WE ARE ARIZONANS AND ACF IS OUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Established in 1978, the Arizona Community Foundation manages over 2,000 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 $1.4 billion in trust and endowment assets. We are certified under the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations and recently earned our twelfth 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 AWARDS BY PROGRAM AREA

- 37% Health Innovations
- 24% Quality Education
- 17% Nonprofit Fund Annual Distributions
- 6% Community Improvement & Development
- 5% Arts & Culture
- 5% Scholarships
- 4% Environment & Sustainability
- 2% Impact Loans

FY22 grants, scholarships, loans, and nonprofit distributions totaled: $114,552,215

ACF partnered with Maricopa County and the cities of Chandler, Goodyear, and Phoenix to distribute 1,930 COVID-19 relief grants to 1,696 small businesses and nonprofits totaling $30,512,254

= $145,064,469

ALL ACF DISTRIBUTIONS IN FY22
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 partnered with Arizona Citizens for the Arts and supported the reauthorization of the Arizona Commission on the Arts to ensure the continued well-being of Arizona’s arts organizations, programs, providers, and artists.
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, promote social justice for all, and build strong communities for all generations.

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.
We believe a quality education system is a significant driver of Arizona’s economic competitiveness and quality of life. ACF supports policies that provide long-term funding solutions for early childhood education through college and career readiness. We also support policies that encourage equity, excellence, and innovative solutions that benefit all Arizona students.

Our Recent Work

- ACF is the largest independent provider of scholarships in Arizona, managing more than 200 scholarship programs and awarding millions of dollars in scholarships annually to help thousands of students achieve their educational goals. As such, ACF understands the significant financial barriers that face students as they transition from high school to colleges, universities, trade, and vocational schools in Arizona and across the United States.

- In 2022, ACF supported the passage of Proposition 308 through funding for two efforts led by the American Business Immigration Coalition and Aliento who took unique approaches in their nonpartisan efforts to raise awareness of the issue and educate the public. The measure allows students who have lived in Arizona for a minimum of two years and graduated from an Arizona high school the opportunity to pay the in-state tuition rate at our public universities and community colleges regardless of their immigration status. These efforts aligned with ACF’s commitment to ensure that all Arizona students receive a fair shot to earn a quality education and meaningfully contribute to our communities in college and beyond.
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 Funds, 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) and allocated $5 million to create the ACF/USDA Rural Development Investment Fund to support infrastructure needs in rural communities across Arizona. Through this partnership, ACF has provided access to low-interest, short-term financing through bridge loans for project predevelopment costs, and has leveraged large amounts of capital awarded to communities by the USDA. Loans from this fund benefit water systems, schools, affordable housing, firehouses, museums, parks, and related needs in rural communities.

azfoundation.org

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