

EQUITY INNOVATION FUND

Advancing Equity Through Innovation

United Way of Racine County’s Equity Innovation Fund supported projects, programs, and solutions that used innovative strategies to reduce disparities, improve outcomes and empower members of historically marginalized populations. The fund was created to advance equity and drive innovative, community-focused solutions.

The Equity Innovation Fund was made possible through the generosity of MacKenzie Scott and the support of Racine County.

The final grants were distributed in April 2024, and all grantees successfully completed their projects by July 2025.



The Equity Innovation Fund provided grants to 32 organizations, supporting 34 programs and projects.



43,438 Racine County residents were served.

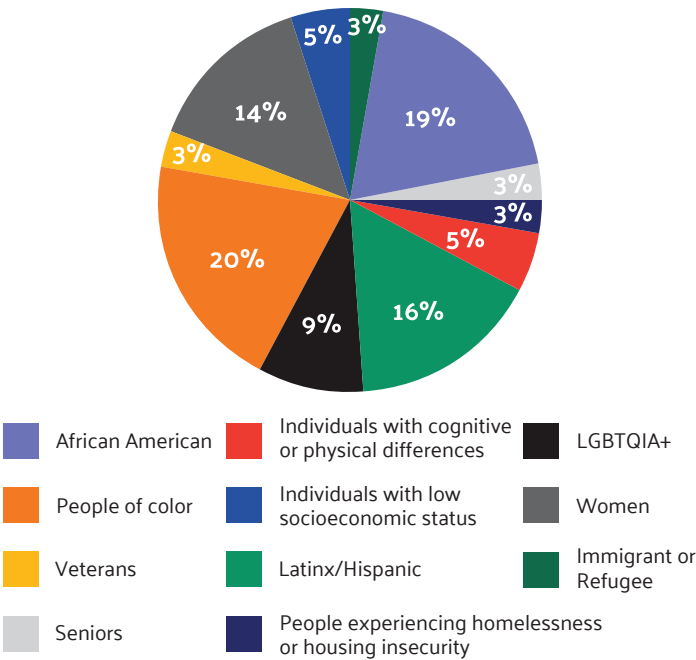


Over 80% of projects and programs were facilitated by individuals from historically marginalized populations.



Over 40% of Equity Innovation grantees were first-time recipients of United Way of Racine County funding.

Marginalized Populations Served



Grantees indicated in their application which marginalized population their project would serve. Projects may serve more than one population.

Improving Equity Within the Process

Many Equity Innovation Fund applicants were new to the grant process, so United Way of Racine County provided dedicated support to ensure equity and success. Each applicant was paired with a staff member who guided them from proposal development through project completion. Funded organizations were also assigned a coach—either a United Way staff member or volunteer—who served as a mentor and accountability partner, meeting with grantees quarterly to review progress, celebrate successes and address challenges.

Explore past reports about projects funded through the Equity Innovation Fund by visiting UnitedWayRacine.org/EIF or scanning the QR code.



Key Focus Areas

The Equity Innovation Fund supported projects, programs and solutions in one of more of the following areas:

- K-12 academic and/or social emotional success
- Individual independence
- Individual and/or family stability
- Early childhood and kindergarten readiness

(Note: No projects selected this focus area)

K-12 Academic and/or Social Emotional Success

Programs and projects that helped students thrive in school by improving academic achievement, strengthening emotional well being and building the skills needed for positive relationships and lifelong learning.

- 92% of 7th graders who completed the Love is Respect curriculum reported increased knowledge about dating violence
- 96% of visitors to art exhibitions by artists of color and participants in educational outreach initiatives reported gaining a better understanding of Mexican American culture
- 91% of youth who attended leadership development conferences reported increased confidence in obtaining and maintaining employment



Individual Independence

Projects and programs that supported individuals to develop skills and resources needed to live self-sufficiently, empowering them to make decisions, achieve personal goals and manage daily responsibilities independently.

- 94% of youth participating in financial literacy classes opened a bank account and 93% reported using a budget regularly
- 91% of adults living with mental health challenges who participated in technology classes reported they can now use tablets, TVs, and laptops with little to no assistance
- Over 95% of participants in a prison reentry program did not return to prison or receive new charges, with over 70% obtaining gainful employment



Individual and/or Family Stability

Projects and programs that ensured individuals and families have the ability to meet their basic needs, such as maintaining safe and consistent housing, achieving financial security, and accessing the resources necessary to support their overall well-being.

- 825 rides were provided for prenatal care and employment-related transportation
- 410 homes furnished for families transitioning out of homelessness
- 700 individuals received legal support, resulting in increased safety and stability

