship between funder and recipient. A small grant may represent a first bet on an unproven organization, a modest renewal that keeps a program running, or one piece of a larger puzzle assembled from multiple sources. A large grant typically signals deep institutional confidence and a willingness to underwrite an entire initiative. In Frederick County, the distribution across these categories reveals a philanthropic community that relies heavily on small, targeted investments while concentrating its biggest commitments in a handful of strategic bets.

It's worth noting that one significant funding stream—the Community Foundation's pooled scholarship program totaling \$1.1 million—does not appear in this analysis. While reported as a single aggregate figure, this amount actually represents hundreds of individual scholarships awarded to students, most of which would fall into the "small grant" category. Including this sum as a single large grant would misrepresent both the nature of the giving and the typical relationship between funder and recipient. The analysis below reflects grantmaking exclusive of this pooled scholarship entry.

<\$10,000

71% of grants

>\$50,000

2.2% of grants

Distribution by Size Category

Category	Definition	Grants	% of Grants	Amount	% of Funding
Small	Under \$10,000	955	71.3%	\$3,038,852	20.3%
Medium	\$10K-\$50K	355	26.5%	\$6,654,246	44.4%
Large	Over \$50,000	28	2.2%	\$4,154,246	27.7%

Note: Pooled scholarship excluded from this analysis (see explanatory text above).

Grant Size Distribution

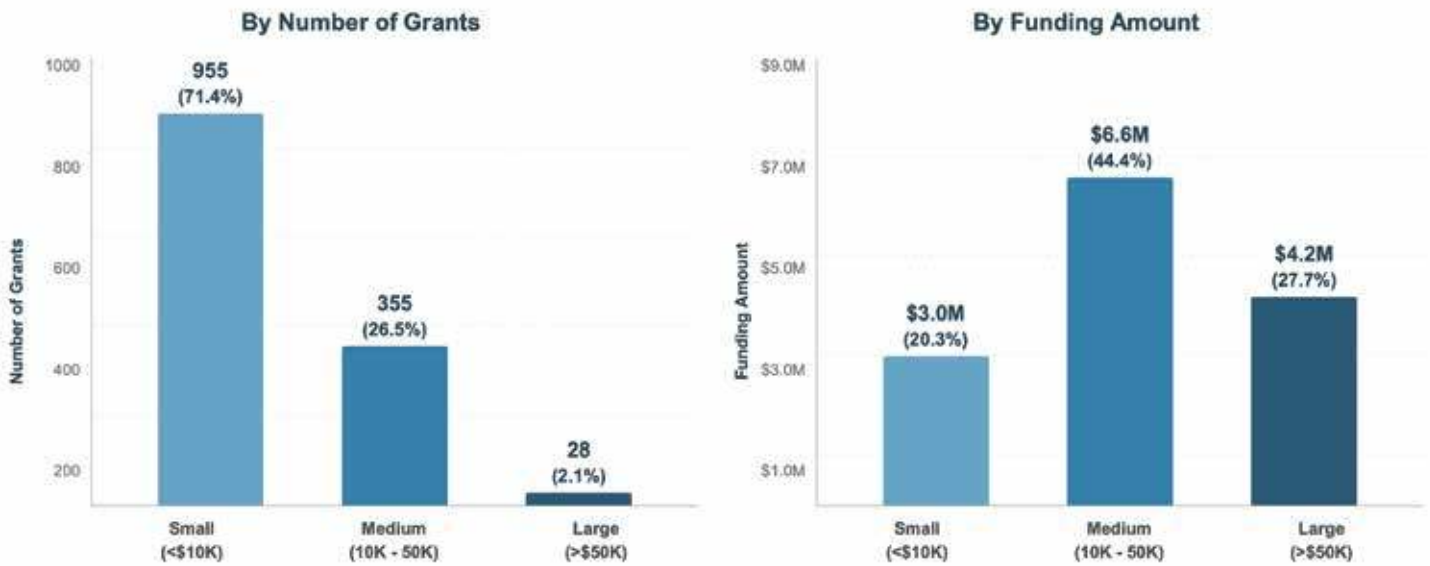


Figure 9: Grant size distribution by count and funding amount

The Small Grant Strategy

Most grants in Frederick County are small: 71% are under \$10,000. These small grants allow funders to support more organizations, spread risk, respond to diverse needs, and provide entry points for emerging organizations. The average small grant is around \$3,200.

Medium Grants: The Workhorses

Medium-sized grants (\$10,000-\$50,000) do the heavy lifting, representing nearly half of all funding with an average of about \$19,500 per grant. These typically support specific program implementation, staff positions, equipment, and multi-year initiatives.

Large Grants: Strategic Investments

Large grants are rare (2.2% of all grants) but account for nearly 28% of total funding. These represent significant strategic investments in major healthcare infrastructure, capital campaigns, and large-scale community initiatives. The largest grants exceed \$300,000.

Metric	Value
Average Grant Size	\$10,349
Median Grant Size	~\$3,200
Largest Single Grant	\$976,824

Chapter 7: Intervention Scale

This dimension describes the level at which grants aim to create impact, from individual beneficiaries to entire communities.

Funding by Purpose

Scale	Grants	Amount	% of Total
Individual	427	\$4,875,803	32.5%
Organization	402	\$4,530,341	30.2%
Community	128	\$2,144,589	14.3%
Family	109	\$1,180,469	7.9%
All Scales	19	\$679,700	4.5%
Group	77	\$593,156	4.0%
Unspecified/Other	176	\$985,361	6.6%

Individual-level grants lead all intervention categories at \$4.9 million, representing 32.5% of total funding. These dollars flow directly to people: scholarships that open doors to higher education, emergency assistance that prevents eviction or keeps utilities connected, healthcare services for the uninsured, and counseling for individuals and families in crisis. The prominence of individual-level funding reflects a philanthropic community committed to meeting people where they are.

Organization-level grants follow closely at \$4.8 million (32%), supporting nonprofits as institutions rather than funding specific programs or individuals. These investments strengthen organizational infrastructure, build operational capacity, and provide the flexible resources that allow nonprofits to respond to emerging needs. When funders invest at the organizational level, they signal confidence in leadership and a long-term commitment to institutional sustainability.

Together, these two scales account for nearly 65% of all philanthropic investment in Frederick County. The near-parity between individual and organizational funding suggests a balanced approach: funders recognize that effective philanthropy requires both direct support for people in need and sustained investment in the organizations that serve them.

Chapter 8: Who Benefits?

Tracking where philanthropic dollars go by sector and purpose tells only half the story. The other half is understanding who those dollars ultimately reach. Frederick County's funders direct their resources toward a range of populations, but the data reveals clear concentrations -- particularly among economically vulnerable households and the organizations that serve them. This chapter examines who benefits from the county's \$15.0 million in grantmaking and what the patterns suggest about how funders think about the people behind the programs.

\$5.4M (36%)

ALICE Households

\$3.6M (24%)

Extreme Poverty

Economic Vulnerability Focus

Frederick County's funders are deeply focused on economic vulnerability, targeting two key populations:

ALICE households—those who are Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed—represent working families who earn too much to qualify for public assistance but too little to afford basic necessities. With 500 grants totaling \$5.4 million (36% of all funding), this population receives the largest share of philanthropic investment. These grants support working families navigating the gap between wages and the cost of living, funding everything from emergency assistance and childcare subsidies to workforce development and financial literacy programs.

Extreme poverty grants totaled \$3.6 million across 333 grants, representing 24% of all philanthropic investment. These dollars reach the county's most vulnerable residents—individuals and families living well below the federal poverty line who depend on safety-net services for basic survival. Funding in this category supports emergency shelter, food assistance, healthcare access, and crisis intervention programs that provide immediate relief while connecting people to longer-term stability resources.



Demographic Targeting

By Race:

Category	Grants	Amount
All Races	290	\$3,411,929
Black or African American	47	\$587,108
White	40	\$445,696
Multiple/Other	87	\$1,292,467
Not Applicable/Unknown	814	\$7,905,732

By Gender:

Category	Grants	Amount
All Genders	271	\$2,992,421
Female	119	\$1,520,809
Male	46	\$469,888
Not Applicable	780	\$8,231,098

The significant funding targeting women (\$1.5M) reflects support for domestic violence services, women's health, girls' programs, and other gender-specific initiatives.



Chapter 9: Sector Analysis

A Community's Priorities, Revealed Through Funding

When dozens of independent funders make thousands of separate grantmaking decisions, the aggregate result tells a story about what a community values and where it sees the greatest urgency. In Frederick County, that story in 2024 is one of a community grappling with fundamental human needs while simultaneously investing in the cultural, educational, and civic infrastructure that makes a place worth living in.

The largest single sector concentration is healthcare, with more than \$1.5 million directed toward hospitals, clinics, and health access programs. This reflects a community where access to care remains uneven, and where philanthropic dollars fill gaps that neither the market nor public programs fully address. Healthcare access organizations serving the uninsured received over \$500,000 of that total, signaling that funders see a population still falling through the cracks of the formal healthcare system.

Housing and homelessness services attract nearly \$1.3 million, a figure that has more than tripled since 2020. As detailed earlier in this report, this trajectory reflects both escalating community need and a growing funder consensus that stable housing is the foundation on which other outcomes depend. Domestic violence and personal safety services represent another \$500,000, with the highest funder convergence score in the dataset. These two sectors together account for more than a fifth of all Human Needs funding, and their shared characteristic is that they address situations where people's most basic safety is at stake.

Emerging Sectors and Surprising Shifts

Perhaps the most striking sector-level story in 2024 is the increase in faith-based funding to \$962,000, placing it nearly on par with arts and culture. As explored in Chapter 4, this appears driven primarily by major capital projects at a small number of congregations rather than a broad-based shift in funding philosophy. Still, it reflects the continued role that religious organizations play as community infrastructure, providing gathering spaces, emergency response, and social services that complement the secular nonprofit sector.

Immigrant services, at over \$400,000, and multi-service nonprofits, at over \$800,000, round out the picture. The immigrant services figure reflects Frederick County's growing diversity and the demand for language, legal, and integration support. The multi-service category is notable because it represents organizations that refuse to fit neatly into a single box, delivering coordinated social services that address the overlapping challenges families face. The size of this category hints at a broader truth in the data: the most pressing community problems do not respect the boundaries that funders and analysts draw between sectors.



Chapter 10: Year-Over-Year Trends

The 2024 Shift

Metric	2023	2024	Trend
Total Funding	\$14.4M	\$15.0M	+4.2%
Grants	1,434	1,338	-6.7%
NPOs Funded	351	374	+6.5%
Avg Grant	\$10,043	\$10,349	+3.0%
New Initiatives	16%	20%	+4pts
Multi-Funder NPOs	29%	31%	+2pts

Year-Over-Year: 2023 vs 2024

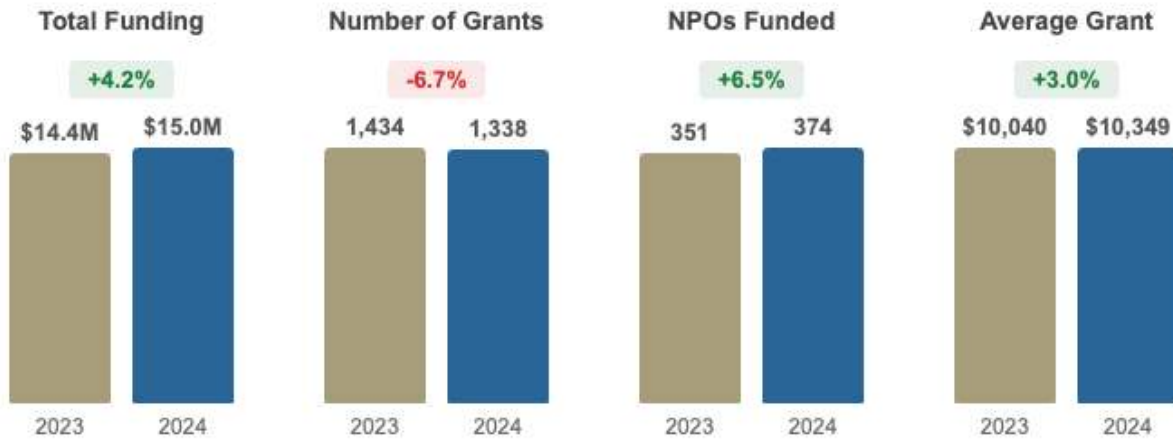


Figure 10: Year-over-year comparison of key metrics

Growth Indicators: 2023 to 2024



Figure 11: Growth indicators -- percentage change from 2023

Broader Reach, Deeper Impact

More funding distributed to more organizations with larger average amounts suggests funders are being more strategic, supporting more groups with more meaningful grants.

Innovation Appetite Growing

The jump from 15% to 20% in new initiative funding represents a significant shift. This could reflect post-pandemic willingness to try new approaches, recognition that old solutions are not solving persistent problems, and desire to support emerging community needs.

Chapter 11: The Funding Ecosystem

Frederick County's philanthropic ecosystem operates through informal coordination rather than centralized planning. The 12 participating funders each make independent decisions, yet powerful patterns emerge.

Concentration at the Top

Three funders provide 74% of all funding. The largest funder alone provides 42%. This concentration means these funders significantly shape community priorities.

Government as Validator

Government sources (county and city) provide 10.5% of funding, but government grants often signal "safe" investments to private funders. Government support can unlock additional private funding.

Small Funders, Specialized Focus

Smaller funders often focus on specific issues or populations. Giving circles bring donor engagement and community voice. Specialized foundations support niche needs others might miss.

The Referral Network

While not formally documented, the data suggests funders often support the same organizations, creating an informal referral network where success with one funder leads to introductions to others, strong organizations accumulate diverse funding over time, and emerging organizations may struggle to break into the network.

Chapter 12: Looking Forward

What 2024 Tells Us About the Future

The 2024 data reveals a philanthropic community that is:

1

Maturing

More organizations served, more strategic distribution, stronger average grants. Frederick's funders are becoming more sophisticated.

2

Collaborating

31% of NPOs now receive multi-funder support, up from 29%. While informal, this collaboration strengthens the nonprofit ecosystem.

3

Innovating

20% of funding goes to new initiatives, up from 15%. Funders are increasingly willing to bet on new approaches.

4

Focusing

Human needs (53%), especially housing and health, dominate priorities. The community has clear consensus about what matters most.

5

Adapting

Arts funding rebounded; economic vulnerability remains central. The philanthropic sector responds to changing community

Dataset Scope

Element	Count
Grant Records	1,338
Unique Organizations	374
Participating Funders	12
Data Fields per Grant	20+
Analysis Year	2024

Limitations

Self-reported data:

Funders provide their own grant information, which may vary in completeness

Classification subjectivity:

Topic and purpose categories involve judgment calls

Participation scope:

Only 12 funders participated; other philanthropic giving in the county is not captured

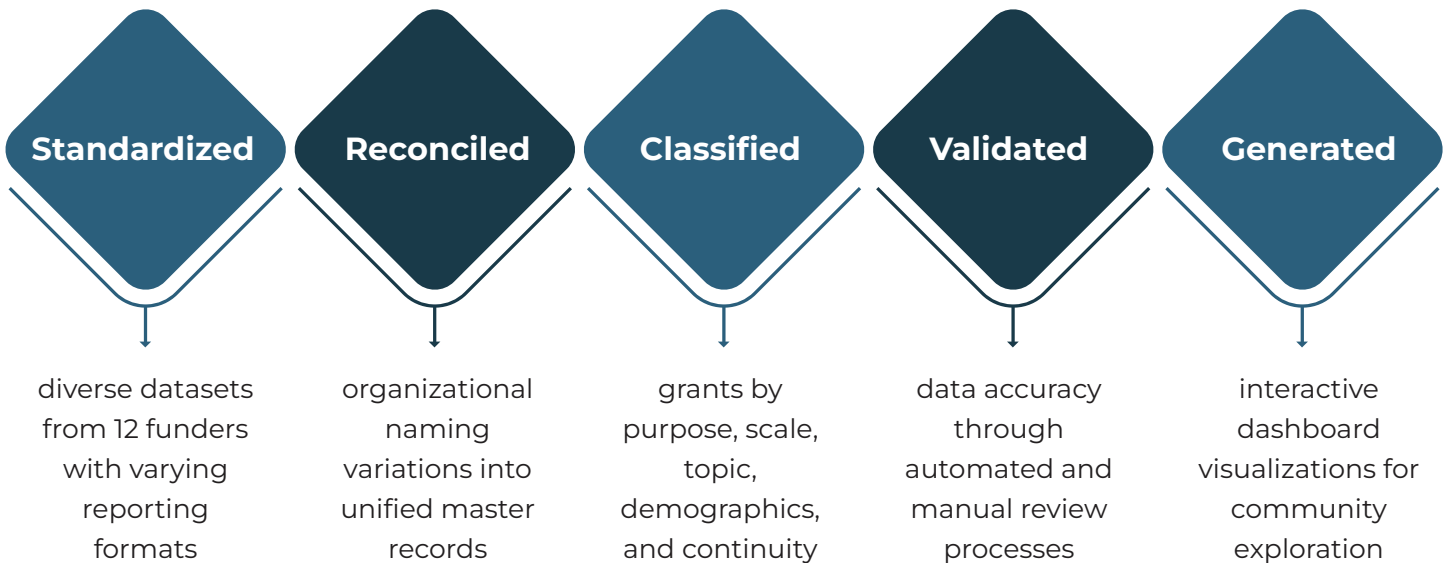
Point-in-time:

This analysis reflects 2024 grants only; trends require multi-year comparison



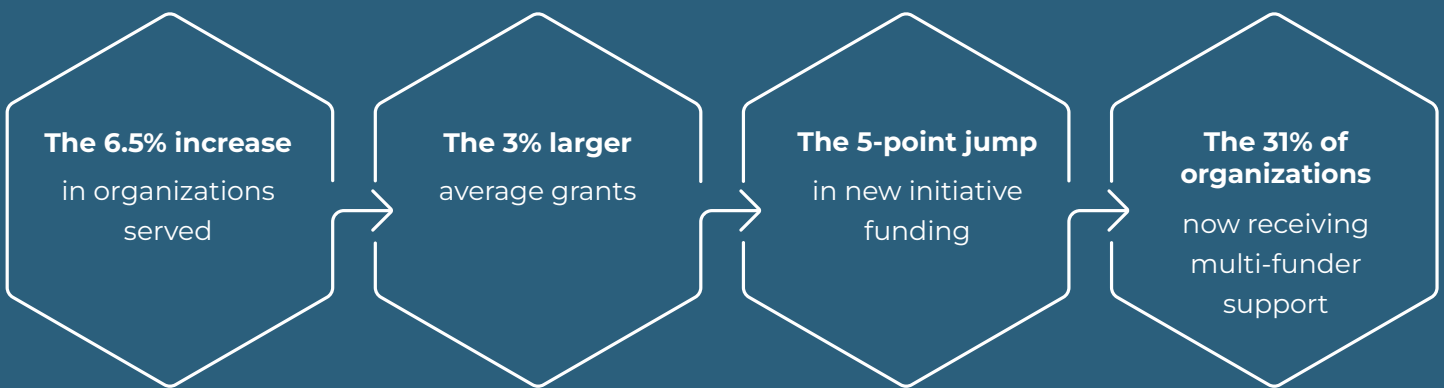
Methodology

The 2024 analysis was conducted at Data Driven Frederick using data contributed by all 12 participating funders. The analysis employed an AI-infused data pipeline that:



The Story of 2024

The story of Frederick philanthropy in 2024 is about:



It is about \$7.9 million flowing to human needs: housing, health, safety, and the complex intersection of all three. It is about domestic violence services receiving support from 9 different funders. It is about housing organizations attracting 8 funders. It is about a community that continues to invest in itself, even as it learns to do so more strategically.



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

March 19, 2025

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: 2024 Report" is an impressive, continued step in understanding the nonprofit funding landscape in our county.

Although only 2024 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 2024 Payments to Nonprofits:	
General Fund- Family Services Division	\$ 81,230.52
General Fund- Community Partnership Grants	1,243,000.00
General Fund- Non Departmental, Non County Agencies	109,334.98
General Fund- Miscellaneous	140,000.00
Opioid Abatement Fund	1,078,262.43
Housing Initiative Fund	162,500.00
Grants Fund	5,933,202.95
	\$ 8,747,530.88

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.

Sincerely,

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

Frederick County: Rich History, Bright Future

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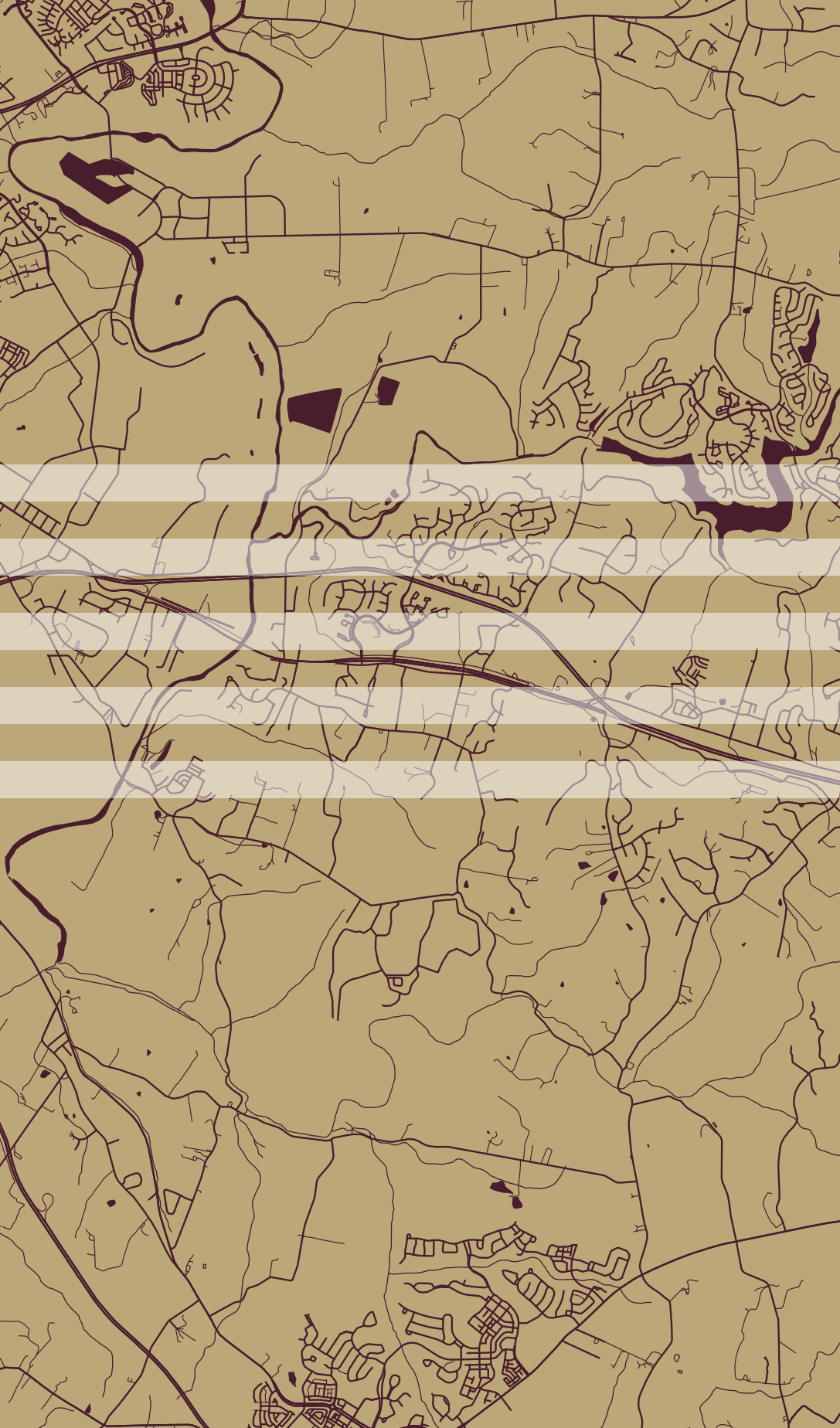
www.FrederickCountyMD.gov



\$15.0 million. 1,338 grants. 374 organizations. 12 funders. One community.

That is the story of Frederick philanthropy in 2024.

***Prepared by Data Driven Frederick
Hood College
2026***



For more information
about the initiative
behind this report,
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