

VNA Foundation

VNA Foundation awards grants to metro Chicago agencies that offer home- and community-based healthcare services to medically underserved populations. We listen to our community partners, stay abreast of data, and use a public health lens to identify disparities and service gaps that can be meaningfully addressed through grantmaking and other assistance. We know that 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 increasingly difficult for agencies to secure. In FY 19, VNA awarded 60 grants totaling \$2,500,000, and we are proud to say that 73% of those dollars supported renewal funding that helped keep essential services flowing, critical staffing in place, and doors wide open.

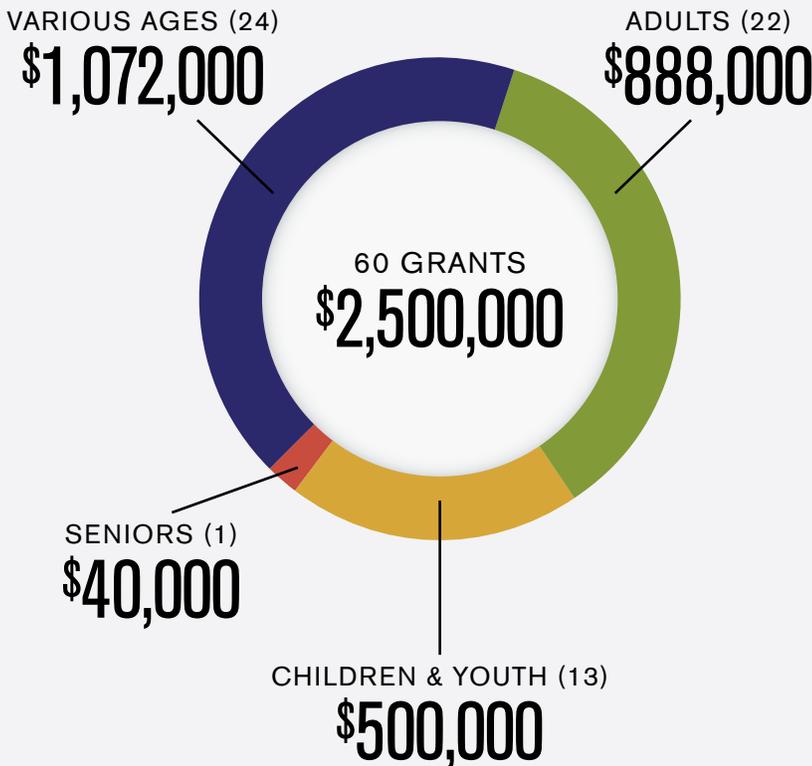
60
GRANTS

\$2,500,000
AWARDED

DEMOGRAPHICS

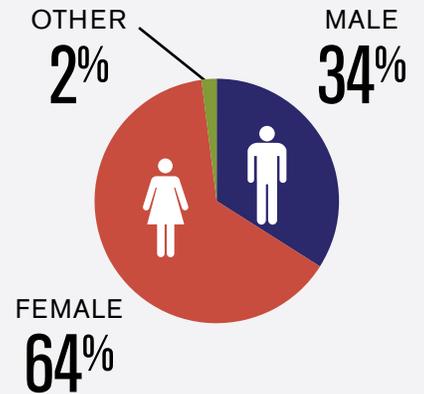
GRANTS BY POPULATION

VNA grantmaking supports medically underserved populations. In FY 19, we focused our grantmaking on populations that remain vulnerable and un- or underinsured despite healthcare reform efforts.

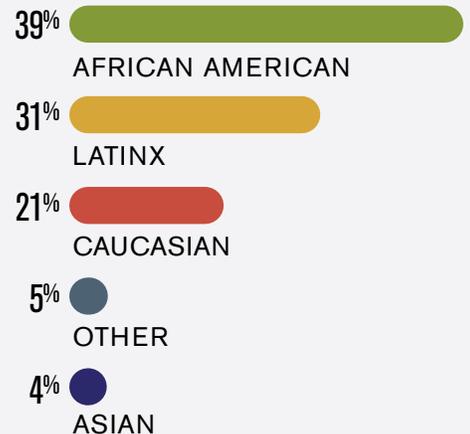


GRANTS BY GENDER

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

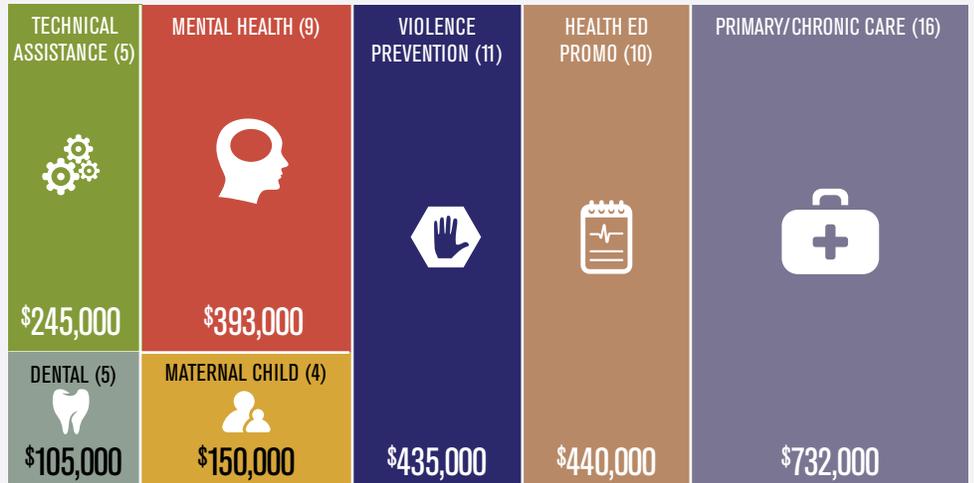
NURSING SERVICES

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



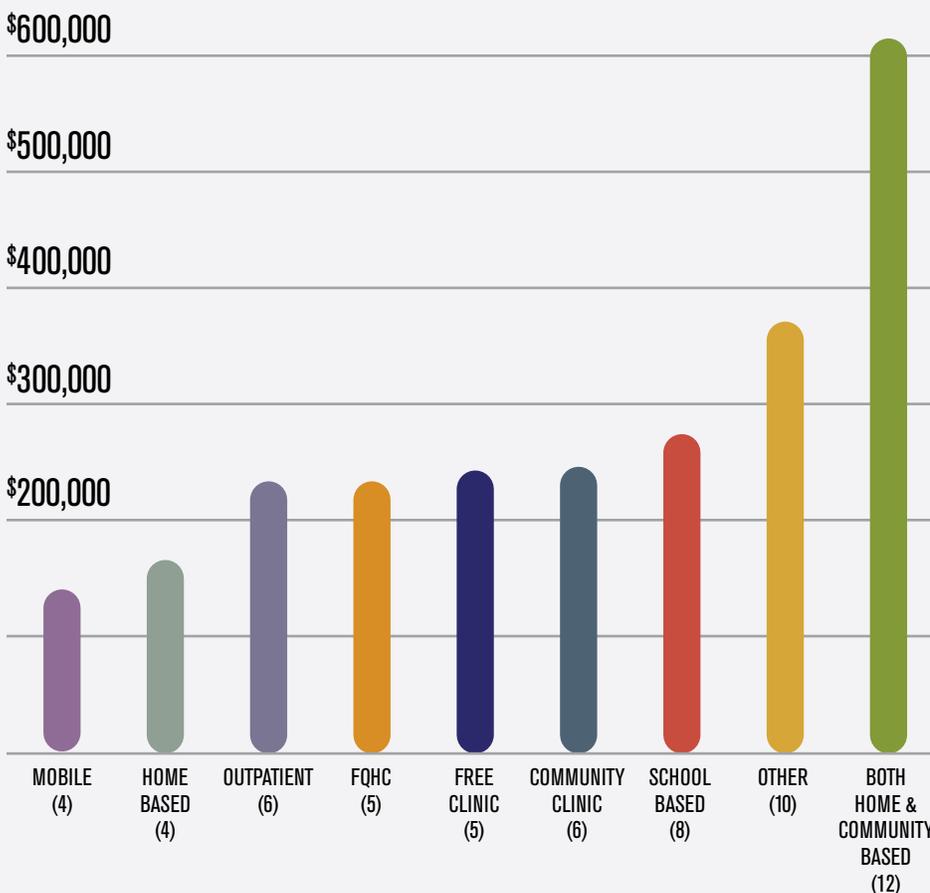
GRANTS BY SERVICE PROVIDED

VNA's FY 19 funding was focused on responding to the growing needs of the communities we serve and the agencies with which we partner. Compared to five years ago, core grant support toward violence prevention, technical assistance and mental health services increased by 80%, 59% and 36%, respectively.



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 19, VNA awarded funding to agencies that provided readily accessible care in areas of highest need.



GRANTS BY TYPE OF SUPPORT

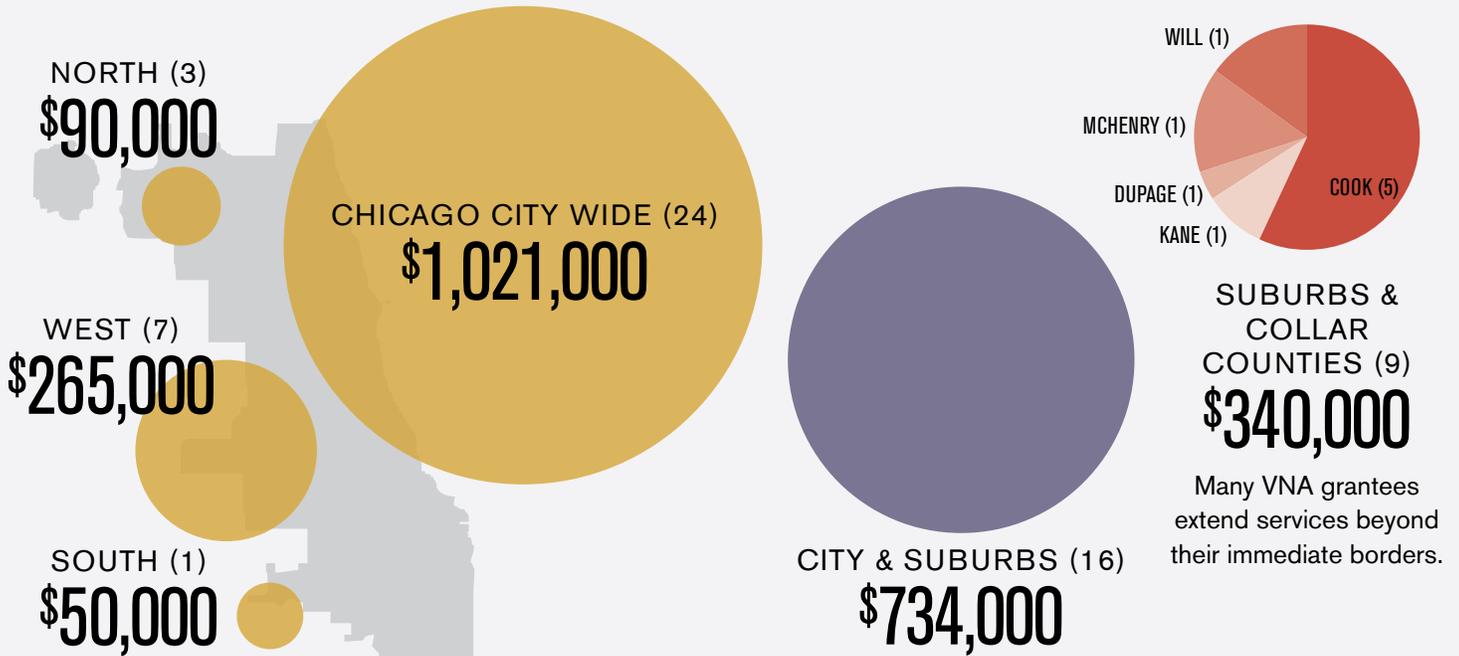
The most effective grants respond to the needs of the grantee. Although FY 19 VNA grants supported a wide range of purposes, they all represented our best efforts to listen to our grantees and provide funding where and when it was most needed.



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.



LESSONS SHARED BY OUR GRANTEES

General Operating Grants Help Grantees Remain Nimble

Sometimes the most effective grants are ones that support the basic operations of an agency, and over the past four fiscal years, general operating grants have averaged about 17% of VNA grantmaking.

From the AIDS Foundation of Chicago

“As general operating grants continue to be offered by a limited segment of foundations and corporations, these unrestricted dollars are absolutely indispensable towards AFC and our community-based partners’ efforts. VNA Foundation’s unrestricted operating grant has helped AFC to continue to fulfill our mission and remain nimble during a time of great change and continued threats to health care and safety net systems. Grant funds have helped AFC fill funding gaps, enhance services and invest in strategic priorities that are not supported by restricted grants.”

The Predictive Value of a Pilot

As a private, independent foundation, VNA is able to accept the risks inherent in piloting new programs, especially given that pilots can provide important insights. In FY 19, VNA supported nine pilot programs totaling \$370,000.

From Erie Family Health Center

“We were able to use consistent, unified messaging when first meeting patients in the enrollment process for our Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) program, which went a long way towards establishing trust and getting patients to commit to the support services we provide.”

From Howard Brown Health

“There is still so much work to do to create systems that really work for LGBTQ survivors of sexual violence. More than ever, survivors feel empowered to share their stories and recognize that what happened to them was not their fault, but much of the public, including healthcare and social service professionals, lacks sufficient understanding of how sexual violence uniquely impacts LGBTQ people. Our team has since redoubled its efforts to train external survivor-facing professionals in LGBTQ competency and best practices.”

From Healing to Action

“Despite representing different cultural backgrounds, experiences, and geographic areas in Chicago, participants in our pilot leadership cohort have built a deep sense of community and solidarity, and their sisterhood has served as a source of strength as they connect with isolated survivors of gender-based violence in their communities.”

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 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, a mobile phone application created with VNA funding that gives homeless youth in Chicago real-time information about services and shelter. Since its launch in November 2016, its reach has continued to grow and in FY 19 over 7,300 people used the app, and 46% were returning visitors. Mental health resources were expanded in FY 19, a crisis text line was launched, and over 1,700 youth were able to reserve a shelter bed in advance. Next steps include updating the technological capability of the app, and working with youth to expand StreetLight's capacities and reach, ensuring that it continues to meet the needs of both 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 six permanent supportive housing providers, **All Chicago** and the **Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County**, we are piloting a data collection initiative that will help identify and replicate services that best relate to improved and well-managed healthcare.



MATERNAL MORTALITY LEARNING COMMUNITY

After learning about the unacceptable rates of maternal mortality among Illinois' African American mothers, VNA began convening a group of private and public funders to dig more deeply into the issue and explore opportunities to enact change. In FY 19, several content experts met with the group to discuss their research and findings, and community-based agencies on the frontline of this issue presented their work. VNA also provided early support for a post-partum program developed and piloted by **Chicago Volunteer Doulas**. Outcomes from this learning community include increased awareness among its members who have become advocates within their agencies and networks, and a clearer vision of how foundation support can help to decrease morbidity and mortality and improve health outcomes among pregnant and birthing women of color in Illinois.



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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