GRANT OVERVIEW

VNA Foundation

In FY26, we continued to build on the strategic shifts implemented last year, including refinements to our grantmaking priorities and expanded funding options for grantee partners. Against an especially challenging backdrop for nonprofits, we remained focused on responsive grantmaking that reflects the evolving needs of the communities and organizations we serve.

Nearly one-third of our FY26 grant funding was awarded as general operating support, and we made more multiyear grants than in any other single year in the Foundation's history. The decision to emphasize, and continue to grow, these categories of grants was not one made in isolation; it was informed by feedback from our community and grantee partners who emphasized the importance of flexible, sustained funding.

At the heart of our grantmaking is a longstanding commitment to support home- and community-based health services for the medically underserved in the Chicago metropolitan area. In FY26, we advanced that mission by increasing the flexibility and duration of our grant funding.

66
GRANTS

$4,000,000
AWARDED

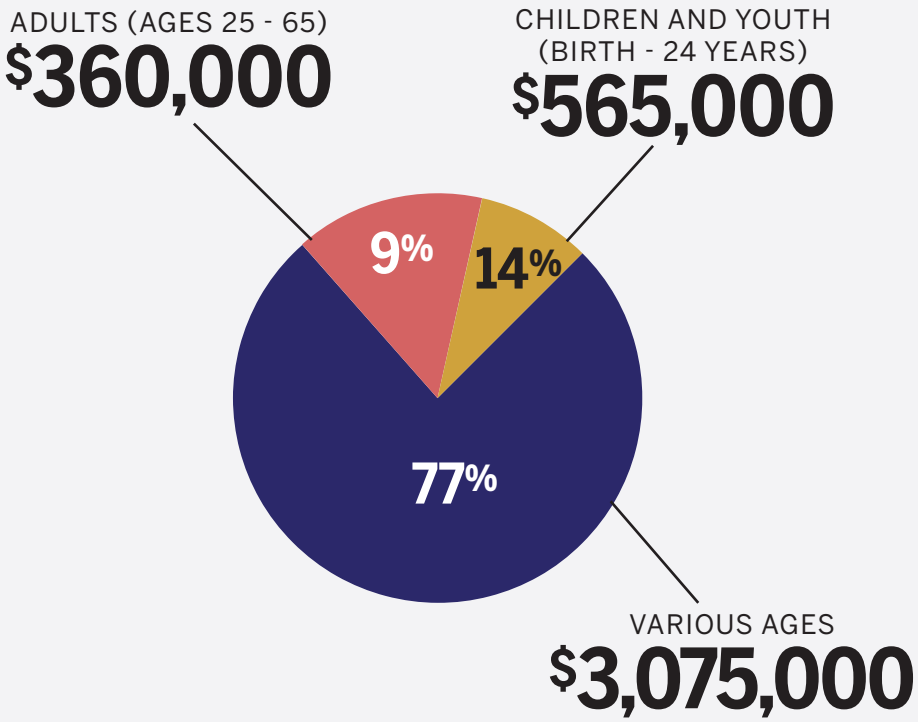
(includes multiyear grant awards)

Based on data provided by organizations

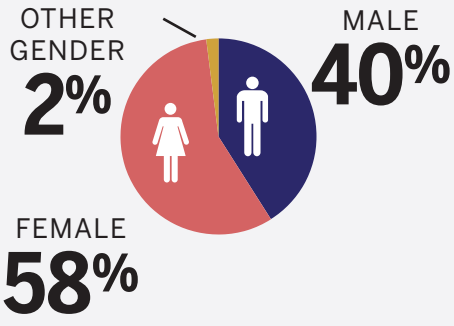
DEMOGRAPHICS

GRANTS BY POPULATION

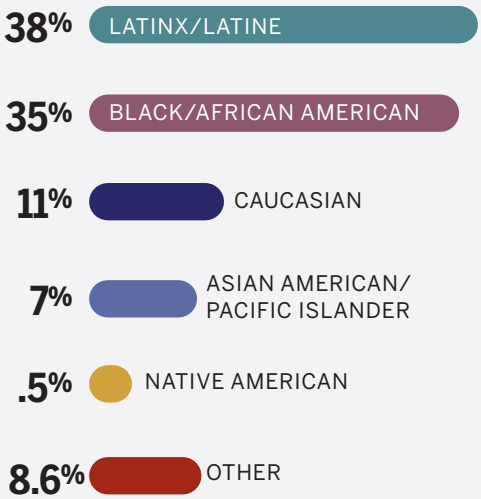
VNA's grantmaking prioritized equitable access to care by investing in organizations serving those across various ages and demographic groups who experience barriers to accessing healthcare.



GRANTS BY GENDER



GRANTS BY RACE/ ETHNICITY

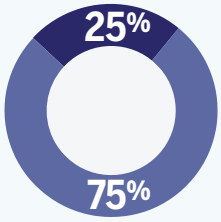


SERVICES

NURSING SERVICES

Nursing continued to play an important role in VNA's grantmaking, with nearly one-quarter of our grant funding directed to nurse-led programs or teams where nurses serve as primary care providers.

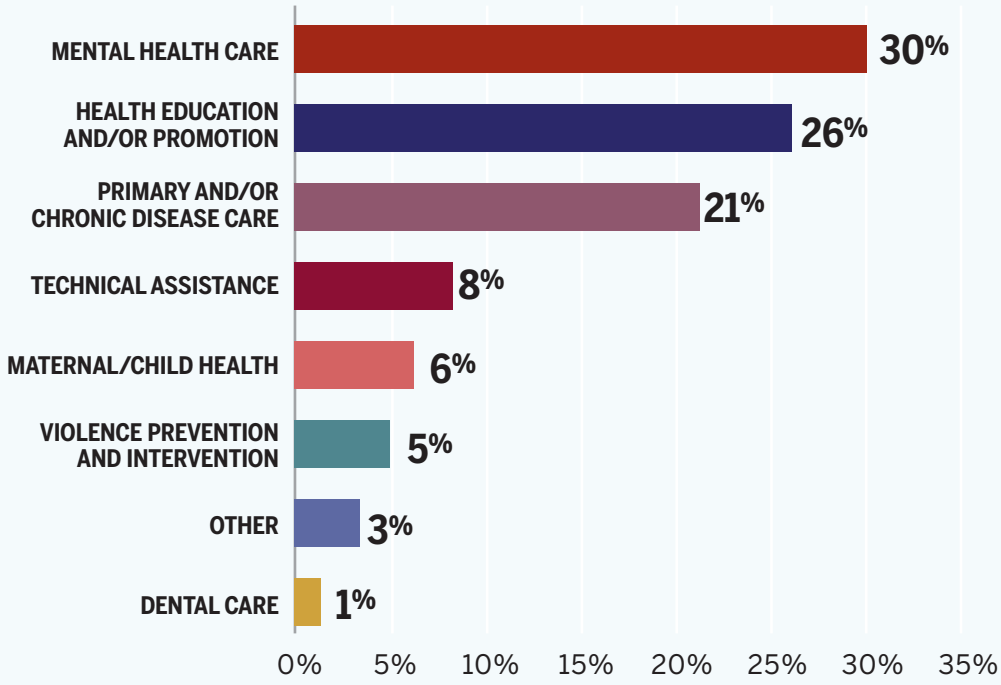
NURSING SERVICES
$1,008,000



ALL OTHER
$2,992,000

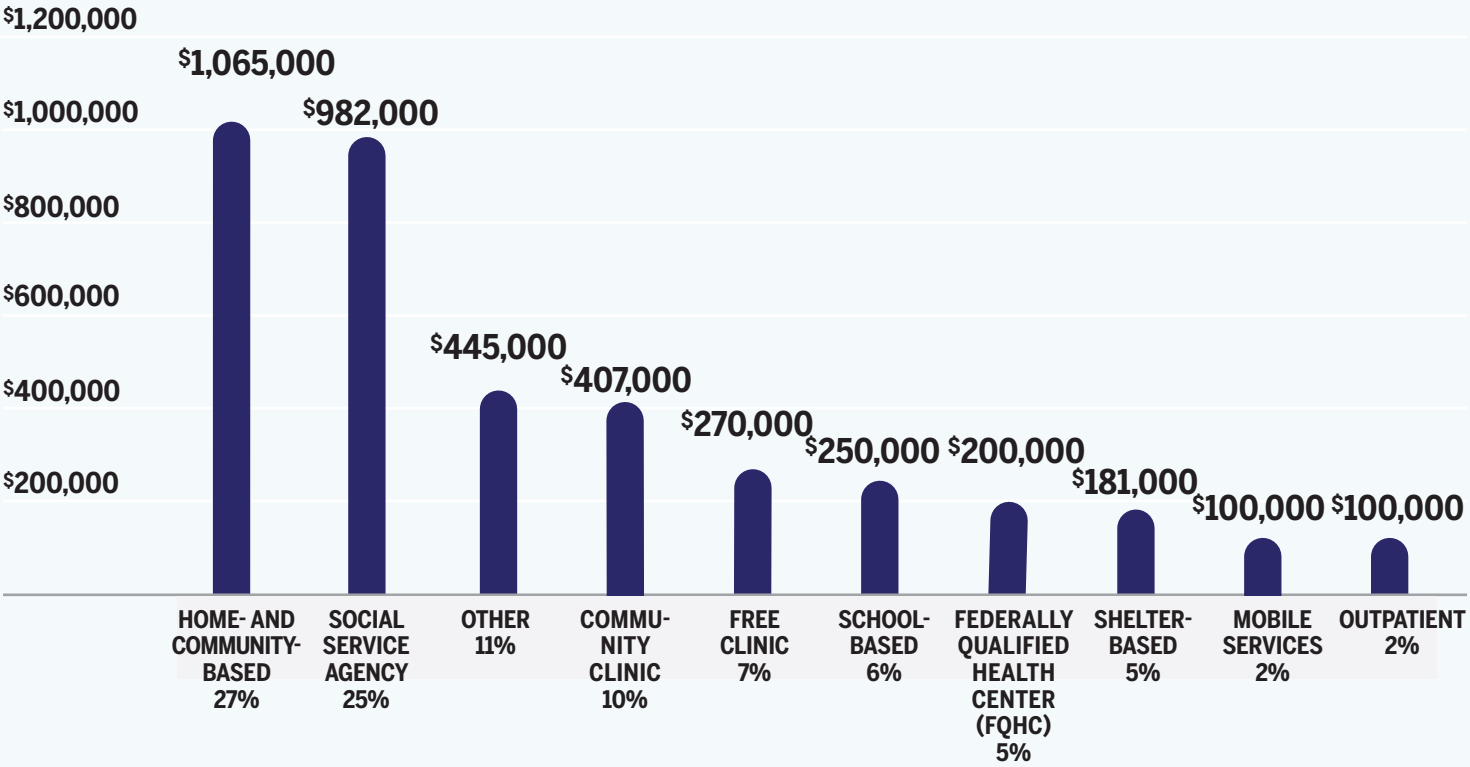
GRANTS BY SERVICE PROVIDED

In FY26 mental health care was our largest area of grantmaking, accounting for 30% of total funding. Together, mental health care, health education and promotion, and primary and chronic disease care represented three-quarters of VNA's grantmaking, reflecting a strong emphasis on prevention, behavioral health, and access to essential healthcare services.



GRANTS BY SERVICE SETTING

FY26 grant funding reached grantee partners delivering services across a wide range of care settings, reflecting the varied ways communities access health and social services.



GRANTS BY TYPE OF SUPPORT

VNA continued to expand flexible funding options while allowing applicants to determine the type of support that best advances their mission.

65%
PROGRAM AND PROJECT SUPPORT
$2,583,000

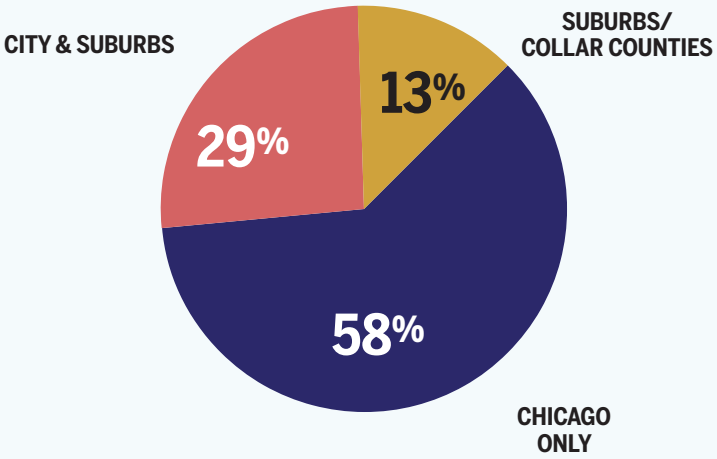
31%
GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT
$1,262,000

4%
SALARY ONLY
$155,000

GEOGRAPHY

GRANTS BY GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

In FY26, 58% of VNA's grant funding supported work within the City of Chicago, with additional funding reaching communities across Chicago's suburbs and surrounding collar counties.



LOOKING AHEAD

Moving Forward, Together

Changes and uncertainty in federal funding for healthcare and social service programs have created challenges for many of the communities and organizations we serve. As this landscape continues to shift, VNA remains committed to providing flexible support and staying closely connected to the organizations navigating these challenges.

In FY27, VNA's grantmaking will further evolve to support community-driven solutions, primarily in Chicago and Cook County, that advance health equity and expand access to care for medically underserved communities.

VNA will also continue to strengthen relationships with grantee partners through open communication, resource sharing, and opportunities for connection and collaboration.

Thank you for all you do, and for being part of our community.

STAY CONNECTED

Stay connected with VNA Foundation for the latest on our grantmaking, resources, and opportunities.

VNAFoundation.net/Quarterly-Newsletter

GRANTMAKING SPOTLIGHT

Expanding Flexible Funding

Flexible funding gives organizations room to adapt as circumstances change, helping them sustain operations while responding to the priorities and challenges emerging in the communities they serve.

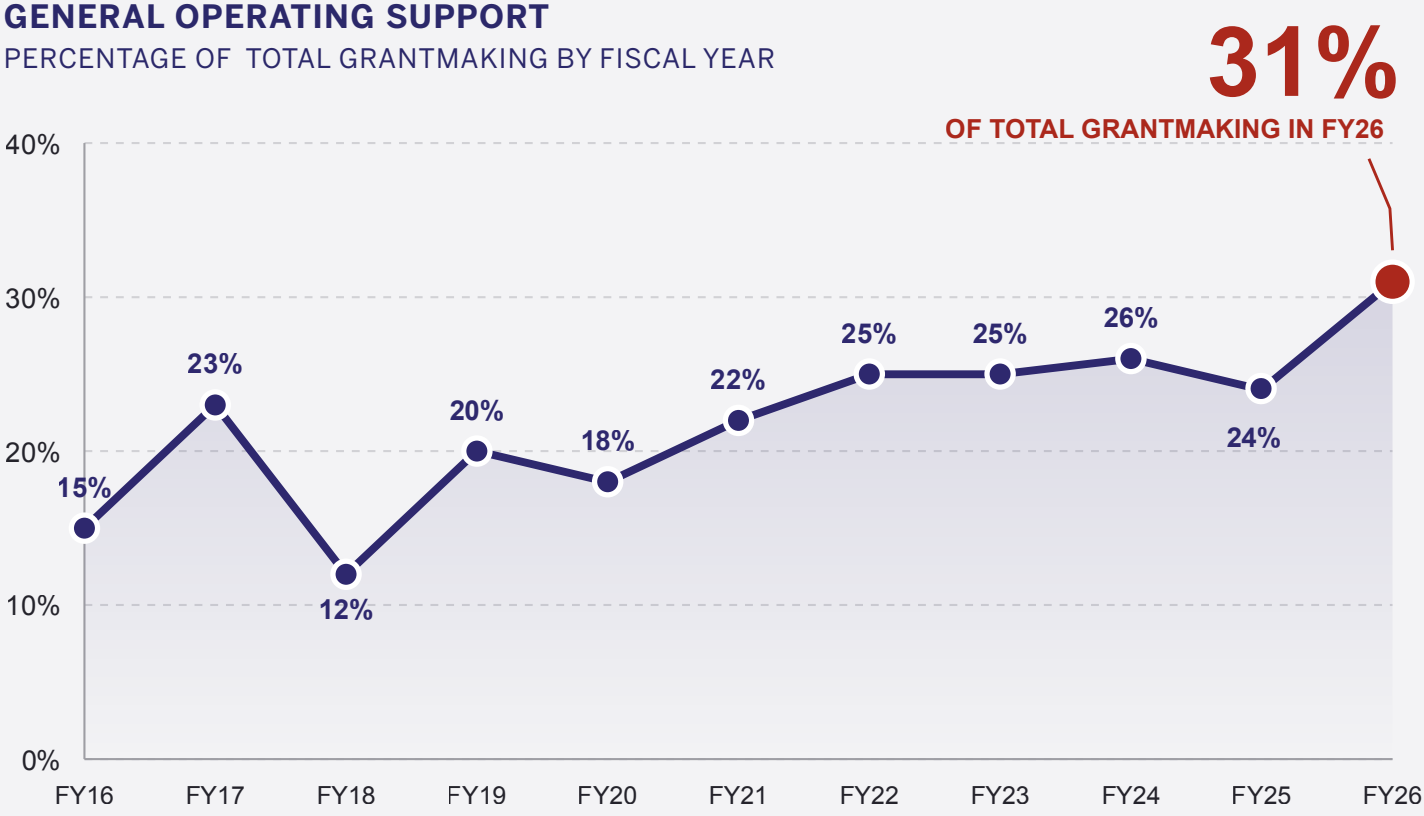
At VNA Foundation, we believe that our grantee partners are best positioned to understand and respond to the challenges their communities face. Over the past decade, we've gradually and deliberately increased our investment in general operating support, guided by this belief and reinforced by what we've heard from our grantee partners.

That investment has grown from 15% of VNA Foundation's total grantmaking in FY16 to 31% in FY26—its highest share in 11 years. This approach reflects an emphasis on flexibility and trust, allowing organizations to direct resources where they are needed most—whether that means sustaining essential programs, supporting staff, investing in infrastructure, responding to emerging community needs, or adapting to an evolving funding landscape.

As nonprofits navigate an increasingly uncertain funding environment, flexible support can help grantee partners sustain the essential operations and services on which communities rely, while giving them greater room to respond to changing circumstances and strengthen their long-term capacity to serve their communities.

GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL GRANTMAKING BY FISCAL YEAR



OUR MISSION

Our methods may have changed, but 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

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