



Willow Grove Community Development Corporation

Location: Willow Grove, Montgomery County
Org Focus: Affordable rental housing
Grant Funding: COVID education & vaccine clinics
Website: willowgrovecdc.org

This is a difficult environment to be successful in. From the time the pandemic hit, there's been so much confusion, so many missteps — it's created one big mess. Citizens' mistrust of government is so strong, and all the mishandling confirms the mistrust. And that's on top of the divisiveness of our society.

Our biggest goal is to get people vaccinated. At this point, the majority of people who want to be vaccinated have been vaccinated. So any jab we get is a high success.

People have as many reasons for not wanting to get vaccinated as there are people. Many are really internally divided. Part of them wants to do it, part of them feels pressure from our society to do it, but there's still a part of them that won't let them do it.

All you can do is continue to have conversations and be encouraging. Have open dialogue with them, share as much information as you have, try to break up myths.

With all this mistrust, it's more important than ever to have people on the ground involved in decision-making, involved in the allocation of resources. When there's no connection, when information comes from someone far away, the more people resist. We need to have as much input as possible from the community.

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.

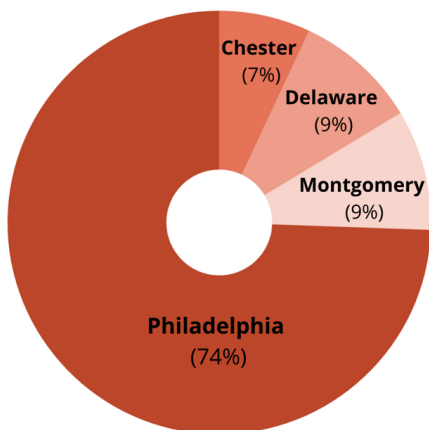
Oversight and management for the COVID-19 Prevention & Response Fund is coordinated by Philanthropy Network Greater Philadelphia.

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

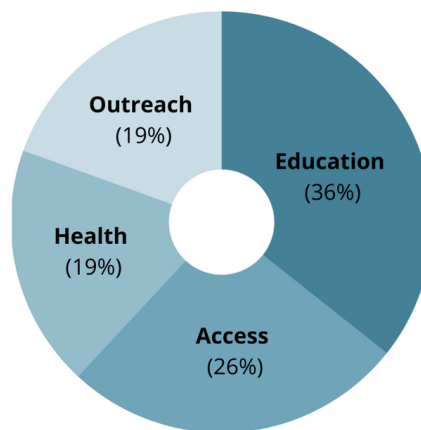
76% to organizations with a leader of color

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

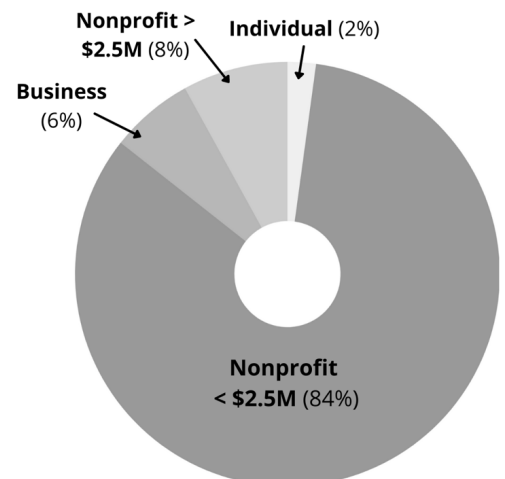
\$560K to organizations with >90% community-based staff



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