



GALAEI

Location: North Philadelphia
Org Focus: QTBIPOC services
Grant Funding: COVID education & vaccine clinics
Website: galaeiqtbiopoc.org

GALAEI was originally centered around HIV care and testing for the Latinx community, and we recently transitioned into what we call a “radical social justice organization” – serving the needs of the most marginalized in our community.

We know that if we are going to be true to our mission, then we need to meet the needs of what’s happening right now, not what’s been happening for 30 years. So when COVID came, it was like, well, this is the need. It’s disproportionately impacting Black and Brown LGBTQ folks, killing people off in the same way it did during the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

There’s a lot of mistrust of the medical-industrial complex within the QTBIPOC community. All of our staff are vaccinated, and we’re all Black and Brown folks of varying ages, so we’re doing a lot of foot outreach and one-on-one conversations. We’re connecting people to all kinds of resources and saying “while you’re here, you can get this vaccine that might save your life.”

We’ve also been physically taking people to the place and through the process of getting vaccinated. There was a woman at our vaccination clinic who told us her husband is immunocompromised and wanted to be vaccinated, but the bodega where he worked wouldn’t give him the time off. So we took a nurse and walked to the bodega to vaccinate him on the spot. They were so grateful, because they haven’t seen their grandchildren in almost two years.

This could be a really powerful moment in time where future generations will look back and say, “Wow, they really took the initiative to make the changes that were needed.” I’ve talked to other executive directors who are trepidatious about making radical changes, and I’m like: We hold the key. All of this is made up. We are *making* it up. And we, as the folks who are in charge at this point, have the ability to say, “This hasn’t been working, let’s try something new.”

This project to increase vaccine education & 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.

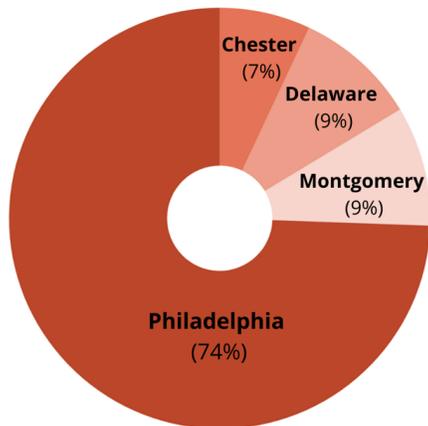
Oversight and management for the COVID-19 Prevention & Response Fund is coordinated by Philanthropy Network Greater Philadelphia.

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

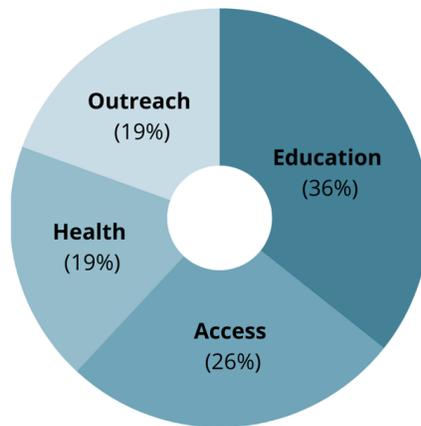
76% to organizations with a leader of color

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

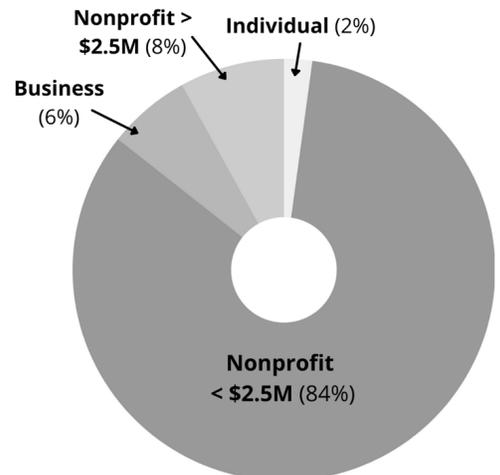
\$560K to organizations with >90% community-based staff



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