

2020 Grantee-Partners

Through our grantmaking, we fund systems change. We fund programs, research, policy and advocacy, and strategic communications that result in shifts in individual, cultural, and community attitudes and behaviors, and shifts in institutions and policies that serve as barriers to gender and racial equity. In fiscal year 2021 (April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021) WFMN has awarded \$3,052,829.42 in grants to community-based organizations leading solutions across Minnesota to create a world of equal opportunity for and with women and girls.

[girls Building Economic Success Together \(girlsBEST\)](#)

The Women's Foundation of Minnesota has awarded 20 multi-year grants and three planning grants totaling \$300,000 to nonprofit organizations through its [girlsBEST \(girls Building Economic Success Together\)](#) Fund. This grant represents the sixth cohort of girlsBEST grantee-partners who are receiving the first of a multi-year grant from girlsBEST. Multi-year grants will be renewed for up to three years, based on an annual grant review and approval of progress towards goals. Seed grants, awarded to support planning, are limited to one year. The grant period is June 15, 2020, to June 14, 2021.

In response to the disparities highlighted amid COVID-19 and the additional ways in which many grantee-partner organizations are leading as first-responders in a crisis, the grants support general operations to allow grantee-partners to be more responsive and flexible to address the rapidly changing needs in this environment. Further, as WFMN accelerates its commitment to racial justice, we are listening to communities and organizations most impacted and investing in healing spaces and services dedicated to Black women and girls and additional communities of color.

Launched in 2002, girlsBEST awards grants to girl-led programs that build the opportunity and future economic success of Minnesota's girls, ages 12-18, particularly low-income girls, Native girls and girls of color, girls in Greater Minnesota, and additional girls experiencing disparities in academic and professional outcomes. Grantee-partners increase girls' awareness of systemic gender and racial inequities, grow their sense of being change agents, foster their development as leaders, and build their capacity for individual and collective activism in order to increase girls' readiness to achieve economic well-being.

Multi-Year Grantee-Partners:

The ANIKA Foundation (Minneapolis) | \$14,000 — To support TEXTURE, a youth social enterprise that teaches technical skills, provides wraparound support for soft skills, emotional, and spiritual development, and equips youth with financial wellness education to make sound personal and business decisions through their WE! program. The ANIKA Foundation promotes healthy equity, civic engagement, and economic empowerment.

Asian Media Access (Minneapolis) | \$14,000 — To support Asian Girls Empowerment (AGE) Project, which trains Asian American girls in Asian dances and bicultural leadership to build cultural pride and enhance girls' self-esteem and develop skills. Asian Media Access supports creative solutions for problems facing the Asian American & Pacific Islander community through education, production, information technology, and community organizing.

Bagosendaan (Mahnomen) | \$14,000 — To provide horseback riding experiences for low-income youth, ages 11 to 18, to engage their interest, provide motivation, and build competence. Bagosendaan builds self-esteem and promotes leadership among youth as they mature into successful adults by using talking circles, counselors, and guest speakers, and horseback riding.

Centro Tyrone Guzman (Minneapolis) | \$14,000 — To support Jóvenes Latinas al Poder which provides tools and opportunities to Latina teen girls and femme-identifying youth to exercise their leadership and collective power to advocate for justice, inclusion, and equity. Centro Tyrone Guzman helps Latina girls gain confidence in their ability to lead and advocate through self-confidence building, establishing professional networks, and preparing them for post-secondary education and career success.

Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES) (Minneapolis & St. Paul) | \$14,000 — To fund a leadership retreat for youth participants in the YA! and Entre Mujeres (“Between Women”) programs, both of which empower Latinx youth from low-income households through activities and offerings including mentoring, leadership development, college access services, and safe and culturally anchored spaces for growth. CLUES connects individuals and families with services, resources, skills, institutions, and systems and creates an environment for people to be engaged and empowered.

Dakota Wicohan (Morton) | \$19,000 — To provide the Dakota Wicohan’s Dakota Itancanpi Kte Unkihdwiyayapi /Dakota Youth Leadership Program, the only year-round out-of-school youth program in the Lower Sioux area. Dakota Wicohan empowers Dakota youth and prepares them as culture bearers, positively connects them to their community, and grounds them in their Dakota culture to help them on a path to contribute to our community academically, economically, socially, and culturally.

Hmong American Partnership (HAP) (St. Paul) | \$14,000 — To enable the Nthxais Hmoob Career Program (NHCP), modeled after a Learn & Earn framework, which combines career counseling, wraparound support services, individualized services plans, and connections to employers to support Hmong and Karen girls, ages 14 to 18. HAP empowers refugee and immigrant communities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Hnub Tshiab: Hmong Women Achieving Together (St. Paul) | \$14,000 — To run the Girls Enterprise Zone (EZ), a social, entrepreneurial, and workforce development program that uses teaching and hands-on work experience with Hmong girls, ages 13 to 18, to explore, create, and market their own products for sale. Hnub Tshiab’s is a catalyst for lasting social, cultural, and institutional change to improve the lives of Hmong women.

Liberty Community Church, PCUSA (Minneapolis) | \$14,000 — To administer The 21st Century Academy that equips K–12 scholars, particularly girls and young women, to be accelerated learners, game-changing global leaders, and justice-oriented entrepreneurs through academic support, enrichment, STEM learning, nutrition, and more. Liberty practices radical hope through the healing of racialized trauma, academic excellence, artistic expression, and innovative activism.

The Link (Minneapolis) | \$14,000 — To support the Career and Leadership Development program which targets economic well-being, helping LGBTQ+ girls and young women of color to develop skills related to professionalism and the workplace, finance, and interpersonal abilities. The Link works with youth and families to overcome the impacts of poverty and injustice.

Men As Peacemakers (Duluth) | **\$14,000** — To empower girls of color to change the systems impacting youth and to normalize the power, influence, and leadership of girls of color. Men As Peacemakers helps Native girls and girls of color navigate an environment where sexual violence and exploitation has become normal.

Project DIVA (Minneapolis) | **\$14,000** — To fund the Business Academy 369, a program designed to allow Black girls the freedom to determine a career or business while allowing them to connect with successful women in those fields to learn more. Project DIVA guides Black girls throughout the Twin Cities to make informed decisions as they transition into adulthood through a supportive coaching program focused on economic literacy and five other key focus areas of development.

Project FINE (Winona & St. Charles) | **\$14,000** — To run the Girls Reaching Above and Beyond (GRAB) program, which supports and builds power with girls from refugee and immigrant families to help them discover their identities and create a road map to pursue their dreams.

Range Engineering Council (Hibbing) | **\$14,000** — To run #night programming, which invites high school girls to come to the Iron Range Engineering (IRE) campus to learn about opportunities in engineering careers by experiencing hands-on projects, interacting with female college engineering students, and attending workshops led by female engineers from industry. The Range Engineering Council supports and facilitates educational activities across the Iron Range that promote awareness of and encourage participation in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.

RECLAIM! (St. Paul) | **\$14,000** — To host the Queer & Trans Girls in Helping Professions group, which supports young people (ages 14 to 18) as they develop a group with therapeutic supports as well as career and professional development skills building. RECLAIM! works to increase access to mental health support so that queer and trans youth may reclaim their lives from oppression in all its forms.

Restoration for All (West St. Paul) | **\$14,000** — To fund the Future Solution Now (FUSON) project to equip, train and support 15 African immigrant and refugee girls, ages 12 to 18, in ethnic entrepreneurship. Through the program, girls become aware of economic opportunities while recognizing personal skills needed to achieve economic self-sufficiency and abilities using culturally appropriate strategies. Restoration for All nurtures and empowers individuals, organizations, and communities to discover, renew, and restore their cultural connections with improved socio-cultural well-being.

St. Catherine University—Minnesota Center for Diversity in Economics (MCDE) (St. Paul) | **\$14,000** — To administer a mentorship program for girls and young women called Cross-generational Female Economist Mentorship (C-FEM) for girls and young women from area high schools, ages 14 to 18. The MCDE promotes and supports gender and racial diversity in economics at every stage of the educational and career pipeline, while leveraging its position at a women's college to design, implement, and study interventions.

St. Paul Youth Services (St. Paul) | **\$14,000** — To support the YouthPower Leadership Institute, a year-round, youth-designed leadership program where black girls ages 13 to 18 come together to discover, celebrate, and exercise leadership. St. Paul Youth Services (SPYS) is a leader in reimagining how our community engages with and holds itself accountable for youth.

uCodeGirl (Fargo-Moorhead) | \$14,000 — To support Crack the Code: Mentorship, a program that provides supportive networking and STEM-focused events and opportunities for girls in the Fargo-Moorhead area. uCodeGirl builds a support system for teen girls to be nurtured for STEM academic success and to support students' pursuit of their academic and career aspirations.

United Community Action Partnership (Marshall) | \$14,000 — To support Generation Next, which works with girls, ages 12 to 18, and focuses on building awareness around gender inequities and cultural competency as a group and in their schools and local communities. United Community Action Partnership eliminates poverty by empowering individuals and strengthening communities.

Seed Grants:

Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research (HACER) (St. Paul) | \$5,000 — To fund the Lateen Mom Households, a 10-month program for 20 Latinx teen moms that helps them identify their strengths while receiving support from their community. HACER works in concert with the Latinx community to access, generate, and disseminate credible and relevant research studies to inform institutional decisions and public policy while building power with community.

Pillsbury United Communities—Brian Coyle Center (Minneapolis) | \$5,000 — To host Girls Tech Fridays, where East African girls forge a career path that honors their cultural and religious traditions in a positive, supportive environment. The Brian Coyle Center hosts a continuum of programs designed around the neighborhood's rapidly changing immigrant communities.

Sisters-N-Technology (Minneapolis) | \$5,000 — To increase Black girls' knowledge of STEM fields and prepare them to fill future STEM job opportunities through an after-school coding program. Sisters-N-Technology engages young women in computer science and related information technology fields.

WFMN Fund for Safety

The Women's Foundation of Minnesota awarded eight grants totaling \$190,000 to nonprofit organizations and the City of Minneapolis through its Fund for Safety. The Women's Foundation of Minnesota's Fund for Safety resources innovation to end gender-based violence, a continuum that includes including sex trafficking, domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment. The Fund for Safety continues and expands upon the investments made through the Women's Foundation of Minnesota's MN Girls Are Not for Sale campaign.

In partnership with community leaders, WFMN follows an ethos of listening and responding to community concerns to drive strategic, cross-sector plans and create collective impact. As WFMN has transformed our role from a catalytic leader with MN Girls Are Not For Sale to supporting partner, we continue to expand our strategic focus on safety and work with communities to end gender-based violence. WFMN will invest in the organizations, leaders, and the movement to create a Minnesota where girls and women are free from every form of violence and can experience their homes, schools, and communities as safe places.

Grantee-Partners:

Asian Women United Minnesota (AWUMN) (St. Paul) | \$25,000 —To build organizational capacity as AWUMN evolves services during the COVID-19 pandemic by adapting their programming to spread

awareness about the dynamics of domestic violence with a specific focus on the Asian immigrant and refugee experience. Asian Women United Minnesota is a leader in eliminating domestic violence in Asian and Pacific Islander communities through harnessing the strengths that are indigenous to Asian communities and sharing best practices with other community-based organizations.

Casa de Esperanza (St. Paul) | **\$25,000** — To support Casa de Esperanza’s Fuerza Unida Amig@s program and to continue adapting and evolving community-based work through a mix of virtual adult and youth programs, and engaging in community learning through topical podcasts, webinars, and community connection drop-in calls. Casa de Esperanza mobilizes Latinas and Latin@ communities to end domestic violence.

City of Minneapolis (Minneapolis) | **\$5,000** — To sponsor the seventh annual Trans Equity Summit for trans and gender nonconforming community members to connect to resources and each other, and for potential allies to learn more about issues impacting the trans/GNC community and how to integrate community visions through an equity lens.

Liberty Community Church, PCUSA (Minneapolis) | **\$25,000** — To serve participants of the Northside Healing Space by providing programming and tools through a culturally relevant and strengths-based approach. Liberty practices radical hope through the healing of racialized trauma, academic excellence, artistic expression, and innovative activism.

Men As Peacemakers (Duluth) | **\$25,000** — To support MAP’s programs to end gender-based violence through their Don’t Buy it Project, Girls Restorative Program, and Youth Restorative Justice programs. Men As Peacemakers helps Native girls and girls of color navigate an environment where sexual violence and exploitation has become normal.

Minnesota Indian Women’s Sexual Assault Coalition (Minneapolis) | **\$25,000** — To implement a Survivor Advisory Board and to conduct 100 culturally respectful interviews with survivors of sex trafficking via Zoom. Minnesota Indian Women’s Sexual Assault Coalition builds resources to create awareness of and eliminate sexual violence against Indian women and children.

Phumulani Minnesota African Women Against Violence (St. Paul) | **\$10,000** —To increase accessibility to Phumulani’s cultural tea ceremonies for African Immigrant women survivors of violence and to engage in a language-accessible sexual violence prevention campaign for all African languages that are represented in Minnesota. Phumulani provides culturally specific resources to women and girls of African descent to change the cycle of gender-based abuse in vulnerable populations.

Rainbow Research (Minneapolis) | **\$10,000** — To convene a group of sex trafficking survivor-consultants and facilitators to make recommendations for the City of Minneapolis to improve the lives of survivors of sexual exploitation in Minneapolis, in partnership with the senior advisor for human trafficking at the City of Minneapolis. Rainbow Research engages in participatory, systems-oriented research and evaluation with a consistent focus on social justice.

The Link (Minneapolis) | **\$50,000** — To reinforce the leadership capacity of women of color and/or LGBTQ+ women while building internal capacity of the organization and leadership to be more effective leaders in the anti-trafficking field. The Link works with youth and families to overcome the impacts of

poverty and injustice.

[Young Women's Initiative of Minnesota \(YWI MN\)](#)

The Women's Foundation of Minnesota (WFMN) announced an investment of \$364,000 in general operating grants to 18 organizations serving girls and young women, ages 12-24. In addition, WFMN awarded a \$150,000 grant to YWCA St. Paul to continue building leadership and advocacy skills with the [Young Women's Cabinet](#), who ground the Young Women's Initiative of Minnesota in the lived experiences and expertise of young women and communities. The grant provides \$15/hour payment to all 31 members for participation on the Cabinet and strengthens engagement with the Young Women's Initiative across the state. In total, the awards represent an investment of \$514,000 through the Young Women's Initiative of Minnesota.

"Investing in the young women in our state who have been pushed to the margins means more to Minnesota. By investing in community-led organizations who hold the solutions, and expanding access and opportunities for young women, our future as a state looks brighter. When all women and girls thrive, Minnesota will thrive," said Gloria Perez, president and CEO of the Women's Foundation of Minnesota.

Awarded through the Foundation's [Young Women's Initiative of Minnesota](#) (YWI MN), the grants support front-line organizations working in the intersecting areas of economic opportunity, safety, and leadership *with* and on behalf of young women and girls to advance key [YWI MN Blueprint for Action recommendations](#). In this time of uncertainty and heightened need, general operations grants allow organizations greater flexibility as programming and program outcomes may change in response to the emergent needs of communities impacted by the pandemic. The investments will be deployed by organizations between March 31, 2020 and March 31, 2021.

Launched in 2016, YWI MN is a multi-year, multi-million-dollar investment and public-private partnership with the Governor's Office of the State of Minnesota to achieve equity in opportunities *with* and for young women of color, American Indian young women, young women from Greater Minnesota, LGBTQ+ youth, and young women with disabilities. YWI MN is on a mission to create a Minnesota where every young woman thrives with equal access to economic opportunity, safety, and leadership.

Grantee-Partners:

Asian American Organizing Project (St. Paul) | **\$15,000** — Asian American Organizing Project (AAOP) holds the vision that Asian American individuals, families, organizations, and communities in Minnesota will affect long-term social change and take part in grassroots civic engagement and community organizing efforts, and approaches this work with a gender and reproductive justice lens. AAOP program participants are youth and young Asian people and their families in the Twin Cities. The youth program focuses on building power of youth to see themselves as leaders capable of changing the injustices that they see. The Gender Justice program builds power in young Asian people, especially in queer and trans youth, women, and girls to combat sexual violence and recognize their bodily autonomy through a four-month long cohort.

Augsburg University—MN Urban Debate League (Minneapolis) | **\$25,000** — The mission of MN Urban Debate League (MNUDL) is to strengthen students through competitive academic debate to become

engaged learners, critical thinkers, and active global citizens who are effective advocates for themselves and their communities. The MNUDL provides everything a school needs to support a debate team while also running tournaments and providing training and curriculum. The MNUDL will advance the *Blueprint for Action* through creating access for young women to higher paying jobs and developing young women's leadership.

Black Visions Collective (Minneapolis) | **\$25,000** — To support the Black Arts and Organizing cohort of the Black Visions Project, nine-month arts learning and grassroots organizing program for eight Black queer and trans youth, ages 18 to 24. Black Visions Collective is a Black-led, queer- and trans-centering organization whose mission is to organize powerful, connected Black communities and dismantle systems of violence. Black Visions builds strategic campaigns, invests in Black leadership, and engages in cultural and narrative organizing.

Casa de Esperanza (St. Paul) | **\$25,000** — To support Fuerza Unida Youth Amig@s program, which engages Latin@ youth (ages of 11 to 16) in leadership training and mentoring to develop the skills and resources to create healthy relationships and sexuality, support friends and family who experience abuse, and challenge the systemic forms of oppression that perpetuate violence. The youth group will create and implement a new youth participatory action research project to investigate and document how Latin@ youth experience mental health issues using photography and the Photovoice technique.

Cedar Riverside Community Council (Minneapolis) | **\$15,000** — In partnership with the BeautyWell Project, the Cedar Riverside Community Council developed Young Women's Wellness and Leadership Initiative (YWWLI) programming for young women from low socioeconomic backgrounds. The program trains young Somali women (ages 14 to 18) and other African women to take the lead in their health and well-being, gain policy and advocacy skills, and create a social media advocacy campaign to address skin-lightening practices, self-esteem, and reproductive health. YWWLI offers young women a safe space to flourish, re-discover, and explore their health and wellness in new ways.

discapitados abriéndose caminos (South St. Paul) | **\$19,000** — To support youth programming for young girls and women ages 14 to 24 who are assisting and supporting their families with knowledge to navigate systems, be stable economically, and improve the quality of life for family members with disabilities. Serving 150 or more Latino families and their children per year, discapitados abriéndose caminos works with those who have family members with a disability or critical health need, from newborns to elders.

Family Tree Clinic (St. Paul) | **\$15,000** — Family Tree's health education program advances outcomes by delivering comprehensive, science-based sexual health and healthy relationships education to young people in a variety of settings. Most programming is delivered in public schools, though educators also travel to correctional facilities, colleges, Alternative Learning Centers, group homes that provide services to deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing (DDBHH) individuals, chemical dependency treatment centers, shelters, and housing programs across the metro region to ensure that everyone has the tools they need to make healthy and informed decisions about their relationships and sexual health. Sexuality education is a fundamental tool for increasing health and well-being across a person's life span, and particularly for making health decisions related to sexual health among teens.

Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin and River Valleys (St. Paul) | \$25,000 — Girl Scouts ConnectZ is designed for girls from underserved communities where there is little or no volunteer capacity, such as communities of color, low-income communities, or immigrant communities. The ConnectZ program curriculum drives gender equity by providing girls with knowledge and skills in the areas of STEM, financial literacy, and college and career readiness, as well as physical health and safety, mental health, and healthy relationships.

MIGIZI Communications (Minneapolis) | \$25,000 — MIGIZI's programs focus on the unique needs and circumstances of the young American Indian people growing up in an urban environment. MIGIZI is advancing the system of education, leadership, and youth employment for the American Indian community across the Twin Cities through the First Person Productions Media and Green Jobs Pathways programs. MIGIZI hopes to increase its service area and partnerships to increase the presence of positive narratives, laws, policies and behaviors for young American Indian women. Through MIGIZI's programming, the First Person Productions Media and Green Jobs Pathways programs will increase the number of young Native women who access paid internships or apprenticeships, increase advocacy efforts in youth employment, and increase young people's understanding of healthy relationships built on mutual respect.

Minneapolis Public Schools—Office of Black Student Achievement (Minneapolis) | \$15,000 —The Queens Program at the Office of Black Student Achievement was recently implemented to focus on Black girls and young women (ages 12 to 18) in grades 6 through 12. The Queens Program values healthy relationships and promotes college and career preparation by increasing feelings of self-esteem and self-worth, increasing cultural awareness and identity specific to Black girls, and developing and encouraging a culture of sisterhood, leadership, and mentorship.

Minnesota State Community & Technical College (Moorhead) | \$15,000 — The Steps to Success Program, created with funding from WFMN's Pathways to Prosperity Fund, supports women from greater Minnesota and the Fargo-Moorhead region. The program provides education and support for women in the region who are considering college to successful placement in a career with economic and leadership growth opportunities. The project focuses on women pursuing technology, engineering, and business programs on Minnesota State's Moorhead campus. This holistic approach provides support through mentoring, academic advising, scheduled study sessions, career exploration, bridging with community agencies, and leadership development. The project also impacts the larger community by inspiring and educating women to be leading innovators and changemakers and creating a more diverse workforce to meet the needs of the community.

Minnesota Youth Collective Education Fund (St. Paul) | \$15,000 — Minnesota Youth Collective Education Fund was founded to serve as a political home for young people in the state, particularly those who often do not see themselves reflected in power structures, including young people of color, young women and non-binary folks, and young LGBTQ+ people. The program trains participants to be their own advocates, whether through student government, on the local city council, or at the state Capitol.

OutFront Minnesota Community Services (Minneapolis) | \$25,000 — The collective work of OutFront programs (Educational Equity Program, Anti-Violence Program, and Policy & Organizing Program) advances systems change for LGBTQ+ girls and women. OutFront trains leaders of all ages to advocate to improve systems at schools and workplaces, and trains thousands of organizations on best practices for

inclusive and equitable environments that impact policies and their implementation. OutFront supports LGBTQ+ girls and women to use their voice and agency to advocate against discrimination and bullying while building healthy peer relationships as they navigate their most difficult years in school.

Pillsbury United Communities (Minneapolis) | **\$15,000** — Sisterhood Boutique is a social enterprise store that accepts donations of gently used clothing for re-sale. Sisterhood Boutique builds pathways to self-discovery and 21st century skills for East African girls and young women in a way that honors their cultures and centers their personal goals. Sisterhood Boutique's culturally specific model offers a uniquely intersectional perspective on youth development, leadership development, and future readiness among women of color.

St. Paul Youth Services (St. Paul) | **\$25,000** — Since its launch, YouthPower, an initiative of St. Paul Youth Services, has demonstrated the incredible impact of investing in young Black women. Young women enroll in YouthPower as a cohort and participate in all three program elements: Healing and Identity, Exploration and Innovation, and Creating Policy Change. Participating youth meet at least two days a week after school during the school year, and for 20-30 hours in the summer, following a youth-centric, youth-shaped curriculum of engaging and educational activities, field trips, team building, and advocacy.

The SEAD Project (Minneapolis) | **\$25,000** — The SEAD Project is committed to providing culturally safe and conducive learning environments to build key career pathways using cultural identity and social empowerment. The SEA Change Lab is a program aimed at building the next generation of Southeast Asian (SEA) leaders through arts and storytelling for SEA youth, ages 12 to 25.

Women for Political Change Education Fund (Minneapolis) | **\$25,000** — Women for Political Change (WFPC) holistically invests in the leadership and political power of young women and trans and non-binary individuals throughout Minnesota. WFPC facilitates YWI Network convenings for Young Women's Initiative of Minnesota program participants and facilitates the YWI Network pop-up events, open to all young women and trans and non-binary individuals for networking, professional development, and movement building.

Violence Intervention Project (Thief River Falls) | **\$15,000** — Violence Intervention Project's youth-led advisory panel will recruit young women and youth ages 12 to 18 in their five-county service area to create awareness and develop strategies to reduce violence and exploitation in schools and communities, and support young women to find and share their voices as they build their sense of agency and power. The youth-led advisory panel will increase awareness of gender-based violence in the community and develop and present practical solutions to peers, school administration, and community leaders for implementation.

[Ripley Memorial Foundation](#)

The Ripley Memorial Foundation, a donor advised fund of the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, has awarded \$90,890 in general operating grants to advance the work of 10 organizations. The grant period is July 1, 2020, to December 31, 2021. The Ripley Memorial Foundation shifted their grantmaking timeline to support their current grantee-partners who are operating on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the past year, Ripley Memorial Advisors have increased its responsive support for the health and well-being of adolescents and aligned its strategies with the Young Women's Initiative of Minnesota (YWI

MN), a partnership between the Women's Foundation of Minnesota and the Governor's Office of the State of Minnesota to create a state where all young women thrive.

Ripley Memorial is engaging with recommendation 15 of the YWI MN's [Blueprint for Action](#), which proposes 20 community-led solutions to advance opportunities and start eliminating barriers for young women in Minnesota. In alignment with recommendation 15, Ripley grants aim to promote access to women's health education and services built on cultural and community strengths so that young women know about their bodies and can make appropriate and healthy choices as they grow and age.

Grantee-Partners:

Annex Teen Clinic (Robbinsdale) | **\$9,760** — To provide comprehensive sexuality education in Northwest Hennepin County. The Annex Teen Clinic helps young people take charge of their sexual health by providing confidential health services and education.

Centro Tyrone Guzman (Minneapolis) | **\$7,320** — To support Raíces Youth Development Program's continued work on creating more supportive environments for LGBTQ+ Latine youth. Youth will work collaboratively to develop posters and educational material in Spanish on LGBTQ+ terminology, sharing with community members and local school partners. Centro Tyrone Guzman contributes to the well-being of Latines through education and family engagement.

Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES) (St. Paul) | **\$9,760** — To fund the multi-generational sexual health education program for Latinx families. CLUES advances the capacity of Latino individuals and families to be healthy, prosperous, and engaged in their communities.

Division of Indian Work (Minneapolis) | **\$9,760** — To support the delivery of its Live It! Teen Pregnancy Prevention Curriculum through a train-the-trainer model. Live It! is a holistic Indigenous-specific curriculum developed and designed by the Division of Indian Work.

Family Tree Clinic (St. Paul) | **\$9,760** — To support the delivery of comprehensive sex education in Twin Cities Metro area schools with the goal of positively influencing sexual health outcomes among teens. Family Tree Clinic cultivates a healthy community through comprehensive sexual healthcare and education.

FamilyWise Services (St. Paul) | **\$6,100** — To support the Bright Beginnings program for teen parents ages 14 to 22 who have a history of out-of-home placement or involvement with the justice system. FamilyWise Services strengthens families by promoting the safety, stability, and well-being of children.

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (St. Paul) | **\$9,760** — To support the Seeing and Exploring Life's Future (SELF) pregnancy/STI prevention program. The SELF program focuses on educating self-advocates in the disability community about sexually transmitted infections, consent, and sexual health, including youth of all backgrounds who identify as having a disability and who pursue individualized education programs.

Way to Grow (Minneapolis) | **\$9,150** — To support the DreamTracks™ teen parenting program, working with teen parents and their extended families to break the cycle of teenage pregnancy and poverty to move teens towards self-sufficiency. Way to Grow works closely with parents and communities to ensure

children from communities facing the greatest disparities are born healthy, stay healthy, and are prepared for school.

YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities (Minneapolis) | \$9,760 — To support the Teen Outreach Program (TOP) club programming for youth, ages 12 to 18, which includes teen pregnancy prevention. The YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities believes that everyone deserves a chance to succeed — no matter their background or income, which happens only when we unite to nurture the best in all of us.

YWCA of Minneapolis (Minneapolis) | \$9,760 — To support Contact Plus, a high-quality youth development program offering comprehensive sexual health education, leadership development, and school connectedness to youth in Minneapolis Public Schools. YWCA of Minneapolis eliminates racism, empowers women and girls, and promotes peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

[COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund—Round 1](#)

The Women's Foundation of Minnesota (WFMN) announced its first round of investment in 27 organizations through its COVID-19 Women & Girls Response Fund, for a total of \$233,000 in general operating grants.

The [COVID-19 Women & Girls Response Fund](#) is issuing a half-million dollars in emergency grants of up to \$10,000 to organizations serving women and girls experiencing gender-based violence, older women, and women and girls who need short-term financial support for everyday needs due to the effects of COVID-19 (childcare, eldercare, food, housing, transportation, health, and wellness). Grant applications are being accepted monthly and on a rolling basis, as funds are available.

More than 70 percent of the funded organizations are led by women of color and Indigenous women, including undocumented women, Muslim women, immigrant women, young women, LGBTQ+ people, and women in greater MN, representing WFMN's ethos that people most impacted by inequity hold the solutions to lasting change. Funded programs will reach approximately 50,000 women, girls, and their families.

In addition to the investments below, WFMN, along with a community of foundations, was a first funder of the [Minnesota Disaster Recovery Fund for Coronavirus](#) (MDRF). Launched by the Minnesota Council of Foundations in partnership with the St. Paul & Minnesota Foundation, MDRF funds both short- and long-term needs that arise within communities, due to coronavirus or future disasters.

Grantee-Partners:

African Career, Education, and Resource Inc. (ACER) (Brooklyn Park) | \$7,500 — To provide ongoing support to African and African American businesses in the Northwest suburbs who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. ACER works to uplift and amplify the African diaspora to build power for systemic change that advances racial and economic equity in communities.

Asian American Organizing Project (AAOP) (St. Paul) | \$10,000 — To provide short-term emergency financial assistance to young members of the Asian community, a portion of which will be designated for girls, queer, and trans youth. AAOP advances Asian Americans' and Pacific Islanders' participation in democracy for an equitable and just society.

Asian Media Access (Minneapolis) | **\$7,500** — To coordinate information flow and e-counseling for a mental health and culturally relevant healer hub, coordinate an Asian American Emergency Fund, and provide essential items to Asian American families to support distance learning. Asian Media Access connects the disconnected and is dedicated to using multimedia arts and technology as tools for social betterment.

Black Visions Collective (Minneapolis) | **\$10,000** — To create an Emergent Fund, which will provide short-term financial assistance to Black young women, and Black queer and trans young people in Minnesota. Black Visions Collective believes in a future where all Black people have autonomy, safety is community-led, and people and communities are in right-relationship within the ecosystem.

Black Women's Wealth Alliance, SBC (Minneapolis) | **\$7,500** — To provide short-term financial support to Black women in North Minneapolis for basic needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the first black woman-owned, specific public benefit corporation in Minnesota, they aim to cultivate strategies to create wealth and change lives.

Caring Path (St. Louis Park) | **\$1,500** — To support the creation of hijabs that will be donated to Muslim frontline hospital workers in Minnesota. Hilal Ibrahim, founder and owner of the business Henna and Hijabs, will be granted the funds by Caring Path, which provides resources to immigrants and refugees, including employment, housing, counseling services, educational assistance, and other needed resources.

Casa de Esperanza (St. Paul) | **\$7,500** — To provide short-term financial assistance to Latin@ women experiencing gender-based violence, Latin@ families who will not receive relief from the stimulus package, and Latin@ people who are undocumented. Casa de Esperanza mobilizes Latinas and Latin@ communities to end domestic violence.

Centro Tyrone Guzman (Minneapolis) | **\$7,500** — To provide direct emergency financial assistance to the families of its Jóvenes Latinas al Poder program. A multi-service Latine organization, Centro envisions a society that uplifts, supports, and celebrates Chicane and Latine culture.

Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio, Inc. (CLUES) (St. Paul) | **\$10,000** — To provide short-term financial assistance to mixed-status families, low-income Latina women, Latina women in Greater Minnesota, and families facing financial hardship because of unemployment. CLUES advances the capacity of Latino individuals and families to be healthy, prosperous, and engaged in community.

Dakota Wicohan (DW) (Morton) | **\$10,000** — To connect young Dakota women with digital resources, care packages, and short-term financial assistance and to support their wellness needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a Dakota-led organization, Dakota Wicohan works to revitalize Dakota as a living language, and through it, transmit Dakota lifeways to future generations.

Elder Voice Family Advocates (Bloomington) | **\$6,600** — To advocate, educate, and continue providing support to families and direct caregivers of elderly and vulnerable women in Minnesota during the COVID-19 crisis. Elder Voice Family Advocates represents residents, direct caregivers, and families of elderly and vulnerable adults in senior living facilities in Minnesota.

Fearless Commerce (Twin Cities Innovation Alliance) (Minneapolis) | **\$7,500** — To provide \$500 micro-grants to Black women business owners whose businesses have been closed as a result of COVID-19.

Fearless Commerce elevates and invests in Black women business owners to ensure that Black women have the resources to start and sustain high-growth businesses.

Jeremiah Program (Minneapolis) | **\$7,500** — To respond to the acute and evolving needs of diverse, single mothers who are college students experiencing poverty during the COVID-19 public health crisis. Jeremiah Program offers leading strategies for dismantling systemic barriers for single mothers and their children that have led to an epidemic of poverty.

Life House, Inc. (Duluth) | **\$7,500** — To continue providing a 24-hour transitional living space for young women and LGBTQ+ individuals and community members who have experienced sexual exploitation and/or human trafficking. Life House provides youth with shelter, assistance with unemployment applications, and health services.

NAVIGATE (Minneapolis) | **\$10,000** — To provide direct, short-term financial assistance to low-income and immigrant families and undocumented individuals across Minnesota, many of whom will not otherwise receive emergency support during the COVID-19 pandemic. NAVIGATE/Unidos MN builds power for gender, racial, and economic justice and envisions a Minnesota where Latinxs achieve their full potential.

Northwest Indian Community Development Center (NWCDC) (Bemidji) | **\$10,000** — To provide basic needs and short-term financial assistance to Native women and Native elders experiencing gender-based violence or unemployment. NWCDC addresses and mobilizes the American Indian equity agenda, realizing the need for culturally implicit integrated services that are controlled and delivered with a “for us, by us” approach.

Ostara Initiative (Minneapolis) | **\$10,000** — To provide supportive materials, health education, and doula services to incarcerated pregnant women who have lost services as a result of the pandemic, and to advocate for the release of incarcerated pregnant people who are at high risk if they contract COVID-19. The Ostara Initiative collectively transforms systems by reimagining justice, advancing health, and reclaiming dignity in policies and practices for all pregnant and parenting people.

Phumulani (St. Paul) | **\$7,500** — To offer short-term financial assistance to African immigrant women on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic and to women experiencing sudden unemployment or business closures. Phumulani increases awareness of and provides supportive services for survivors and victims of sexual and domestic violence in the African immigrant community.

Power of the People Leadership Institute (Minneapolis) | **\$10,000** — To deliver virtual mentoring, emotional and mental health support, distance learning help, and access to emergency resources for young Black girls during the COVID-19 pandemic. Power of the People Leadership Institute motivates, mentors, empowers, engages, and educates girls to succeed in school and in life.

Project Diva (Minneapolis) | **\$7,500** — To offer continued wrap-around services, virtual emotional and mental health support, and financial literacy coaching during the changing economic times for Black girls. Project Diva uses coaching and mentoring to provide solutions to challenges that Black girls face about their physical and emotional well-being, safety and security, relationships with self, family, and future romantic partners.

Project FINE (Winona) | \$7,500 — To expand their advocacy and information referrals and to provide direct, short-term financial assistance to refugees and immigrants in rural Minnesota. Project FINE strengthens and enriches the community by facilitating the integration of people who are ethnically diverse.

RECLAIM! (St. Paul) | \$7,500 — To provide financially accessible, trans-specific, and culturally relevant emergency assistance to queer and trans youth during the COVID-19 pandemic. RECLAIM! increases access to mental health support for queer and trans youth so they might reclaim their lives from oppression in all its forms.

Reviving the Islamic Sisterhood for Empowerment (RISE) (Minneapolis/St. Paul) | \$7,500 — To provide emotional and mental health support to young Muslim girls in St. Paul and provide homework assistance and translation accessibility or Somali speakers during distance learning. RISE amplifies the voice and power of Muslim women through storytelling, leadership development, and civic engagement.

The Link (Minneapolis) | \$7,500 — To increase their capacity to house youth at risk for sex trafficking and continue to meet basic needs like shelter, housing, food, hygiene supplies, and access to mental or medical support. The Link works with youth and families to overcome the impacts of poverty and social injustice.

Women for Political Change (WFPC) (St. Paul) | \$7,500 — To support a mutual aid fund that provides direct short-term financial assistance to women of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, transwomen, and others impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. WFPC invests in the leadership and political power of young women and trans & non-binary individuals under 30.

Women's Health Center of Duluth, P.A. (Duluth) | \$7,500 — To continue to provide critical reproductive health services to women and girls in Minnesota during the COVID-19 pandemic. Women's Health Center of Duluth provides, advances, and advocates for evidence-based reproductive and sexual healthcare for all.

[COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund—Round 2](#)

The Women's Foundation of Minnesota (WFMN) announced its second round of investment in 17 organizations through its COVID-19 Women & Girls Response Fund, for a total of \$127,500 in general operating grants. In the first two rounds of grantmaking through this fund, WFMN has awarded more than \$360,000 to 44 organizations across the state to address the needs of women and girls experiencing gender-based violence, older women, and short-term financial support for everyday needs, including childcare, eldercare, food, housing, transportation, health, and wellness.

In total, the COVID-19 Women & Girls Response Fund will issue a half-million dollars in emergency grants of up to \$10,000 to organizations serving women and girls affected by the crisis.

More than 70 percent of the funded organizations are led by women of color and Indigenous women, including undocumented women, Muslim women, immigrant women, young women, LGBTQ+ people, and women in greater Minnesota, representing WFMN's ethos that people most impacted by inequity hold the solutions to lasting change. With two rounds of grantmaking, funded programs will reach more than 60,000 women, girls, and their families.

Grantee-Partners:

Division of Indian Work (DIW) (Minneapolis) | **\$7,500** — To support the Anpa Waste House, which provides services to expecting mothers and parents through a food shelf, doula service, and other basic needs. DIW will also provide short-term financial assistance to elders and women experiencing gender-based violence. Division of Indian Work strengthens the urban American Indian community through culturally based education, traditional healing, counseling, and leadership development.

Hmong American Partnership (HAP) (St. Paul) | **\$7,500** — To provide short-term housing and financial assistance to women and girls of color disproportionately affected by the economic downturn while working jobs that pay less than a living wage. HAP builds power with Twin Cities refugee and immigrant communities to achieve their potential by embracing cultural strengths.

Liberty Community Church, PCUSA (Minneapolis) | **\$7,500** — To offer basic needs for women and their families at high risk of sexual exploitation in the North Minneapolis area. Liberty Community Church, PCUSA, uses its action-reflection model to respond to issues by analyzing critical data, developing communal responses based on community voices, and then taking action.

OutFront Minnesota Community Services (Minneapolis) | **\$7,500** — To ensure stable housing and basic needs for LGBTQ+ people across Minnesota who are experiencing gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. OutFront MN creates a state where LGBTQ+ people are free to be who they are, love who they love, and live without fear of violence, harassment, or discrimination.

ReleaseMN8 (Rosemount) | **\$7,500** — To provide relief to Southeast Asian elders, women and girls, and community members impacted by the deportation of family members, and to expand the capacity of existing efforts to meet community needs. ReleaseMN8 provides direct support to families impacted by deportation through leadership development and community organizing for social and political change and community power to protect human rights and keep families together.

Southeast Seniors (Minneapolis) | **\$7,500** — To address the emerging needs of older women experiencing increased isolation due to the COVID-19 pandemic through food, prescription delivery, and mental and emotional support. Southeast Seniors is a neighbor-helping-neighbor program that helps seniors remain safely in their homes with an enhanced quality of life.

Southwest Crisis Center (SWCC) (Worthington) | **\$7,500** — To provide short-term financial assistance to clients in southwestern Minnesota's rural communities that have been impacted by the temporary closing of large meatpacking plants. A victim advocacy organization, SWCC builds survivors' safety, healing, rights, and autonomy while working to transform institutions and public policy.

St. Paul Youth Services (SPYS) (St. Paul) | **\$7,500** — To provide short-term financial support through technology care packages to students and 1:1 support as students transition from in-person to digital learning and high school to college. SPYS believe in the power of youth and reimagines how the community engages with and holds itself accountable for youth.

Terebinth Refuge (Waite Park) | **\$7,500** — To support victim-survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking in rural Central Minnesota through short-term financial assistance, housing, and basic needs provision. Terebinth Refuge is an emergency shelter and transitional home that brings hope, healing services, and freedom to sexually exploited and trafficked women and their small children.

The ANIKA Foundation (Minneapolis) | **\$7,500** — To provide short-term financial assistance to Black elder women. The ANIKA Foundation promotes health equity, civic engagement, and economic empowerment of primarily women and girls in underserved communities.

Transforming Generations (St. Paul) | **\$7,500** — To support Hmong families and victim-survivors of gender-based violence through language services and short-term financial assistance to meet basic needs. Transforming Generations organizes, educates, and transforms cultural and power dynamics to end gender-based violence.

Tubman (Minneapolis) | **\$7,500** — To support transitional housing for youth and the Youth Advocacy Program, an early intervention program for at-risk youth. Tubman advances opportunities for change so that every person can experience safety, hope, and healing.

Violence Intervention Project, Inc.(VIP) (Thief River Falls) | **\$7,500** — To provide short-term financial assistance and housing for victim-survivors of sexual and domestic violence who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to provide hazard pay for advocates working on the frontlines with clients. VIP works to end violence and the acceptance of all forms of violence in the communities of Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, and Roseau.

We Rise MN (Minneapolis) | **\$7,500** — To establish supportive, trauma-informed community homes and community networks for formerly incarcerated and justice-involved women and non-binary individuals released from incarceration during the pandemic. We Rise MN creates a movement in which the collective power of those who are directly impacted by incarceration can grow.

West Side Community Organization (St. Paul) | **\$7,500** — To strengthen the West Side Solidarity Relief Fund and provide financial relief and rental assistance through the Women and Women of Color Leadership Table to woman-identifying applicants. The West Side Community Organization increases civic participation by launching organizing campaigns, offering leadership and development opportunities for West Side residents, and educating and building a power base of residents from all backgrounds to tackle civic issues.

Women Initiative Network of Liberia (Fargo) | **\$7,500** — To provide short-term financial assistance and basic needs for West African women and the West African community in the Moorhead area. The Women Initiative Network of Liberia builds community and improves lives by providing support services to women and children, single teen moms, and vulnerable adults in Cass and Clay counties.

YWCA St. Paul (St. Paul) | **\$7,500** — To provide short-term financial assistance for families experiencing housing instability, as well as basic needs for distance learning, hygiene, and household maintenance. YWCA St. Paul programs and services support women and their families in breaking down barriers to stable housing, employment, and academic achievement.

[COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund—Round 3](#)

The Women's Foundation of Minnesota (WFMN) announced its third round of investment in 35 organizations through its COVID-19 Women & Girls Response Fund, for a total of \$265,000 in general operating grants. In three total rounds of grantmaking through this fund, WFMN has awarded more than \$625,000 to 76 organizations across the state to address gender-based violence, older women, policy and

advocacy, and short-term financial support for everyday needs, including childcare, eldercare, food, housing, transportation, health, and wellness.

In March, WFMN announced the COVID-19 Women & Girls Response Fund would issue a half-million dollars in emergency grants of up to \$10,000 to organizations serving women and girls affected by the crisis. Since then, WFMN has expanded its goal and is on track to nearly doubling its investment in grantee-partners leading in their communities as first-responders in a crisis, directly serving needs that are rapidly changing.

In this round, as systemic disparities and injustice are illuminated at the intersection of a global pandemic and an uprising for racial justice, WFMN is investing in Black and Indigenous women, women of color, and youth leaders and centering their leadership in anti-racism work as they address racial equity and create healing and wellness. In addition, grantee-partners in Greater Minnesota are ensuring women, girls, and their families can access shelter and emergency services when fleeing domestic violence. And, statewide grantee-partners are responding with innovative digital programming and increased emotional and mental health support to ensure that formerly incarcerated women can successfully re-enter society and find long-term opportunity, including connections with community.

More than 61 percent of the funded organizations are led by women of color and Indigenous women, including undocumented women, Muslim women, immigrant women, young women, LGBTQ+ people, and women in Greater Minnesota, representing WFMN's ethos that people most impacted by inequity hold the solutions to lasting change. With three rounds of grantmaking, funded programs will directly reach more than 77,900 women and girls and thousands more through secondary impact in families and communities.

Grantee-Partners:

Anna Marie's Alliance (St. Cloud) | **\$7,500** — To provide services for victim-survivors of gender-based violence and critical short-term financial and basic needs support. Anna Marie's Alliance provides a safe place for victim-survivors of domestic abuse and works toward systems change that reduces violence in Central Minnesota.

Annex Teen Clinic (Robbinsdale) | **\$7,500** — To provide short-term financial assistance to young women who are disproportionately responsible for intergenerational care, experiencing gender-based violence, and experiencing unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Annex Teen Clinic helps young people take charge of their sexual health by providing confidential health services and education.

Ayada Leads (Minneapolis) | **\$7,500** — To advocate for small business owners of the Karmel Mall who are experiencing difficulties in accessing government relief programs, and to support families struggling to implement distance learning. Ayada Leads encourages new Americans, particularly women from the African diaspora, to develop the skills they need to become political leaders and role models in their communities.

Breaking Free, Inc. (St. Paul) | **\$7,500** — To support the three main service categories of Breaking Free: database management and direct services, drop-in shelter and emergency shelter, and outreach supplies; and to provide basic services essential to the survival and success of women escaping sex trafficking as Breaking Free works to end all forms of prostitution and sex trafficking.

City of Minneapolis: Trans Equity Council (Minneapolis) | \$7,500 — To provide direct, short-term financial assistance to BIPOC trans and gender non-conforming and other individuals who do not qualify for government assistance and who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19. The City of Minneapolis Division of Race and Equity leads intersectional equity initiatives and develops tools with which City leaders, policymakers, and the public use to hold the City accountable for achieving progress toward racial equity goals.

Centro Tyrone Guzman (Minneapolis) | \$7,500 — To provide direct financial assistance to low-income, elder Latina women who are participants in the Wise Elders program. Centro Tyrone Guzman provides a holistic approach to education, health, and wellness to support the well-being of Latine families.

CommonBond Communities (Minneapolis) | \$7,500 — To support resident services to 5,880 low-income women and girls who call CommonBond home, many of whom are women of color, women with disabilities, and older women. CommonBond Communities builds stable homes, strong futures, and vibrant communities.

Council on American-Islamic Relations, Minnesota Chapter (CAIR-MN) (Minneapolis) | \$7,500 — To support CAIR-MN's Civil Rights Division as it protects and advocates for the rights of community members, particularly those of African immigrant communities, by monitoring cases of discrimination arising from the unprecedented and rapidly changing circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. CAIR-MN enhances the understanding of Islam, encourages dialogue that protect civil liberties, empowers American Muslims, and builds coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

CornerHouse (Minneapolis) | \$7,500 — To provide short-term financial assistance to youth and families who have experience physical and/or sexual abuse. CornerHouse pursues safety, justice, and healing for youth and their families.

d.a.c. (St. Paul) | \$7,500 — To provide bilingual information advocacy and problem-solving support for Latina women and girls with disabilities experiencing gender-based violence, and to purchase personal protective equipment for families. d.a.c. supports Latino and Hispanic families who have a child or adult family member with a disability so they can learn about the disability, their family's rights, and how to navigate the social, education, and medical systems.

Family Safety Network of Cass, Hubbard, and Clearwater Counties (Walker) | \$7,500 — To provide advocacy to victim-survivors of domestic violence and their families across the three counties. Family Safety Network of Cass, Hubbard, and Clearwater Counties interrupts the cycle of domestic violence and advocates for social change.

Family Values for Life (St. Paul) | \$7,500 — To provide short-term basic needs assistance to women who are heads of households and to offer summer workforce development activities to build power with women as financial providers for their families. Family Values for Life works with families to help them chart a path out of crisis through spiritual empowerment, mental alertness, physical fitness, and financial stability.

Healing Justice Foundation (HJF) (Minneapolis) | \$7,500 — To support Black women and their communities by providing healing and wellness at the intersection of the pandemic and heightened political and social unrest after the death of George Floyd. HJF provides individuals, families,

organizations, and communities with resources to address oppression-induced inequities and provides urgent healing support to Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

Henna and Hijabs (Minneapolis) | \$7,500 — To create hijabs to be donated to Muslim frontline hospital workers in Minnesota. Hilal Ibrahim, founder and owner of Henna and Hijabs, will be granted the funds via Caring Path, which provides resources to immigrants and refugees, including employment services, housing, counseling services, educational assistance, and more.

Men as Peacemakers (MAP) (Duluth) | \$7,500 — To center the voices and leadership of Black and Indigenous girls and girls of color directly impacted by systemic racism, sexism, and COVID-19 through a summer leadership coalition for the Girls' Restorative Program. MAP builds safe communities through programs that address and undermine the root causes of gender-based violence including sexism, male dominance, white supremacy, racism, classism, homophobia, and transphobia.

MIGIZI Communications (Minneapolis) | \$10,000 — To rebuild the MIGIZI Communications building that was impacted by the fires near the Third Precinct at the end of May, and to support the youth impacted through their youth programming and healing space. MIGIZI nurtures the development of Native American youth in order to unleash their creativity and dreams—to benefit themselves, their families, and their communities.

Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition (Minneapolis) | \$7,500 — To support Project Aunties in Action and staff time, travel, volunteer honorariums, transportation, and the purchase of personal protective equipment and hygiene products for Native American women, older women, girls, and LGBTQ2Spirit people. Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition builds resources to create awareness of and eliminate sexual violence against Indian women and children.

Partners for Affordable Housing (Mankato) | \$7,500 — To provide critical housing solutions for marginalized populations in southern Minnesota, particularly for women and children fleeing domestic violence, individuals with disabilities, and low-income people. Partners for Affordable Housing guides individuals and families on a path toward housing stability.

Pearl Crisis Center (Milaca) | \$7,500 — To provide support and services to rural victim-survivors of gender-based violence in Mille Lacs County and to meet the increased needs of its local elderly and Native American populations. Pearl Crisis Center provides support to victim-survivors of domestic violence and sexual violence through direct services, prevention, and community awareness.

Philanthrofund Foundation (PFund Foundation) (Minneapolis) | \$7,500 — To provide direct, short-term financial assistance to Minnesota's LGBTQIA women and girls who are being significantly impacted by COVID-19. PFund Foundation is a resource and community builder for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and allied communities by providing grants and scholarships, developing leaders, and inspiring giving.

Phyllis Wheatley Community Center (Minneapolis) | \$7,500 — To provide direct, short-term financial assistance and mental health support to Black women living in North Minneapolis who have or are currently experiencing gender-based violence. The Phyllis Wheatley Community Center addresses the needs of diverse, low-income families in North Minneapolis and the Twin Cities area.

Pillsbury United Communities (Minneapolis) | **\$7,500** — To provide short-term financial support to women of color impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Pillsbury United Communities builds community through co-creating enduring change toward a just society.

Ruth's House of Hope, Inc. (Faribault) | **\$7,500** — To support Ruth's House, an emergency and transitional shelter with supportive services for women and children experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness due to domestic violence or other traumatic life circumstances such as illness, disability, substance abuse disorders, or poverty. Ruth's House of Hope, Inc. serves families in Rice County by meeting immediate needs for safe shelter, food, and basic needs, and by helping families overcome barriers to self-sufficiency and stable, permanent housing.

Sexual Assault Services, Inc. (Brainerd) | **\$7,500** — To provide short-term financial assistance to victim-survivors of sexual assault and basic needs support including food, temporary housing, rent assistance, clothing, transportation, and hygiene supplies. Sexual Assault Services, Inc. brings hope, healing, and empowerment to those affected by sexual abuse and exploitation within the Crow Wing County area.

StartAnew (Minneapolis) | **\$7,500** — To support the short-term financial health and emotional needs of women and families of women who have been incarcerated. StartAnew provides re-entry and transitional services to women who have history with the legal system by offering life skills and tools for women to achieve their dreams.

The Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL) (St. Paul) | **\$7,500** — To support CAAL's policy and advocacy work as it relates to COVID-19 and fighting systemic racism. CAAL harnesses the collective power of Asian leaders in the state to improve the lives of community members by connecting, learning, and acting together.

Truth House Foundation (Farmington) | **\$7,500** — To support a COVID-19 Stabilization Program for young mothers and families who are impacted by the pandemic. Truth House equips teen and young moms (ages 13-24) for lifelong success by providing support, guidance, empowerment, and the foundational tools to build healthy and stable lives for themselves and their children.

United Community Action Partnership (Marshall) | **\$7,500** — To provide direct assistance to women and girls who need short-term financial support across 13 counties. United Community Action Partnership delivers needed critical services and supports to the most vulnerable in West Central and Southwest Minnesota including housing, food, transportation, and health/wellness.

unPrison Project (Minneapolis) | **\$7,500** — To deliver virtual mentoring, distance learning, and support for life skills planning and emotional and mental health and well-being for women in prison during the COVID-19 pandemic. unPrison Project serves women and youth in prison with coaching, mentoring, and resource guidance for re-entry so they can acquire more tools to successfully stay out of prison after release.

Vietnamese Social Services of Minnesota (St. Paul) | **\$7,500** — To provide short-term financial assistance to Asian women experiencing gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. Vietnamese Social Services helps Minnesota's immigrant and refugee communities by addressing their basic economic, educational, and health needs while collaborating with partners to support healthy, capable, and thriving communities.

Voices for Racial Justice (VRJ) (Minneapolis) | **\$7,500** — To support the BRIDGE network in planning a regular women’s group that will be a space for women affected by incarceration to gather, build leadership skills, define solutions, and act for change. VRJ supports the movement of leaders, researchers, organizers, advocates, and cultural workers who envision a world without racism that honors the culture, knowledge, power, and healing of Black, Indigenous, and all communities of color.

Women’s Advocates, Inc. (St. Paul) | **\$7,500** — To provide essential services through a 24/7 crisis line, outreach, shelter, and the Aftercare Program, which provides rent support and advocacy for victim-survivors of domestic violence and their children. Women’s Advocates uses the tools of radical hospitality, advocacy, and collective action to work toward a community free from violence, where all are safe and can live productive and healthy lives.

Women’s Rural Advocacy Center (Mankato) | **\$7,500** — To provide short-term financial and basic needs support to women in Greater Minnesota experiencing gender-based violence or unemployment because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Women’s Rural Advocacy Center provides safety, advocacy, and assistance for those victimized by domestic violence in southwest Minnesota and raises community awareness through prevention and education.

Women Winning (St. Paul) | **\$7,500** — To sustain critical candidate development of pro-choice women in the upcoming election cycle. Women Winning recruits, trains, and elects pro-choice women to all levels of public office in Minnesota.

WoMN ACT (St. Paul) | **\$7,500** — To mobilize leaders within communities to organize for systems change and serve as a parallel track to the direct services that members are providing to the community. WoMN ACT advances gender equity and social justice through advocacy and collaboration.

[COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund—Round 4](#)

The Women’s Foundation of Minnesota (WFMN) is investing in 21 organizations through the COVID-19 Women & Girls Response Fund, for a total of \$420,000 in general operating grants. In four rounds of [grantmaking through this fund](#), WFMN has awarded more than \$1,045,600 to 80 organizations across the state to address the needs of women and girls experiencing gender-based violence, older women, policy and advocacy, organizational capacity building and adaptation, staff healing and wellness, and short-term financial support for everyday needs, including childcare, eldercare, food, housing, transportation, health, and wellness.

In this round, as disparities and systemic inequities worsen because of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic and longstanding racial and gender inequities, **WFMN investments are targeting transformative organizational adaptation at the intersections of gender and racial justice**. Transformative organizational adaptation refers to how grantee-partner organizations across the state are reimagining, adapting, evolving, and *sustaining* their operations and programming in response to COVID-19 and related social and economic crises for long-lasting impact. WFMN is investing in these organizations leading on the frontlines and ensuring the health and wellness of social change leaders as they play crucial roles in advancing creative and responsive programming that meets community needs for technology infrastructure, childcare, and distance-learning support.

More than 83 percent of all COVID-19 Response Fund grantmaking supports organizations led by women of color and Indigenous women, including undocumented women, Muslim women, immigrant women,

young women, LGBTQ+ people, and women in Greater Minnesota, representing WFMN's ethos that people most impacted by inequity hold the solutions to lasting change. With four rounds of grantmaking, funded programs will directly reach nearly 100,000 women and girls and hundreds of thousands more through secondary impact in families and communities.

After four rounds of responsive funding to address the impacts of COVID-19 on Minnesota communities pushed to the margins, the continued need for long-term recovery will inform WFMN's grantmaking processes, priorities, and policy. Addressing the systemic inequities exacerbated by the pandemic while reckoning with the adaptation and innovation required in times of crisis will infuse every WFMN funding area, research, strategic partnerships, and advocacy.

Asian American Organizing Project (AAOP) (St. Paul) | **\$20,000** — To create new conditions and sustainable organizational practices through investments in the health and wellbeing of staff, including a staff retreat, staff and youth leaders' self-care, professional development, and investment in capacity. Funding aims to eliminate the exhaustion, burnout, and harm that can arise in long-term community organizing work. AAOP advances Asian Americans' and Pacific Islanders' participation in democracy for an equitable and just society.

Ayada Leads (Minneapolis) | **\$20,000** — To add additional staff capacity and scale work in Metro and rural communities to engage women of the African diaspora in running for office. Funding supports strategic planning, program evaluation, and expanded accessibility of training resources. Ayada Leads encourages new Americans, particularly women from the African diaspora, to develop the skills they need to become political leaders and role models in their communities.

Casa de Esperanza (St. Paul) | **\$20,000** — To enhance organizational capacity to successfully actualize its mission, vision, and goals and to plan for the long-term sustainability of the organization through culturally rooted self-care and healing practices. Casa de Esperanza mobilizes Latinas and Latin@ communities to end domestic violence.

Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio, Inc. (CLUES) (St. Paul) | **\$20,000** — To engage 50 Latinx youth and adults as leaders to collectively advance change, including leadership and advocacy cohorts focused on key issues impacting their community. CLUES will pair direct services with advocacy and leadership training for participants to address systemic barriers that impede success for communities of color, particularly Latinx, regardless of immigration status.

Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL) (St. Paul) | **\$20,000** — To adapt the Center for Story-based Strategy's training for their communities in order to build power narratives for individuals impacted by deportation. CAAL harnesses collective power to improve the lives of community by connecting, learning, and acting together.

discapitados abriéndose caminos (d.a.c) (South St. Paul) | **\$20,000** — To facilitate interpretation for families needing medical and professional advocacy and to provide educational support for Latinx youth and their families, including access to technology for distance learning and additional resources for short-term emergency needs. d.a.c. supports Latino and Hispanic families who have a child or adult family member with a disability so they can learn about the disability, their family's rights, and how to navigate the social, education, and medical systems.

Dakota Wicohan (Morton) | \$20,000 — To support staff as they seek self-determined practices to manage care and healing during COVID-19, to continue using the *wicozani* instrument for reflection and support of each staff member's self-care journey, to purchase personal protective equipment (PPE), and to help create a meditation and relaxation space in the Dakota Wicohan office. Dakota Wicohan preserves Dakota as a living language, and through it, transmits Dakota lifeways to future generations.

Family Tree Clinic (St. Paul) | \$20,000 — Family Tree Clinic will use the funds to invest in the well-being and health of their staff for long-term organizational sustainability, staff check-ins that integrate trauma-informed practices, expanding capacity around the Racial Justice and Gender Justice Caucuses, and supporting BIPOC supervisors with the increase in workload and responsibility.

Healing Justice Foundation (HJF) (Minneapolis) | \$20,000 — To support and sustain the collective and individual leadership development, self-care, and healing of the Healing Justice Foundation's four volunteer board members and founder and CEO, Dr. Joi Lewis (Dr. Joi). HJF will also develop the Time of Reckoning initiative co-chaired by Dr. Brittany Lewis and Dr. Joi, a series of community engagement and healing justice sessions culminating in a Black-led town hall event and policy-action roundtable. HJF provides individuals, families, organizations, and communities with resources to address oppression-induced inequities and provides urgent healing support to Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

Men as Peacemakers (MAP) (Duluth) | \$20,000 — To support a three-month sabbatical to sustain MAP's co-leadership model. MAP builds safe communities through programs that address and undermine the root causes of gender-based violence including sexism, male dominance, white supremacy, racism, classism, homophobia, and transphobia.

MIGIZI Communications (Minneapolis) | \$20,000 — To support additional staff capacity after the fire at MIGIZI during this summer's civil unrest and to purchase technology to build organizational capacity and support the remote youth programming of Green Jobs and First People Productions programs. MIGIZI nurtures the development of Native American youth to unleash their creativity and dreams—to benefit themselves, their families, and their communities.

Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition (St. Paul) | \$20,000 — To provide transformative staff development opportunities including healing retreats and educational workshops, and to support 40 hours of self-identified professional or personal development for each staff member. Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition builds resources to create awareness of and eliminate sexual violence against Indian women and children.

NAVIGATE MN (Minneapolis) | \$20,000 — To build organizational capacity to amplify systems change work in the public policy arena and other areas of civic engagement, including campaigns around climate change, immigration, education, and community safety. NAVIGATE MN is a space for Latinx peoples to be part of a community who share Indigenous, anti-corporate greed, feminist values; be in relationship with one another, elevate their leadership, build people-driven grassroots power, and win on issues central to their experience.

Northwest Indian Community Development Center (Bemidji) | \$20,000 — To strengthen human resources, accounting, and program administration and to support the organization's transformative adaptation. Northwest Indian Community Development Center identifies, coordinates, and delivers

resources that promote wellness and equity for American Indian families in northwest and north-central Minnesota.

Project DIVA (Minneapolis) | \$20,000 — To work with consultants as the organization shifts to an international approach, expands to serve young Black girls in the Metro area, and creates a strategy and fundraising plan for expansion. Project DIVA International provides spaces for young Black women and girls in grades 3 to 12 to grow into young women by encouraging them to self-discover without limits.

Power of the People Leadership Institute (Minneapolis) | \$20,000 — To support Girls Taking Action (formerly Girls in Action), a group that supports African American girls in the Metro area by addressing the social-emotional needs of girls. Funds will support curriculum development and shifts that highlight the importance of girl-centered leadership in combatting racial injustice and inequity. Mentors will also receive additional trainings on how to address race and racism with girls through online mentoring sessions (e-mentoring).

RECLAIM! (St. Paul) | \$20,000 — To allow clinicians and staff a week of rest and healing after working tirelessly since March 2020 to provide ongoing support to their clients impacted by COVID-19 and civil unrest in the Twin Cities, while also being personally impacted as people of color and LGBTQ+ community members. RECLAIM! provides financially and culturally accessible care to queer and trans youth and their families, and trains practitioners and partners in community to create systems of change at the intersection of gender and racial justice.

The SEAD Project (Minneapolis) | \$20,000 — To grow The SEAD Project's organizational capacity by investing in the technological infrastructure of the organization and expanding their Planting SEADS program to continue capturing and sharing stories of the Southeast Asian diaspora. SEAD will continue creating timely translation services and mutual aid for the Southeast Asian community.

St. Paul Youth Services (St. Paul) | \$20,000 — To expand the innovative YouthPowerMN program by launching YouthPowerMediaMN, which will create safe online spaces for Black youth to convene; create media-based learning and advocacy tools; and amplify youth voices and activism through digital storytelling. St. Paul Youth Services offers hope and opportunity to all youth, so every child can succeed and thrive by improving the community's collective ability to engage and support all youth by pioneering and sharing best practices.

uCodeGirl (Fargo) | \$20,000 — To develop curriculum and implement a new digital training program designed to equip young women with practical and employable skills and remove multiple barriers that undermine the earning potential and economic stability of young women of color and young women from refugee and rural communities. uCodeGirl inspires, engages, and equips young girls in the Fargo-Moorhead community with leadership traits, computational thinking skills, and entrepreneurial mindsets.

Voices for Racial Justice (VRJ) (Minneapolis) | \$20,000 — To build capacity for digital organizing strategies that meld VRJ's work for gender justice with their work to end mass incarceration in Minnesota. VRJ builds power through collective cultural and healing strategies for racial justice across Minnesota using organizing, leadership training, community policy, and research.