

VNA Foundation

Each year VNA Foundation strives to improve as a grantmaking entity—whether that is by increasing the grant dollars we award, finding new ways to respond to the needs of our community, acting as a convener to pull grantee partners together, or implementing new methods to grow our levels of transparency and engagement.

During FY 23, VNA utilized each of these methods when awarding 71 grants, totaling \$3,100,000, to a variety of nonprofits improving health outcomes for medically underserved populations in metropolitan Chicago. We also welcomed three new Board members, increased our external communications, launched a partnership with external evaluators to assess the impact of our grantmaking, and guided multiple interns whose achievements and perspectives are highlighted later in this infographic.

71
GRANTS

\$3,100,000
AWARDED

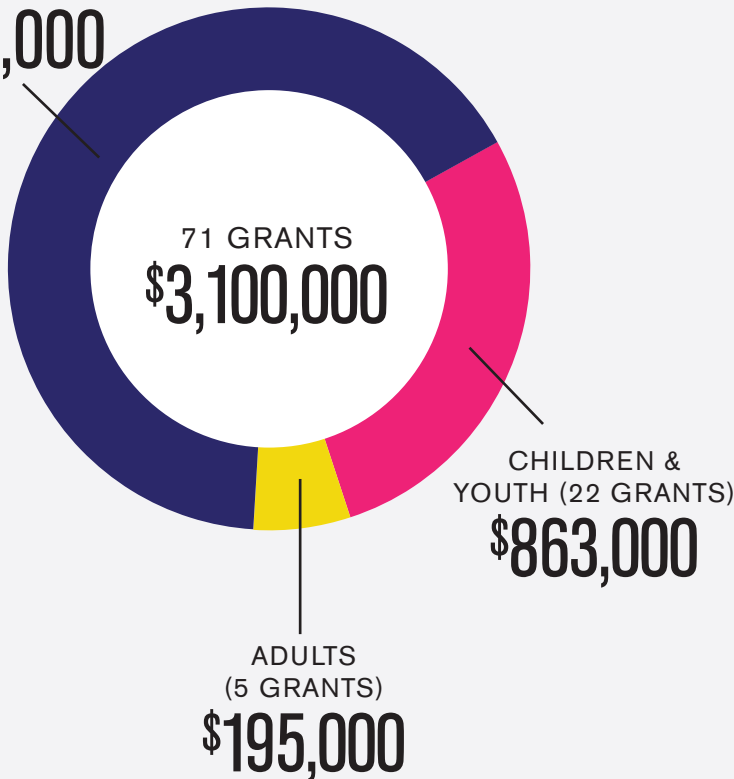
DEMOGRAPHICS

GRANTS BY POPULATION

All VNA grantee partners serve people who lack accessible, affordable, and acceptable healthcare and are un- or underinsured. The majority of grantees serve people of all ages, sometimes through multigenerational approaches. In response to the growing health needs of our region’s younger residents, however, the number of FY 23 grants impacting children and youth nearly doubled compared to FY 22.

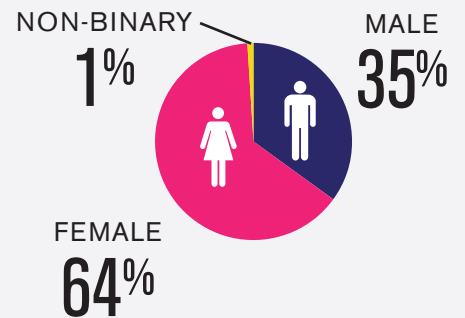
VARIOUS AGES (44 GRANTS)

\$2,042,000

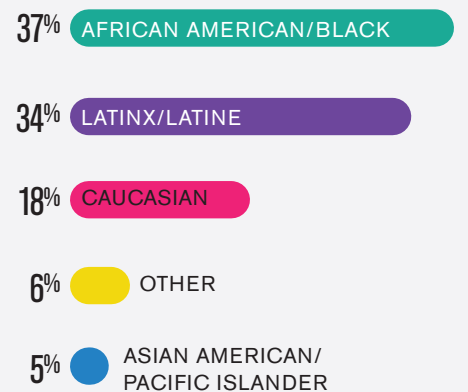


GRANTS BY GENDER

VNA grantee partners continued to focus on groups who are most likely to face healthcare inequities: women, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and people of color. The amount of funding supporting health services for women increased 14% since FY 22.



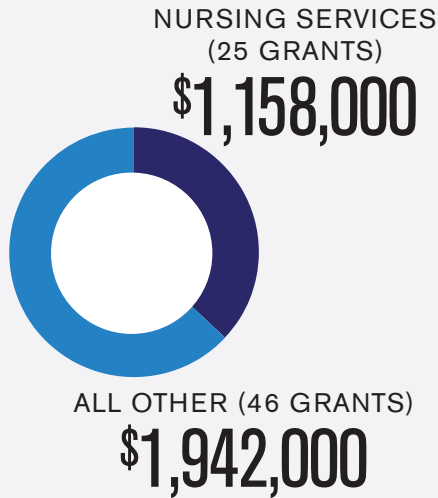
GRANTS BY ETHNICITY



SERVICES

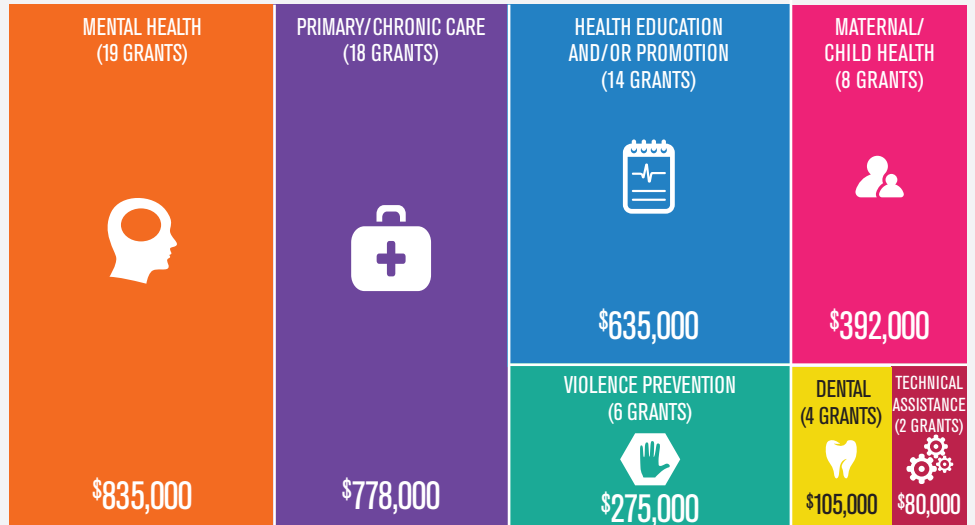
NURSING SERVICES

Before transitioning to the grantmaking entity it is today, VNA was a nurse-led direct service provider. Nurses who provide community and home-based health services remain close to our mission and, most importantly, continue to be valuable assets for our grantee partners.



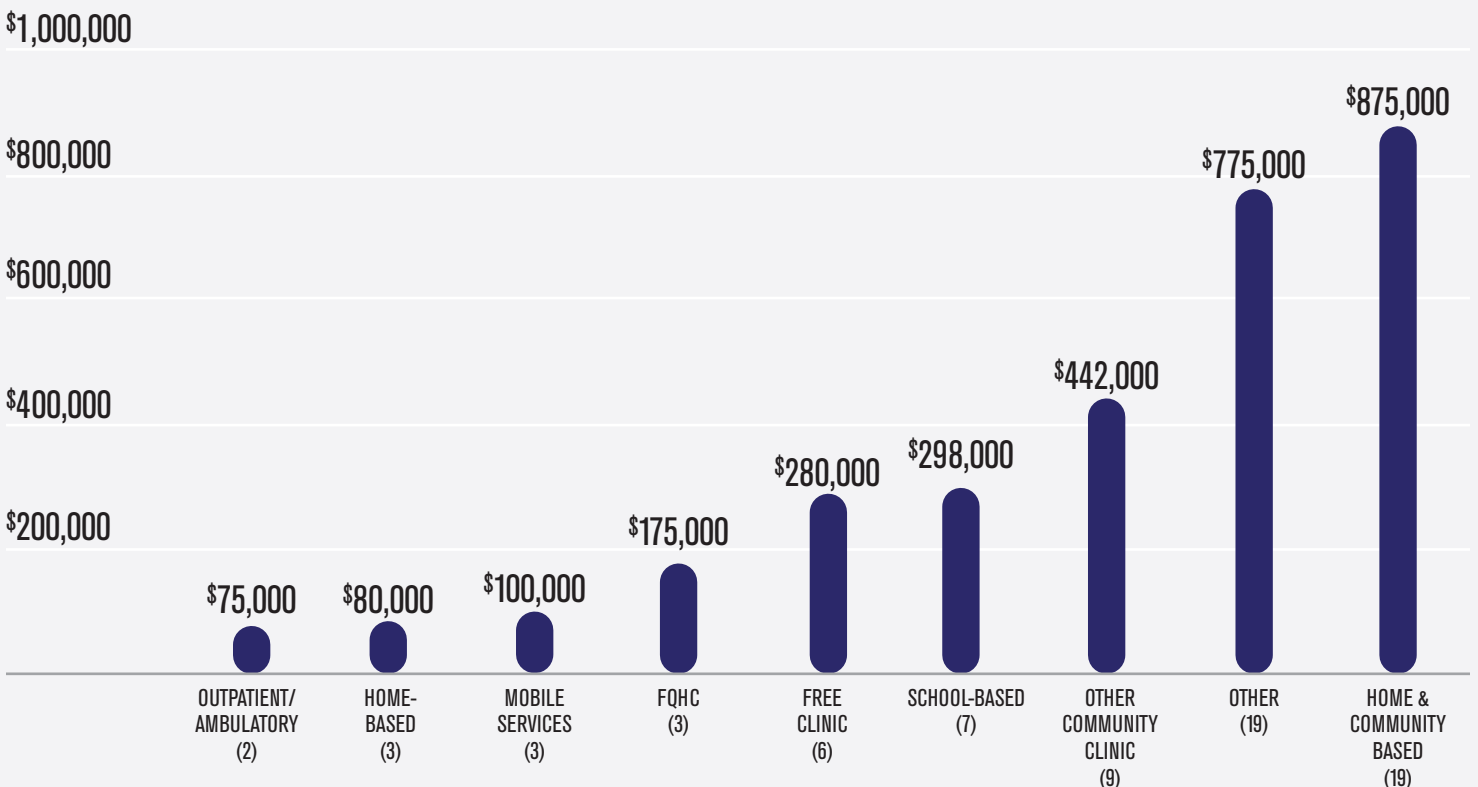
GRANTS BY SERVICE PROVIDED

Similar to recent years, primary care and chronic disease care, mental health care, and health education and/or promotion remain the most common types of services supported by VNA. In particular, our grantee partners stressed the need for more mental health services, healthcare navigation support, and assistance with Medicaid and public benefit enrollment/reenrollment.



GRANTS BY SERVICE SETTING

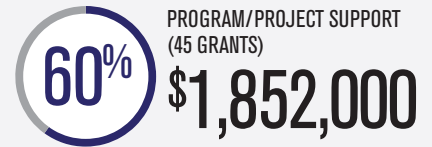
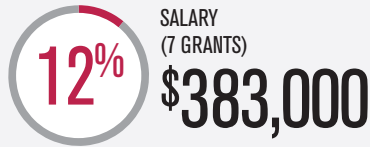
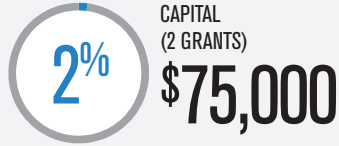
In FY 23, VNA grantee partners ensured access to healthcare through a variety of settings, from school classrooms to mobile health vans to federally qualified health centers (FQHCs). Although not reflected in the data below, many grantee partners continued to offer a hybrid model due to some participants preferring virtual (telehealth) services.



SERVICES

GRANTS BY TYPE OF SUPPORT

VNA is pleased to be flexible in the types of grants it awards. Staff encourage grant applicants to request what they need most, and the result is a variety of support types. There continues to be a strong demand for general operating support in addition to program funding. In fact, in FY 23, VNA awarded 193% more in general operating dollars compared to five years ago.



GEOGRAPHY

GRANTS BY GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

This year VNA grantee partners requested support for programs serving more specifically defined geographic areas than last year. Compared to FY 22, there were less grants supporting City and Suburbs and more grants supporting the City of Chicago, the North and South sides, and individual counties including Lake, Will, and Kane. It is estimated that grantee partners within the City of Chicago served 43 of the 77 official community areas.

CHICAGO NORTH
(7 GRANTS)

\$365,000

CHICAGO CITYWIDE
(17 GRANTS)
\$800,000

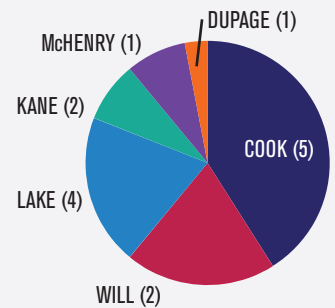
CHICAGO WEST
(7 GRANTS)

\$283,000

CHICAGO SOUTH
(6 GRANTS)

\$302,000

CITY & SUBURBS
(19 GRANTS)
\$745,000



SUBURBS/COLLAR COUNTRIES
(15 GRANTS)

\$605,000

LOOKING AHEAD

FY 23 was a year of high need among our community partners, but also a year of growth, learning, and reflection. Looking ahead to FY 24, our team is excited to work alongside grantees to support their efforts and raise awareness about their successes. In addition, we will continue to work to discover new ways to optimize our grantmaking while remaining committed to our mission.

Thank you for being part of our community.

STAY CONNECTED

To keep in touch with us next year, follow us on Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, and YouTube, and subscribe to our e-newsletter via our website.



VNAFoundation.net/Quarterly-Newsletter

THE ADDED VALUE THAT INTERNS BRING

Over the years VNA has hosted 17 student interns from a variety of universities. Internships offer budding health professionals the opportunity to learn the ins and outs of the Chicago area's health foundations, while also taking a deep dive into a specific project that is meaningful to them and important to stakeholders. VNA views internships as a means to help build a strong public health workforce, while also "paying forward" the knowledge and opportunities given to us by our own mentors. Below we proudly feature four of our recent interns, who worked as valued members of the small VNA team, and brought abundant amounts of enthusiasm, creativity, and personal expertise to their work.



ISABELLA LAZARSKI, MPH

DePaul University, 2023

As a public health student I became very interested in learning how organizations utilized grant support to provide services for populations in need, and I was immediately

drawn to the VNA Foundation because its mission and work aligned with my own interests. In addition to learning about grantmaking, I completed a project that involved designing and implementing a survey for VNA grantees that assessed the use and utility of telehealth services. Upon completion, I presented my findings as my graduate school capstone project, and the data is now being summarized and will be shared with the survey respondents and others. My experience with VNA allowed me to better assess population needs and understand how to make healthcare more accessible and equitable.



CHLOE ADAMO, MS

Northwestern University, 2022

As a graduate student in health communications, I greatly appreciated VNA's historical connection to Jane Addams, the mother of social work in

the United States, and embraced VNA's current mission to assist medically underserved people of all standings and circumstances. My internship project was done in partnership with VNA and The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence, allowing me to combine my communications training with my interests in social justice. Ultimately, I created the framework for a public campaign to raise awareness of domestic violence as a public health issue, and promote the resources meant to aid both survivors and those who cause harm. Through these experiences I learned to adapt my communication skills to various populations, and increase my awareness of others' life circumstances.



VANESSA SANCHEZ

MPH candidate
University of Illinois-Chicago,
anticipated 2023

I chose my internship with VNA to gain insights into grant funding and

philanthropy while also pursuing my passion to ensure equitable access to reproductive health options and information for all. For my internship project, I worked in partnership with VNA grantee, ICAN (Illinois Contraceptive Access Now!). As a first-generation Latina, I've personally experienced the lack of culturally appropriate reproductive health information available to the Latine community, and while working with ICAN I was able to share my cultural awareness and personal experiences, particularly regarding the influence of machismo on family planning. Throughout my internship, I've gained a better understanding of the impacts of philanthropy and local initiatives, and the importance of education and support in driving positive change.



DANITA HINGSTON

MPH Candidate
University of Illinois-Chicago,
anticipated 2024

As a MPH student focused on community health and maternal and child health, I

decided to intern at VNA Foundation to learn how community engagement drives the grantmaking process. VNA takes an open door approach with applicants, and through my grant reviews I was afforded the opportunity to engage with various community organizations and learn about their innovative solutions to tackling different health issues. I was also able to work directly with VNA grantee Chicago South Side Birth Center, where I helped prepare a needs assessment and facilitate focus groups for members of the community and practitioners. I found this experience to be fulfilling, as it allowed me to be part of a process that is responding to the lack of maternity care and delivery opportunities for underserved communities.

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