

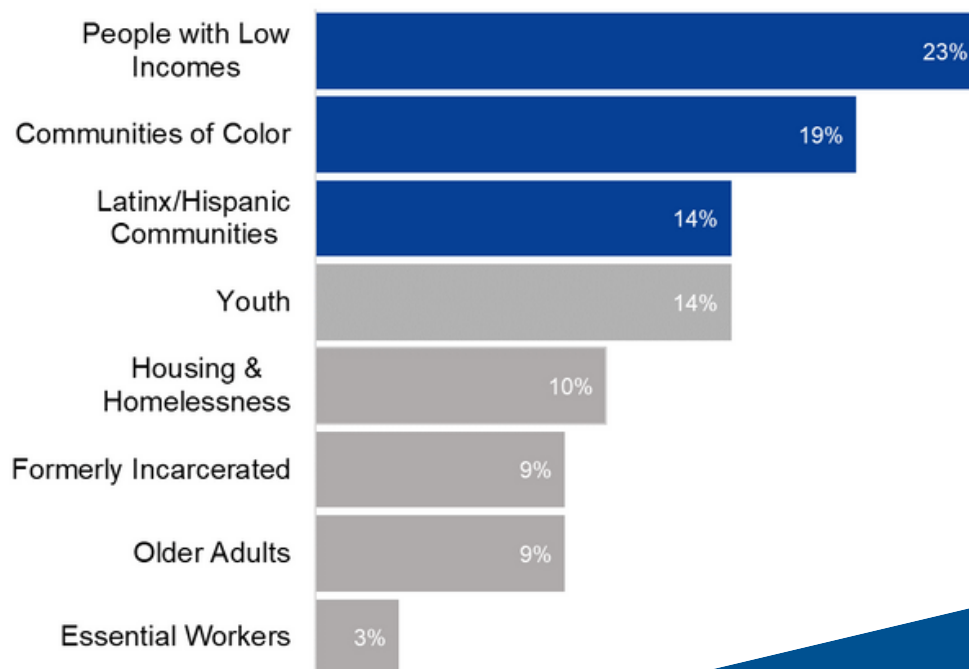
# 2020-21 Opportunity Fund Overview and Highlights

United Way of Washtenaw County invested \$200,000 in 2020-21 through its Opportunity Fund. The Opportunity Fund provides support annually for organizations whose work benefits our priority populations in Washtenaw County: people with low incomes, communities of color and groups deemed to be marginalized.

## Quick Facts

- **\$200,000**: Total awarded
- **20**: # of grants awarded
- **9,389**: # of people impacted through United Way funding
- **56%**: Funding supporting people with low incomes and people of color
- **50%**: Funding to Ypsilanti zip codes 48197/98

**56% of grant funding supported the People with Low Incomes, Communities of Color, and Latinx/Hispanic Communities.**



United Way  
of Washtenaw County



For additional information about our grant funds & impact,  
please visit [uwgive.org](http://uwgive.org).

## Narrative Questions

## Qualitative Analysis and Summary

At the end of the project period, United Way staff meets with grantees to understand the impact of the funding that was granted. Below are the the primary and secondary themes:

### 44% Experienced strengthened relationships and connections

*"We have also been able to strengthen relationships with Judges and the Washtenaw County Defender's Office to expand restorative justice to diversion cases, which means that individuals and families already in the criminal legal system also have the option to utilize restorative justice in regards to criminal charges."*

**-Dispute Resolution Center**

*"Buenos Vecinos was able to deepen its work in the housing navigation space. This includes establishing a contract with the [Washtenaw County] OCED to support language access, interpretation, and advocacy for the Coronavirus Emergency Rent Assistance program through MSHDA."*

**-Buenos Vecinos**



### 31% Evaluated the need from the community and adjust services

*"CLN is proud of our adaptability and pivoting our programs to virtual models throughout the pandemic. Since the beginning of the pandemic, there has been alarming learning loss with literacy gaps widening and not closing. By holding our virtual FLIP nights, we were able to speak with community members and meet them right in their homes."*

**-Children's Literacy Network**

*"Our greatest success...can be found in our efforts to build genuine relationships and increase accessibility for all seniors within our community. Our Farmers Market team troubleshooted multiple avenues of communication....The team most effectively used flyer to...introduce every [senior] resident of our pilot community to the Ypsilanti Area Online Market and the grocery delivery form."*

**-Growing Hope**



# 2020-21 Opportunity Fund Overview and Highlights

## 69% Built capacity to deepen or expand services

"ABW has been able to expand and provide more services to the formerly incarcerated in Washtenaw County. We are most proud of the fact that none of the returned citizens we worked with returned to prison in 2020 and 2021..." **-A Brighter Way**

"...We didn't think that transforming our environment would be a possibility for us. We are so used to having to cut corners and take 'hand-me-downs' to fill our rooms with equipment. Not only were able to purchase new items, but we were able to do so with the best interests of the children in mind...particularly those who have sensory processing issues or have experienced trauma." **-Foundations Preschool**

## 25% Supported new or existing staff

"CAN is most proud of the increased quality and consistency of programming for the under-resourced youth with which we partner in each neighborhood.....Creating a centralized position helped CAN achieve success on that front. As the Director of Ed. took on more responsibility, site directors were able to coordinate more volunteer group visits, enrichment activities, and celebrations during the 21/22 school year" **-Community Action Network**



"We were able to retain all of our staff who wanted to continue to work. The need for those families who didn't have the luxuries of [remote work], we were able to provide security for them and their children...allowed the adults to maintain stability throughout the pandemic."

**-Ypsilanti YMCA Child Development Extend Care Initiative (Ann Arbor YMCA)**

**For a full listing of Opportunity Fund grantees with descriptions of their work, please [click here](#).**

**For Opportunity Fund Stories of Impact, please [click here](#).**

United Way  
of Washtenaw County



For additional information about our grant funds & impact,  
please visit [uwgive.org](http://uwgive.org).