

SPOTLIGHT ON GRANTS TO NATIVE POPULATIONS

We recognize and respect that Indigenous communities have their own unique tribal and village names to refer to their specific peoples. We acknowledge that when speaking collectively of Indigenous peoples in the U.S., several terms (American Indian and Alaska Native, Indigenous, Native American and Native), may be used interchangeably, as we have done in this report. However, we know this terminology has been imposed upon Indigenous people and does not reflect individual or traditional cultural identities. Where possible, if included in the self-reported grant data, we have used the specific cultural, tribal or village names.

In 2016, among the grant dollars awarded to specific population groups, a higher percentage of funds were allocated for American Indian and Alaska Native communities (1.5%) in the Northwest compared to nationally (0.8%). This represented over \$43 million dollars awarded to Indigenous communities in our region.¹³ Again, this figure is based on self-reported data by thousands of grantmaking organizations, all of which may classify their giving to populations using different criteria.^{3,9} The data in this report did not specify whether a grantmaker or a recipient is a Native-led or non-Native led organization. That said, we know significant grants for Indigenous communities included funding to Native-led nonprofits and tribal organizations. Some grants to Native-led organizations were awarded specifically for the purpose of empowering those organizations to manage their own community-based re-granting programs. A sampling of philanthropic giving by various types of foundations that provided funding for Indigenous communities in our region in 2016 includes:

- **Alaska Community Foundation** granted \$46,024 for youth development services to Kawerak, Inc., which is a Native-led human services organization in Nome serving the Bering Strait region. The grant funded programming focused on advancing vocational trades for Alaska Native youth.
- **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** gave \$750,000 to Potlatch Fund to support that organization as a re-granting partner and capacity builder for tribes and Native nonprofits for economic and leadership development efforts.
- **Meyer Memorial Trust (OR)** awarded \$535,000 to the Native American Youth and Family Center (OR) to build Generations, an intergenerational community for foster youth, adoptive parents and elders that includes affordable housing, an early learning academy and a longhouse cultural center.

- **Rasmuson Foundation (AK)** granted up to \$5 million to the University of Alaska Foundation for the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) to provide institutional sustainability of ANSEP programs over a five-year period (2013-2018). The gift structure includes: 1) A challenge gift up to \$1,000,000 in which Rasmuson Foundation will match \$1 for every \$1 raised between 2013 to 2018; and 2) The remaining \$4 million will be allocated annually.
- **Native Arts and Cultures Foundation (WA)** granted \$25,000 to Wisdom of the Elders in Portland to support the Native Film Academy.
- **The CIRI Foundation (AK)** awarded \$15,000 to the Chickaloon Native Village (AK) to support the Ya Ne Dah Ah school, which sustains and revitalizes Ahtna Athabascan culture, language, history and traditions.
- **The Mat-Su Health Foundation (AK)** gave \$120,640 to the Cook Inlet Tribal Council for a continuum of care for recovery services in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley in Alaska.
- **Seattle Foundation** provided \$15,000 to Na'ah Illahee Fund for their Ah-da-ne-hi: Indigenous Women's Giving Circle, which supports community initiatives led by Northwest Native women.

In 2016, many grantmaking organizations funded Native communities in our region that are not represented in this report. For example, communities in Alaska significantly benefit from Alaska Native regional corporations' funding. Like other for-profit businesses, Alaska Native regional corporations provide annual dividends to shareholders. In addition, they financially invest in Alaska Native communities by supporting social, health, educational and cultural programs. Examples of the generosity of Alaska Native regional corporations can be found in annual economic impact reports accessible at: ancsaregional.com/economic-impacts/.

For more in-depth stories about partnerships between philanthropy and American Indian and Alaska Native communities or a better understanding of what makes these partnerships possible, we will be publishing a new report on these philanthropic partnerships in 2020. This forthcoming report will go beyond high level giving data to share the stories and best practices involved in Indigenous giving in our region. Subscribe to our newsletters for updates about this and other philanthropic updates in our our region, by going to philanthropynw.org/subscribe.

NORTHWEST AREA FOUNDATION

\$250,000 to Northwest Native Development Fund, increasing Native CDFI collaboration, growth and stability

Recent data shows that the Northwest region is more equitable when it comes to funding Native American causes than the nation at large, yet huge disparities still exist. One funder that has made a commitment to Native causes is Northwest Area Foundation, which has granted \$35.4 million to Native-led organizations between 2012 and 2017. The foundation dedicates 40% of its total giving to Native American organizations and issues. An example of this is a \$250,000 grant to the Northwest Native Development Fund (NNDF) in 2016. The grant supported pathways to greater Native CDFI collaboration, growth and stability. CDFIs are community development financial institutions.

NNDF works to create thriving local communities by opening up fair, affordable funding for Native businesses and families in an appropriate cultural context. NNDF helps Native people grow their assets, receive financial and entrepreneurial education, and gain access to capital through creative lending products.

According to Northwest Area Foundation program officer Martin Jennings, funding CDFIs like NNDF is a powerful way to address multiple issues that arise from generations of economic exclusion and systemic oppression. The 2016 grant helped strengthen CDFIs as a sector, building wealth and power for Native people, which is key to increasing individual savings accounts, homeownership, entrepreneurship and access to capital.

The grant, and other investments like it, are key to building an economic ecosystem for Native people, especially those living in rural or reservation communities, who are disproportionately marginalized by mainstream economic approaches and financial systems, according to Jennings.

“When I look at the economic struggles of our priority funding communities — American Indians, people of color, the white rural poor — I see the wealth divide is getting bigger; inequality is getting bigger,” Jennings said. “There’s brain drain for rural areas, with young people leaving and economies constricting.”

Jennings says he’d like to see a greater sector-wide commitment to equity, including more Philanthropy Northwest members dedicating a portion of funding portfolios to benefit Indigenous people and organizations.

ENDNOTES

³ For detailed information about how Candid classified population data once they received it from grantmakers or to learn more about how any of the data were classified, visit their website at taxonomy.candid.org.

⁹ The data in this report includes information from the data sources described in the Methodology section. Only those organizations that responded to our requests for information or had reliable information publicly available elsewhere have been included in this report.

¹³ See Figure in full report: Change in Giving to the Northwest by Population Served, 2016, page 17.

METHODOLOGY

This report is based on the analysis of two closely-related datasets from 2014 and 2016 collected by or reported to Foundation Center, now operating as Candid, by December 31, 2018:

- Analysis of the fiscal year (FY) 2016 philanthropic giving to the Northwest relies on data from 73,813 grants totaling \$2.97 billion from a national sample of 7,445 funders that awarded at least one grant of \$1,000 or more to the six-state region — Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming.
- Analysis of the changes in giving to the Northwest between FY's 2014 and 2016 uses a matched subset of 4,253 funders so as not to distort data due to changes in the funders in each year.

Dollar amounts may represent the full authorized grant award, or the amount paid in that year, depending on how the foundation reports its activity. Similarly, FY 2014 and FY 2016 may include grants awarded in late 2013 and late 2015, respectively, depending on a foundation's fiscal calendar. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number, leading to some figures reflecting slightly more than 100% totals. Dollar amounts are rounded to the tenth place.

ABOUT THE DATA

What data was collected? This report includes grants data, primarily, but also foundation-administered programs, program-related investments and mission-related investments, collectively called “transactions.”⁹ The data come from:

- IRS Forms 990 and 990-PF
- Lists provided directly by funders
- Foundation websites
- Other sources (including news and press releases or via partner organizations); learn more on Candid's website at candid.org.

New since 2016, each reported transaction is now machine-coded according to Candid's Philanthropy Classification System. The change increased the number of grants in the database and provides a more comprehensive picture of the philanthropic sector.

Candid manually reviews machine-assigned codes for transactions of \$250,000 or more made by 1,000 of the largest U.S. foundations, as well as for some special projects. The automated system uses a deliberately conservative methodology to track grant recipients that primarily work with people of color by population group, focusing on:

1. Identifying the population served by the transaction.
2. If there is no beneficiary population associated with the transaction, then Candid identifies the population served by the recipient organization.

Some transactions benefit multiple population groups, such as African Americans and LatinX Americans. In these cases, the full dollar amount is allocated for each beneficiary population, since it's not possible to specify the share of support that is intended for each population group.

For detailed information about Candid's Philanthropy Classification System or to learn more about how the data were classified visit the website at taxonomy.candid.org.

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