

VNA Foundation

VNA Foundation is a private, independent grantmaking foundation supporting home- and community-based health services to disenfranchised and medically underserved populations. We view our grantmaking through a public health lens and use credible data, coupled with knowledge and experiences shared by our community partners, to guide our work. Especially over this past year, as healthcare resources were stretched beyond capacity and information was distorted, our data-driven and partnership-focused approach helped us strategize to best address identified disparities and gaps in services. In FY 20, VNA awarded 61 grants totaling \$2,755,000, and we are proud to say that the majority of those dollars supported core program needs and general operating support that helped keep essential services flowing and critical staffing in place.

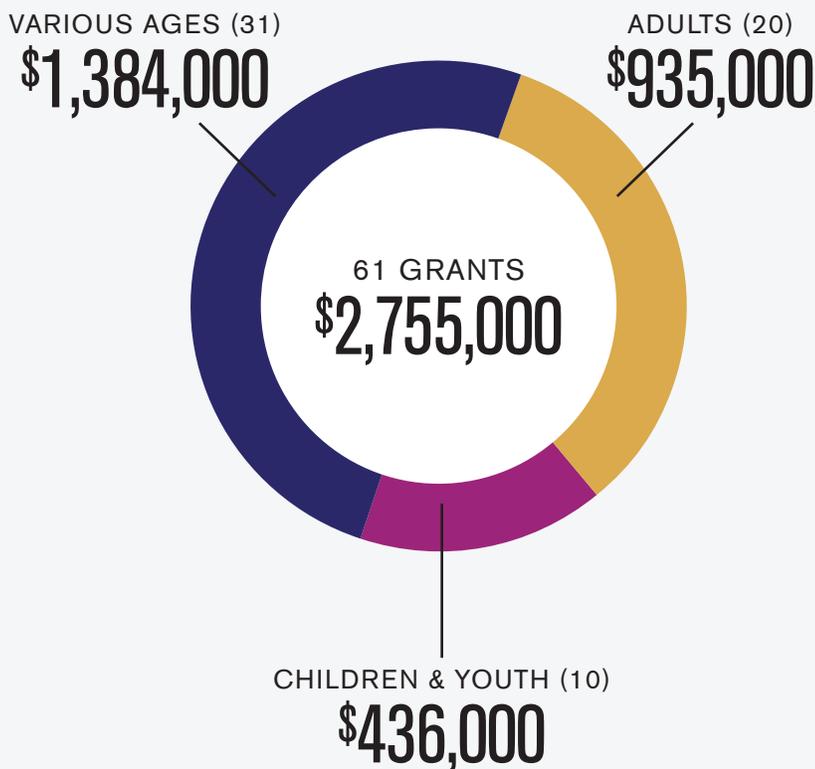
61
GRANTS

\$2,755,000
AWARDED

DEMOGRAPHICS

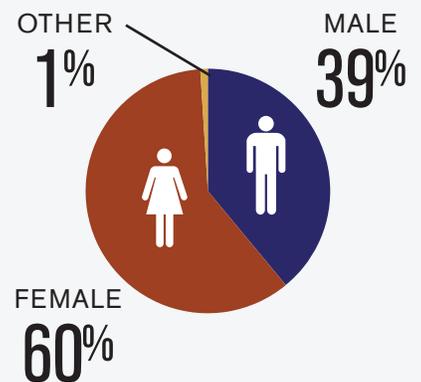
GRANTS BY POPULATION

VNA grantmaking supports agencies that serve medically underserved people across the life cycle, most of whom are un- and underinsured.

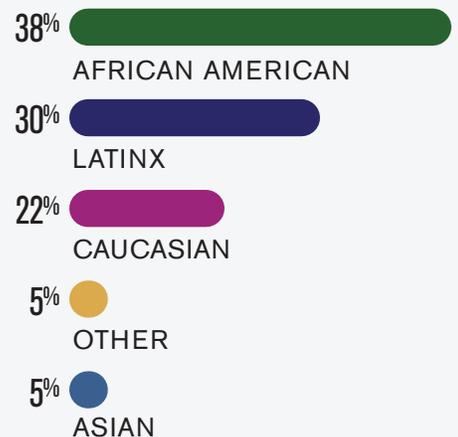


GRANTS BY GENDER

Women and communities of color are impacted by poverty and its health consequences at higher rates. VNA grantees provide services to help counteract these disparities.



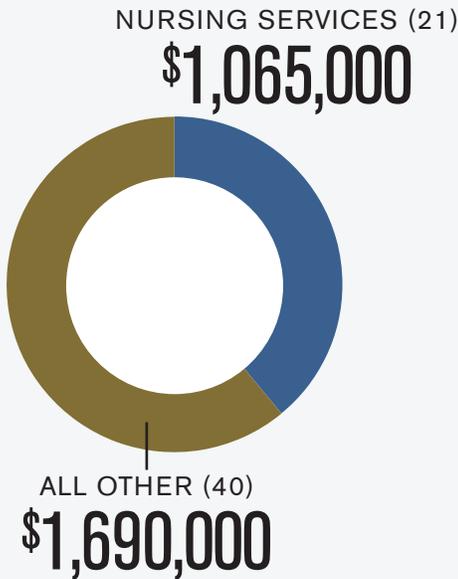
GRANTS BY ETHNICITY



SERVICES

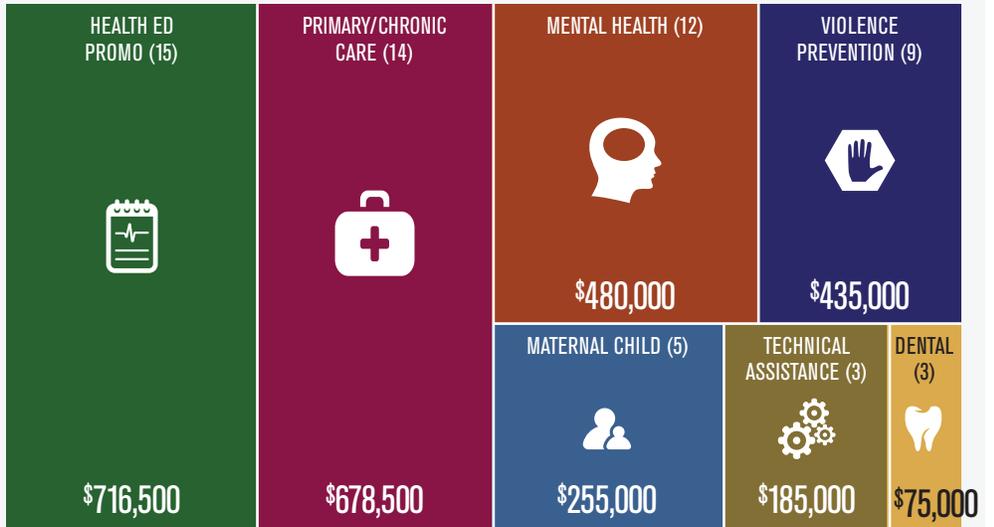
NURSING SERVICES

Nurses continue to play a vital role in healthcare provision, especially in services that reach into communities and homes.



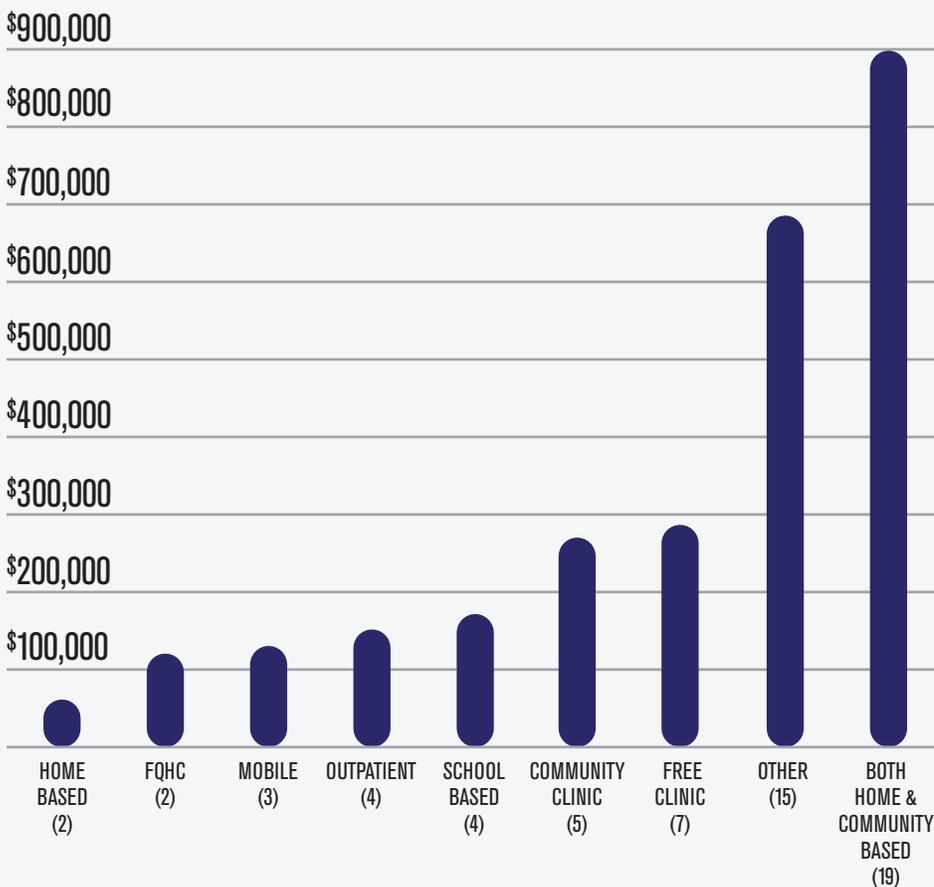
GRANTS BY SERVICE PROVIDED

VNA's grantees are responsive, and adapt to the changing needs of their communities. In FY 20, VNA funding for mental health services increased by 22%, and support for programs that provided health education and health promotion increased by 63%.



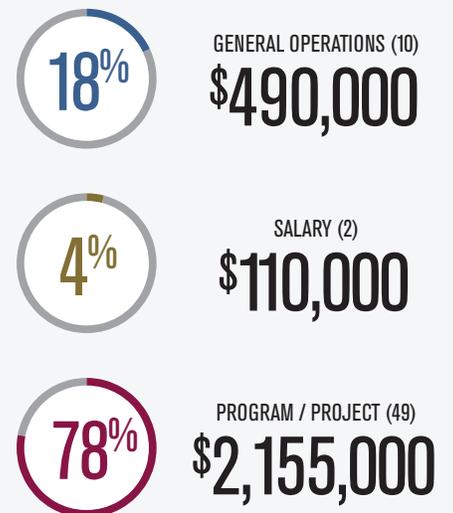
GRANTS BY SERVICE SETTING

VNA funding is awarded to agencies that provide readily accessible care in locations of highest need, such as in people's homes and their surrounding communities, and in other settings such as local domestic violence and behavioral health centers.



GRANTS BY TYPE OF SUPPORT

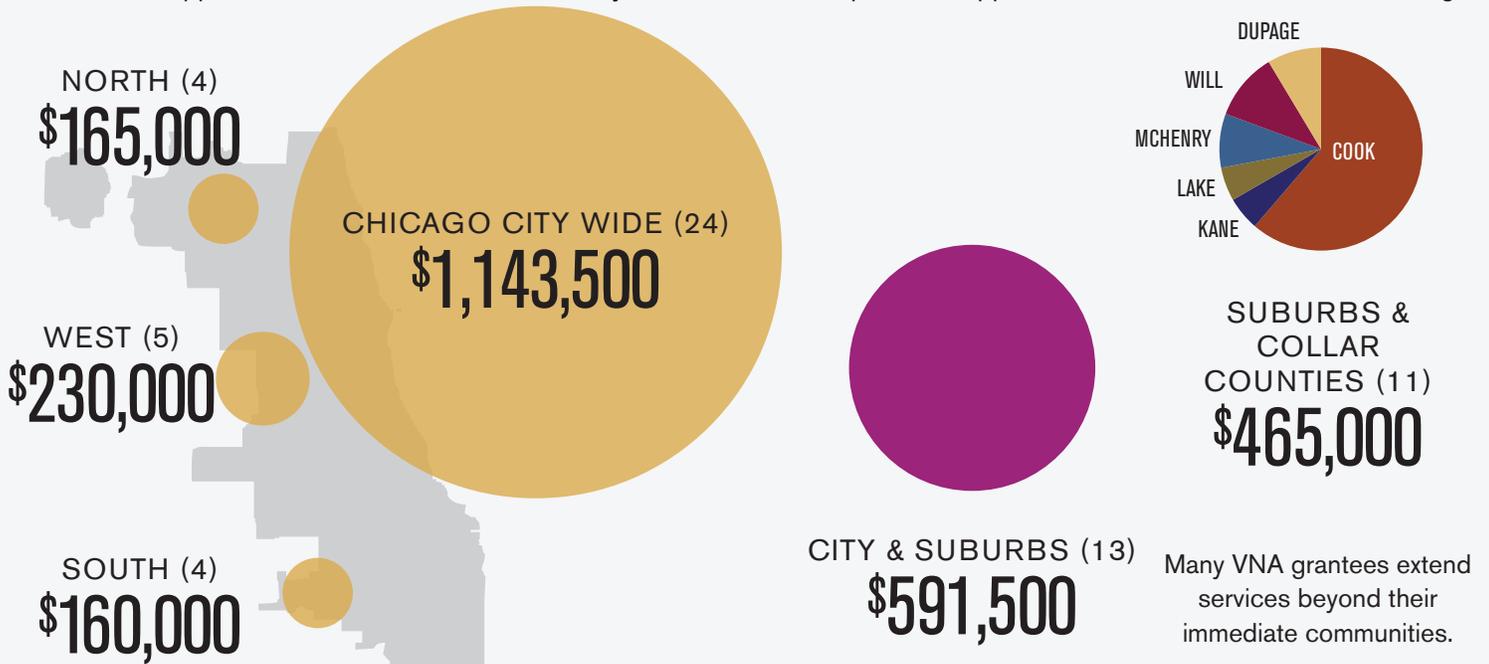
VNA is primarily a responsive grantmaker, allowing us to listen to our grantees and provide funding where and when it is most needed.



GEOGRAPHY

GRANTS BY GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

VNA awards grants across metro-Chicago, doing our best to reach into areas with fewer resources and unmet needs. In FY20, we increased our support to suburbs and collar counties by almost 37%, and tripled our support to south side communities in Chicago.



LESSONS LEARNED AND SHARED AS WE WORK THROUGH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Our world changed dramatically in FY 20, and VNA grantees serving our most vulnerable communities experienced tremendous hardship. During this difficult time we did our best to listen, learn and help. We adjusted our application and reporting requirements, and provided extra-budget emergency grants to Enlace Chicago, Mujeres Latinas en Accion, and the Illinois Association of Free & Charitable Clinics (for which we were also able to leverage additional support via grants from foundation colleagues). The impact of these grants was immediate and positive, validating our decision to provide emergency funding and reinforcing our belief that the most effective grants respond to needs documented by an applicant, not presumed by a funder. In addition, we believe that foundations should step up during uncertain times, not hold back. So, in FY 20 VNA granted more than in FY 19, and for FY 21 we increased our grants budget yet again. Regardless of whatever the future holds for pandemics or grants budgets, we know that VNA will always stay true to our core mission: to support home- and community-based health services for the medically underserved in the Chicago metropolitan area.

“Enlace’s Community Health Worker (CHW) team has been a central part of our pandemic response strategy, as it is exactly the types of services that they provide and relationships that they have cultivated that directly address the complex issues that Little Village community members are facing. Funding from VNA early

in the pandemic allowed us to increase the hours of part-time CHWs and, in most cases, allow them to transition to being full-time with benefits, growing the capacity of the team to address the overwhelming need that they have been facing.”

“With support from the **Illinois Association of Free & Charitable Clinic’s Rapid Response Fund**, financed by VNA and its colleagues, we learned that quick funding responses with few restrictions allow organizations to do their best work when facing emergencies. We didn’t know exactly what supplies and resources we were going to need as the pandemic continued, or precisely how much money we would need to acquire them. Rapid Response Fund dollars allowed us to use money efficiently and effectively as specific needs arose, rather than having to plan based on what might come in through future donations or other sources.”

“COVID-19 has devastated the Latina community and **Mujeres Latinas en Accion** has had to change the way we work. The well documented increase in domestic violence since the start of the stay-at-home order has meant a massive spike in the need for our programs, and the emergency funding has been pivotal to our ability to listen and adapt by increasing our counseling tele-platforms and social media communications, linking families to resources, and providing emergency funds directly to vulnerable families.”

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 or works in progress, visit our website at www.vnafoundation.net/special-initiatives/ or email us at info@vnafoundation.net.



STREETLIGHT CHICAGO

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless and **Young Invincibles** continue to build out and expand the reach of StreetLight Chicago. Created with VNA funding, StreetLight is an innovative mobile phone application, and companion website, which allows homeless youth in Chicago to access real-time information about services and shelter. Since its launch in November 2016, the app has been downloaded 6,200 times and its reach continues to grow. In FY 20 over 3,800 people used the app and website through 6,910 visits, and the website registered 3,158 new users. In response to hardships caused by the pandemic, a resource section was created with information on COVID-19 testing, income, housing, meal assistance, and stimulus funding, and a 2020 Voter Guide was added to help youth register to vote and find voting locations. 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.



ENHANCING ACCESS TO SPECIALTY CARE

VNA partnered with the **Illinois Association of Free & Charitable Clinics** to pilot services offered by **The MAVEN Project** in three metro-Chicago clinics. MAVEN services are provided via a tailor-made telehealth platform, and link volunteer specialists to primary care providers who see patients at free clinics. The specialists provide not only medical consultations, but also education and mentoring. In FY 20, an estimated 2,400 individuals across the three clinics were positively impacted as a result of this program, and 58% of consultations with a MAVEN specialist resulted in an avoided referral to an outside specialist.



ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF FREE & CHARITABLE CLINICS



OUR MISSION

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

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312-214-1521 | www.vnafoundation.net