



Mighty Writers El Futuro Kennett

Location: Kennett Square, Chester County
Org Focus: Youth writing
Grant Funding: Food distribution, vaccine clinics
Website: mightywriters.org

The families we work with in southern Chester County come from Mexico and Guatemala. Little things that many of us take for granted, these families really need. When the pandemic hit, we found out a lot of our kids weren't able to pick up their lunches from school. How can you put a child in front of a computer if they're hungry? We thought we'd provide lunches first, and then when they had a full tummy we could focus on writing.

As the pandemic started closing everything, our families were losing their jobs. So we quickly escalated from lunches to produce boxes, meats, milk, eggs, dry goods. We added diapers, as well as wipes and period supplies. In Kennett, a lot of our families live in multi-family households, where the whole family rents one room. They don't have beds; a lot of children don't have their own blankets. So last year we gave out 400 blankets and 100 sleeping bags. And we gave away books, of course, because we're a writing organization.

Then we found out our families weren't getting vaccinated. We were watching the news stories about how Philadelphia was getting vaccinated, while the number of COVID cases in Chester County was exploding. Our families were scared of being deported. There were language barriers. The process was intimidating.

We said, to be able to have a healthy community, we have to get vaccinated. And we need to get people vaccinated in a way that is safe for them. Our food distribution in Kennett is a drive-through system that serves nearly 2,000 people a week, so it was a great place to test out a drive-through vaccination model.

We don't see ourselves as any kind of public health organization; we're just doing what needs to get done to serve our communities the most. These kids will remember that somebody cared and that Mighty Writers was there for them during the hardest time of their life.

This project to address food insecurity & increase vaccine access was funded by the COVID-19 Prevention & Response Fund, a community-led effort to invest in neighborhood-based solutions to urgent needs. More than \$1.2 million has been distributed to 133 nonprofits, small businesses & individuals. Learn more at philanthropynetwork.org.

About the COVID-19 Prevention & Response Fund

Launched in April 2021, the COVID-19 Prevention & Response Fund is a community-led effort to invest in neighborhood-based solutions to urgent needs related to COVID-19. The Fund seeks to increase rates of vaccinations in communities that are disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and to address the challenges exacerbated as a result of the pandemic.

The Fund uses a participatory, trust-based philanthropy approach to lower barriers to entry for groups that are often excluded from traditional grant opportunities. To ensure the funding process was inclusive and accessible to smaller organizations and informal groups, Community Investment Advisors made recommendations on how to establish the Fund's priorities, eligibility, grant process, and funding allocations. This group comprises people living and working in the community, representing Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties. Beyond grant dollars, the City of Philadelphia's Philly Counts office cultivates a community of practice for grantees, providing ongoing information, training, and logistical support.

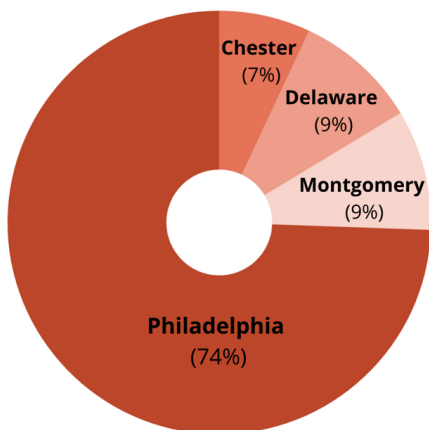
Oversight and management for the COVID-19 Prevention & Response Fund is coordinated by Philanthropy Network Greater Philadelphia.

Across three rounds, the Fund has distributed **\$1,204,535** in funding to **133** organizations in the greater Philadelphia area.

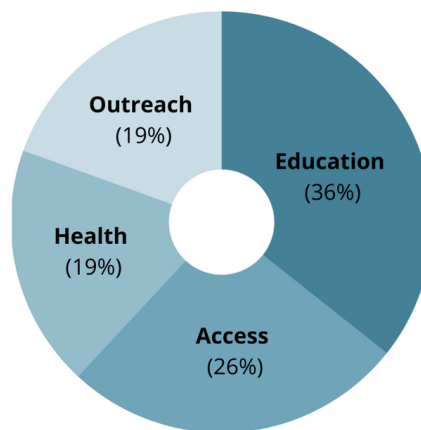
76% to organizations with a leader of color

\$550K to organizations with >90% BIPOC staff

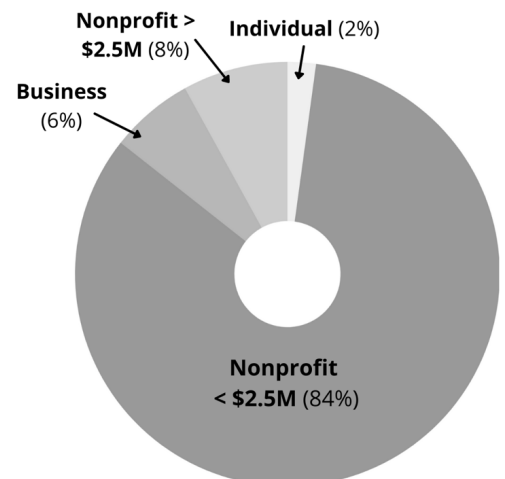
\$560K to organizations with >90% community-based staff



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