Established in 1978, the Arizona Community Foundation is a statewide family of charitable funds supported by thousands of Arizonans. With five regional offices serving communities across Arizona, ACF is among the top 20 community foundations in the nation with more than $961 million in trust and endowment assets. ACF is certified under the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations and recently earned its seventh consecutive 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, recognizing ACF for executing its mission in a financially efficient way and demonstrating to the public its trustworthiness.

**Arts and Culture.** A thriving arts scene and diverse cultural offerings bring enjoyment to residents and visitors, and are important drivers of our economy.

- ACF supports policies that enhance Arizona’s infrastructure to create a vibrant arts and culture community, celebrates a rich history and recognizes and embraces diversity, and creates valuable learning experiences for children and adults.

**Community Improvement and Development.** Safe housing and stable neighborhoods are the building blocks of a healthy community.

- ACF supports policies that provide access to affordable housing, promote economic success initiatives for the working-poor, ensure basic needs for Arizona’s most vulnerable populations, promote social justice for all, and build strong communities for all generations.

**Environment and Sustainability.** Arizona’s natural resources are among the most highly valued attributes of our state, and a top priority of residents.

- ACF supports policies that protect, preserve and responsibly manage Arizona’s natural resources in both urban and rural areas.

**Health Innovations.** The quality and access of health services are critically important to our shared quality of life.

- ACF supports policies that improve the health and wellbeing of all Arizonans, ensure a strong health care safety net for our most vulnerable populations, and create healthy communities that enhance the quality of life across Arizona.

**Philanthropy, Nonprofit Capacity Building, and Charitable Giving.** Arizona’s diverse nonprofit sector is a thriving network comprised of thousands of social-purpose organizations tackling many of our state’s most difficult problems with innovative programs and services.

- ACF supports policies that encourage charitable giving, promote partnerships between nonprofit organizations and government agencies to stimulate collective impact, and advance the sector’s role in advocacy.

**Quality Education.** A quality education system is a significant driver of Arizona’s economic competitiveness and quality of life and ranks as a top priority for the state.

- ACF supports policies that provide long-term funding solutions for Arizona’s education system from early childhood through college and career readiness. ACF will also support policies that encourage equity and excellence, expand and scale innovative solutions and address high-quality reforms that benefit all Arizona students.

**Philanthropy for All.** ACF recognizes Arizona’s growing population and increasing diversity within the state. We value strong, vibrant and inclusive communities that support strong economic growth and create a positive quality of life for all.

- ACF supports policies that address the issues facing Arizona’s growing populations and promote diversity and inclusion for all populations across the state.

**Strengthening Arizona.** ACF’s statewide presence catalyzes the generosity of donors and partners to focus on local needs and opportunities through the Foundation’s robust network of affiliated community foundations throughout Arizona.

- ACF supports policies that strengthen rural communities in Arizona and address the issues facing their specific needs and diversity within their regions.

**2019 GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PUBLIC POLICY ENGAGEMENT BY ACF:**

- Arts and Culture
- Community Improvement and Development
- Environment and Sustainability
- Health Innovations
- Philanthropy, Nonprofit Capacity Building, and Charitable Giving
- Quality Education
- Philanthropy for All
- Strengthening Arizona
Arts and Culture. In 2018, ACF and the Arizona Commission on the Arts formed a public-philanthropic partnership to support Arizona artists. By pairing ACF’s arts resources with the Commission’s existing reach and infrastructure, this partnership expands Arizona’s investments in artists and supports the work they do as innovators and creative contributors to Arizona’s future.

Community Improvement and Development. Since 2016, ACF has supported an ongoing research partnership between ASU’s Morrison Institute, Arizona’s Department of Child Safety, and community stakeholders to examine prevailing forms of neglect throughout the state in an effort to reduce the number of children placed in foster care.

Health Innovations. With financial support from ACF in 2018, Arizonans Concerned About Smoking worked with community members and the Prescott City Council to move forward with a Smoke and Vape-Free Parks Ordinance that would protect health for Prescott residents and guests at all Prescott parks.

Philanthropy for All. Since 2017, ACF’s Courage to Listen, Learn, and Act series—a platform for community dialogue around persistent and critical challenges—has brought together key stakeholders around the topic of mass incarceration. Community members, grassroots organizations, and public officials have participated in constructive dialogue that increases knowledge, leverages resources, and maximizes connections to influence community change.

Environment and Sustainability. Since 2014, ACF has participated in the Fix.Adopt.Save. initiative to raise awareness about Maricopa County’s homeless animal problem. Through a coalition of six local animal welfare groups and other local partners, an increase in adoptions, spay/neuter services, and fostering has resulted in an 86% decrease in euthanasia rates and a 45% decrease in animal intake.

Quality Education. In partnership with Education Resource Strategies, Rodel Foundation of Arizona and ACF published a report highlighting challenges and opportunities for Arizona’s teacher labor market. Additionally, through a partnership with other local funders and the Governor’s Office for Education, ACF leveraged additional resources for programs such as FosterEd Arizona and Arizona Pathways to Prosperity.

Philanthropy, Nonprofit Capacity Building, and Charitable Giving. Since 2012, ACF has collaborated with more than 100 community foundations from across the nation to address issues affecting charitable giving and philanthropy at the federal level. These issues range from limits on the charitable deduction, to donor-advised and endowed giving regulations, among others.

Public Policy Priorities

Public Policy Priorities

Last year, ACF and its affiliates awarded more than $66 million in grants, scholarships, and loans to over 2,300 nonprofit organizations, schools and government agencies bringing total awards since inception to $719 million.