Washington Area Women’s Foundation has been able to continue to support the most marginalized women, girls and gender expansive folks of color in the region.

We are proud to share this overview of the community investments we made in calendar year 2021, which reflect our ongoing evolution.

Did You Know

4.2 million women the country had to leave the workforce during the pandemic—a full million more women than men? Men have now fully recovered—and even outpaced—their pre-pandemic employment rates, however, women’s employment is not projected to recover to pre-pandemic levels until 2024 with the unemployment rate—especially for Black women—continuing to rise.

In 2021, our participatory grantmaking model became more prevalent during the pandemic, which includes community stakeholders in the funding decision-making process. According to studies, participatory grantmaking promotes social justice, equity, and democratized philanthropy by bringing diverse lived experiences to the decision-making table. As the ongoing pandemic forced our communities to shelter in place, the Washington Area Women’s Foundation continued to invest in our partners who are pioneering solutions already at work that have a measurable, sustainable, and life-altering effect on women.

Our priorities are:

- Early Care and Education
- Our Young Women’s Initiative
- Safety programs for women and girls who have faced sexual and domestic abuse.

Women and girls of color make change happen.

While too often unsung, the work of women and girls of color have advanced human rights and gender, racial and economic justice in our communities for decades. Our theory of change is that by recognizing the leadership of women and girls of color, and increasing their resources, they will ignite much needed change.

We put our theory into action by:

- 1. Making grants to organizations that are actively pursuing gender, racial and economic justice and awarding women and girls of color and gender expansive people of color directly, and;
- 2. Centering the voices and lived experiences of women and girls of color and gender expansive people of color to influence policymakers and the local philanthropic sector to advance gender, racial and economic justice.

WASHINGTON AREA WOMEN’S FOUNDATION

womensfoundation.org
Since our founding in 1998, we have awarded $15.2 million in grants to more than 215 local community-based organizations and individuals.

2021 Grants Impact by Priority Area
In 2021, our supporter’s generosity benefited:

- **281,269** in Early Childhood Education
- **5,594** in Safety and Violence Prevention
- **205** in Young Women’s Initiative
- **90** in Maternal Health

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### ECE - Educators & Families Impacted + YWI – Youth Engaged & Awarded

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Educators Impacted</th>
<th>Families Impacted</th>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>3,615</td>
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<td>2020</td>
<td>2,243</td>
<td>41,622</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>3,375</td>
<td>7,830</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Youth Engaged</th>
<th>Rock Star Awardees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>200</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

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### Grant Allocation by Organization Type

- **76%** of leaders at the helm of organizations awarded are women or gender expansive people of color.
- **94%** of grants awarded were for general operating dollars.
- **76%** of grants went to groups with operating budgets of $1M or less.
- **59%** of grants went to organizations with one or no full-time staff.

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### Testimonials

**HISTORICAL INVESTMENTS**

- **59%** went to organizations with one or no full-time staff.
- **76%** of grants awarded were for general operating dollars.
- **94%** of leaders at the helm of organizations awarded are women or gender expansive people of color.

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**Advocacy Highlights**

Our partners have been called upon to sit on local task forces focused on addressing the issues the pandemic brought to bear—the very issues they had already been designing and funding solutions for. Governments were desperate for programs that could be implemented with speed and rigor—and yield big results. Local organizations were at the table because they had the data, the connections to the community, and a deep understanding of how to make tangible progress during a time of crisis.

In 2021, we:

- Represented the interests of women and girls in our community on more than 7 advocacy coalitions and philanthropic collaboratives.
- Supported our partners in influencing more than 12 local and state policies that benefit women, girls and their families.

**Advocacy collaborative examples include:**

- DC Girls Coalition,
- Under3DC,
- DC’s Home Visiting Council, Advocacy Subcommittee,
- Montgomery Moving Forward’s Early Childhood Education Workforce Advocacy Coalition and
- Tri - State Regional Advocacy Cohort

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**Young Women’s Initiative**

“Staff at the Foundation have supported us by participating in our campaigns, providing training to our youth, and supporting our advocacy efforts. This is a unique level of support that has been crucial to us moving forward. If The Women’s Foundation did not exist, we would not be able to continue as an organization in the way we are right now.”

**Kristi Matthews-Jones, Director, DC Girls’ Coalition**

**Rock Star Fund**

“The Rockstar Grant has given me the courage to continue pursuing a dream that I have had in my heart for a long time. Witnessing it come alive before my eyes is quite literally a dream come true. Receiving the investment and support from the Washington Area Women’s Foundation means the world. Thank you for believing in me.”

**Adjo, Rock Star 2021, Founder of Adjo’s Outstanding Jojoba Oil**

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The Washington Area Women’s Foundation has forwarded us the opportunity to continuously speak up and speak out about the inequities of family child care within the educational system. Their investment helped lift up the voices of our growing network of 500+ bilingual educators to help ensure they are recognized for their pivotal role in society.

**Cynthia Davis, Executive Director, DC Family Child Care Association**

**SomaYaa Gharani, Director, IKRAM Foundation**

**Kristi Matthews-Jones, Director, DC Girls’ Coalition**

**Adjo, Rock Star 2021, Founder of Adjo’s Outstanding Jojoba Oil**

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**the womens foundation.org**
The Women's Foundation has been fortunate to work with more than 200 community-based organizations working to improve the lives of women and girls throughout the Washington, DC region. Below are some of the Grantee Partners we have collaborated with in 2021.

5 youth of color Rock Star Awardees  
ASHA for Women  
Asian-Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project  
Ayuda  
Bright Beginnings  
Briya Public Charter School (on behalf of Multicultural Spanish Speaking Provider Association)  
Building Bridges Foundation  
Community Advocates for Family and Youth  
DC Association for the Education of Young Children  
DC Family Child Care Association  
DC Fiscal Policy Institute  
DC Girls Coalition  
DC Primary Care Association  
DC Rape Crisis Center  

DEAF Dawn  
District Alliance for Safe Housing  
Home Care Partners  
House of Ruth  
Ikram Foundation  
Infant Toddler Family Day Care  
LIFT-DC  
Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children  
Maryland State Family Child Care Association  
Nonprofit Montgomery  
Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children  
Prince George's Child Resource Center  
Rights4Girls  
Silence Kills  
SPACEs In Action  
Tahirih Justice Center  
The Safe Sisters Circle  
Virginia Anti-Violence Project  
Voices for Virginia's Children  
Wonders Early Learning and Extended Day (on behalf of Equity in Early Learning Initiative)

A participant described to us “…how attending the webinar not only impacted her, but spoke directly to how she and her partner are raising her 5-year-old daughter to speak up in the face of racism no matter how subtle it may be.”

Your support made this possible.

In 2021, #AskHer fulfilled its goal to feature women and gender non-conforming leaders, partners, community members and supporters who work tirelessly for women and girls.

With your generous support, the 2021 #AskHer was a success and allowed us to:

- Host 13 discussions around topics that affect women and gender non-conforming youth.
- Host nearly 100 guests watching live per session.
- Reach over 1,500 participants through recordings and written interviews posted to our blog.

With topics ranging from "The Power of Youth of Color" to "The Importance of Intersectional Feminism", these virtual webinars are curated in-depth conversations around complex issues that affect our constituents. These discussions go hand in hand with our work to provide solutions to eliminate persistent barriers that disproportionately hinder women and girls from achieving economic security.

Learn more about Washington Area Women’s Foundation and view the full list of our Grantee Partners on our website!