

## VNA Foundation

VNA Foundation awards grants to metro Chicago agencies that offer home- and community-based healthcare services to medically underserved populations. We observe the needs of populations through a public health lens, and work to identify disparities and service gaps that can be meaningfully addressed through grantmaking and other assistance. Some issues need a new approach or solution. Others, though, can be met by replicating proven models or growing the capacity of existing agencies, and it is exactly this type of support – basic service funding and general operating support – that has become harder and harder for agencies to secure. In FY 18, VNA awarded 54 grants totaling \$2,212,000, and we are proud to say that 55% of those dollars supported renewal funding that helped keep essential services flowing, critical staffing in place, and doors to care wide open.

**54**  
GRANTS

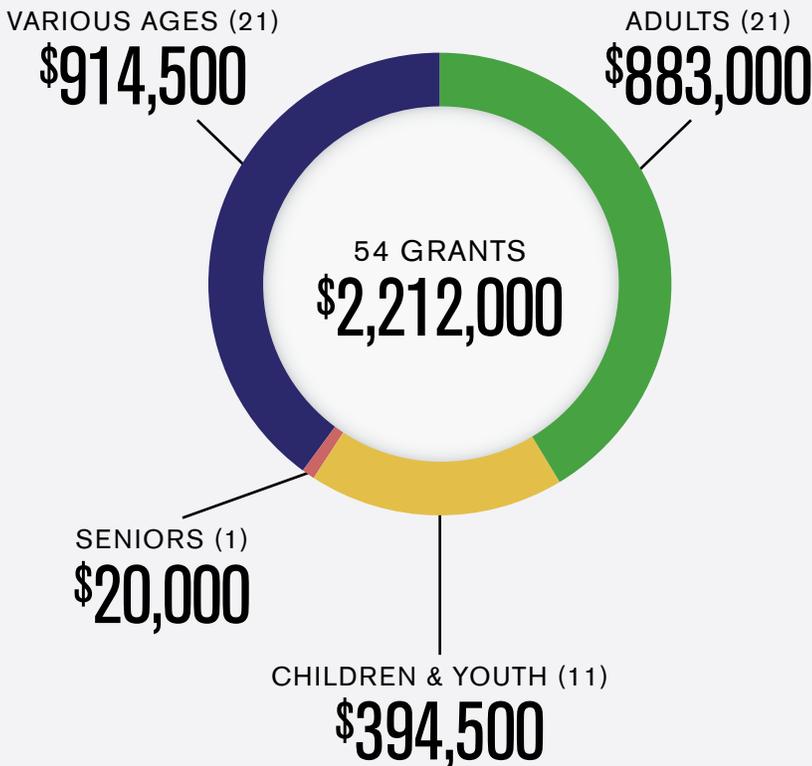
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**\$2,212,000**  
AWARDED

## DEMOGRAPHICS

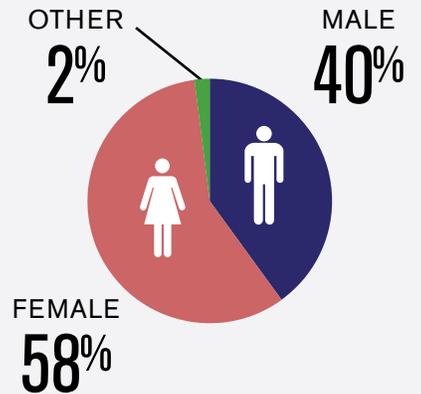
### GRANTS BY POPULATION

VNA grantmaking supports medically underserved populations. In FY 18, we focused our efforts on the estimated 8% of Metro Chicago residents who went without health insurance, and the thousands of others who remained vulnerable despite Medicaid expansion and other healthcare reform efforts.

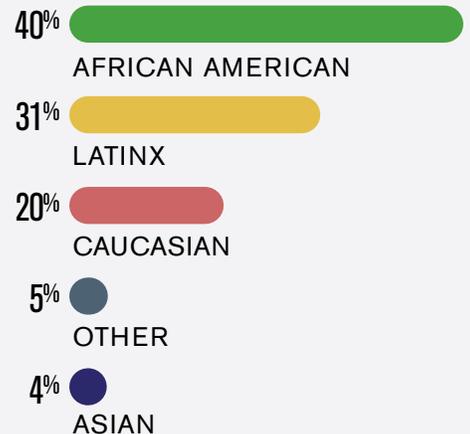


### GRANTS BY GENDER

Funding from VNA supports services for people not well served by the healthcare system, particularly those who are also impacted by racial and gender disparities.



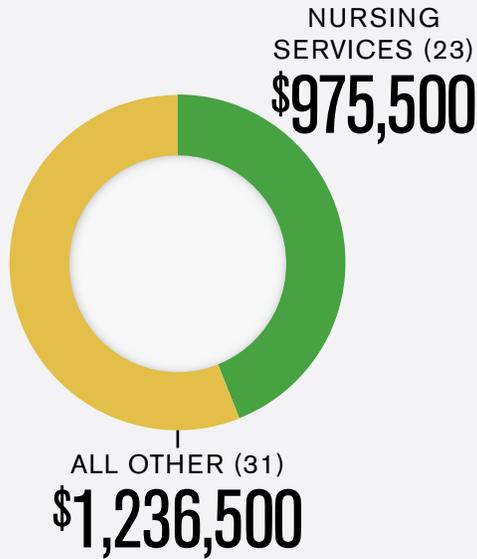
### GRANTS BY ETHNICITY



# SERVICES

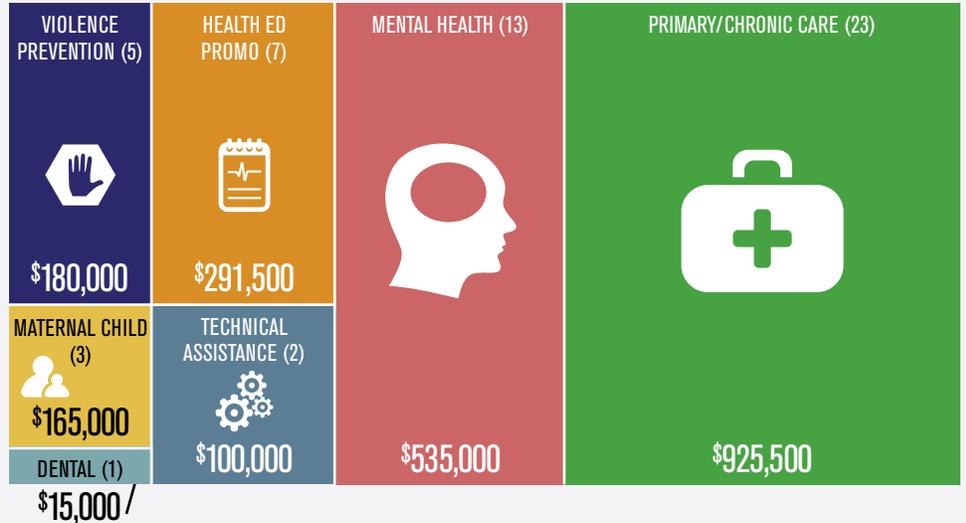
## NURSING SERVICES

The health needs of medically underserved persons are varied, but many can be best addressed through services that involve nursing.



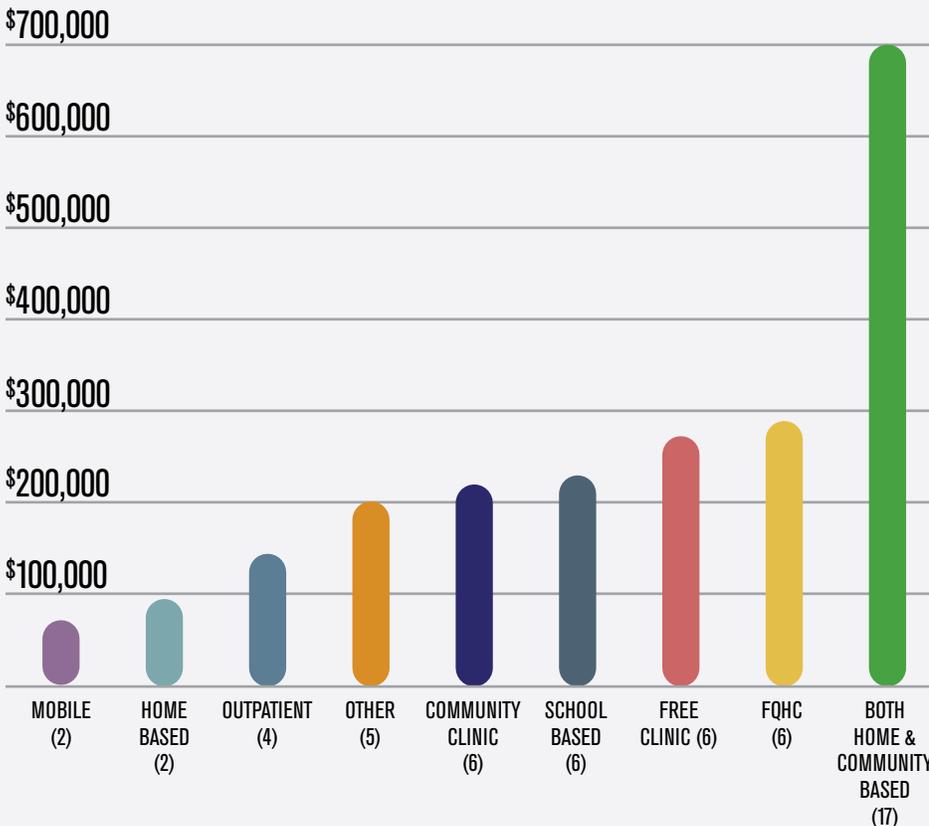
## GRANTS BY SERVICE PROVIDED

VNA's FY 18 funding was focused on responding to a growing demand for direct healthcare and mental health services. Compared to FY 17, core grant support toward primary and chronic care increased by 40%, and over the past four years, VNA funding for mental health services has increased by 53%.



## GRANTS BY SERVICE SETTING

Our mission is to support the provision of health services in a place and manner that best benefits the underserved. In FY 18, VNA awarded funding to agencies that provided readily accessible care in areas of highest need.



## GRANTS BY TYPE OF SUPPORT

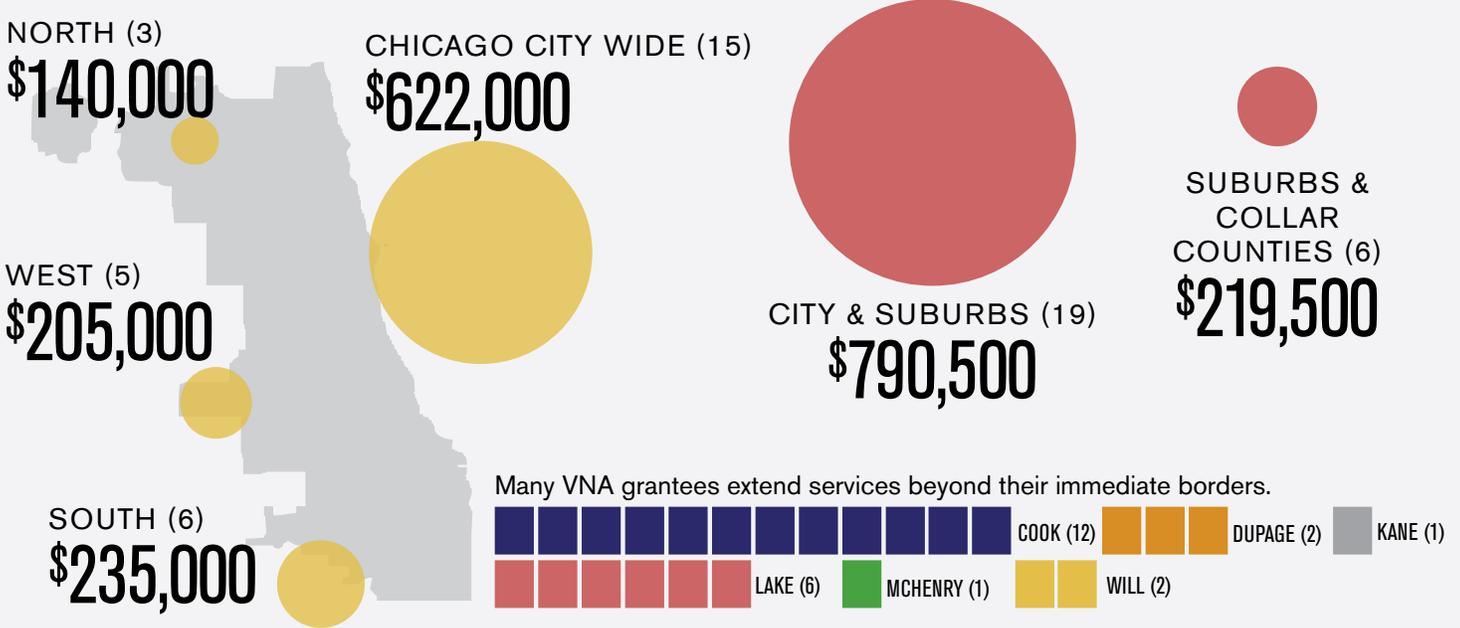
The most effective grants respond to the needs of the grantee. Although FY 18 VNA grants supported a wide range of purposes, they all have one thing in common: they represented our best efforts to listen to our grantees and provide funding where and when it was most needed.



# GEOGRAPHY

## GRANTS BY GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

Knowing that healthcare needs beyond urban centers are real, urgent and growing, VNA awards grants throughout Cook and the collar counties.



## TRAINING THE NEXT COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKFORCE

For 20 years VNA has supported the Chicago Schweitzer Fellowship Program and for five years we sponsored nursing scholarships at Rush and Loyola universities. Since 2009, VNA has accepted graduate interns from University of Chicago, University of Illinois and Adler University. Through these efforts, VNA has promoted the practice of community health as a career discipline, while providing opportunities to understand the interdisciplinary essentials of public health.

Here, three of our interns tell us what they learned and how their experiences will impact their careers:



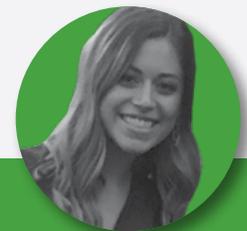
My internship with VNA taught me the importance of communication and collaboration, and that by valuing the knowledge and experience each grantee brings to the table, foundations can be partners in advancing broad public health priorities. This experience has helped me expand my toolbox, increase my confidence, and broaden my network.

**Natasha Holbert**  
MPH, awarded 2019



Throughout my internship at VNA, I have developed a deeper understanding of health disparities and social and economic injustices. I have learned about the role foundations take to build partnerships and facilitate change, and I have become more self-aware and culturally competent – two key skills that are essential in becoming a clinical psychologist.

**Priyanka Rao**  
PsyD, expected 2023



During my time at VNA, I've experienced how important it is to build relationships in a community to address public health concerns. Learning the importance of these collaborations to achieve the most effective, far-reaching outcomes left me wanting to do more and do it on a greater scale.

**Rachel Wellington**  
MPH, expected 2021

# SPECIAL INITIATIVES

VNA Special Initiatives are proactive grants for innovative purposes, and represent the foundation's highest level of philosophical and financial commitment.

For more information or to discuss how you might partner with VNA in any of these Special Initiatives, visit our website at [www.vnafoundation.net/special-initiatives](http://www.vnafoundation.net/special-initiatives) or give us a call at 312-214-1521.



## STREETLIGHT CHICAGO

**Chicago Coalition for the Homeless** and **Young Invincibles** continue to build out and expand the reach of **StreetLight Chicago**, ("the app"), a mobile phone application created with VNA funding and which gives homeless youth in Chicago real-time information about services and shelter. Since its launch in November 2016, over 2,900 people have downloaded the app, of which 22% were new users and 78% were returning users. In FY 18, a website version of StreetLight Chicago was launched and a recent count indicated 2,000 website users, of which 68% were new visitors. A peer leaders program was also initiated and five cohorts of 50 youth facing housing instability have been trained to educate their peers on the use of StreetLight Chicago, and to gather feedback on user experience that will inform updates and additions to the app. Next steps include partnering with service providers to increase the range of mental health resources available on the app, and working with youth to expand StreetLight's capacities and reach, ensuring that it continues to meet the needs of youth and service providers.

# WORK IN PROGRESS

## IDENTIFYING MODELS OF CARE WITHIN PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

VNA has been convening a workgroup to determine which models of healthcare provision work best with various populations housed in permanent supportive housing. Together with seven permanent supportive housing providers, the **Corporation for Supportive Housing**, the **Center for Housing and Health**, **All Chicago** and the **Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County**, we plan to pilot a data collection initiative that will help us identify and replicate services that best relate to improved and well managed healthcare.



## WOMEN VETERANS INITIATIVE: REDUCING BARRIERS TO CARE



Since 2016, VNA has partnered with **Smart Policy Works** to help community healthcare agencies more effectively serve women veterans. The **Women Veterans Initiative (WVI)** trains healthcare providers to identify women veterans who seek care at their clinics, screen women veterans for life satisfaction and pain medication use, understand the network of services available to veterans, and learn how best to refer women veterans to care. Also offered is ongoing technical assistance to help agencies implement military-sensitive practices and remove barriers that might prevent women veterans from receiving care. The WVI is currently launched within the **ACCESS Community Health Network**, and we hope to introduce it to additional community clinics in the coming year.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission today is the same as it was in 1890: To support home- and community-based healthcare for the medically underserved in the Chicago metropolitan area.

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312-214-1521 | [www.vnafoundation.net](http://www.vnafoundation.net)