

Health Care Solutions of Delaware Valley

Location: Delaware County
Org Focus: Health literacy & education services
Grant Funding: Vaccine education & clinics
Website: hcsdv.com

Health Care Solutions is passionate about helping people make confident decisions about their health. When COVID-19 hit, the need for this became even stronger as concerns around safety increased rapidly.

The pandemic exposed and heightened health disparity. It caused a lot of stress, death and sickness for everyone, but especially among African Americans. When vaccines became available it was great, but lots of Black people were hesitant. There was a lack of trust for good reason. The past taught them to be cautious because of historical exploitation, while present misinformation and negative experiences within healthcare drove people away from getting vaccinated.

We knew that increasing vaccination rates was the best way to protect our community. Our focus was to build trust, then educate and vaccinate. To get out there we created billboards, social media campaigns, focus groups, hosted webinars, held events, went door knocking and even joined a radio broadcast. All were personal and done with understanding, not pressure.

Once they felt confident about getting vaccinated, we worked to meet people where they were at. We found opportunities to host clinics where people would already be and made sure volunteers were reflective of the community itself. Basketball brings people together in Chester.. We held one clinic during a game that hundreds of people attended at Chester High School. That night 53 people got vaccinated and we were able to talk to many more. By meeting people with understanding in places that felt safe, we built trust and educated in a way that dismantled misinformation and brought joy.

We all need to be more empathetic. We are quick to hear something about a person and judge but never try to understand their perspective. Once we take the time to listen and learn their why, we'll be able to understand other people better and move conversations forward and bring people together.

Kristin Ball Motley, Founder

This project 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.

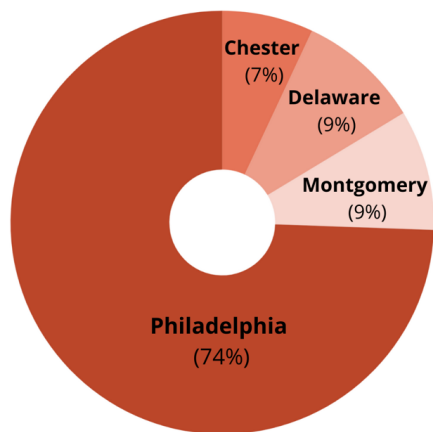
Oversight and management for the COVID-19 Prevention & Response Fund is coordinated by Philanthropy Network Greater Philadelphia.

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

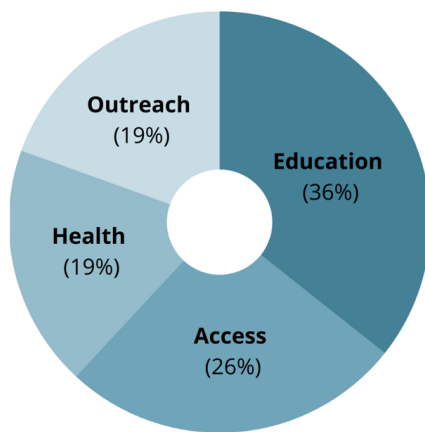
76% to organizations with a leader of color

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

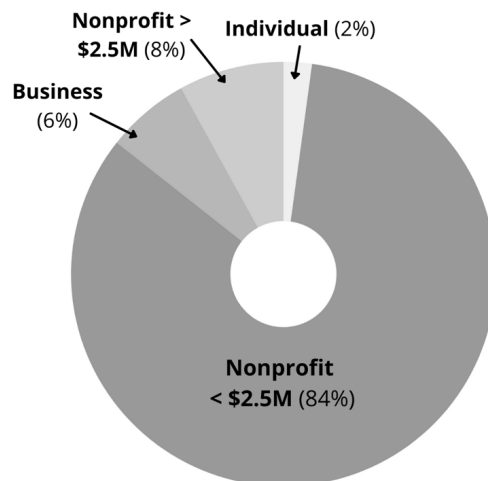
\$560K to organizations with >90% community-based staff



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