

IRAF Report June 2020

BASIC DESCRIPTION

After the 2016 presidential election, an unforeseen series of actions and policies by our government took place that undermined the health and safety of women and girls throughout our region, state, and country. WOMEN'S WAY rapidly responded by launching the Immediate Response Action Fund (IRAF) on June 22, 2017. This nimble and agile grantmaking program is designed to quickly address unanticipated and urgent needs of women and girls in the greater Philadelphia region.

KEYWORDS & MESSAGING

- IRAF addresses urgent and unanticipated needs of organizations or programs that primarily serve women and girls
- From receiving a completed application to communicating a decision – the IRAF grant review process is completed in 10 business days
- No other foundation in the region is responding this rapidly

KEY METRICS

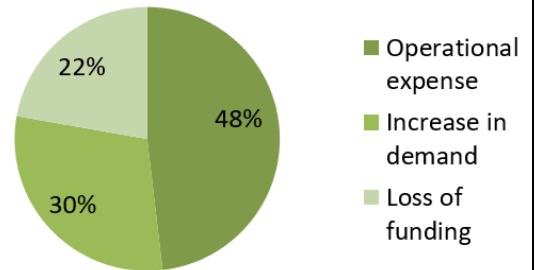
of applications received: **85**

Amount Requested: **\$789.896**

of grants awarded: **27**

Amount Awarded: **\$218.940**

Unanticipated Need



Pillars Addressed by Grants Awarded

- **81%** Economic Self-Sufficiency and Justice
- **37%** Safety Against Gender-Based Violence
- **30%** Reproductive Justice and Sexual Health
- **19%** Leadership Development of Girls and Young Women

Counties Served by Grants Awarded

Philadelphia - 70% • Chester - 22% • Bucks - 19% • Montgomery - 11% • Delaware - 4%

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Rapid response funding is critical to prevent disruption of essential, life-saving services for women and children,
- Agile and rapid funding is essential to address unanticipated and sudden increases in demand of services for subpopulations of women and girls
- Economic self-sufficiency is the most frequent area of need and most funded pillar
- The most common unanticipated need is for operational expenses: capital improvements, moving expenses, temporary relocation
- Funding unexpected operational expenses helped build the sustainability of grantees by strengthening their capacity to provide ongoing services, improve quality of services, expand services, engage more volunteers, and leverage additional funding
- Of low income populations served, the highest demand for funding came from incarcerated / re-entering women

GRANTEE QUOTE

"With the support of WOMEN'S WAY Immediate Response Action Fund, we are able to continue our research study on the experiences of sexual harassment that food service workers, -especially women-, face every day in the restaurants, bars and cafes in our city. The Coalition For Restaurant Safety & Health (CRSH) will be able to craft a report that will not only give visibility to the pervasive problem of sexual harassment in the industry but will point out the changes we need to create a safer workplace culture for all. We feel touched and inspired by the support and quick response that IRAF granted to us after a shortfall in our funding, allowing us to continue to take action against the predicament of so many women in the food service industry." – Natalia Nicastro, CRSH Coordinator

IRAF GRANTEES

ORGANIZATION NAME	URGENT NEED	AMOUNT	IMPACT
A Woman's Place	Sudden increase in police incidents	\$4,765	Overhauled security system, police incidents stopped, ensuring safety of 300 survivors of domestic violence
The African Cultural Alliance of North America (ACANA)	Increase in caseload and hours resulting from the announcement of the Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness Bill which ends December 26, 2020	\$10,000	Legal staff is able to: be compensated for increased caseload, process more applications for citizenship and host monthly information sessions to answer questions about eligibility requirements / the application process for 400 Liberian women refugees
Advocates for Homeless & Those in Need	Program to be discontinued due to unanticipated major loss of funding	\$7,500	Helped continue program and provide life sustaining services to 70 women experiencing homelessness
Advocates for Homeless & Those in Need	Increase in demand for emergency shelter in local motel for women with children who have lost their dwelling	\$5,000	Provide 26 families (66 individuals) with emergency shelter. Increased length of stay from 2 nights to 3 nights to give them more time to stabilize and work on next steps of securing more permanent shelter
Baker Industries	Loss of state-funded housing vouchers for re-entering women residing in a halfway house	\$6,000	Provided down payments for 5 women to secure safe housing allowing them to continue treatment, reconnect with children and retain employment
Career Wardrobe	One-time opportunity to enlarge space and meet increasing demand for their services	\$9,500	Provided professional attire and job readiness services to 4,845 women
Coalition for Restaurant Safety and Health (CRSH)	Dramatic decrease in funding threatened to derail their long-term project surveying workers about their experiences with sexual violence in the restaurant industry	\$10,000	They will be about to complete the survey and release a report in the Spring which will inform policy around sexual harassment and violence in the restaurant industry helping 344 women and gender non-confirming / non-binary restaurant workers
Community Legal Services	Re-institute The Working Group to enhance services for incarcerated women after the lead organization running the program shifted gears	\$10,000	Supported coordinated advocacy for incarcerated women across Philly and PA

Family Service Association of Bucks County	Plumbing issue prevented distribution of hot water	\$6,200	60 women and children in the shelter were able to have access to hot water for bathing and the water in the kitchen was able to reach 140 degrees ensuring proper sanitation.
HIAS Pennsylvania	Sudden increase in demand for relational violence protection services for immigrant communities in Chester County	\$10,000	Expanded legal services for 30 immigrant survivors of interpersonal violence
Home of the Sparrow	Roof damaged due to storm, threatening displacement of residents	\$7,500	Maintained shelter and life supportive services for pre-senior women (ages 55 – 62) facing homelessness
Interim House	Broken heater caused need for temporary displacement of residents	\$6,585	Continued holistic substance abuse treatment for 24 clients during an emergency relocation
Lutheran Settlement House	Unexpected eviction from their emergency homeless shelter	\$9,250	Relocated to a new facility with minimal disruption to the provision of critical services to 29 families experiencing homelessness
Mental Health Partnerships	Two programs were going to be discontinued due to loss of funding	\$10,000	Re-entry support provided to 30 women exiting Riverside Correctional Facility and compensation provided to 12 women residing at RCF for their work as Certified Peer Specialists
Orion Communities	Increase in demand for services and bridge case management services when a partner organization shifted focus	\$10,000	Supported their ability to provide case management and emergency funds to women and children in need of basic essentials such as shelter, food, clothing, transportation and medical care
Pennsylvania Health Access Network	Protect access to healthcare for women and families in SE Pennsylvania following a 90% reduction in the advertising budget for ACA Open Enrollment	\$10,000	Highlighted the importance of enrolling in and maintaining healthcare coverage to 6,825 women through various media campaigns
Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity	Loss of funding was going to prevent the provision of expungements and pardons to the justice-involved	\$10,000	Lawyer was retained to create a Pardon Hub to provide record clearing services to low-income women and children in Kensington through The Equity Project
Sappho and LaRoyce Foundation	Floor damaged during renovation prevented the 24 hour drop-in center for LGBTQ survivors of domestic violence from opening	\$10,000	Provided emotional support, therapeutic services and physical safety to LGBTQ survivors of domestic violence.

Take Action Philly	Protection of immigrant and refugee populations in Philadelphia following the Travel Ban and threats to sanctuary cities	\$5,000	250 lawyers were trained how to provide pro bono legal advice to immigrant and refugee communities
Therapy Center of Philadelphia	Spike in demand for mental health care in the trans community	\$10,000	Expanded access to low cost psychotherapy services to 50 transgender individuals
Why Not Prosper	Broken heater caused dislocation of residents and a halt in programming	\$10,000	Maintained shelter for 10 formerly incarcerated residents and the Workforce and Education Academy programming was able to resume
Why Not Prosper	The exterior side and rear wall at one of their housing facilities was in imminent danger of collapse, jeopardizing the safety of the residents	\$10,000	Demolition and rebuild of the wall as well as providing temporary shelter for the 10 women residing at the location while the repairs were being made
Women's Law Project	Increase in demand coupled with loss of funding threatened the provision of legal services to fight pregnancy and breastfeeding discrimination	\$10,000	Provided compensation for the staff attorney managing the Protecting and Advancing the Rights of Pregnant and Nursing Workers, Students, and Inmates Program which will impact ~1,000 women
Women's Medical Fund	Unexpected costs associated with moving locations	\$7,160	Provided 56 people with financial assistance to obtain an abortion
Women's Opportunities Resource Center	Loss of funding was threatening to discontinue IDA Savings Account programs to refugees / asylees	\$10,000	Provided 51 refugees / asylees financial counseling and education, assistance with purchasing assets, and translation support
Women's Opportunities Resource Center	Air conditioning unit broke in the middle of a heat wave	\$3,880	Organization was able to continue providing financial assistance through their loan and savings programs
Women's Resource Center	Computer broke unexpectedly after recently replacing the technology in the office	\$600	Organization was able to continue providing leadership training to 162 middle school and high school girls
TOTAL		\$218,940	