



Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

Location: Twin Oaks, Delaware County
Org Focus: House of worship
Grant Funding: COVID education & vaccine clinics
Website: mountpleasanttwinoaks.org

When you talk about Black history here in the United States, it's a litany of inequality. All of the factors that led to the disparities — redlining, lack of funding for education, general healthcare, nutrition, air quality in areas where Black and Brown people live — play a factor in why we lag behind when it comes to infant mortality or life expectancy. It makes sense that Black and Latinx communities were ravaged by COVID the way they were. It falls in line with the way things have historically been.

There was a lot of uncertainty about the vaccinations, a lot of reluctance among some members of our community because of the history we've gone through, things like the Tuskegee experiment. Our pastor, Pastor Robinson, thought it was important that we make people aware of what the real science is so they can make an educated decision.

One of the things that helped motivate people to get vaccinated, and it's not a good thing, was that early on we had quite a few members who contracted COVID and passed away from it. It made it real for a large portion of our membership. Those people were mothers, fathers, uncles, aunts, sons, daughters. If they had been able to get vaccinated, maybe they could still be here.

It is our obligation to lift as we climb. To try to move things in a positive direction in which everyone is encompassed in the American dream.

Do I think it's going to happen in my lifetime? No. But I think we have to work to make things better. That's what people before us, Black and white, have done to get us where we are. Is it perfect? No. But it's up to us to keep passing that baton to the next generation.

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.

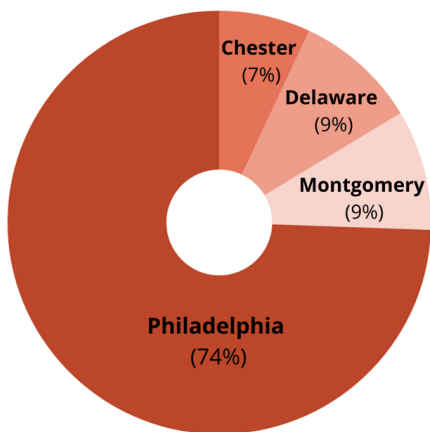
Oversight and management for the COVID-19 Prevention & Response Fund is coordinated by Philanthropy Network Greater Philadelphia.

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

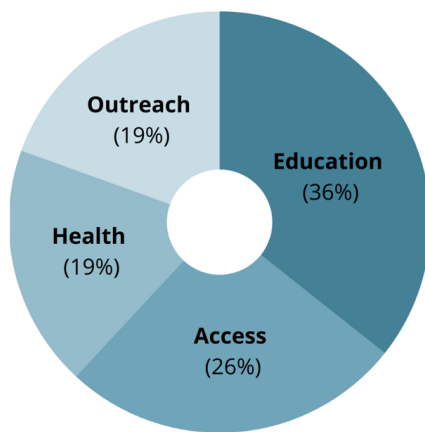
76% to organizations with a leader of color

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

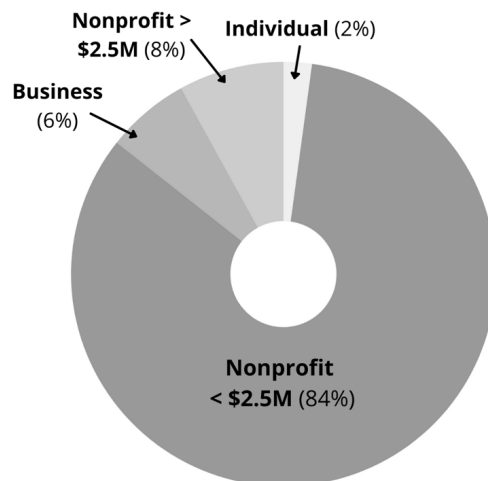
\$560K to organizations with >90% community-based staff



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