

## VNA Foundation

For more than 25 years, VNA Foundation has awarded grants to agencies offering home- and community-based health services for medically underserved populations. Our grantmaking approach is informed by our community partners, and guided by our core values of transparency, approachability, and engagement. As FY 22 brought continued need to navigate a global pandemic compounded by a mental health crisis, VNA Foundation increased our grantmaking by awarding 66 grants totaling \$2,990,000, with 60% of funds supporting mental health or primary/chronic disease care. The majority of dollars also supported program or general operating costs, which helped grantee partners maintain—and in many cases expand—their critical work to improve health outcomes in the metro Chicago area.

**66**  
GRANTS

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**\$2,990,000**  
AWARDED

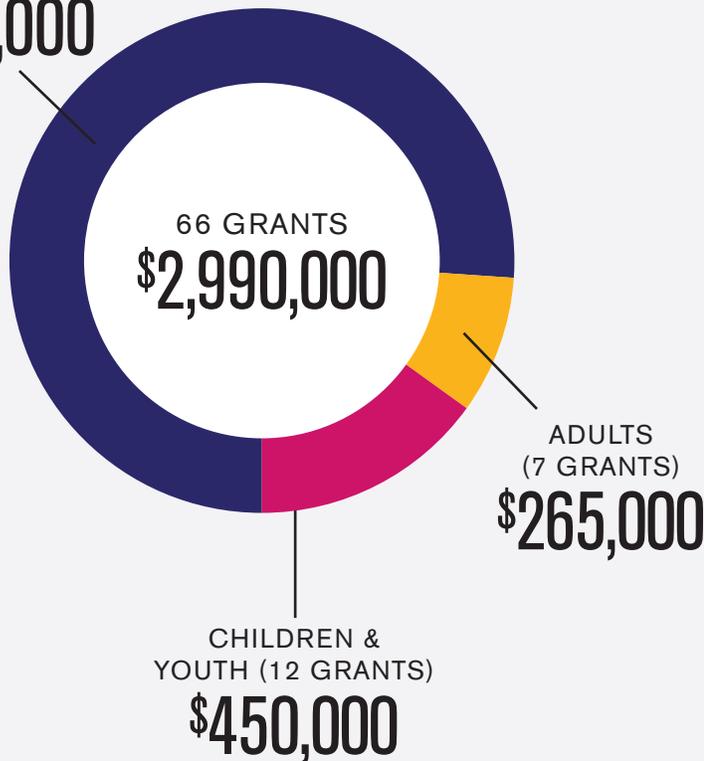
## DEMOGRAPHICS

### GRANTS BY POPULATION

VNA grantee partners serve people across the life cycle who are medically underserved, and often un- or underinsured. A growing number of grantee partners have multigenerational approaches, contributing to the high number of grants supporting various ages.

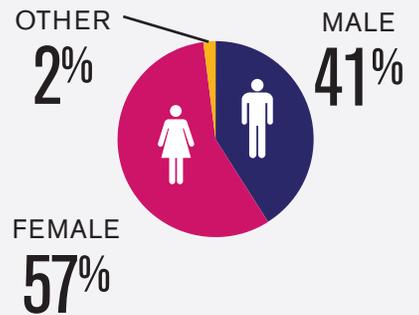
VARIOUS AGES (47 GRANTS)

**\$2,275,000**

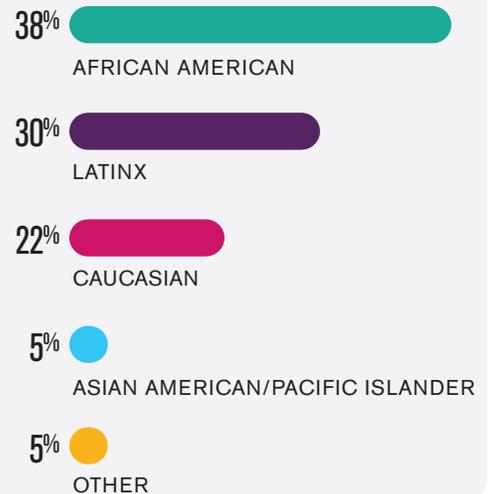


### GRANTS BY GENDER

Healthcare disparities impact women, gender nonconforming, and people of color at unacceptable rates. VNA grantee partners provide services that address inequities and represent the diverse interests of those they serve.



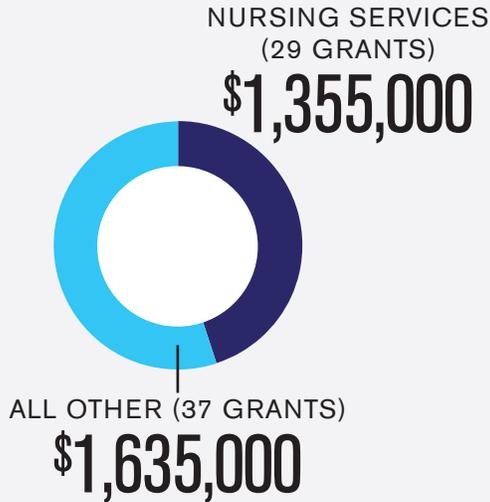
### GRANTS BY ETHNICITY



# SERVICES

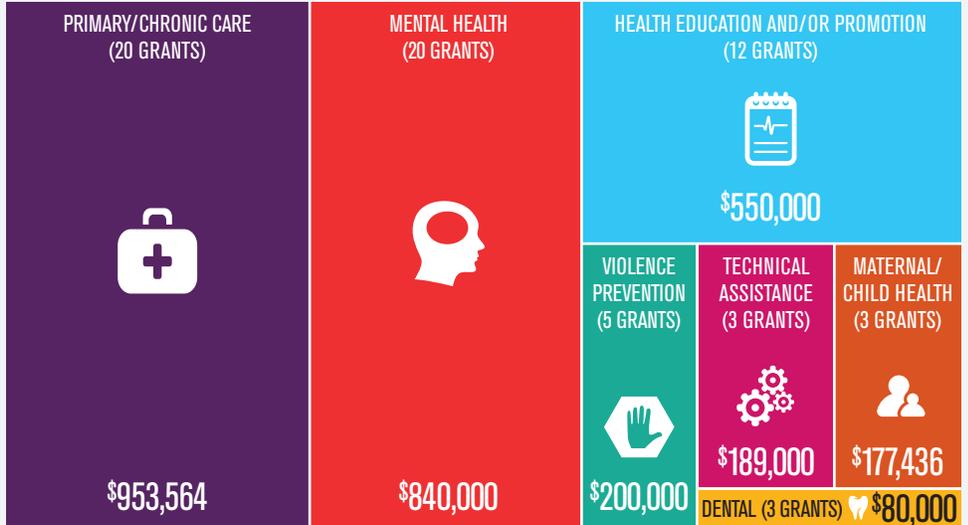
## NURSING SERVICES

Demand for nurses who provide vital community and home-based healthcare services has increased. Recognizing this need, VNA sustained its strong support for nursing salaries and services in FY 22.



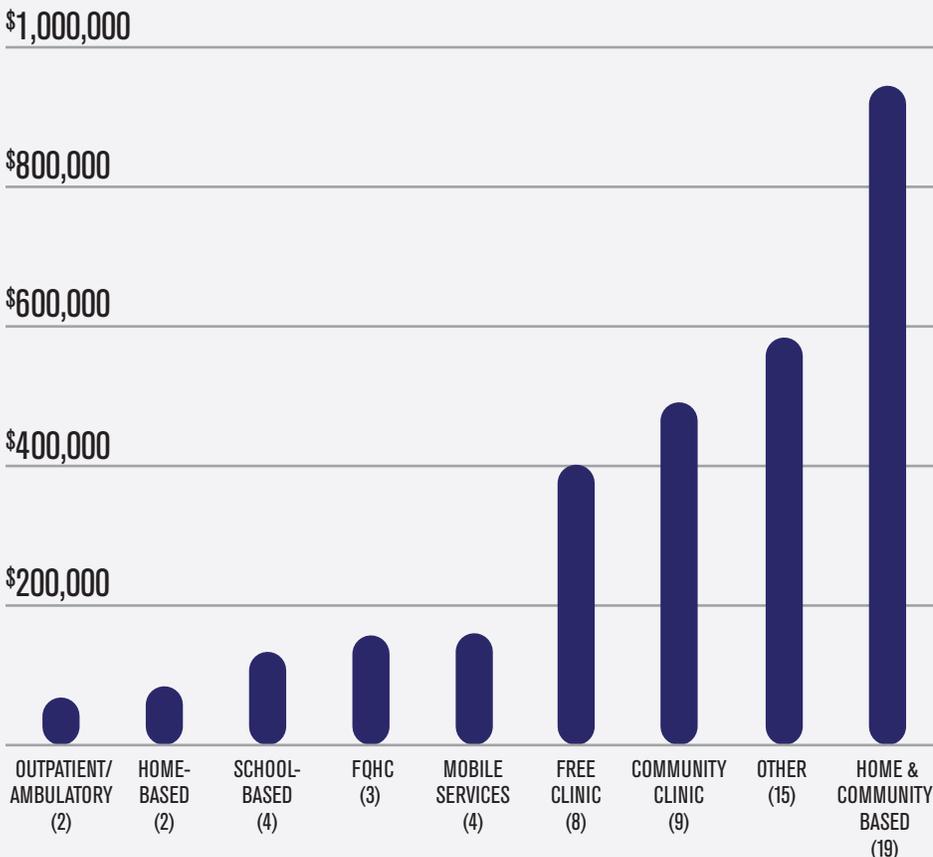
## GRANTS BY SERVICE PROVIDED

The unprecedented challenges of the past two years have negatively impacted the mental and physical health of individuals in the communities we serve. Since FY 20, VNA has increased support for mental health and primary/chronic disease care by 75% and 40%, respectively.



## GRANTS BY SERVICE SETTING

From mobile health vans to community-based clinics to peoples' homes, VNA grantee partners provided access to health services whenever and wherever their clients needed them.



## GRANTS BY TYPE OF SUPPORT

There is an undeniable need across agencies for general operating support. VNA began responding to this reality early on, and in FY 22 we strengthened our commitment by awarding 185% more in operating grants than in FY 21.



# GEOGRAPHY

## GRANTS BY GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

People commonly travel outside their communities for care, and Chicago's healthcare and service borders have long been recognized as fluid. With this understanding and the knowledge that there are fewer funding opportunities in many areas outside the City, VNA has increased its grantmaking to agencies that serve suburban and Collar Counties by more than 13%.

CHICAGO NORTH  
(5 GRANTS)

\$220,564

CHICAGO  
CITY WIDE  
(14 GRANTS)  
\$660,000

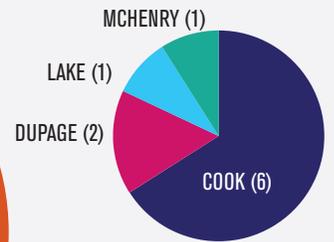
CHICAGO WEST  
(8 GRANTS)

\$315,000

CHICAGO SOUTH  
(5 GRANTS)

\$240,000

CITY & SUBURBS  
(24 GRANTS)  
\$1,094,436



SUBURBS/COLLAR  
COUNTIES  
(10 GRANTS)  
\$460,000

## WORK IN PROGRESS

### PSH 2.0

Since 2018, VNA has convened a workgroup of Permanent Supportive Housing providers to determine which models of healthcare provision work best with various populations. Initial findings were analyzed and documented in FY 22 (copies upon request), and now a subset of the workgroup plans to continue the project by collecting data on the impact of their healthcare models on newly-housed residents' emergency department utilization, hospitalization, and primary care access. We anticipate this evaluation will continue throughout FY 23, with results to follow.

### TELEHEALTH

Nearly all VNA grantee partners are once again offering in-person services, but continue to offer telehealth when appropriate and/or requested. Through discussions with grantee partners and colleagues, VNA learned that telehealth's success varied greatly based on the target populations, type of services provided, and other factors. During FY 23, VNA Foundation's intern from DePaul's School of Public Health will conduct a deeper analysis of the characteristics contributing to telehealth's successes and challenges, helping us become a more knowledgeable resource and partner.

## MATERNAL HEALTH SPECIAL INITIATIVE

VNA Special Initiatives are proactive grants for innovative purposes, and represent the foundation's highest level of philosophical and financial commitment. The Maternal Health Special Initiative was launched in response to the unconscionable rates of maternal morbidity and mortality among birthing people of color. We continue to award grants (as we have since our inception) for pregnancy prevention, healthy pregnancies, safe births, and lactation services, but we have broadened our scope to recognize the continuum of services necessary to address the complexity of the issue. Recent grants have launched postpartum services and provider education, and in FY 22 we applied a reproductive justice lens to our planning that led us to support expanded birthing options on Chicago's south side.

Looking ahead we see both opportunities and tremendous challenges in our maternal health work, but with the help of our community and foundation partners, we are confident there will be improvements and progress.

## LESSONS LEARNED FROM ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSING MATERNAL HEALTH

VNA is proud to partner with multiple organizations working tirelessly to improve maternal health outcomes. During FY 22, grantee partners reported an increased demand for services, confounded by the many barriers faced by clients including inequities in access to and quality of treatment for birthing people of color. Nonetheless, our partners innovated and expanded to address inherent racism, thwart service disparities, and improve outcomes:

Consisting of 90 doulas, **Chicago Volunteer Doula** provides prenatal services, birthing support, and postpartum care, primarily on Chicago's south and west sides. *"Doulas lead to improved birth outcomes and are associated with favorable postpartum psychosocial outcomes. Our goal as a birth justice organization is to offer individualized and comprehensive support to birthing people with a focus on vulnerable communities where maternal inequities are most common. Our Doulas ensure that individuals' choices are respected and that birthing people feel empowered and protected before, during, and after their delivery."*

Once open, the **Chicago South Side Birth Center** will be a Black-led birthing center located in what is referred to as a "birthing desert". Founder and Midwife Jeanine Valrie Logan shared, *"Receiving the award from VNA Foundation was a testament to the need, and an affirmation to the vision of a*

*birth center on the south side. It is our mission to provide concordant, culturally-centered, evidence-based midwifery care alongside families and within the community. The Chicago South Side Birth Center will create a safe healing space to improve outcomes for birthing people who are particularly vulnerable to racialized obstetric harm and trauma."*

In addition to seeing a dramatic increase in out-of-state clients for reproductive services, **Planned Parenthood of Illinois (PPIL)** is continuing its comprehensive health offerings and even launched a new prenatal program in 2022. *"PPIL's Austin Clinic, which receives funding from VNA Foundation, is part of the Bridge to Prenatal Care pilot. With the goal to improve outcomes for Black birthing people, the program provides PPIL clients with an early start to prenatal care, and connects them to trusted maternal care providers who will support them throughout their pregnancy and delivery."*



***While motherhood is celebrated and even revered, not all women have accessible maternal healthcare. Reproductive justice is an intersectional approach that reminds us to interrogate racial inequities and fund organizations working to address them. Direct services are absolutely essential and can and should be improved by listening to the voices of those directly impacted by unjust gaps in the system."***

**Leslie Ramyk**  
Executive Director  
Conant Family Foundation



***"The challenges and opportunities to improve health equity for women are greater than ever, and disproportionately impact the poor, immigrants, and Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous and People of Color (QTBIPOC). Fortunately, cross-movement organizing has lifted community voices and raised awareness of the intersectional impact of these issues and their relevance for all, not just women. It is important that we do not lose momentum – we just need to listen to our communities and follow their lead."***

**Ausannette Garcia-Goyette, Program Officer,**  
Pronouns: she/her(s), Irving Harris Foundation

## 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.

VNA  Foundation

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