

The logo for AAPIP (Asian American & Pacific Islander Philanthropy) features the acronym 'AAPIP' in a white, hand-drawn, brush-stroke style font. A vertical line is positioned to the right of the text, and the suffix '.ORG' is written in a smaller, clean, white sans-serif font to the right of the vertical line.

AAPIP

Building Democratic
Philanthropy

The background of the entire page is a dark blue-purple color. It is decorated with numerous yellow and orange origami cranes of various sizes, scattered across the space. A series of thin, light blue lines radiate from a central point near the middle of the page, creating a sunburst or starburst effect that adds a sense of movement and energy to the design.

Seeking to Soar

Foundation
Funding for
Asian American
& Pacific Islander
Communities

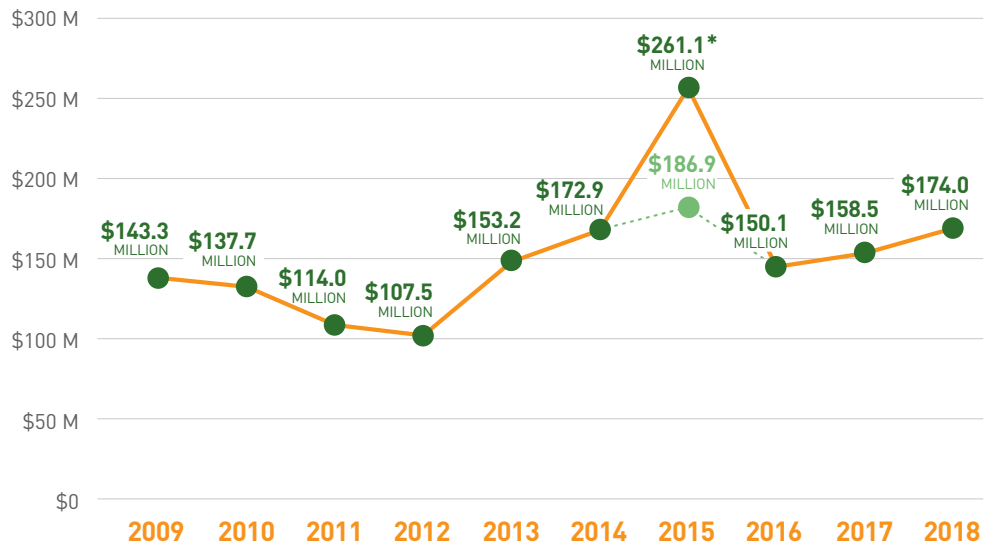
Seeking to Soar

Foundation Funding for Asian American & Pacific Islander Communities

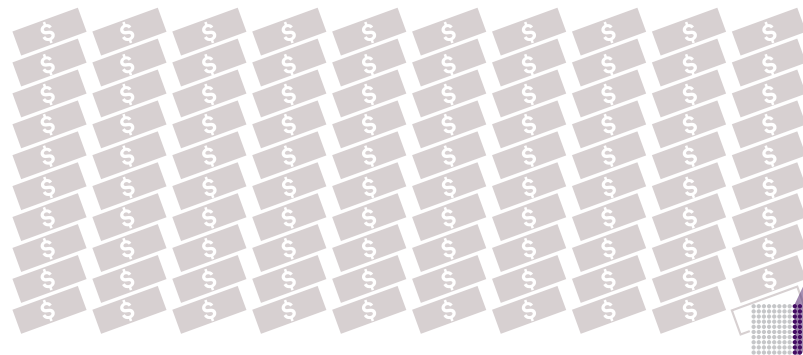
While there have been some minor fluctuations in foundation funding designated for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities — ranging from \$107.7 million a year at its lowest to \$261.1 million a year at its highest — **by and large funding has stagnated.**

FOUNDATION FUNDING FOR PEOPLE OF ASIAN DESCENT, PACIFIC ISLANDERS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS (2009-2018)

**NOTE: The peak year of 2015 includes an outlier grant of \$74.2 million from the Ford Foundation to the National Academy of Sciences over a period of 13.5 years toward "The Ford Fellowships Program for predoctoral, dissertation and postdoctoral fellowships." These fellowships support communities of color, inclusive of but not exclusive to AAPIs.*



FOUNDATION FUNDING FOR AAPI COMMUNITIES (2018)

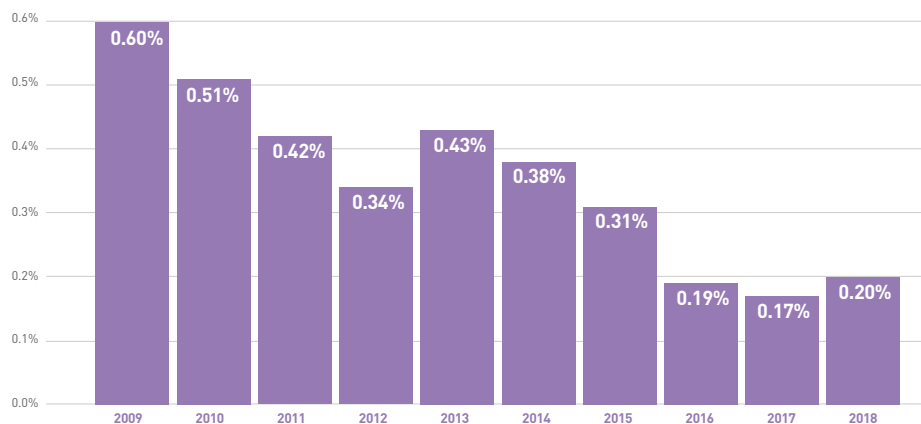


\$0.20
OF EVERY
\$100.00

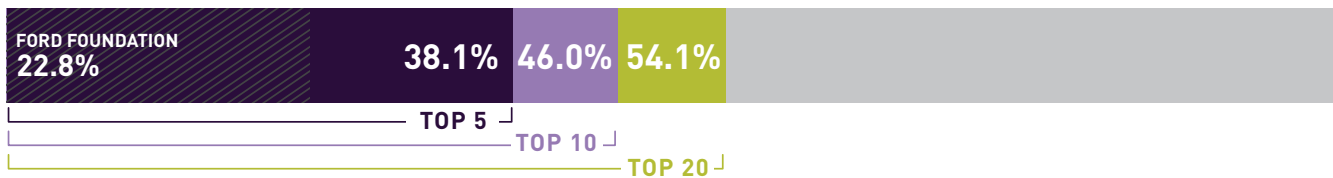
This is not true for foundation giving in general, which significantly increased over the last decade. In 2018, foundation giving in the United States totaled \$88 billion. As such, **for every \$100 awarded by foundations, only 20 cents was designated for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.**

PERCENTAGE OF FOUNDATION FUNDING DESIGNATED FOR PEOPLE OF ASIAN DESCENT, PACIFIC ISLANDERS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS (2009-2018)

Moreover, as a percentage of overall grantmaking, funding designated specifically for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities has been on the decline since peaking at 0.60 percent in 2009 and 2010.

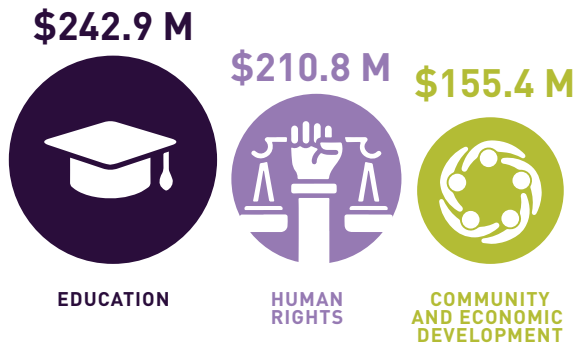


CONCENTRATION OF PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT FOR AAPI COMMUNITIES (2014-2018)

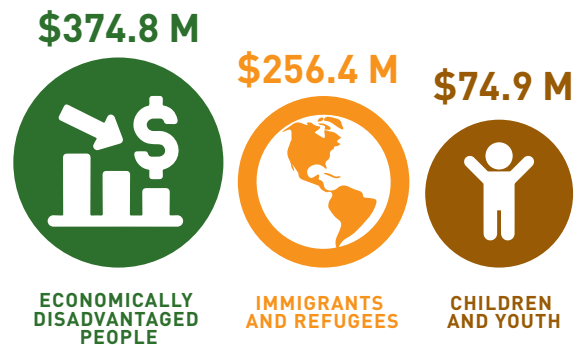


The funding was also heavily concentrated among a handful of foundations, with the top five funders accounting for nearly 40 percent of all philanthropic support designated for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

TOP ISSUES AND SPECIAL POPULATIONS FUNDED (2014-2018)



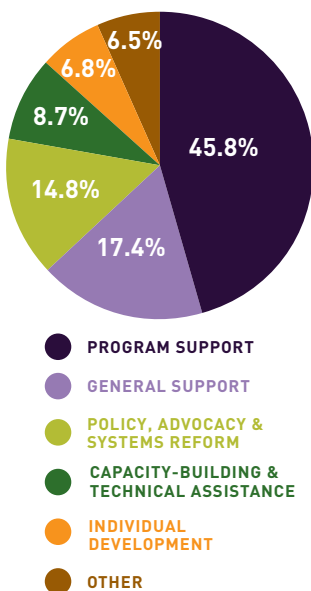
Between 2014 and 2018, the top three issues funded for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders were education, human rights, and community and economic development.



Between 2014 and 2018, the top three special populations funded included economically disadvantaged people, immigrants and migrants, and children and youth.

FUNDING BY CATEGORY (2014-2018)

Between 2014 and 2018, the majority of the funding was awarded in the form of program support, with just 17.4 percent awarded in the form of general operating support.



GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING (2014-2018)

Between 2014 and 2018, nearly a third of all funding designated for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities went to grant recipients in California. During the same time period, we could not identify any funding for Idaho or North Dakota.

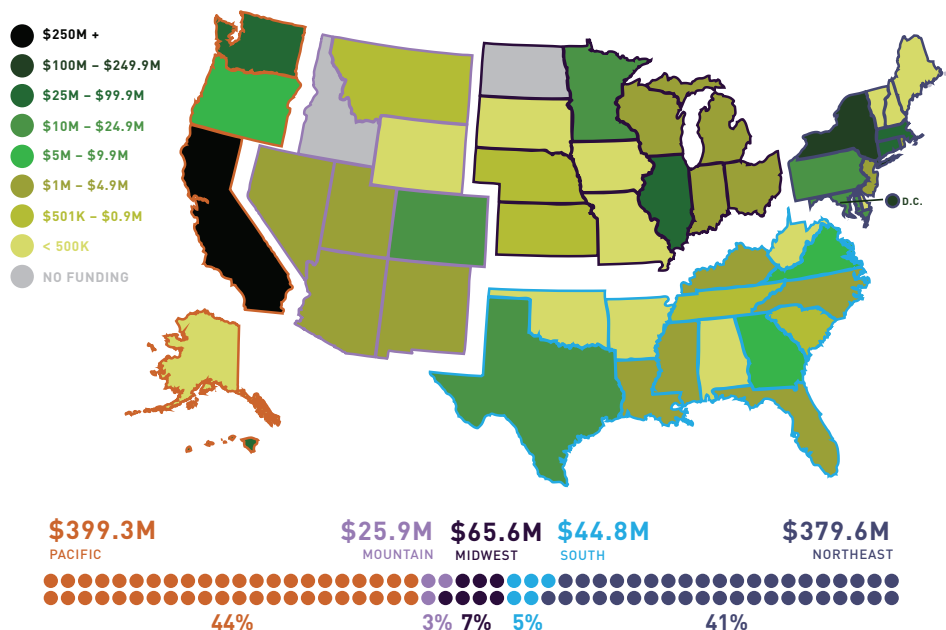


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DID YOU KNOW?

ORIGAMI CRANES

In some East Asian cultures, cranes are a symbol of good fortune and longevity. After the American bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the origami crane became a symbol of peace, hope, and healing during challenging times. It is said that anyone who folds a thousand origami cranes will be granted a wish. It is fitting, therefore, to have cranes adorn this report that examines foundation funding for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, covering the period between 2009-2018. While this report marks the baseline from that period, it is our hope that foundation funding increases and that the cranes bring sustained good fortune in support of AAPI communities for years to come.

Introduction

Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP) was founded 30 years ago to expand and mobilize philanthropic resources for underserved Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities and inspire a more just and equitable society. At the time, there were roughly 7.3 million AAPI people in the United States, accounting for less than 3 percent of the total population.¹ Today, there are approximately 24.2 million AAPI people in the United States, accounting for roughly 7 percent of the total population.² As the fastest growing racial group in the country, the Asian American and Pacific Islander population is extremely diverse and faces a number of challenges, including the widest wealth gap between those at the top and bottom.³ But has foundation support kept pace with these realities?

This report, ***Seeking to Soar: Foundation Funding for Asian American & Pacific Islander Communities***, probes the question of foundation investments in AAPI communities. In these pages, AAPIP provides a brief overview of philanthropic support for AAPI communities over the past 35 years, 10 years, and an even closer look at the last five years of currently available data. **The major findings are a shocking disappointment — the percentage of foundation dollars designated for AAPI communities has not moved over the past three decades.**

This report is being released amidst an ongoing pandemic that unleashed anti-Asian hate and violence readily simmering just below the surface; a long overdue reckoning with systemic racism; a global economic crisis; and a tumultuous period of partisanship that is testing the strength of this country's multiracial democracy.

Similar to the experiences of Black, Latinx, and Native American communities, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have been and continue to be disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. COVID-19 infection rates for Pacific Islanders were

consistently among the highest in the country, undercounted and hidden without the magnifying glass of disaggregated data.⁴ As the country shut down, Asian American unemployment rates increased by more than 450 percent from February to June 2020, the highest rate of increase of any racial group.⁵ Moreover, nearly one in four Asian Americans were employed as frontline workers — risking their own health and safety to stem the tide of the infection and get the country back on track.⁶ Yet from the start of the pandemic, AAPIs were also on the frontlines of rising anti-Asian sentiment and violence in this country, with more than 3,800 reported incidents of anti-Asian hate since the pandemic began, with some resulting in death.⁷

In the face of great disparities and challenges, the fact that the percentage of philanthropic dollars designated for AAPIs has not moved in at least three decades, is cause to raise many eyebrows. While foundation funding for communities of color overall is alarmingly low — and AAPIP stands in solidarity with other communities of color in working to reverse that trend — this report focuses exclusively on foundation funding for AAPI communities.

[1] **Asian and Pacific Islander, for the United States, Regions, Divisions, and States: 1990 (100-Percent Data)** [PDF]. (2002). U.S. Census Bureau.

[2] **Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month: May 2020**. (2020, April 30). U.S. Census Bureau.

[3] Asante-Muhammad, D., & Sim, S. (2020, May 14). **Racial wealth SNAPSHOT: Asian Americans and the racial wealth divide**. National Community Reinvestment Coalition.

[4] Ramirez, R. (2020, December 14). **How Pacific Islanders have been left to fend for themselves in the pandemic**. Vox.

[5] Dang, E., Huang, S., Kwok, A., Lung, H., Park, M., & Yueh, E. (2021, February 20). **COVID-19 and advancing Asian American recovery**. McKinsey & Company.

[6] Horsley, S. (2020, October 01). **'Overlooked': Asian American Jobless Rate Surges But Few Take Notice**. NPR.

[7] Jeung, Ph.D, R., Yellow Horse, Ph.D., A., Popovic, T., & Lim, R. (2021, March 21). **Stop AAPI Hate National Report**. Stop AAPI Hate.

This report asks, “**are grantmakers meeting the needs of the diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander population?**” The short answer is no. But the good news is that there is ample opportunity for philanthropy to improve and increase its grantmaking in support of this rapidly growing segment of the American population.

In 1992, AAPIP published *Invisible and In Need: Philanthropic Giving to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders*. That report was one of the first to analyze grantmaking for AAPI communities, concluding that grantmaking for AAPI communities was “disproportionately low given the size, diversity and needs of the fastest growing racial group in America.” It found that between 1983 and 1990, only 0.2 percent of grantmaking was designated for AAPI communities. That averaged to roughly \$5 million a year.

In 2007, AAPIP then published *Growing Opportunities: Will Funding Follow The Rise In Foundation Assets And Growth Of AAPI Populations?* While relying on a slightly different methodology, the report estimated that between 1990 and 2002 grantmaking to AAPI communities had increased to 0.4 percent of all grantmaking. Relying on an analysis of the 20 largest foundations, it concluded that despite the growth in grantmaking, it was still inadequate in light of the fact that AAPI people accounted for 4.5 percent of the U.S. population at the time.

Now, nearly fifteen years have passed since the publication of *Growing Opportunities*. AAPI people are an even larger portion of the U.S. population. Yet AAPIs continue to be invisibilized and face great challenges — challenges that are further exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and violence directed at our communities. As this report reveals, despite increased opportunities and invitations to support AAPI organizations, there has not been any major increase in foundation funding for AAPI communities.

This new report, *Seeking to Soar: Foundation Funding for AAPI Communities*, concludes that **foundation funding designated for AAPI communities still accounts for only 0.2 percent of domestic grantmaking**, the same amount identified in 1992’s *Invisible and In Need*. Far from growing at a steady and predictable clip, **funding for AAPI**

communities has largely flatlined, generally totaling under \$200 million a year. Put differently, **for every \$100 dollars awarded by foundations in the United States, only 20 cents is designated specifically for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.**

The Asian American population is projected to become the largest immigrant group in the United States by 2055. Will philanthropy increase its investments to help AAPI communities reach new heights? Or will it keep funding for this growing segment of the American population in stasis? **The stagnation in foundation support for AAPI communities limits the speed at which AAPI communities might soar to new heights and become full participants in an inclusive multiracial democracy.**

It is also important to note that while the funding baseline has budged little over the past 35 years, the landscape of philanthropy has begun to shift in new ways. As a result of philanthropic under-investments, AAPI communities are themselves trying to fill in gaps through vehicles such as giving circles, social enterprises, and the like. They are also forming AAPI family foundations and AAPI community foundations. Since this report is solely focused on institutional philanthropy and does not explore giving from individuals or government sources, it is not yet known (a research topic for another time) how extensively these vehicles may be filling some gaps.

Offering an updated review of foundation funding over the past ten years and a closer look at that funding over the past five years for which data is available, this report is intended to spark important conversations about how to strategically increase foundation support for AAPI communities. We know that in many ways this report may invite even more questions than it provides answers. We are excited to probe these questions with the field as we work towards fuller investments in AAPI communities and an inclusive democracy.

Sincerely,



Patricia Eng

PRESIDENT & CEO



Lyle Matthew Kan

INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT
OF PROGRAMS



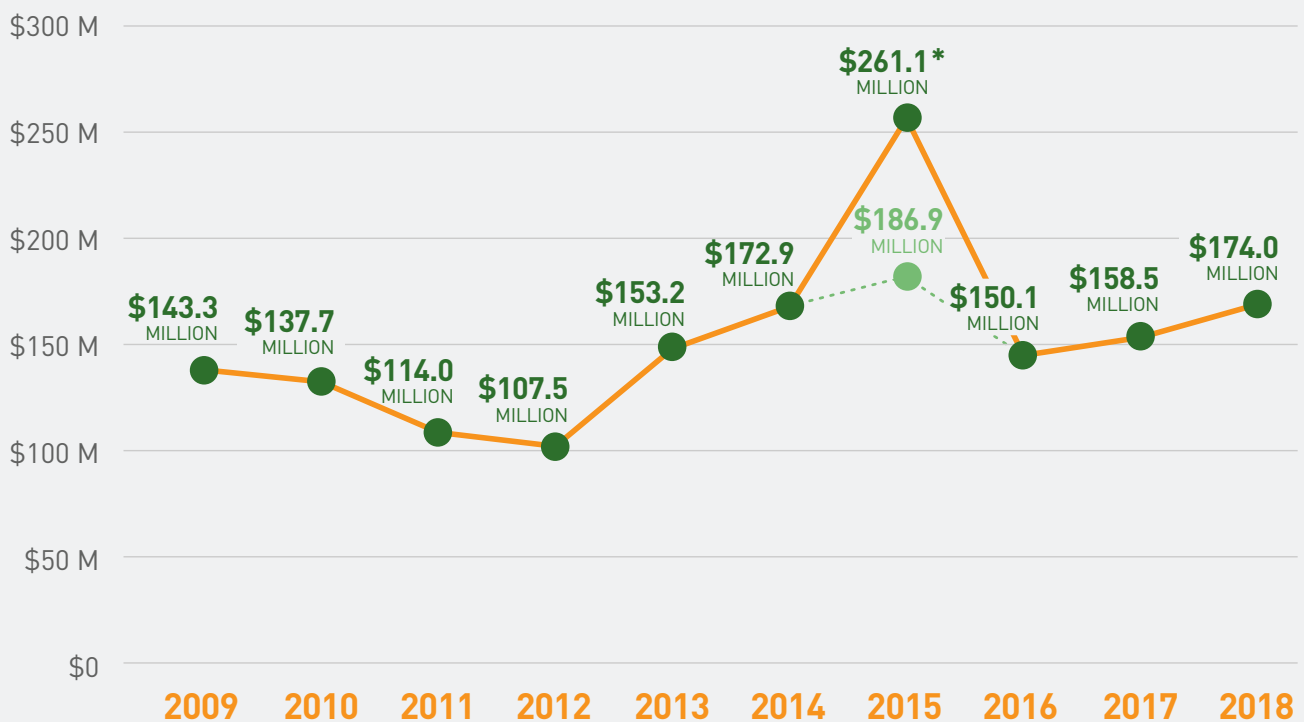
Overview

Between 2009 and 2018, foundation funding specifically designated for Asian American and Pacific Islanders totaled \$1.6 billion. This sum accounts for 34,763 grants from 3,818 grantmakers to 4,632 grant recipients.

Foundation funding for AAPI communities from 2009 to 2018 ranged from \$107.7 million a year at its lowest to \$261.1 million a year at its highest. The peak year of 2015 includes an outlier grant of \$74.2 million from the Ford Foundation to the National Academy of Sciences over a period of 13.5 years toward “The Ford Fellowships Program for predoctoral, dissertation and

postdoctoral fellowships.” These fellowships support communities of color, inclusive of but not exclusive to AAPIs. Absent that grant, the total for that year would be \$186.9 million — still a record year but otherwise in keeping with foundation funding trends for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, where funding is consistently under \$200 million a year.

Foundation Funding for People of Asian Descent, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians (2009-2018)

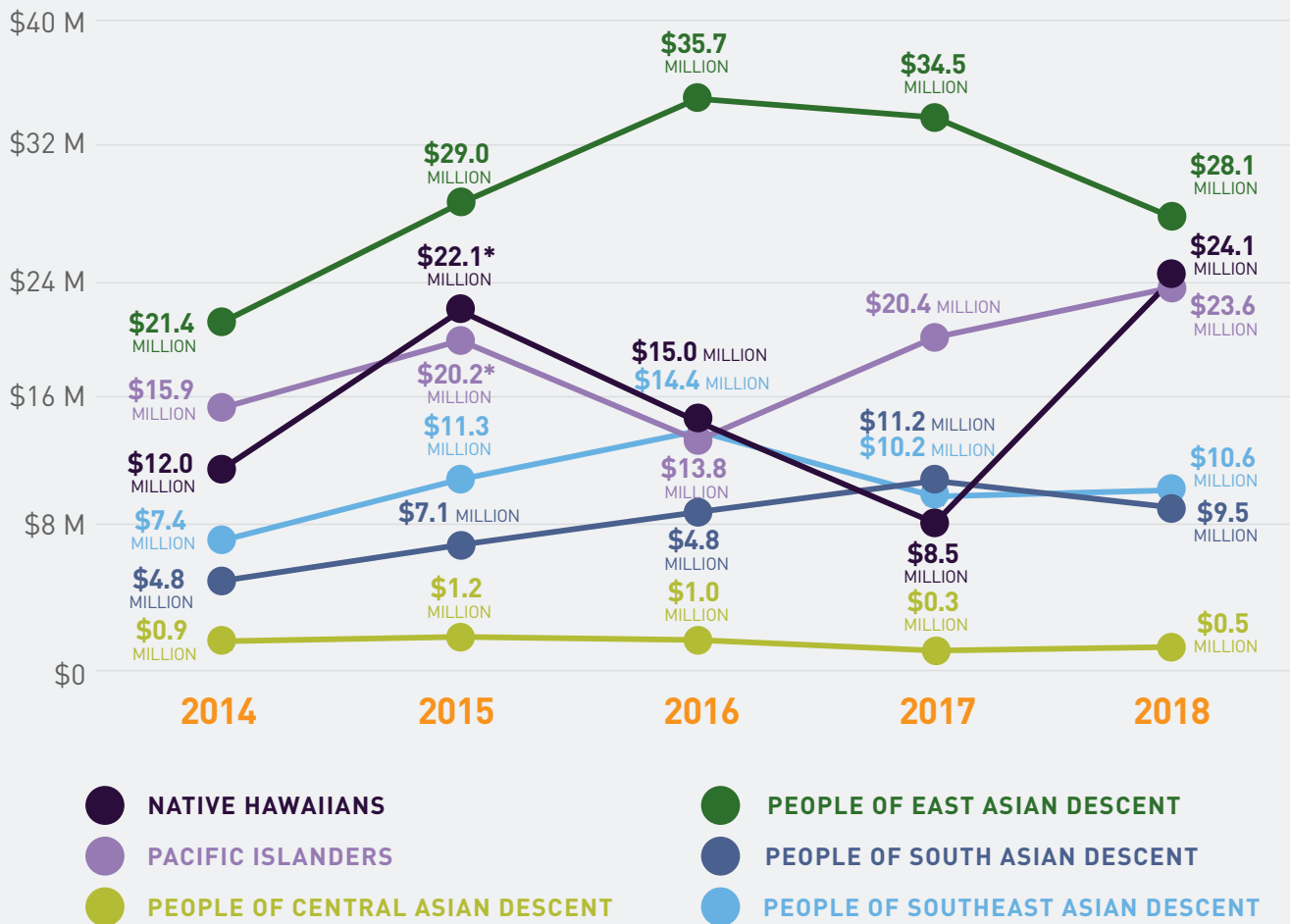


*The increase is driven largely by a \$74.2 million, 13.5-year grant from the Ford Foundation to the National Academy of Sciences to support communities of color and “the Ford Fellowships Program for predoctoral, dissertation and postdoctoral fellowships.”

A closer look at various subsets of the AAPI community reveals a similar pattern of fluctuating funding over the past five years, despite the fact that

philanthropic giving in general tended to steadily increase over the same time period.

A FIVE-YEAR CLOSER LOOK: Foundation Funding by AAPI Community Subset (2014-2018)



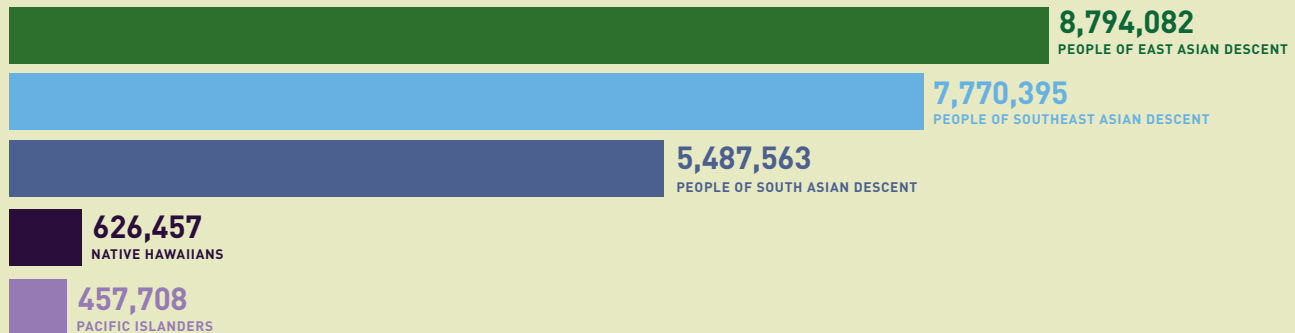
*For the purposes of this chart, the \$74.2 million, 13.5-year grant from the Ford Foundation to the National Academy of Sciences to support communities of color and “the Ford Fellowships Program for predoctoral, dissertation and postdoctoral fellowships” has been removed from the totals for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders even though Candid includes it in their count on Foundation Maps.

DID YOU KNOW?

AAPI DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the United States Census Bureau's 2018 American Community Survey, there are approximately 24.2 million Asian American or Pacific Islander people living in the United States, accounting for roughly 7 percent of the population.⁸ The AAPI population in this country is growing — in fact AAPI growth outpaces that of other communities of color. The graphic below indicates population sizes for various subsets of the AAPI community.

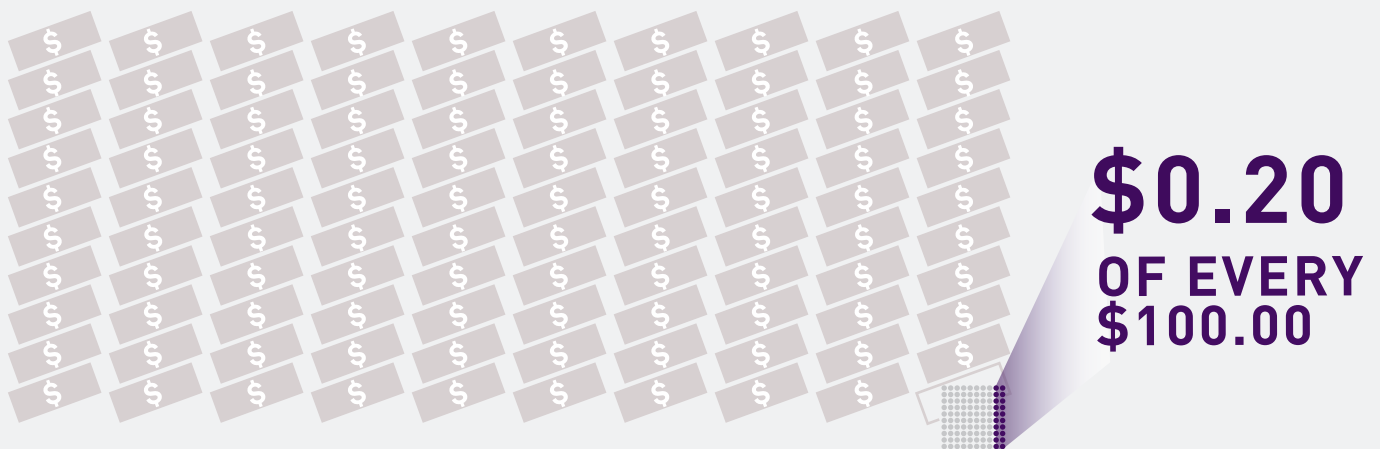
ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER POPULATION BREAKDOWN (2018)⁹



According to Candid's Foundation Maps tool, foundations awarded \$387.1 billion to groups in the United States between 2014 and 2018. In that period, \$916.6 million was designated Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. That represents the

equivalent of 0.2 percent of domestic foundation funding. Put in another way, for every \$100 awarded by foundations for work in the United States, only 20 cents explicitly supports AAPI communities.

Foundation Funding for AAPI Communities (2018)



[8] <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2020/aian.html>

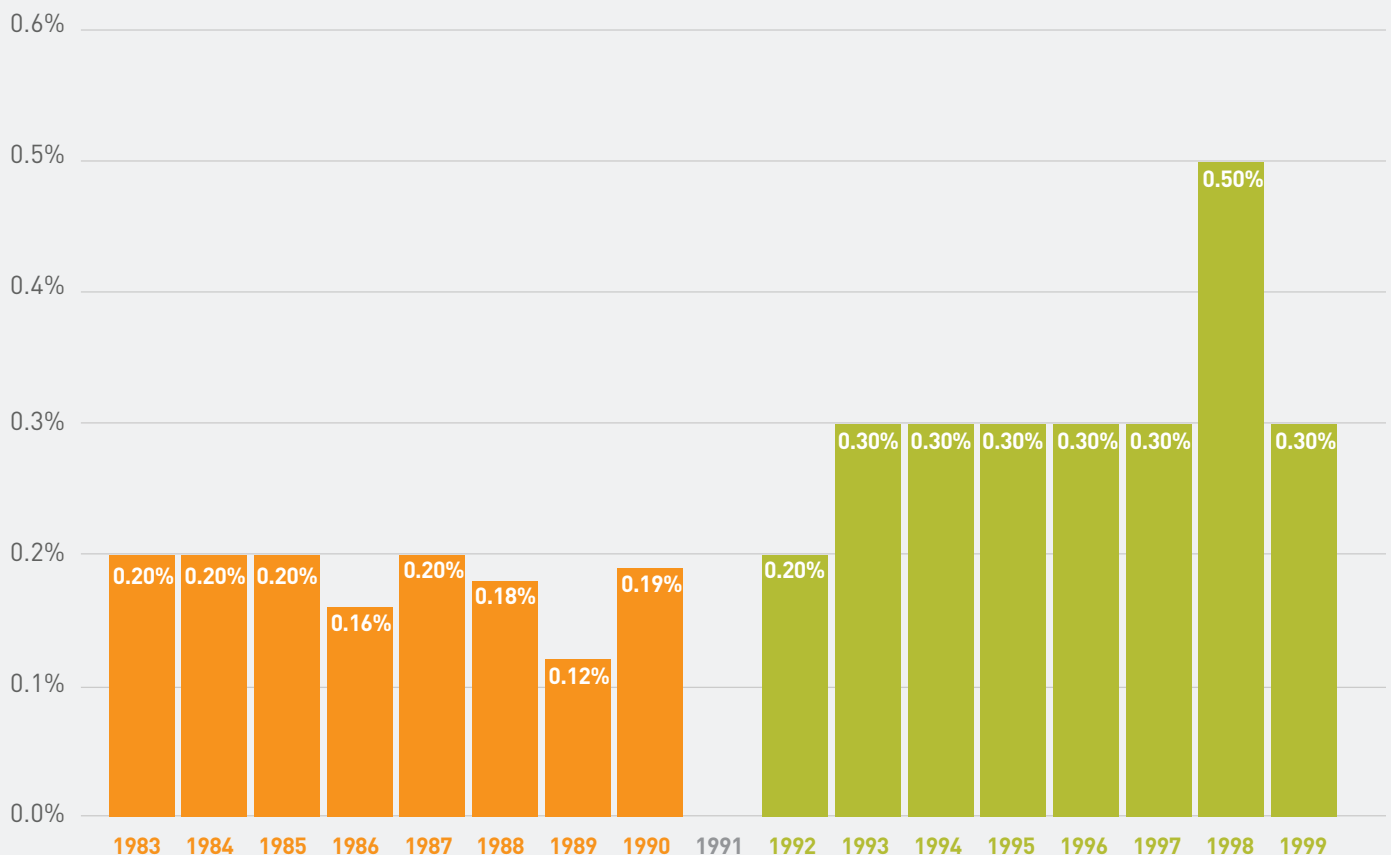
[9] **2018 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates**, Table B02018: Asian Alone or in Any Combination and Table B02019: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone or in Any Combination. (2020, April 30). U.S. Census Bureau.

THE LONGER VIEW:

A 35-Year History of Foundation Funding Designated for Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities

This report builds on two prior research reports which noted the percentage of foundation funding designated for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Despite some fluctuations, the percentage of foundation dollars designated for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities has largely remained flat. This is true even as overall foundation funding has increased exponentially.

Percentage of Foundation Funding Designated for People of Asian Descent, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians (1983-2018)



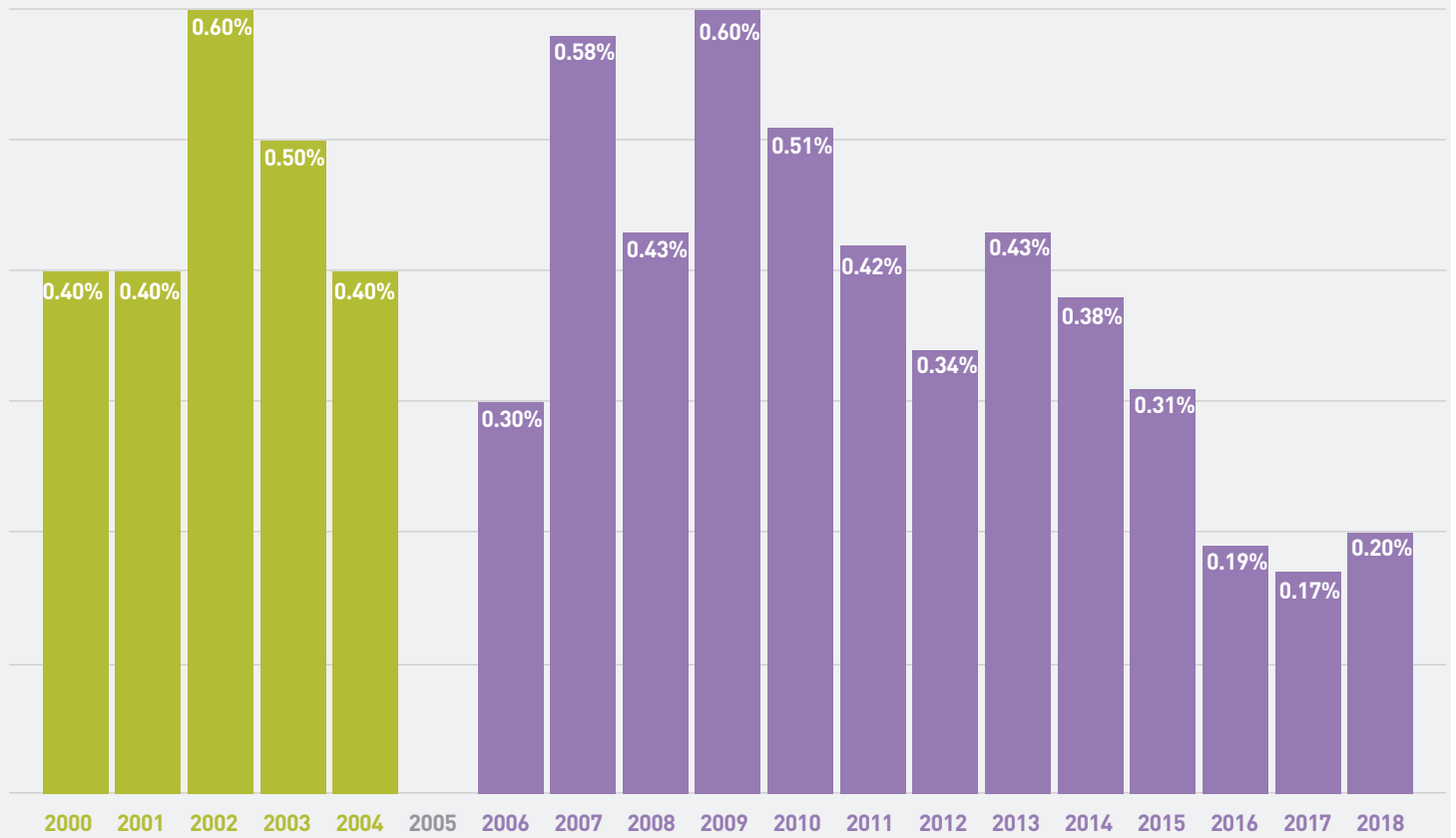
DATA FROM
Invisible and in Need: Philanthropic Giving to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

DATA FROM
Growing Opportunities: Will Funding Follow the Rise in Foundation Assets and Growth of AAPI Populations?

For more historical information on foundation funding for Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities, see:

Invisible and in Need: Philanthropic Giving to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (1992)

Growing Opportunities: Will Funding Follow the Rise in Foundation Assets and Growth of AAPI Populations? (2007)

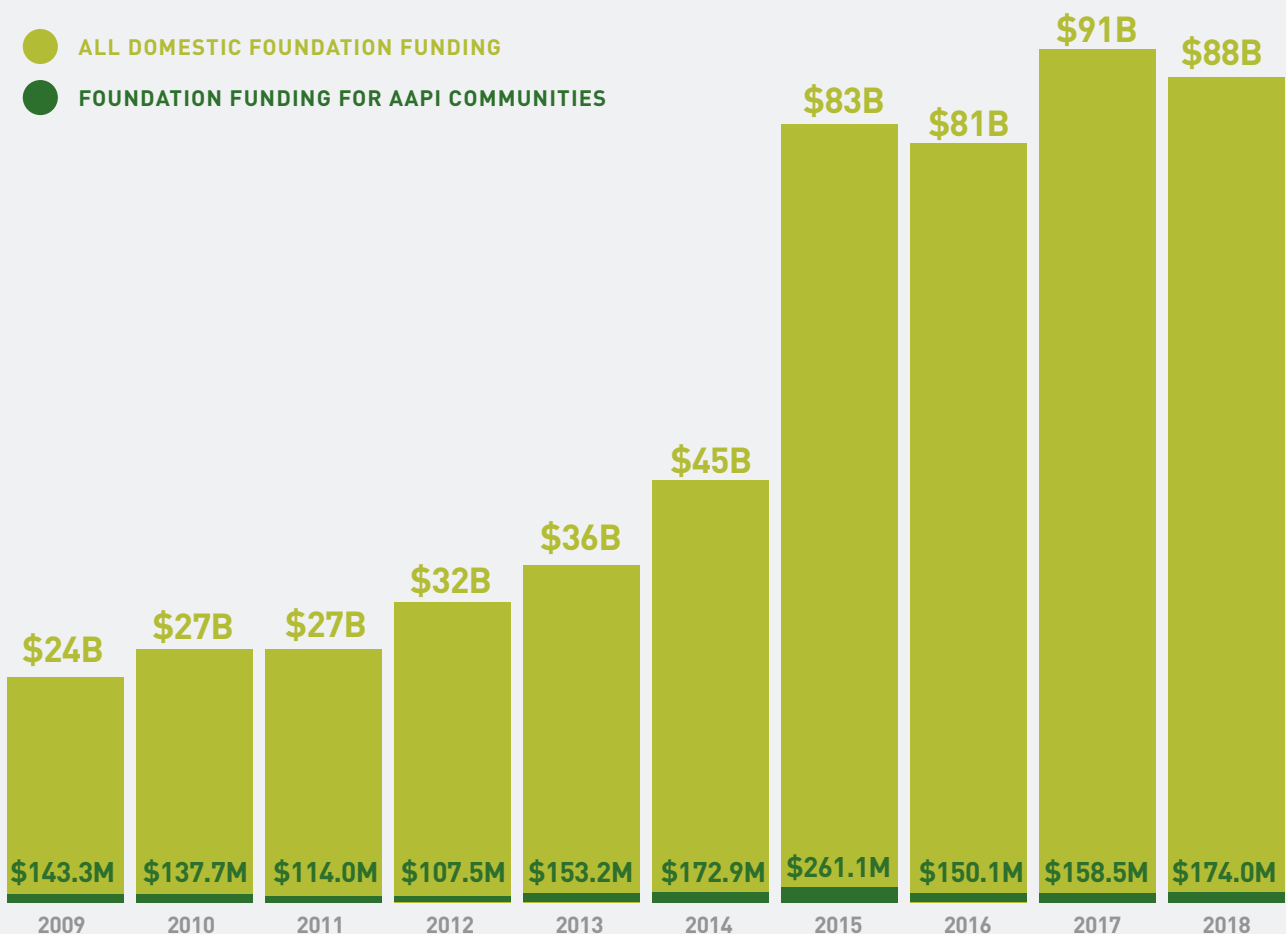


A TEN-YEAR VIEW:

The Growth of Philanthropy vs. the Growth in AAPI Funding

Between 2009 and 2018, Candid reports that foundation funding focused on the United States grew from \$24 billion to \$88 billion, representing an increase of more than 350 percent. During the same time period, foundation funding designated for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in the United States increased from \$143.3 million to \$174 million, representing an increase of approximately 20 percent. As philanthropy has grown, increased investment in Asian American and Pacific Islander communities has not kept pace.

Domestic Foundation Funding vs. Foundation Funding Designated for People of Asian Descent, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians (2009-2018)





A FIVE-YEAR VIEW: Top Funders & Grant Recipients

Taking a closer look at the most recent five-year span covering 2014 to 2018, 3,428 funders awarded 24,663 grants totaling \$916.6 million to 3,797 recipients to support Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

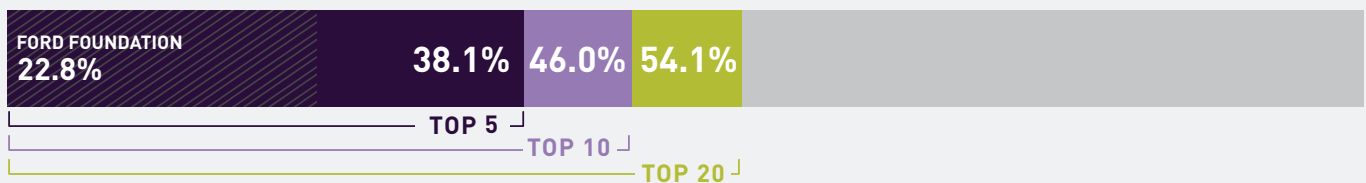
The top funder of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities was the **Ford Foundation** which awarded 200 grants totaling \$209.8 million over the five year period — accounting for 22.8 percent of all funding designated for AAPI communities.

Four other grantmakers awarded \$30 million or more over five years — **the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation / Trust, The California Endowment, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation,** and the **United Negro College Fund, Inc.** With the Ford Foundation, these top five funders accounted for 38.1 percent of all funding designated for AAPI people.

Collectively, the top ten foundations awarded \$421.6 million, or 46.0 percent of all funding for AAPI people. The top twenty foundations awarded a total of \$495.5 million, accounting for 54.1 percent of all funding for AAPI people.

Funding for AAPI communities relies on a small number of funders for the majority of philanthropic support. When foundations shift their priorities, they can leave outsized gaps in their wake with dangerous implications to AAPI communities.

Top 10 / Top 20 Foundation Giving to AAPI Communities (2014-2018)



Funding for AAPI communities is reliant on a small number of funders for the majority of philanthropic support.

Top Funders of People of Asian Descent, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians (2014-2018)

1	The Ford Foundation New York, NY	\$209.8 million (200 grants)
2	Wallace H. Coulter Foundation / Trust Miami, FL	\$45.0 million (162 grants)
3	The California Endowment Los Angeles, CA	\$33.2 million (295 grants)
4	W.K. Kellogg Foundation Battle Creek, MI	\$31.4 million (51 grants)
5	United Negro College Fund, Inc. Washington, DC	\$30 million (2 grants)
6	Novo Foundation New York, NY	\$18.3 million (36 grants)
7	The San Francisco Foundation San Francisco, CA	\$16.3 million (128 grants)
8	Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund Boston, MA	\$13.2 million (4,000 grants)
9	The James Irvine Foundation San Francisco, CA	\$13.1 million (54 grants)
10	NEO Philanthropy New York, NY	\$11.3 million (150 grants)
11	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Seattle, WA	\$9.4 million (32 grants)
12	Corporation for Public Broadcasting Washington, DC	\$9.2 million (14 grants)
13	Henry Luce Foundation New York, NY	\$8.7 million (58 grants)
14	Schwab Charitable San Francisco, CA	\$8.3 million (238 grants)
15	California Community Foundation Los Angeles, CA	\$6.6 million (91 grants)
16	The Kresge Foundation Troy, MI	\$6.5 million (33 grants)
17	Wells Fargo Foundation Minneapolis, MN	\$6.4 million (361 grants)
18	Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program Southeastern Hills, KY	\$6.3 million (72 grants)
19	Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation Washington, DC	\$6.3 million (21 grants)
20	Silicon Valley Community Foundation Mountain View, CA	\$6.2 million (326 grants)

The top grant recipient was the **National Academy of Sciences**, thanks in large part to a \$74.2 million, 13.5-year grant from the Ford Foundation to the National Academy of Sciences for “the Ford Fellowships Program for predoctoral, dissertation,

and postdoctoral fellowships” for communities of color. More broadly, the top 20 grant recipients account for 35.1 percent of all foundation funding designated for AAPI people.

Top Grant Recipients of Foundation Funding Designated for People of Asian Descent, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians (2014-2018)

1	National Academy of Sciences Washington, DC	\$91.7 million (3 grants)
2	Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles Los Angeles, CA	\$30.4 million (245 grants)
3	Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholars Washington, DC	\$30 million (3 grants)
4	Institute of International Education New York, NY	\$27.8 million (5 grants)
5	First Nations Development Institute Longmont, CO	\$16.3 million (81 grants)
6	Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum Oakland, CA	\$14.3 million (34 grants)
7	Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus San Francisco, CA	\$13.3 million (129 grants)
8	Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Inc. Washington, DC	\$13.2 million (106 grants)
9	Asian Health Services Oakland, CA	\$11.1 million (116 grants)
10	Asian Pacific Environmental Network Oakland, CA	\$9.3 million (114 grants)
11	International Community Health Services International District Medical Clinic Seattle, WA	\$8.0 million (36 grants)
12	Proteus Fund Amherst, MA	\$7.3 million (26 grants)
13	Little Tokyo Service Center a Community Development Corporation Los Angeles, CA	\$7.3 million (48 grants)
14	East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation Oakland, CA	\$6.6 million (57 grants)
15	Chinese American International School San Francisco, CA	\$6.2 million (81 grants)
16	Chinatown Community Development Center San Francisco, CA	\$6.1 million (24 grants)
17	NEO Philanthropy New York, NY	\$5.9 million (12 grants)
18	Center for Asian American Media San Francisco, CA	\$5.8 million (40 grants)
19	East Meets West Foundation Oakland, CA	\$5.5 million (81 grants)
20	Pacific Islanders in Communications Honolulu, HI	\$5.5 million (14 grants)



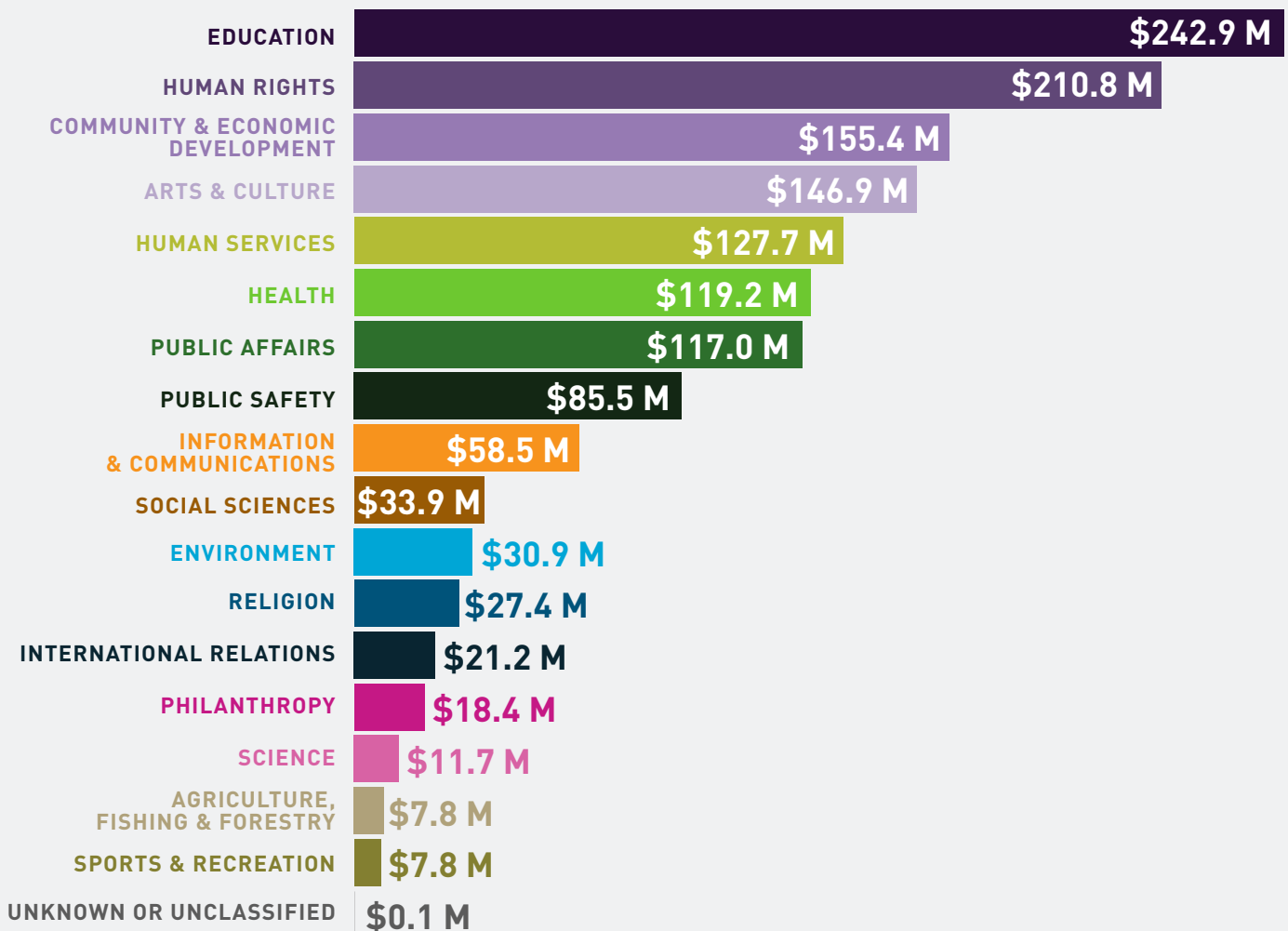
A FIVE-YEAR VIEW: Funding by Subject Area

Between 2014 and 2018, the largest share of funding designated for Asian American and Pacific Islander people was in the area of education. The second largest share went to human rights. These were the only two subject areas to receive more than \$200 million in total funding over the five years.

The human rights category is inclusive of important subject areas such as ethnic and racial minority rights, which received \$113.8 million or 12.4 percent

of the funding, and immigrant rights, which received \$29.9 million or 3.3 percent of the funding.

Foundation Funding for People of Asian Descent, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians, by Subject Area (2014-2018)





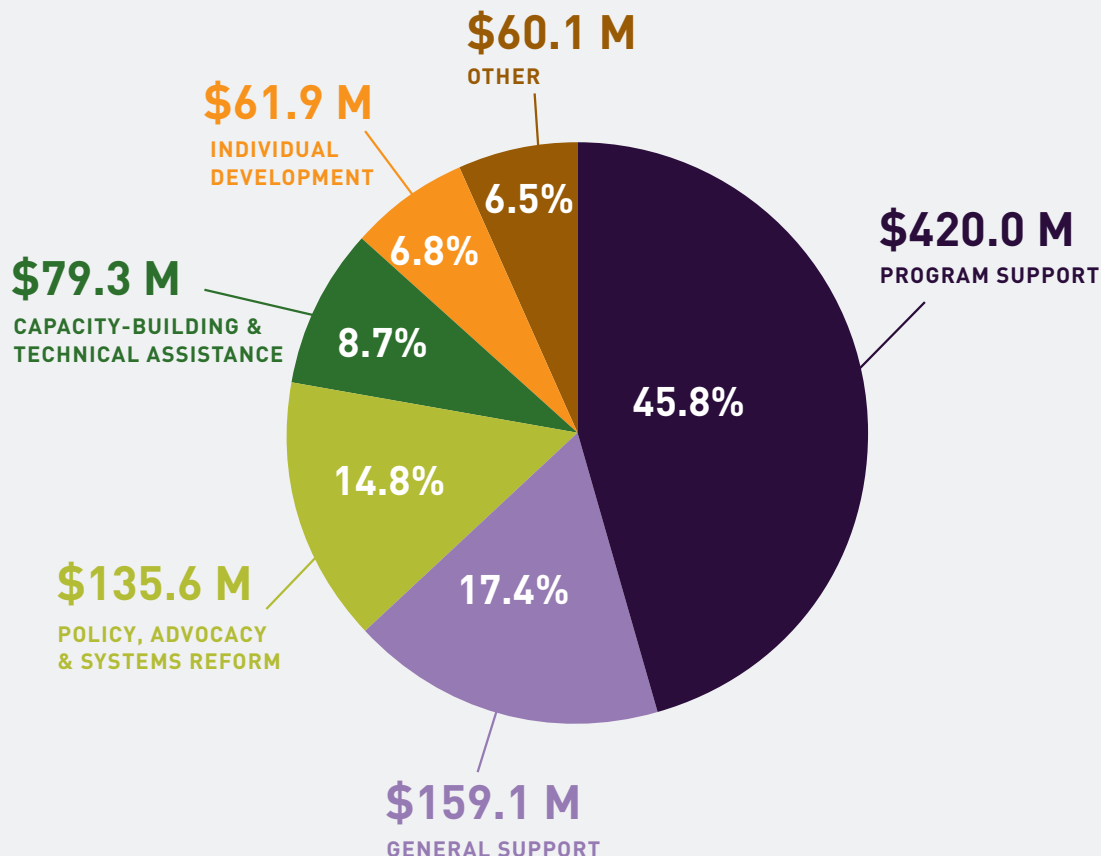
A FIVE-YEAR VIEW: Funding Support Strategy

Between 2014 and 2018, \$420.0 million was awarded explicitly as program support to Asian American and Pacific Islander communities — making it by and far the number one support strategy or approach.

The next five support strategies included general support; policy, advocacy and systems reform; capacity-building and technical assistance; and individual development.

Even though general support was the second most funded support strategy, only 17.4 percent of funding designated for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities was awarded in the form of general support.

Foundation Funding for People of Asian Descent, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians, by Support Strategy (2014-2018)





A FIVE-YEAR VIEW: Funding by Grant Recipient Location

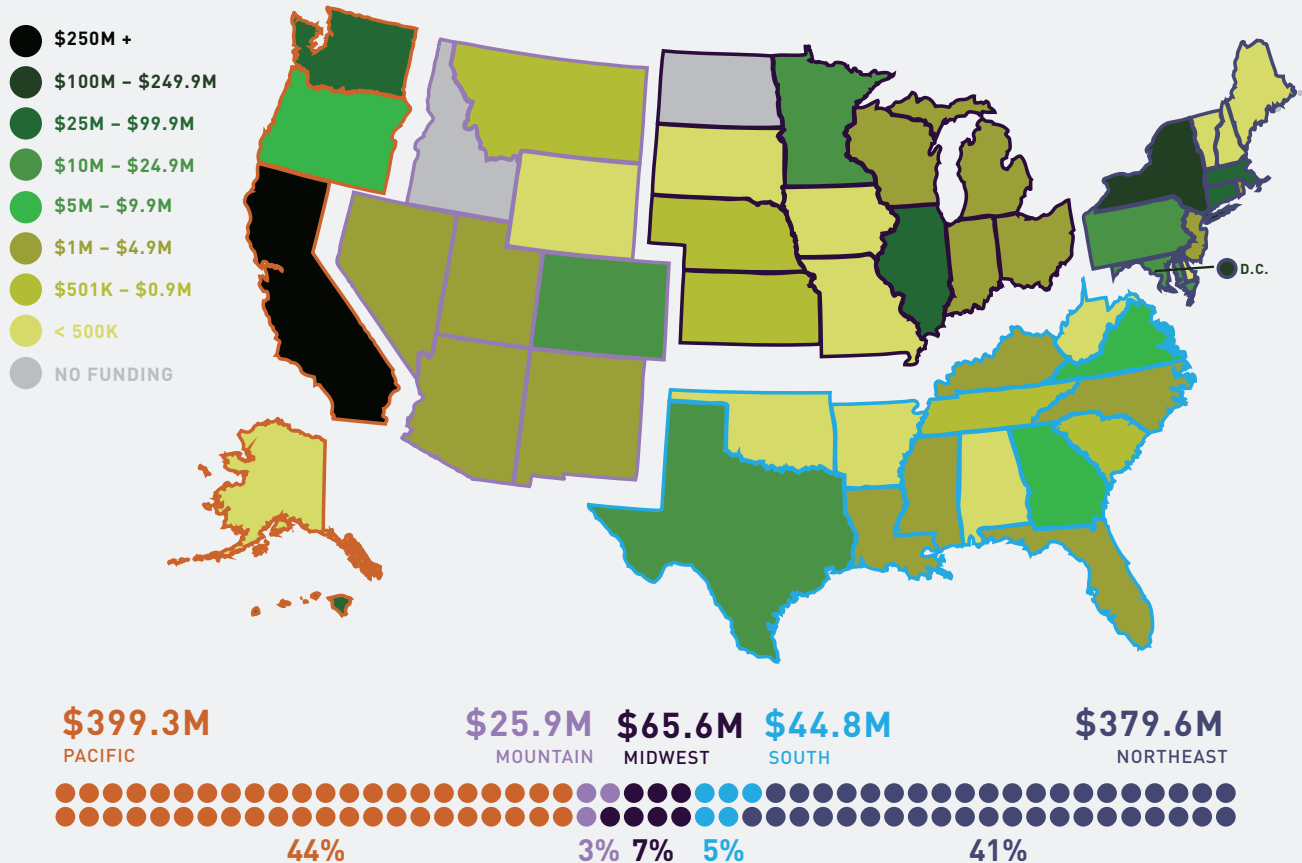
Between 2014 and 2018, nearly a third of all funding designated for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities went to grant recipients in California. The Golden State received \$326.8 million in funding, accounting for more than a third or 35.7 percent of the funding.

Only two other jurisdictions received more than \$100 million in that same time period — **The District of Columbia** and **New York**, at \$186.0 million and \$126.9 million, respectively.

The most funded region was the **Pacific** region, at \$399.3 million, followed closely by the **Northeast**, at \$379.6 million.

Twenty-one states received less than \$1 million in funding designated for AAPI people. There were two states in which no grant recipient for funding designated for AAPI people could be identified — **North Dakota** and **Idaho**.

Foundation Funding for People of Asian Descent, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians, by Geographic Focus (2014-2018)



MIDWEST	\$65,607,377	
Illinois	\$27,656,926	1,219 grants
Indiana	\$2,372,367	70 grants
Iowa	\$165,251	40 grants
Kansas	\$566,830	72 grants
Michigan	\$4,434,082	255 grants
Minnesota	\$22,816,598	682 grants
Missouri	\$302,163	40 grants
Nebraska	\$679,961	68 grants
North Dakota	\$0	0 grants
Ohio	\$4,446,625	240 grants
South Dakota	\$462,050	8 grants
Wisconsin	\$2,006,687	136 grants

MOUNTAIN	\$25,924,269	
Arizona	\$1,271,714	115 grants
Colorado	\$18,918,160	235 grants
Idaho	\$0	0 grants
Montana	\$580,350	9 grants
Nevada	\$1,659,750	29 grants
New Mexico	\$1,020,682	28 grants
Utah	\$2,333,993	73 grants
Wyoming	\$139,620	13 grants

PACIFIC	\$399,299,433	
Alaska	\$100,800	14 grants
California	\$326,793,774	9,225 grants
Hawaii	\$30,756,883	778 grants
Oregon	\$5,952,369	686 grants
Washington	\$35,695,607	1,223 grants

NORTHEAST	\$379,637,858	
Connecticut	\$27,656,926	69 grants
Delaware	\$16,955	22 grants
District of Columbia	\$185,980,588	866 grants
Maine	\$468,824	23 grants
Maryland	\$11,089,351	206 grants
Massachusetts	\$33,695,607	1,442 grants
New Hampshire	\$223,552	13 grants
New Jersey	\$2,400,245	288 grants
New York	\$126,914,629	3,347 grants
Pennsylvania	\$15,287,362	536 grants
Rhode Island	\$1,592,151	48 grants
Vermont	\$281,938	22 grants

SOUTH	\$44,802,430	
Alabama	\$50,870	13 grants
Arkansas	\$129,858	3 grants
Florida	\$3,513,523	204 grants
Georgia	\$6,062,168	241 grants
Kentucky	\$1,472,530	22 grants
Louisiana	\$3,596,758	73 grants
Mississippi	\$1,192,041	6 grants
North Carolina	\$4,573,173	215 grants
Oklahoma	\$123,000	17 grants
South Carolina	\$533,050	4 grants
Tennessee	\$576,667	32 grants
Texas	\$16,169,820	1,061 grants
Virginia	\$6,805,972	294 grants
West Virginia	\$3,000	1 grant



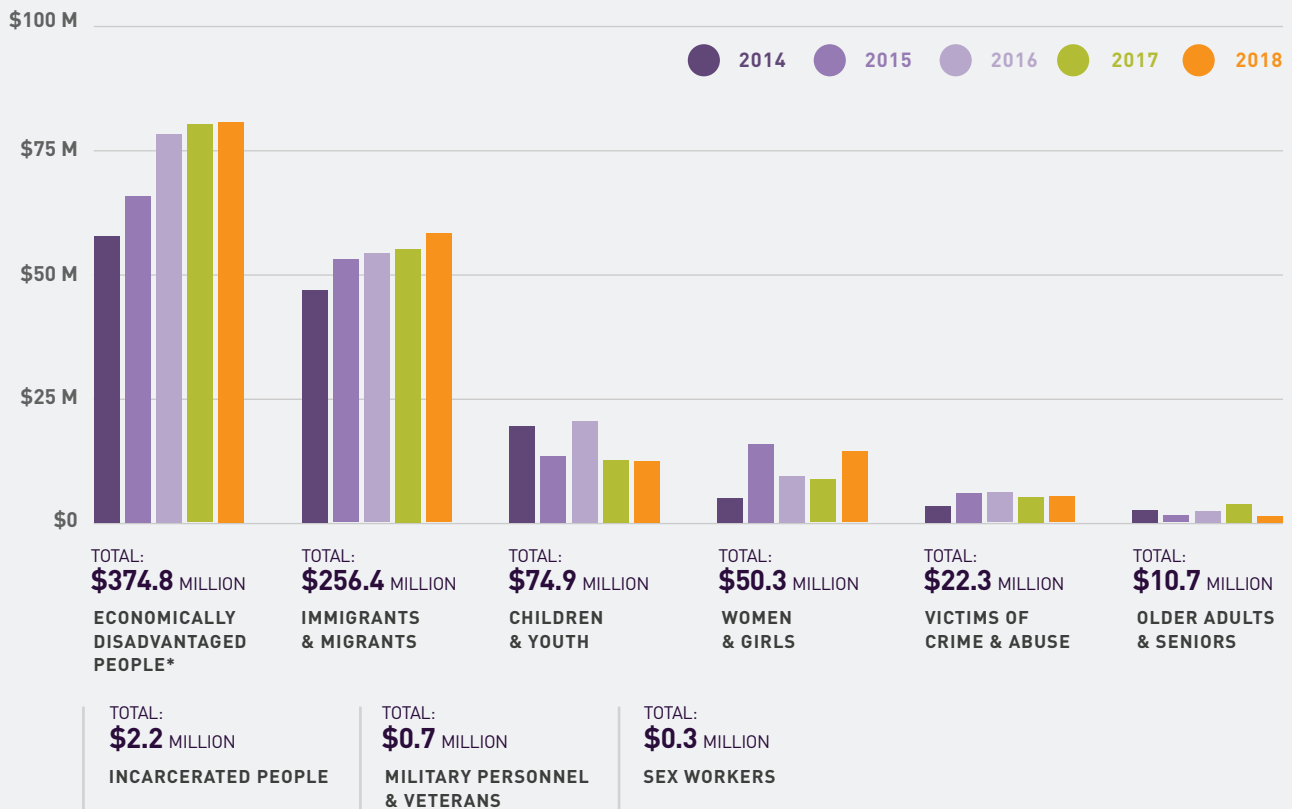
A FIVE-YEAR VIEW: Funding by Special Populations

Between 2014 to 2018, the most funded sub-population within Asian American and Pacific Islander people were economically disadvantaged people. The Candid category — which includes “extremely poor people”, “homeless people”, “low-income people”, and “working poor people” — steadily increased since 2014, totaling \$374.8 million for the five years.

The second most funded sub-population was immigrants and migrants, which also steadily increased since 2014 to total \$256.4 million for the five years. No other sub-population received more than \$100 million between 2014 and 2018.

Children and youth, and women and girls both received more than \$50 million in funding over the five years, at \$74.9 million and \$50.8 million, respectively. However, their funding fluctuated as opposed to steadily increasing.

Foundation Funding for People of Asian Descent, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians, by Special Population (2014-2018)



* This includes extremely poor people, homeless people, low-income people, and working poor people.

In the five-year period covering 2014 to 2018, \$12.6 million of the funding designated for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders was also designated for Muslims. Muslims and Christians

were the only two religious groups to receive more than \$10 million in funding. Sikhs came in a distant third with \$1.4 million in funding.

Foundation Funding for People of Asian Descent, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians, by Religious Group (2014-2018)



DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION FUNDING FOR LGBTQ AAPI COMMUNITIES ¹⁰

Much like foundation funding for AAPI communities, foundation funding for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) AAPI communities has been stuck in stasis. According to Funders for LGBTQ Issues, foundation funding for LGBTQ AAPI communities peaked in 2011 and has never exceeded \$2 million a year. Over the course of the past five years, it has failed to exceed \$1.4 million a year.

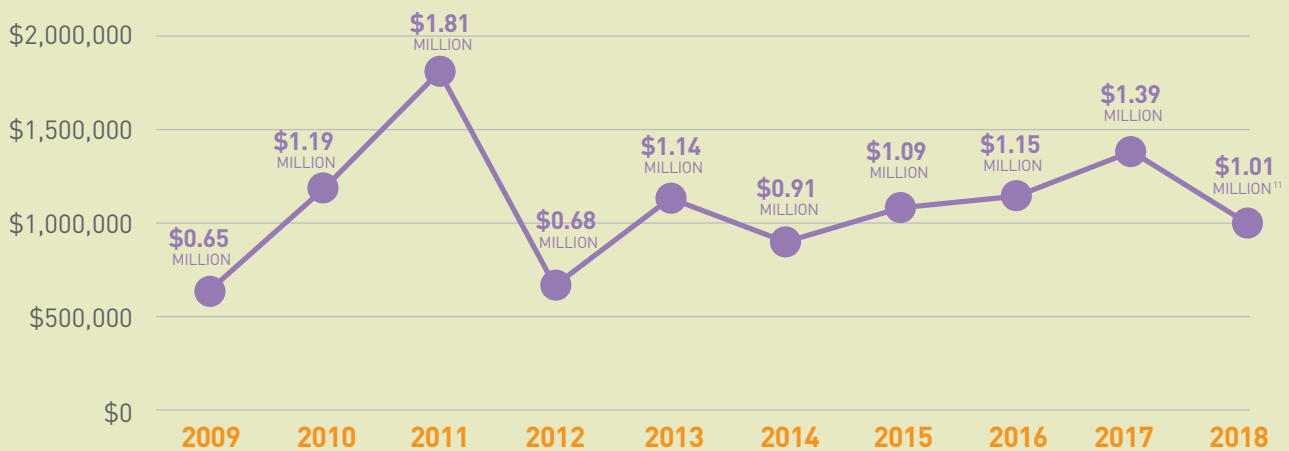
During the same time period, foundation funding for LGBTQ people generally and LGBTQ people of color

specifically increased, but not for the nearly 350,000 LGBTQ AAPI people.¹¹

Between 2017 and 2018, the top five funders of LGBTQ AAPI communities were Borealis Philanthropy, the Arcus Foundation, the H. van Ameringen Foundation, Anonymous Donors, and the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund.

For more information on foundation funding for LGBTQ AAPI communities — and LGBTQ communities more broadly — see Funders for LGBTQ Issues at www.lgbtfunders.org.

FOUNDATION FUNDING FOR LGBTQ AAPI COMMUNITIES (2009-2018)



[10] All funding data in this “Did You Know?” section is provided by Funders for LGBTQ Issues. Visit lgbtfunders.org/research/ for more information.

[11] *LGBT Demographic Data Interactive*. (2019, January). Los Angeles, CA: The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law.



Recommendations

There is ample opportunity for philanthropy to dramatically increase its support for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

- 1 → **SUPPORT** the diverse needs of AAPI communities, while recognizing and building on their strengths.
- 2 → **STRENGTHEN** the capacity of AAPI organizations by providing multi-year, general operating support grants and promote the leadership bench for AAPI individuals.
- 3 → Take steps to **INCREASE THE CULTURAL COMPETENCY OF YOUR FOUNDATION** around AAPI communities, recognizing distinctions between American born and immigrant groups. Support Limited English Proficiency (LEP) populations through materials in multiple languages and access to interpreters.
- 4 → **FUND NUANCED DATA COLLECTION EFFORTS** for more community-based, quantitative and qualitative research that explores the lived experiences and diversity of AAPI communities.
- 5 → **USE DISAGGREGATED DATA TO LIFT UP AAPI COMMUNITIES**, where possible, to highlight the needs of AAPI communities related to criminal justice reform, economic opportunity, education, health and healthcare, immigration, senior care, and more.
- 6 → **CENTER AAPI EXPERIENCES** and fund front-line organizations led by and for those most impacted.
- 7 → **USE TRUST-BASED PHILANTHROPIC PRACTICES** to decrease the burden on leanly staffed organizations.
- 8 → **INCLUDE AAPIS IN DISCUSSIONS OF RACIAL EQUITY AND STRUCTURAL CHANGE**, whether about grantmaking or more generally, compensating them for their expertise where possible.
- 9 → **ACCOUNT FOR THE IMPACT OF GENDER, GENDER IDENTITY, AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION** within AAPI communities.



Solidarity Matters — Foundation Funding for Other Communities of Color

AAPIP believes solidarity matters. It is a core tenet of the organization. While the focus of this report is on foundation funding for AAPI communities, we recognize that foundation funding for communities of color more broadly is also alarmingly low.

The Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity (PRE) noted in *What Does Philanthropy Need to Know to Prioritize Racial Justice?*, that foundation funding specifically designated for communities of color has never exceeded 8.5 percent of all grantmaking.¹² PRE's *Philanthropy Needs to Deepen Investments for Racial and Gender Justice* infographic noted that in 2016 only 10 percent of domestic grant dollars went to communities of color.¹³

That trajectory may be changing after 2020's national uprising against systemic racism. Foundations responded to the murder of George Floyd through significant pledges aimed at increasing racial justice grantmaking, but how those pledges are actualized and whether or not the funding amounts to a sustained long-term investment in communities of color remains to be seen.

Recommended resources on foundation funding for other communities of color:



The Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity (PRE) racialequity.org

PRE works to increase the amount and effectiveness of resources aimed at combating institutional and structural racism in communities through capacity building, education, and convening of grantmakers and grantseekers. Their website offers a number of reports and infographics that explore foundation funding for various communities of color and offer recommendations for grantmaking with a racial justice lens.



ABFE - A Philanthropic Partnership for Black Communities abfe.org

ABFE works to promote effective and responsive philanthropy in Black communities. Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2021, ABFE is the oldest of identity-based philanthropy-serving organization. They are a rich resource for grantmakers and others looking for more information about investments in **Black communities**.

[12] *What does philanthropy need to know to prioritize racial justice?* [PDF]. (2017). Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity.

[13] *Philanthropy needs to deepen investments for racial and gender justice*. (2020, October 21). Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity.



HISPANICS
IN PHILANTHROPY
The power of giving and connecting

Hispanics in Philanthropy (HIP)

hiponline.org

HIP works to strengthen Latinx leadership, influence and equity by leveraging philanthropic resources, and doing so with an unwavering focus on social justice and shared prosperity across the Americas. With Candid, HIP produced LatinxFunders (latinxfunders.org), an ongoing research project documenting and tracking foundation funding in the Latinx community.



NATIVE AMERICANS
IN PHILANTHROPY

Native Americans in Philanthropy (NAP)

nativephilanthropy.org

NAP promotes equitable and effective philanthropy in Native communities through education and advocacy within the philanthropic sector. NAP partnered with Candid to produce Investing in Native Communities (nativephilanthropy.candid.org) to help grantmakers understand why funding for Native communities is important; visualize the philanthropic landscape; and learn from the knowledge and experiences of other organizations.



National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP)

ncrp.org

NCRP promotes philanthropy that serves the public good, is responsive to people and communities with the least wealth and opportunity, and is held accountable to the highest standards of integrity and openness. They have a number of resources that analyze foundation funding for communities of color and social justice movements including the pro-immigrant movement.



CHANGE Philanthropy

changephilanthropy.org

CHANGE Philanthropy is a coalition of philanthropic networks working together to strengthen bridges across funders and communities. They work to transform philanthropy from within by building knowledge, fostering diversity, and creating connections. They host the Diversity Among Philanthropic Professionals (DAPP) Survey (changephilanthropy.org/dapp), which explores the demographics of people working in philanthropy.

Candid.

Candid

candid.org

Candid is a merger of Foundation Center and Guidestar. Their grants database powers this report and many other analyses conducted by some of the aforementioned partners possible. They also publish their own reports on foundation funding for communities of color.



Methodology & Acknowledgments

The data in this report is derived from Foundation Maps, a service of **Candid**. As Candid notes, the Foundation Maps data set includes foundation funding from 2006-present. It pulls from a database of more than 21,850,000 grants from more than 155,000 foundations going to more than 2,168,500 grant recipients. The data in this report was accessed in November and December 2020, with final numbers pulled on December 5, 2020. For more information on Candid, visit www.candid.org.

The Limits of Data Sets & Lingering Questions

Since this report relies on data from Foundation Maps, a service of **Candid**, the findings are limited by **Candid's Philanthropy Classification System (PCS)**. This includes:

- **GRANTEE LOCATION** — This report tracks funding by where the grant recipient is located which may not reflect the geographic area intended for the grant's purpose. For example, using the current Foundation Maps system, a grant for work in Georgia that was awarded to a national organization in Washington, D.C. would show up as a Washington, D.C. grant.
- **SUBJECT AREA** — Grants are tagged to multiple subject areas on Foundation Maps. Therefore, the subject area bar chart total exceeds the total amount going to AAPI communities (since a single grant might be tagged to multiple subject areas).
- **REGRANTING** — The Foundation Maps tool does not provide the level of detail to identify the amount of regranting, and as such, the data may contain some overlap in funding.
- **AAPI-SPECIFIC AND AAPI-LED GRANTMAKING** — Candid's Foundation Maps tool does not have the current capacity to specify how much funding goes to organizations led by and for AAPI communities or how much of that comes from AAPI-specific institutional donors (whether they be AAPI private foundations or AAPI giving circles).

As we note in the introduction, while this report is meant to spark an important and overdue conversation about increasing philanthropic support for AAPI communities, it also invites more questions that hopefully can be answered in the future through evolving data.

Acknowledgments

This report — and the broader work of AAPIP — is made possible because of the generous contributions made by members and other grantmaking institutions. A special thank you to the AAPIP board of directors and AAPIP chapter co-chairs for reviewing and offering feedback on early versions of this report. In addition, we'd like to thank the following individuals for providing in-depth feedback:

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Mission

Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP) expands and mobilizes resources for AAPI communities to build a more just and equitable society.

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Interested in our work and want to join AAPIP's community? Membership dues from institutions and individuals help AAPIP advance racial equity in philanthropy and provide educational programming, including this report. Learn more and join us at aapip.org/join-us.

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The logo for AAPIP .ORG features the letters 'AAPIP' in a bold, white, hand-drawn, brush-stroke style. Below the 'P' is the text '.ORG' in a smaller, clean, white, sans-serif font. The entire logo is centered horizontally and positioned to the left of a vertical white line.

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The text 'Building Democratic Philanthropy' is written in a clean, white, sans-serif font. It is positioned to the right of a vertical white line, which is centered between the AAPIP .ORG logo and this text. The text is arranged in two lines: 'Building Democratic' on the top line and 'Philanthropy' on the bottom line.

Building Democratic
Philanthropy