



ARIZONA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES 2022

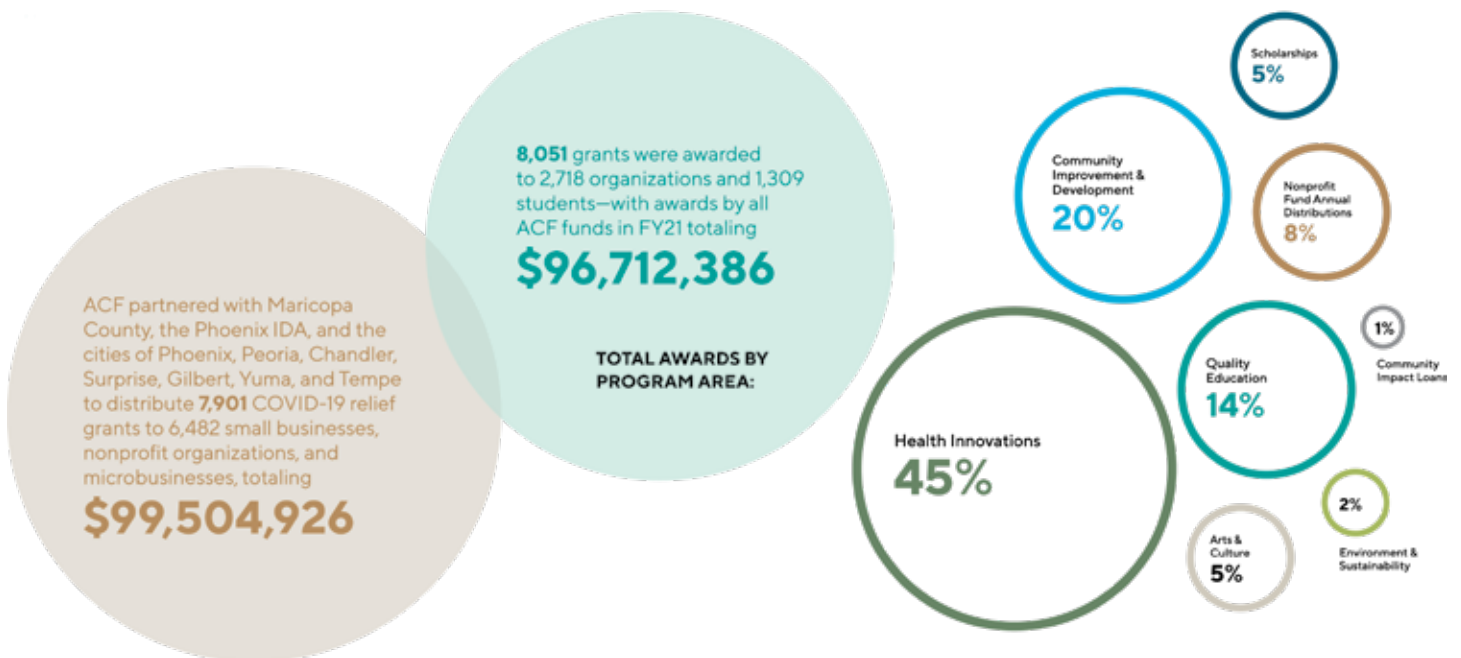
WE ARE ARIZONANS AND ACF IS OUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Established in 1978, the Arizona Community Foundation manages over 1,800 funds supported by thousands of Arizonans. With five regional offices serving communities across our state, ACF is among the top 25 community foundations in the nation with more than \$1 billion in trust and endowment assets. We are certified under the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations and recently earned our ninth consecutive 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, recognizing us for executing our mission in a financially efficient way and demonstrating to the public our trustworthiness.

Because of our local connections and knowledge of the nonprofit ecosystem, community foundations are well-equipped to collect charitable dollars and distribute grants to the organizations that provide vital services day in and day out. ACF partners with individual donors, business leaders, and local government entities to support community projects large and small and to mobilize philanthropic responses to natural disasters and community crises.

TOTAL AWARDED BY ALL ACF FUNDS IN FY21:

\$196,217,312



LEADERSHIP



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Our Mission: Lead, serve, and collaborate to mobilize enduring philanthropy for a better Arizona.

WHY PUBLIC POLICY

Our work in public policy helps ensure that the philanthropic dollars distributed by ACF and our donors can be leveraged to create systemic change in our communities. Guided by our mission and philanthropic agenda, and under the leadership of our board of directors, public policy committee, regional advisory boards, and other community leaders, we are committed to drive change within the following priority areas:

- Arts & Culture
- Community Improvement & Development
- Environment & Sustainability
- Health Innovations
- Quality Education
- Philanthropy for All
- Philanthropy, Nonprofit Capacity Building, & Charitable Giving
- Strengthening Arizona

Philanthropic Agenda Priorities



ARTS & CULTURE

We believe a thriving arts scene and diverse cultural offerings bring enjoyment to residents and visitors, and are important drivers of our economy. Support for arts and cultural experiences bring life to Arizona communities.

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.

Our Recent Work

- ACF has partnered with Arizona Citizens for the Arts to support reauthorization of the Arizona Commission on the Arts to ensure the continued wellbeing of Arizona's arts organizations, programs, providers, and artists.



COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

We believe safe housing and stable neighborhoods are the building blocks of a healthy community. Housing security is at the heart of the lives and success of all Arizonans.

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.

Our Recent Work

- Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, ACF established partnerships with city and county governments across Arizona to deploy relief funding to small businesses and nonprofits most impacted by emergency orders and mitigation efforts. Through these partnerships, ACF administered the distribution of nearly \$94 million to 7,000 small businesses and nonprofits in need of critical economic relief.



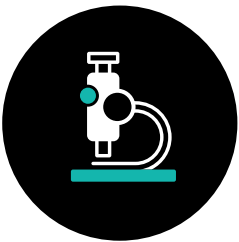
ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

Arizona's natural resources are among the most highly valued attributes of our state, and a top priority of residents. We believe in protecting these resources so that they can be enjoyed by future generations.

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

Our Recent Work

- As a member of the Arizona Thrives Alliance, ACF joins business, government, and nonprofit partners committed to establishing a shared vision, guiding principles, and common goals to advance clean air, clean energy, and a healthy economy and environment for Arizona. Created in 2020, Arizona Thrives leads statewide efforts to catalyze action and encourage innovation in policy and practice.



HEALTH INNOVATIONS

We believe the quality of and access to health services are critically important to our shared quality of life. Our investments into disease research, access to healthy food, and health systems contribute to a healthier Arizona.

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.

Our Recent Work

- With support from hundreds of individuals, corporations, and foundation partners, ACF awarded more than 900 grants totaling \$9 million through the COVID-19 Community Response Fund, with 59% of grant funding supporting health innovations providing immediate relief to families and communities in Arizona. Through the Community Response Fund, ACF awarded grant funding to support municipal partnerships with Arizona State University to rapidly deploy COVID-19 testing materials to first responders providing essential safety services to communities.



QUALITY EDUCATION

We believe a quality education system is a significant driver of Arizona's economic competitiveness and quality of life. With that in mind, we make strategic investments in education and are the largest independent provider of college scholarships for Arizona students.

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.

Our Recent Work

- As Arizona's largest independent provider of scholarships, ACF understands the significant financial barriers that face students as they transition from high school to Arizona's universities and community colleges. As such, ACF supports policies that mitigate these barriers, including the 2022 ballot referral that will give Arizona voters the opportunity to allow all students who graduate from an Arizona high school the opportunity to attend college at the standard in-state tuition rate, regardless of their immigration status. Additionally, ACF supports passage of proposed federal legislation known as the Earn to Learn Act, which would reduce student loan debt and make college more affordable by establishing a college matched savings program to assist students with education-related expenses.





Mission Priorities

PHILANTHROPY FOR ALL

We believe strong, vibrant, and inclusive communities contribute to economic growth and create a positive quality of life for all Arizonans.

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

Our Recent Work

- In 2020, ACF's Black Philanthropy Initiative (BPI) held a series of community convenings to examine drivers of inequality in Arizona and provide a platform to discuss the road ahead for social justice. Through the series, economic inequality was identified as a key driver of racial injustice in communities across Arizona and the United States. In response, BPI launched the Social Justice Fund, which will support financial literacy programs for Black-led nonprofits and small businesses.

PHILANTHROPY, NONPROFIT CAPACITY BUILDING, & CHARITABLE GIVING

Our 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. We believe it is our role to support the sector and protect our business interests.

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.

Our Recent Work

- ACF has partnered with nearly 150 community foundations across the nation to advocate for policies that promote continued support for America's spirit of philanthropy and charitable giving. As such, ACF opposes the proposed Accelerating Charitable Efforts Act, which, if enacted, would restrict the ease and flexibility of charitable giving in its current form, negatively impact contributions to Donor Advised Fund sponsors, and ultimately hurt community nonprofits providing vital services across the nation.

STRENGTHENING ARIZONA

Our statewide presence catalyzes the generosity of donors and partners to focus on local needs and opportunities through a robust network of affiliated community foundations serving Flagstaff and northern Arizona, Sedona and the Verde Valley, Yavapai County, Graham and Greenlee counties, Cochise County and southeast Arizona, Yuma and western Arizona, and Maricopa County and central Arizona.

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

Our Recent Work

- In 2020, ACF forged a public-private partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to support infrastructure needs in rural communities across Arizona. Through the partnership, ACF will provide access to financing options for project predevelopment costs, which will leverage grant and loan funding from USDA sources.



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azfoundation.org

To learn more, contact:

Anne Medina-Doak, Director, Policy & Public Affairs

Arizona Community Foundation

Phone 602.682.2014

Email amedinadoak@azfoundation.org

