



What Proportion of Private HIV Funding Supports People of Color?

4% of total U.S. AIDS philanthropy directly addresses African Americans. Plus: Meet the top five funders helping BIPOC communities.

October 1, 2020 By [Trent Straube](#)

POZ readers are well aware that the HIV epidemic disproportionately affects people of color, especially Black gay and bisexual men and transgender women. But does HIV-related funding from private sources adequately support these communities? Looking at 2018 data covering nearly \$200 million, the folks at Funders Concerned About AIDS (FCAA) found that 15% of HIV-related philanthropy directly addressed Black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) communities.

An infographic from "Philanthropic Support to Address HIV/AIDS in 2018" Courtesy of FCAA

Specifically, in the United States in 2018, HIV-related philanthropy totaled nearly \$199,464,000. Of that, about \$28,950,000 directly supported BIPOC. Of that amount, 28% was specifically

earmarked for African Americans. This means that 4% of the total U.S. HIV-related philanthropic funding directly addressed the Black community's needs.

To put this into perspective, African Americans made up 13% of the U.S. population in 2018 but accounted for 42% of the 37,832 new HIV diagnoses that year, [according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). (For more insight, see the [POZ Basics on HIV and African Americans](#).)

Is [#HIV](#) philanthropy adequately supporting [#BIPOC](#) communities? Take a look at [@FCAA](#)'s latest data spotlight to help answer this question.

[#BlackLivesMatter](#) [#HealthDisparities](#) [#FundAIDSFight](#)
<https://t.co/S956lGR1CP> pic.twitter.com/T8lkWiWD2y
— FundersConcernedFCAA (@FCAA) [September 25, 2020](#)

Each year, FCAA releases a report looking at private HIV funding. The Black Lives Matter movement and COVID-19 disparities affecting BIPOC communities, inspired FCAA to analyze the data in its most recent report and explore HIV funding for these minority communities. The new FCAA data analysis is titled "[Philanthropy for Black, Indigenous and People of Color Communities \(2018\)](#)," and infographics from the findings are embedded throughout this article.

(In February, POZ covered FCAA's latest report, [Philanthropic Support to Address HIV/AIDS in 2018](#), which was the organization's 17th annual publication. The article was titled "[HIV Funding From Private Sources in 2018 Remained 'Relatively Flat'](#)" and included a list of the top 10 philanthropic funders of HIV.)

Grantmaking and funding for BIPOC communities is difficult to precisely measure, the new FCAA analysis notes, because a lot of grant descriptions don’t include racial and ethnic data.

The FCAA analysis also highlights the organizations reaching these marginalized populations. The top five HIV funders of BIPOC communities were:

1. Gilead Sciences, Inc.
2. AIDS United
3. ViiV Healthcare
4. Ford Foundation

5. California Wellness Foundation.

And the top five HIV funders of African-American communities were:

1. Gilead Sciences, Inc.
2. ViiV Healthcare
3. AIDS United
4. Ford Foundation
5. Washington AIDS Partnership.

An infographic from “Philanthropic Support to Address HIV/AIDS in 2018”^{Courtesy of FCAA}

The FCAA analysis also notes that LGBT communities of color are more impacted by HIV. For example, 44% of Black transgender women have HIV. However, of the HIV funding for BIPOC and Black communities, 60% of all BIPOC-related funds and 51% of specifically African-American-related funds addressed the LGBT community. What’s more, only 18% of the total U.S. HIV-related funds directly address LGBT people.

In related news, read these opinion pieces from FCAA’s executive director: “[What Does It Mean to Be an HIV Funder Today?](#)” and “[Keeping AIDS in the Headlines.](#)”

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