

# Shared Philanthropic Data and Gaps Analysis: 2023 Report



2023 Report prepared by the Michael S. P’09 and Marlene B. Grossnickle Young ’76, H’14, P’09 Data Driven Frederick Center at Hood College, using grantmaking data provided by:

	  Community Partnership Grants		
			
		Loats Foundation, Inc.	





# 2023 Frederick County Philanthropic Funders Collaborative Grantmaking Report

Data-Driven Analysis of Philanthropy in Frederick County, Maryland

April 2025

This comprehensive report aggregates the 2023 grantmaking data from local funders to provide an in-depth analysis of philanthropic trends in Frederick County. Building upon the foundation set in previous reports, this edition incorporates new metrics, expanded commentary, and detailed visualizations – including the addition of the City of Frederick as a key funding partner.





# Message from Data Driven Frederick & the Frederick County Philanthropic Funders Collaborative

In 2018, a small group of committed funders in Frederick County set out to create a collaborative platform for sharing grantmaking data. Our aim was straightforward yet ambitious: to identify funding gaps, foster transparency, and ensure that philanthropic dollars were being channeled where they could achieve the greatest impact. Over the years, this initiative has evolved into a robust, data-driven annual report that not only chronicles our collective giving but also informs strategic decisions across the nonprofit sector.

As we present the 2023 report, we celebrate both continuity and growth. Longstanding funders remain dedicated to sustaining critical programs, while the addition of new participants—most notably the City of Frederick—broadens our perspective and amplifies our shared capacity for positive change. This year's analysis highlights emerging trends in grant distribution, identifies opportunities for collaboration, and underscores how collective action can address pressing community needs such as housing, healthcare, and mental health services.

Our hope is that the data and insights contained within these pages will serve as both a reference and a springboard for further engagement. We invite funders, nonprofits, and community leaders alike to delve into these findings, share their perspectives, and join us in shaping a philanthropic landscape that is increasingly transparent, equitable, and impactful.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support. We look forward to continuing this journey together, leveraging data to spark innovation and deepen our collective impact in Frederick County.

Sincerely,  
Data Driven Frederick and the Frederick County  
Philanthropic Funders Collaborative





# Executive Summary (2023)

This year's report presents a more expansive view of philanthropic activity in Frederick County, reflecting both increased total funding and a broader network of funders. In total, \$14.38 million was awarded to 371 nonprofit organizations, marking roughly a 10% increase from the previous year. Significantly, the City of Frederick joined our collaborative, bringing the number of participating funders from 11 to 12 and enhancing the overall diversity of grants represented.

While ongoing projects still comprise the majority of disbursements—77.2% of the total, or about \$11.10 million—this share has decreased from 86% in 2022. Meanwhile, new initiatives grew to 15.1% (around \$2.17 million), and 7.8% of grants remain uncategorized. Nearly 29% of nonprofits benefited from multiple funders, underscoring the expanding web of collaboration within the philanthropic community.

Detailed analyses of grants by purpose, scale, and demographic focus reveal both continuity and emerging shifts in funding priorities. Many long-standing programs continue to receive strong backing, reflecting a commitment to sustaining critical services in areas such as healthcare, education, and poverty alleviation. At the same time, an increased allocation to new initiatives suggests a growing openness to innovation and adaptive grantmaking strategies.

New this year is the Funder Collaboration Analysis, which visually depicts how funders converge on shared nonprofits or causes, identifying the strongest partnerships and highlighting opportunities for deeper collective impact across Frederick County.

By spotlighting these trends, the 2023 data not only document recent activities but also highlight the potential for future growth and deeper collaboration. Funders, nonprofits, and community leaders can use these findings to pinpoint unmet needs, align their efforts, and optimize resource allocation for maximum impact. As we move forward, this collective intelligence will serve as a cornerstone for refining strategic priorities and enhancing the well-being of Frederick County residents.





# Introduction and Overview

Transparent data sharing lies at the heart of effective philanthropy. Over the past several years, local funders in Frederick County have collaborated to standardize their grantmaking data, enabling more meaningful comparisons and trend analyses. This cooperative effort has proven invaluable in highlighting where resources are most needed, revealing funding overlaps, and guiding strategic decisions for the benefit of our community.

Building on this solid foundation, the 2023 report introduces richer visualizations, deeper commentary, and a closer look at areas where funding remains uncategorized. By refining the data collection process and incorporating feedback from last year's report, we have sharpened our understanding of how grants are allocated, which demographics they serve, and where collaborative opportunities may exist among different funders. This expanded approach allows us to capture a fuller picture of Frederick County's philanthropic ecosystem—spotlighting both longstanding commitments and newly emerging areas of focus.

Structurally, this report mirrors the key sections presented in 2022—offering analyses of overall funding levels, continuity trends, the selection and distribution of grant recipients, and detailed breakdowns by purpose, scale, and demographics. We also highlight network collaboration in greater depth, incorporating fresh insights derived from the 2023 dashboard data. By preserving continuity with the previous year's format while expanding the scope of our inquiry, we aim to provide both a familiar framework and a wealth of new information that can guide more impactful philanthropy across Frederick County.





# Methodology

This year marks a significant evolution in our data analysis approach. For the first time, the 2023 analysis was conducted at Data Driven Frederick using a sophisticated, AI-infused data pipeline that synchronized and standardized the diverse datasets provided by our funders. One of the key innovations was an organizational mapping system that reconciled over 270 naming variations into a single, unified master record. For instance, entries such as “Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership,” “Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership of Frederick County Inc,” “SHIP of Frederick County,” and “Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership of Frederick County, Inc.” were all recognized as referring to the same organization. Achieving consistency with the provided template was a major challenge that this system successfully addressed.

With dedicated student support, we created a master table for the 2023 data that compressed 67,455 cells of information. This table not only underpinned our in-depth analysis but also served as the foundation for constructing an interactive dashboard, ensuring that all insights are both comprehensive and accessible.

Despite these advances, a notable disparity remains in the amount of supplementary metadata available for each grant—for example, the demographic details are still unevenly reported. This variability highlights the ongoing need for more standardized data collection across funding entities.

Transitioning from a model dependent on a full-time analyst to one built on integrative, repeatable automated processes was a critical objective this year. For the 2023 dataset, Data Driven Frederick developed over 5,000 lines of Python code to process and standardize the data. As we shift from manually reviewing each grant to leveraging a scalable, automated system, these processes will become even more essential for timely and accurate analysis.

Looking ahead, we are exploring opportunities to further streamline our workflows—including the potential for direct data pulls from platforms like Foundant. Imagine having this dataset and dashboard update in real time as grants are dispersed—a future we are actively working toward.

Moreover, significant emphasis was placed on ensuring that all data are AI-ready. We have developed beta versions of our system that allow natural language queries, making it possible to request data insights and generate reports on demand. Every table, chart, and dashboard in this report was created using these processes and meticulously verified for completeness and accuracy.

Dr. David Gurzick served as the project lead for this initiative.



# The Big Picture

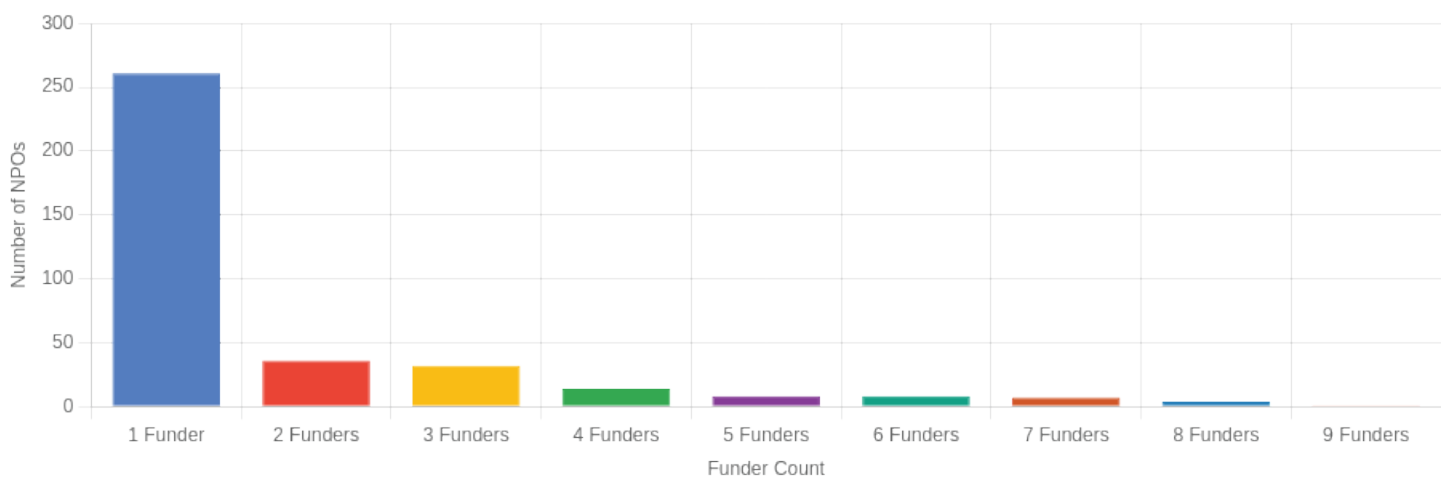
The 2023 grantmaking data supplied by the participating funders show a robust total of \$14.4 million in annual grantmaking. This figure is notably higher than the \$13.1 million reported in 2022 – a difference attributable in part to the addition of direct grantmaking data from the City of Frederick. It is important to note that if one were to consider only the funders that participated in the 2022 report, the total funding would have also shown an upward trend over the prior year.

To place the \$14.4 million in context, consider that Frederick County Government's annual budget remains just under \$1 billion – with roughly half dedicated to the public school system. Yet, many pressing community needs – including affordable housing, healthcare, and behavioral health services – require interventions far beyond what private philanthropy alone can support.

In 2023, the \$14.4 million in grants were awarded to a total of 371 nonprofit organizations and community groups. Although the comprehensive list of organizations that have received funding over the past six years now exceeds 2,000 names, these 371 entities represent a focused subset of that larger ecosystem, underscoring both the scale and the targeted nature of local philanthropic efforts.

## Distribution of Support for Nonprofit Organizations

### Distribution of NPOs by Number of Funders (2023)



Among those 20 organizations with support from six or more funders, many address pressing human needs, including poverty, food and housing insecurity, and mental health services. This pattern of concentrated, collaborative funding for certain critical causes mirrors previous years' findings.

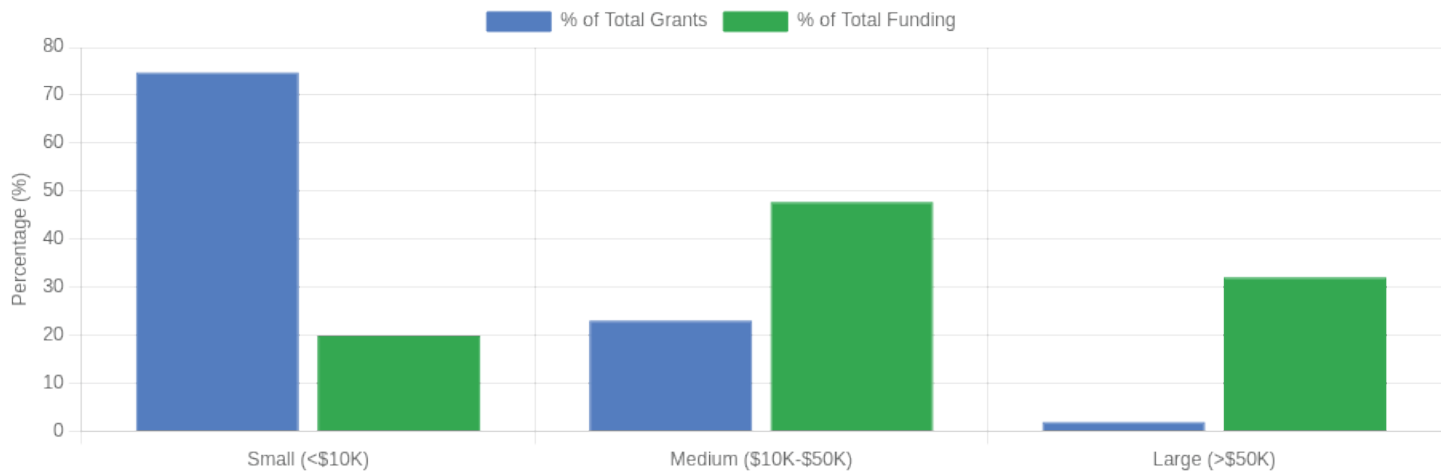
Note that these statistics reflect only the funders currently included in our collaborative. As we add more partners, it will be instructive to observe whether the number of nonprofits relying on a single funder converges, suggesting broader diversification of funding sources, or diverges further—possibly revealing a more fragile ecosystem of nonprofits supported primarily by a single funding stream.



# Grant Size Analysis

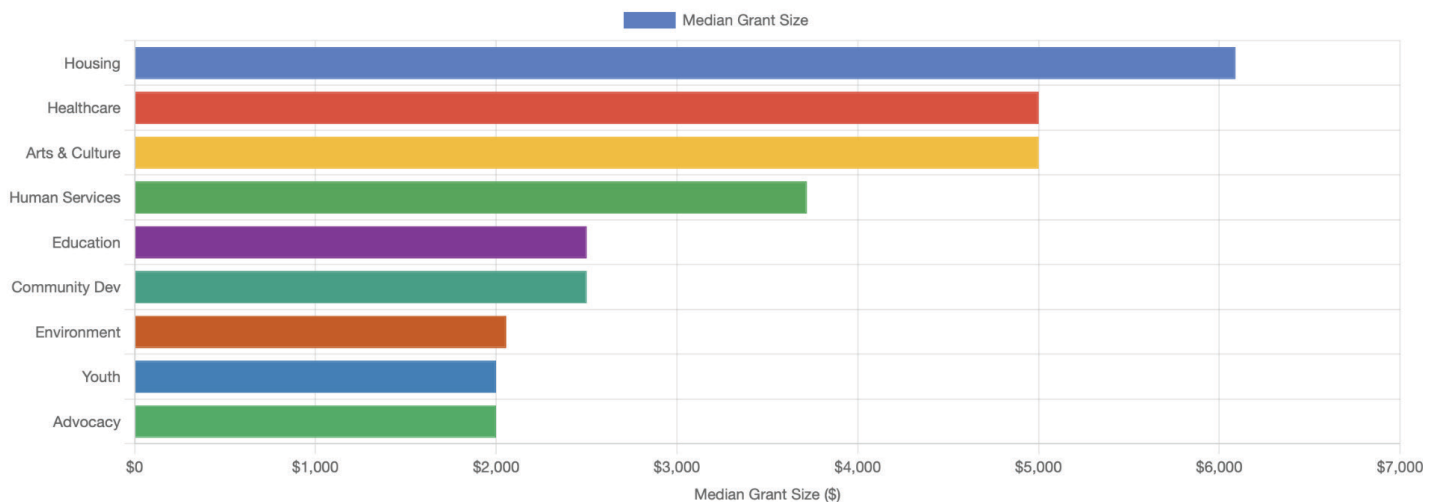
In addition to viewing the number of funders per organization, we can also examine the size of individual grants. The charts below break down 2023 grants into three categories: small (under \$10,000), medium (\$10,000–\$50,000), and large (over \$50,000). We also look at how average grant size varies by organization type—such as healthcare, education, and arts/culture. While many nonprofits receive smaller grants—often from a single funder—larger grants, though fewer in number, account for a considerable portion of total funding.

## Distribution of Grants by Size (2023)



Small: <\$10K | Medium: \$10K–\$50K | Large: >\$50K

## Median Grant Size by Organization Type (2023)



Average Grant Size

**\$10,178**

Median Grant Size

**\$3,111**

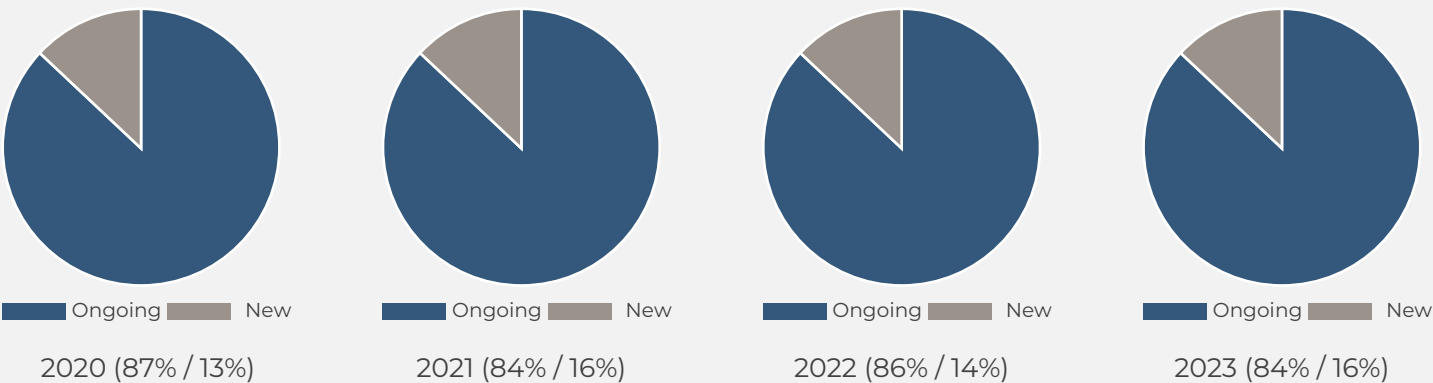
### Grant Size Insights

Overall, about 75 percent of grants fall into the small category (under \$10,000), yet these grants represent only 20 percent of total funding. Medium grants (23 percent of all grants) collectively account for 48 percent of total funding, demonstrating the importance of mid-range awards. Meanwhile, large grants (just 2 percent of all grants) comprise 32 percent of total funding, highlighting the significant impact of high-dollar awards. Organization types were determined by analyzing organization names and their associated topic classifications. While the mean grant size across all organizations is \$10,178, the median is significantly lower at \$3,111, indicating a substantial skew due to outliers. Healthcare organizations have the highest mean grant size (\$19,776) but a median of only \$5,000, while education grants average \$12,550 with a median of \$2,500. Human services organizations obtain the most grants overall (601 grants), with a median grant size of \$3,750. The single largest grant of \$973,898 goes to student scholarships, reflecting the significant investment in education.

## Continuity of Funding

The coding system used for this project allows funders to indicate whether grants support ongoing programs spanning multiple years or new projects introduced in each reporting year. In 2023, a total of \$14.4 million was distributed; however, 80 records (6.1% of total) did not have the Continuity field populated, accounting for approximately \$1.12 million of funding. Continuity for 2023 was calculated solely off of the “continuity” field in the data template. Excluding the unspecified records leaves about \$13.26 million in funds with a known continuity status, of which \$11.10 million (84%) supports ongoing programs and \$2.17 million (16%) funds new initiatives—mirroring the overall patterns seen in previous years. In other words, once the unspecified records are removed, the 2023 ratio of ongoing vs. new funding is very much in line with the proportions from the last three years. This consistency underscores funders’ continued emphasis on sustaining long-standing programs while still investing in new initiatives.

**Continuity of Funding Over the Last Four Years**  
(Excluding any unspecified records for each respective year)



In all four years, ongoing funding consistently constitutes the majority of total grants, reinforcing the crucial role that multi-year commitments play in supporting nonprofits. At the same time, the portion allocated to new projects—ranging between 13% and 16%—provides vital resources for fresh initiatives and emerging needs.



# Grant Classification

Grants are classified along several dimensions: purpose (the functional intent of the funds), scale (the societal or organizational level of impact), and type (the modality used to address community needs). Comparing 2022 and 2023 data reveals important shifts in both how funds are allocated and at which levels of society they aim to make a difference.



## Funding by Purpose

Purpose	Number of Grants	Total Amount	% of Total
Programs/Services	678	\$6,535,910.71	45.4%
General Operations	498	\$4,682,118.74	32.6%
Capacity Building	91	\$1,390,702.77	9.7%
Advocacy/Policy	7	\$228,310.68	1.6%
Planning	13	\$123,957.54	0.9%
All	4	\$111,000.00	0.8%
Research	3	\$47,733.00	0.3%
Evaluation	1	\$10,000.00	0.1%
Unspecified / N/A	139	\$1,252,432.06	8.7%
Grand Total	1,434	\$14,382,165.50	100%

Programs/Services decreased from 54.5 percent of total funding in 2022 to 45.4 percent in 2023, dropping from about 7.15 million dollars to 6.54 million. General Operations also saw a slight decline from 37.2 percent to 32.6 percent, though capacity building more than doubled its share from 3.8 percent to 9.7 percent. These changes reflect a modest shift away from direct programs and operating support toward strengthening organizational infrastructure, even as the overall funding pool grew from 13.12 million to over 14.38 million dollars.

## Intervention Scale

Scale	Number of Grants	Total Amount	% of Total
Individual	443	\$5,021,428.65	34.9%
Organization	433	\$4,875,292.32	33.9%
Family	128	\$1,221,120.00	8.5%
Community	128	\$1,178,516.04	8.2%
Individual;Family; Community	47	\$380,145.39	2.6%
Group	62	\$242,798.35	1.7%
All	10	\$228,056.79	1.6%
Unspecified / N/A	183	\$1,234,807.96	8.6%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,434</b>	<b>\$14,382,165.50</b>	<b>100%</b>

Grants given to serve individuals, declined from nearly 6.0 million dollars (45.7 percent in 2022) to just over 5.0 million dollars (34.9 percent) in 2023, largely due to a recoding of some scholarship grants.

## Intervention Type

This dimension describes whether grants aim to address immediate symptoms (palliative), focus on longer-term or permanent solutions (restorative/curative), or avert future problems (preventative). Many grants do not require an intervention code or are otherwise unclassified.

Type	Number of Grants	Total Amount	% of Total
Palliative	294	\$2,640,329.98	18.4%
Restorative/Curative	141	\$2,064,600.73	14.4%
All	81	\$1,017,874.90	7.1%
Preventative	49	\$789,468.37	5.5%
Palliative;Restorative /Curative	5	\$7,875.00	0.1%
Unspecified / N/A	864	\$7,862,016.52	54.6%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,434</b>	<b>\$14,382,165.50</b>	<b>100%</b>

Palliative interventions declined slightly in share compared to 2022, while restorative/curative remained near 14 percent. Preventative work stayed under 6 percent, suggesting moderate but steady attention to averting future issues. More than half of all grants fall under “Unspecified / N/A,” reflecting ongoing variability in how interventions are coded or whether an intervention type is applicable.



# Funding by Topic/Issue Year Over Year

The funders were able to have codes assigned reflecting the topic/issue most connected to each grant's intended purpose. Within two top-level topics/issues – human needs and education – grants that pertained to more than one sub-topic were classified as having "multiple categories" to avoid duplication.

The following table presents spending by topic/issue from 2020 through 2023. For 2023, 16.1% of grants (\$2,319,082) were not assigned a specific topic/issue categorization. This "Topic Not Specified" category is included to maintain data transparency. In previous years, the data team retroactively assigned categories to grants based on deeper understanding of each grant's purpose, but for 2023, we've preserved the original coding provided by the funders, allowing for clearer identification of uncategorized grants.

## Funding by Topic/Issue 2020-2023

Topic/Issue	2023 Amount	Pct 2023	Pct 2022	Pct 2021	Pct 2020
Human Needs - All Categories	\$7,420,588	51.6%	49.0%	48.4%	52.9%
Education - All Categories	\$2,282,446	15.9%	21.5%	22.2%	16.5%
Topic Not Specified	\$2,319,082	16.1%	-	-	-
Arts and Culture	\$781,901	5.4%	8.8%	9.0%	7.8%
Historic Preservation	\$400,808	2.8%	7.6%	3.0%	1.7%
Public Services - All Categories	\$373,244	2.6%	2.2%	3.4%	1.8%
Personal Development Non-Athletic	\$312,544	2.2%	3.0%	4.5%	4.2%
Religion and Spirituality	\$240,517	1.7%	4.7%	7.0%	3.9%
Other Issues	\$56,861	0.4%	1.2%	0.2%	0.4%
Sports and Athletics	\$48,695	0.3%	0.1%	0.7%	0.3%
Animal Welfare	\$32,049	0.2%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%
Civics, Public Affairs and Governance	\$30,000	0.2%	0.7%	0.3%	0.1%
Unknown	\$30,000	0.2%	-	-	-
Disaster Response	\$22,996	0.2%	-	-	-
Community/Economic Development	\$19,392	0.1%	0.5%	0.8%	9.6%
Environment	\$10,179	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%
Community Development	\$862	0.0%	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$14,382,165</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Of those grants for which a funding topic/issue was coded, the data from 2020 to 2023 consistently show human needs as the top priority for funding. In 2023, human needs funding increased to 51.6% of total funding (from 49.0% in 2022). Education remained the second-largest category at 15.9%, though this represents a decrease from previous years' 21-22% range. Notable shifts from 2022 to 2023 include decreases in arts and culture funding (8.8% to 5.4%), historic preservation (7.6% to 2.8%), and religion and spirituality (4.7% to 1.7%). The persistent gap in environmental funding continues to be evident in the data, with environment-related grants consistently receiving 0.1% of funding in recent years. The following section examines human needs funding in greater detail, providing a breakdown of how this largest funding category is distributed across specific subcategories.

# Human Needs Funding Year Over Year

Human needs funding continues to be the largest category of grantmaking among Frederick funders, totaling \$7,420,588 in 2023, which represents 51.6% of all funding. The following table breaks down this spending into specific issue categories, sorted from highest to lowest 2023 spending. The percentages in this table represent the proportion within the Human Needs category only, not of total funding.

## Human Needs Grants Distribution by Year

Topic/Issue	2023 Amount	Pct 2023	Pct 2022	Pct 2021	Pct 2020
Human Needs-Multiple	\$1,890,227	25.5%	23.6%	15.0%	18.5%
Human Needs-Health-Physical	\$1,865,590	25.1%	26.0%	36.1%	26.9%
Human Needs-Housing	\$892,393	12.0%	14.4%	13.5%	15.3%
Human Needs-Food	\$601,691	8.1%	3.5%	5.9%	8.3%
Human Needs-Health-Mental	\$436,747	5.9%	8.0%	5.4%	5.0%
Human Needs-Family Stability	\$310,947	4.2%	2.3%	4.4%	0.1%
Human Needs-Other Income Supports/Benefits	\$279,405	3.8%	1.0%	0.9%	0.3%
Human Needs-Personal Safety++	\$231,333	3.1%	4.0%	3.2%	5.4%
Human Needs-Health-Substance Use/Addiction	\$221,979	3.0%	4.4%	4.0%	7.1%
Human Needs-Employment/Job Training	\$203,452	2.7%	2.9%	1.4%	1.4%
Human Needs-Transportation	\$191,577	2.6%	3.2%	4.5%	2.4%
Human Needs-Personcare+	\$180,415	2.4%	4.1%	3.4%	4.4%
Human Needs-Human Rights	\$76,122	1.0%	0.4%	0.7%	1.2%
Human Needs-Services Navigation	\$22,049	0.3%	0.7%	0.6%	0.9%
Human Needs-Financial Services*	\$16,661	0.2%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%
Human Needs-Person Hosting	\$0	0.0%	1.4%	3.9%	0.8%
<b>Human Needs Total</b>	<b>\$7,420,588</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

+Personcare includes childcare, eldercare, and care for persons with disabilities. ++Personal Safety includes services for persons suffering from abuse. \*Category not separately recognized in the 2020 and 2021 data.

Looking at year-over-year trends in human needs funding, the "Human Needs-Multiple" category increased from 23.6% in 2022 to 25.5% in 2023, potentially reflecting more grants that address interconnected needs. These changes suggest evolving community priorities and how funders are increasingly supporting initiatives that span multiple human needs subcategories rather than focusing on isolated issues.





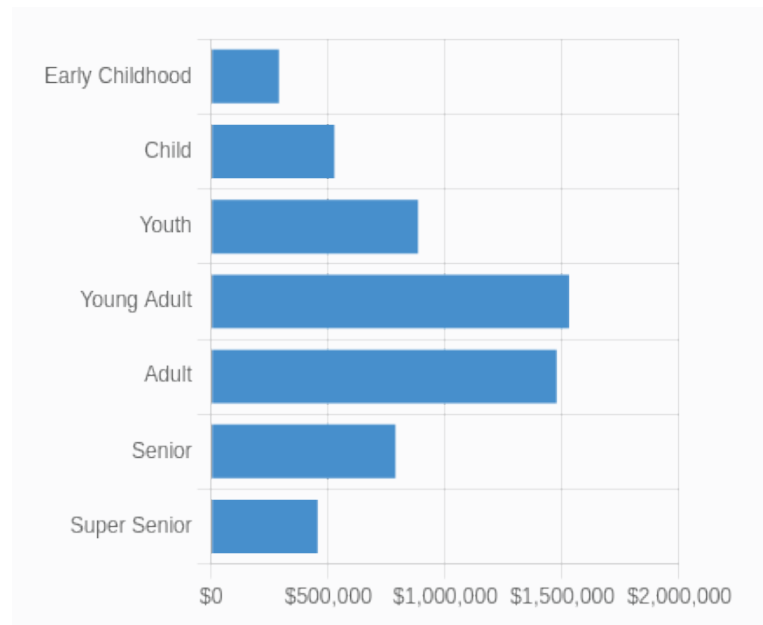
# Demographic Characteristics

## Funding Distribution

This section highlights grants that **explicitly indicate** a demographic focus, omitting any coded as “No,” “Not Applicable,” “Unknown,” “Not Provided,” or blank. By focusing on these subcategories, we see how funders address specific age groups, ethnic communities, and other demographic factors in Frederick County.

### Age Group

Subcategory	Amount
Early Childhood	\$290,192
Child	\$526,340
Youth	\$883,898
Young Adult	\$1,529,765
Adult	\$1,476,374
Senior	\$787,246
Super Senior	\$455,265



These grants distinguish multiple life stages, from Early Childhood through Super Senior. Young Adult and Adult command the largest allocations among specified groups, while Youth and Senior each hold notable but smaller shares.

### Ethnicity

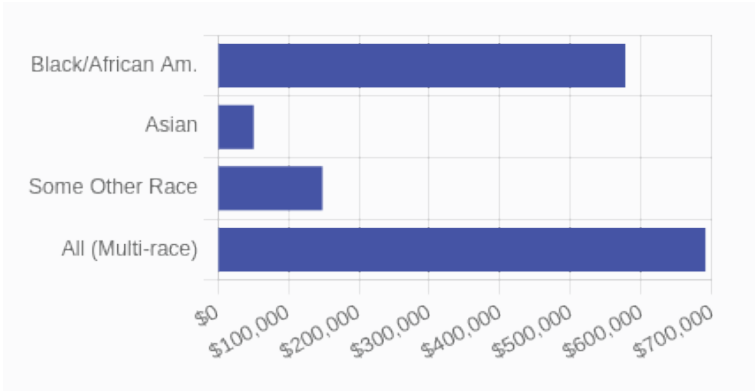
Subcategory	Amount
Hispanic/LatinX	\$587,939
All	\$419,267
None	\$511,130



Hispanic/LatinX emerges as the largest specifically identified ethnic group, reflecting targeted outreach to these communities. All denotes a multi-ethnic scope, and None or None; No indicate no ethnic specification beyond the broader population.

## Race

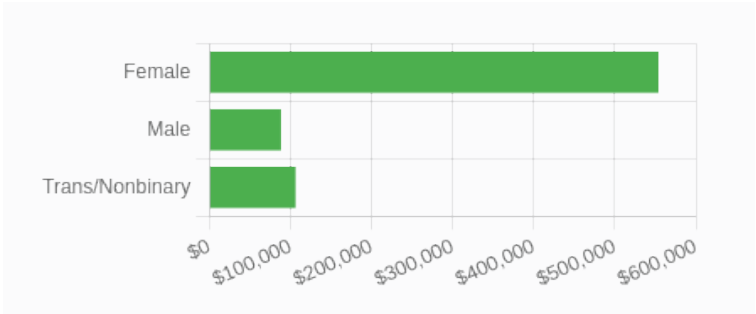
Subcategory	Amount
Black/African Am.	\$577,550
Asian	\$51,486
Some Other Race	\$148,700
All (Multi-race)	\$690,458



This subset focuses on Black/African Am., Asian, or other race-based communities, plus All (Multi-race) for multi-racial approaches.

## Gender

Subcategory	Amount
Female	\$554,116
Male	\$88,611
Trans/Nonbinary	\$106,498



Female-targeted grants exceed male- or transgender/nonbinary-focused programs, though many awards remain gender-neutral outside these subcategories.

## Sexual Orientation

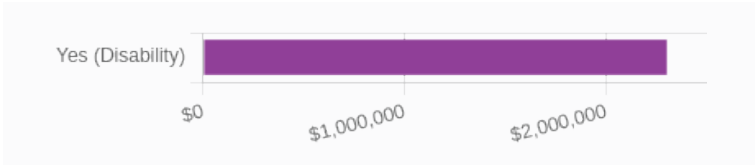
Subcategory	Amount
LGBTQ+	\$382,557



A modest but distinct set of grants specifically support LGBTQ+ populations, indicating direct targeting in this area.

## Disability

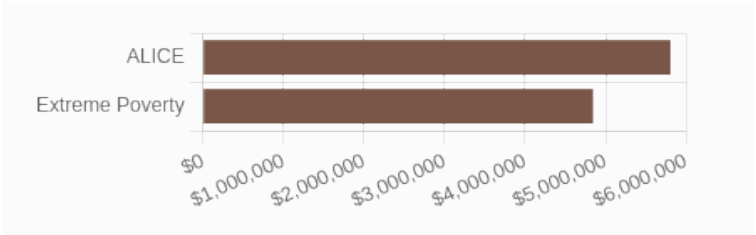
Subcategory	Amount
Yes (Disability)	\$2,301,267



Disability-focused grants account for about 16% of these specified funds, emphasizing accessible services for residents with special needs.

## Economic Status

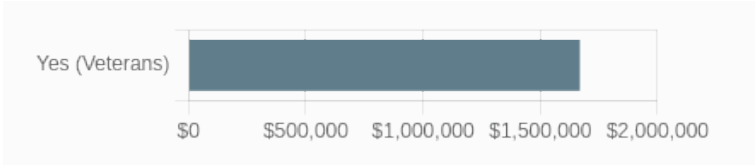
Subcategory	Amount
ALICE	\$5,809,283
Extreme Poverty	\$4,846,027



ALICE (40.4%) and Extreme Poverty (33.7%) are central to these economic subcategories, indicating strong focus on financially vulnerable populations.

## Veterans

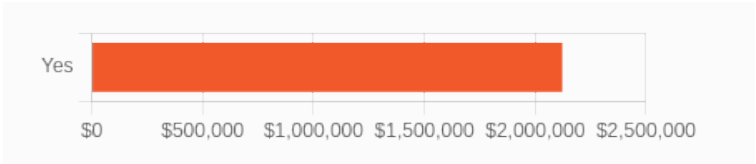
Subcategory	Amount
Yes (Veterans)	\$1,669,177



Veteran-focused programs comprise 11.6% of these targeted grants, highlighting increased attention to service members and their families.

## Non-English Speakers

Subcategory	Amount
Yes	\$2,122,736



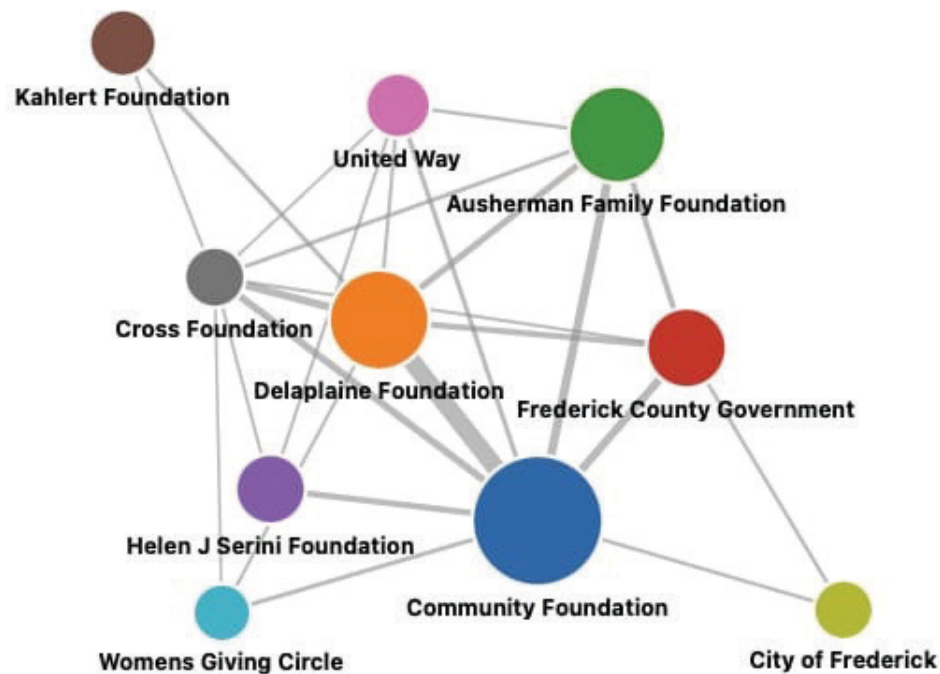
Around 14.8% of these grants support non-English speakers, often intersecting with race, ethnicity, or poverty subcategories.

Taken as a whole, these specified categories illustrate how funders in Frederick County tailor certain grants to address distinct demographic needs, from early childhood to veterans, from Hispanic/LatinX communities to ALICE households. While many awards remain broad or do not report such details, these targeted investments show an intentional effort to support a range of vulnerable and diverse populations.



# Analysis of Common Grantees

As part of the 2023 analysis, we examined how frequently and extensively funders engage to support common grantees. This social network approach identifies connections (or “ties”) between funders that fund the same organization. The resulting diagram provides a visual snapshot of how funders converge around particular causes or groups, and how some funders serve as central nodes in the county’s philanthropic ecosystem.



Funder collaboration network diagram showing major connections.

## From this analysis, several key insights emerge:

- ✓ **The Community Foundation and Delaplaine Foundation** have the highest number of grantees in common, jointly funding 28 organizations with a combined \$2.3 million.
- ✓ **The Community Foundation** serves as the central hub in the network, providing joint support alongside all other major funders.
- ✓ **The Cross Foundation** demonstrates an exceptional frequency of funding common grantees with 8 of the 11 other major funders.

Overall, this network map shows that funders' work is interconnected particularly in areas like mental health and homelessness. Certain funders emerge as key connectors, with a large number of shared funding relationships across nonprofit organizations. As new funders join and data collection improves, we can anticipate a more detailed map of how philanthropic dollars flow across Frederick County’s nonprofit ecosystem.

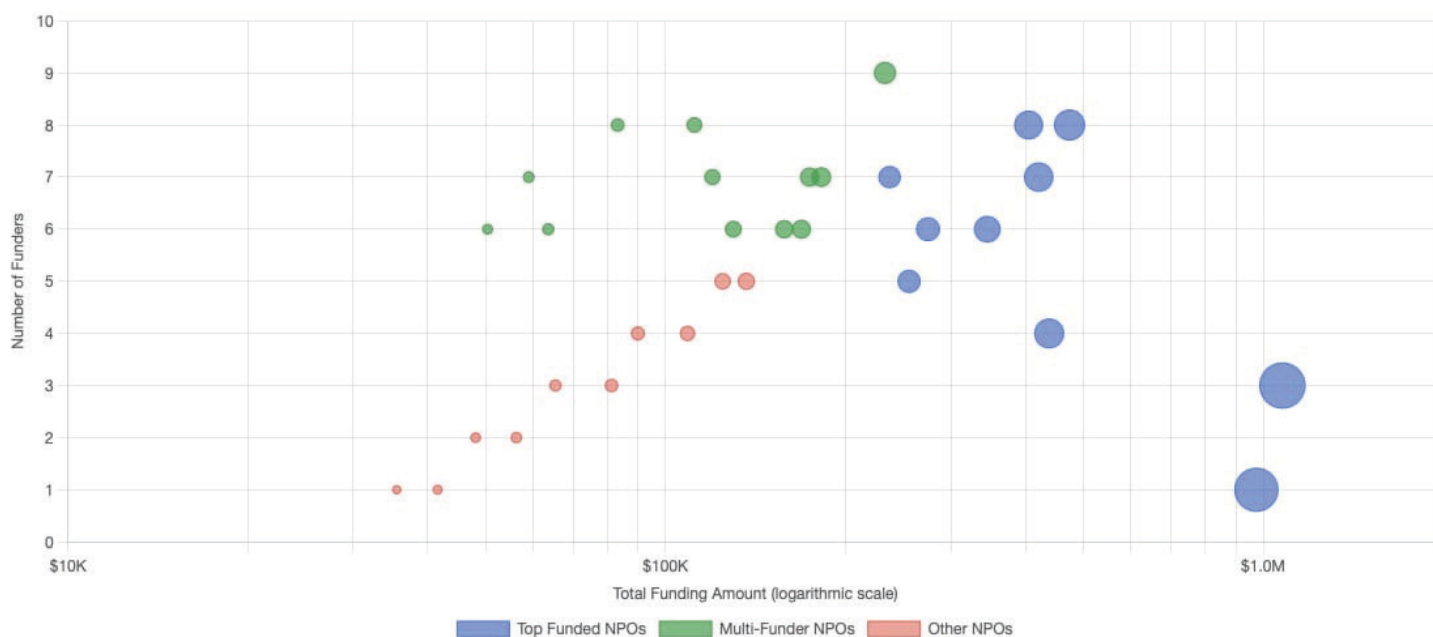
## NPO Funding Diversity Diagram

In addition to understanding funder-to-funder connections, we can also examine how nonprofits themselves receive funding from multiple sources. The bubble diagram below explores the relationship between organization size (total funding), number of funders, and funding concentration. Each bubble's size represents total funding:

- ✓ **Top right quadrant:** Large organizations with diverse funding sources
- ✓ **Bottom right quadrant:** Large organizations with concentrated funding
- ✓ **Top left quadrant:** Small organizations with diverse funding sources
- ✓ **Bottom left quadrant:** Small organizations with concentrated funding

### NPO Size vs. Funding Diversity

This visualization shows the relationship between organization size (total funding received), number of funders supporting each organization, and funding concentration. Bubble size represents total funding amount.



Blue bubbles = Top 10 funded NPOs; Green = Other NPOs with 6+ funders;  
Red = Representative sample of smaller NPOs.

## Several key observations from the bubble diagram:

- ✓ The most heavily funded NPOs display distinctly different funding diversity patterns, indicating that large total funding does not necessarily equate to many funders.
- ✓ Organizations with diverse funding (5+ funders) tend to receive 42% more total funding than those with fewer funders but a similar scope.
- ✓ Small organizations (under \$50K in funding by the collective) represent 74.8% of all grants but account for only 19.9% of total funding, reflecting a skew toward larger NPOs in overall dollar amounts.

Together, these visualizations show collaboration from both the funder perspective (through the social network diagram) and the nonprofit perspective (through the bubble diagram). Funders often converge on mental health and homelessness, forming strong inter-funder ties, while nonprofits with multiple funders tend to achieve higher total funding and stability. As the Frederick County philanthropic landscape continues to evolve, these complementary views will help stakeholders better understand where resources flow and where new opportunities for collaboration may arise.





# Conclusion and Next Steps

The 2023 data illustrate a philanthropic landscape in Frederick County that is both maturing and diversifying. More funders are working together—evidenced by an increase in multi-funder support for certain nonprofits—and a greater emphasis on new initiatives points to a willingness to adapt to emerging community needs. At the same time, many grants continue to address ongoing projects and human needs that remain high priorities across the region.

A key limitation of this report is that it does not yet encompass all potential sources of philanthropic or government funding in Frederick County. Engaging additional funders—especially those who manage significant grantmaking budgets—will further enhance the accuracy and utility of this annual analysis. The inclusion of the City of Frederick in this year’s dataset is a meaningful step forward, and continued outreach to other stakeholders will help to paint a more complete picture in subsequent reports.

Looking ahead, the participating funders plan to refine their common coding system, broaden collaboration with new partners, and explore real-time data sharing methods. By strengthening these data-driven practices, Frederick County’s philanthropic community can better align resources, identify gaps, and address pressing challenges—ultimately improving outcomes for nonprofits and the residents they serve.





**FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

Jessica Fitzwater  
*County Executive*

March 19, 2025

Dear Philanthropic Round Table Hosts and Attendees:

Thank you for the work you do on behalf of the residents of Frederick County. “Gaps Analysis of Philanthropy in Frederick County, Maryland: 2023 Report” is an impressive, continued step in understanding the nonprofit funding landscape in our county.

Although only 2023 payment installments under the Frederick County Community Partnership Grants were analyzed as part of this important report, I want you to have a snapshot of the total funding provided to nonprofits by and through Frederick County Government. The sources of these dollars include local, state and federal funds.

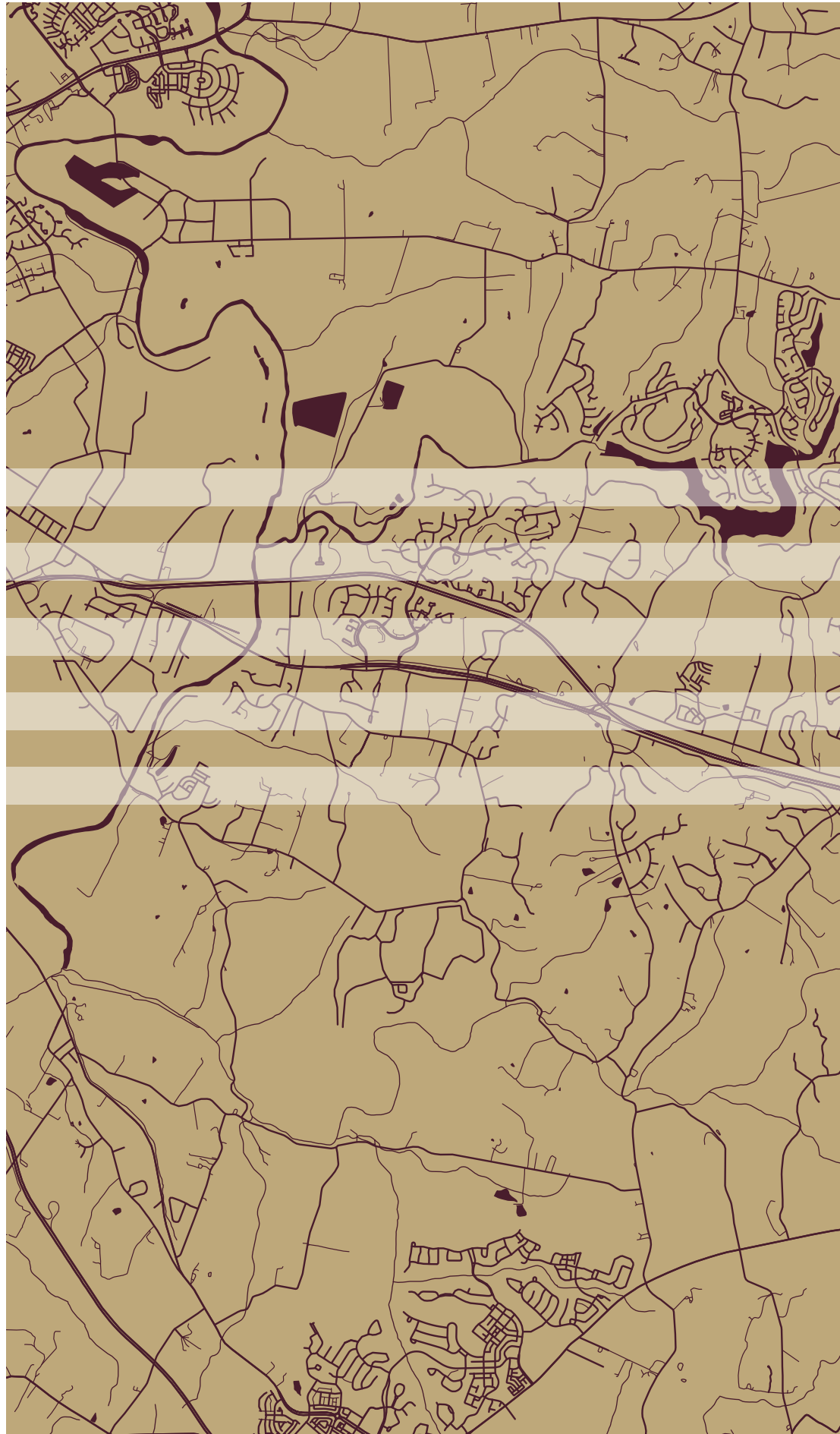
January-December 2023 Payments to Nonprofits:	
General Fund- Family Services Division	\$ 92,753.00
General Fund- Community Partnership Grants	1,156,647.00
General Fund- Non Departmental, Non County Agencies	372,335.00
General Fund- Miscellaneous	175,000.00
Housing Initiative Fund	162,500.00
Grants Fund	9,795,317.94
	<u>\$ 11,754,552.94</u>

Frederick County is fortunate to have so many funders willing to support and collaborate with local nonprofits. The information provided today most certainly will guide future funding decisions and help to address community-wide concerns revealed in recent needs assessments.

Sincerely,

  
Jessica Fitzwater  
County Executive

*Frederick County: Rich History, Bright Future*  
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For more information  
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Director, Ausherman  
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