

# Washington Area Women's Foundation

2021 Community  
Investment Report



WASHINGTON AREA  
**WOMEN'S**  
FOUNDATION

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## WHO WE ARE

**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.**

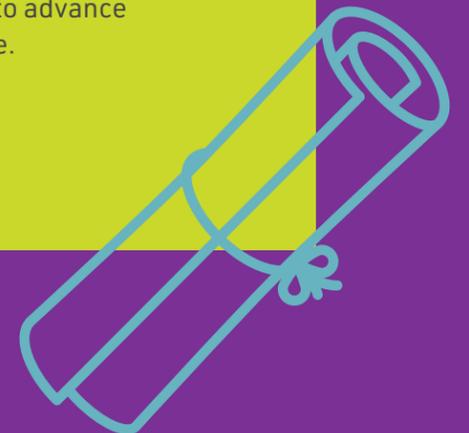


## Women and girls of color make change happen.

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.



HISTORICAL INVESTMENTS

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

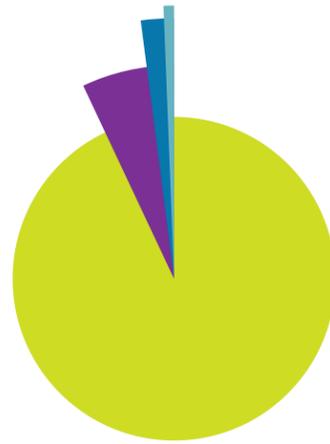
**2021 Grants Impact by Priority Area**

In 2021, our supporter's generosity benefitted:



**281,269** ✓  
Early Childhood Education

**5,594** ✓  
Safety and Violence Prevention



✓ **205**  
Young Women's Initiative

✓ **90**  
Maternal Health

**ECE - Educators & Families Impacted + YWI - Youth Engaged & Awarded**

Year	Educators Impacted	Families Impacted
2021	3,615	190,680
2020	2,243	41,622
2019	3,375	7,830

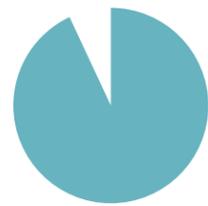
Year	Youth Engaged	Rock Star Awardees
2021	200	5
2020	19	10
2019	23	5

**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%** went to groups with operating budgets of \$1M or less.



**59%** of grants went to organizations with one or no full-time staff.



TESTIMONIALS



**Early Care and Education**

"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

**Safety and Violence Prevention**

"Had we not received funding from The Women's Foundation, our organization would have faced a great loss to the essential support for the work that we do. There are limited resources for our demographic of beneficiaries of Muslim Women, and The Women's Foundation is serving a dire need in our communities that is essential for us to make an investment in positive change for generations to come."

SOMAYYAH GHARIANI, DIRECTOR, IKRAM FOUNDATION

**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 JOJO'S OUTSTANDING JOJOBA OIL

**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



Our goal is to accelerate progress for all by investing in the leadership of women and girls, especially Black, Latina, Native American, and other women and girls of color. We have been at the forefront of deploying capital and resources to organizations to help get them the visibility, traction, or funding they deserve. Our investments open doors to opportunity for both individuals and organizations.



**#AskHer**

**Our Impact**

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.

**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)

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

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 [washington-area-women-s-foundation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/washington-area-women-s-foundation)

