

GRANT  
MAKERS  
IN  
HEALTH

40

AND FUTURE  
FOCUSED

2022

Year in Review

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LETTER FROM THE CEO

## Implementing a Bold New Philanthropic Vision for Advancing Health Equity and Public Policy

2022 was an extraordinary year for Grantmakers In Health (GIH). We celebrated 40 years of supporting health philanthropy and began implementation of an ambitious five-year [strategic plan](#). It was also the year we returned to in-person meetings and conferences, enabling us to learn, connect, and grow together once again. The energy and excitement of gathering with peers after two years permeated GIH's [2022 Annual Conference on Health Philanthropy](#) and [Fall Forum](#), as well as smaller gatherings.

As you will see in the coming pages, we made progress in implementing our strategic plan. Much of what we did focused on the internal work needed to organize ourselves and our resources to support implementation of the plan. We aligned GIH's programming with our five new focus areas—1) Access and Quality, 2) Community Engagement and Empowerment, 3) Health Equity and Social Justice, 4) Philanthropic Growth and Impact, and 5) Population Health—and developed a process through which GIH will use its voice to advance our vision of better health for all through better philanthropy.

We also drafted GIH's first policy agenda. The elements of the agenda are based on feedback we received throughout the year during focus groups and key interviews with our Funding Partners and others focused on improving the health and well-being of everyone in the U.S. These conversations helped us understand your policy priorities and how GIH can effectively engage policymakers to advance policies and programs that promote better health and reduce inequities.

We closed the year excited by the opportunity that a recent gift from MacKenzie Scott presents to us. This is a critical time for health and public health in the U.S., as well as for GIH and health funders. The need for philanthropy to make long-term investments to advance health outcomes and achieve health equity has never been more evident. We are extremely grateful for your support of GIH in 2022 and look forward to partnering with you in 2023 and beyond to advance better health for all through better philanthropy.

Sincerely,



Cara V. James  
President and CEO  
Grantmakers In Health



# 2022 Overview

For more than 40 years, Grantmakers In Health has supported health funders of all sizes and interests through education, networking, and leadership. GIH convenes Funding Partners through our annual conference, Fall Forum, webinars, and other meetings; helps CEOs and foundation executives learn and connect through invitation-only CEO working group meetings; invests in the next generation of philanthropic leaders through the Terrance Keenan Institute and other workshops and professional development opportunities; expands the health philanthropy knowledgebase through publications, surveys, reports, and articles; and offers direct one-on-one strategic and technical advice. Our executive leadership team and program staff are experts in health philanthropy and are an important resource to Funding Partners, the media, and the public.

The following is an overview of the many services and products GIH offered throughout the year. The full 2022 GIH product directory is [available online](#).

# BY THE NUMBERS



**159**

Total Products



**50**

Written Works



**1,817**

Total Attendees

## Products

**60** Annual Conference Sessions

**33** Views From the Field

**32** Webinars and Virtual Convenings

**11** Fall Forum Sessions

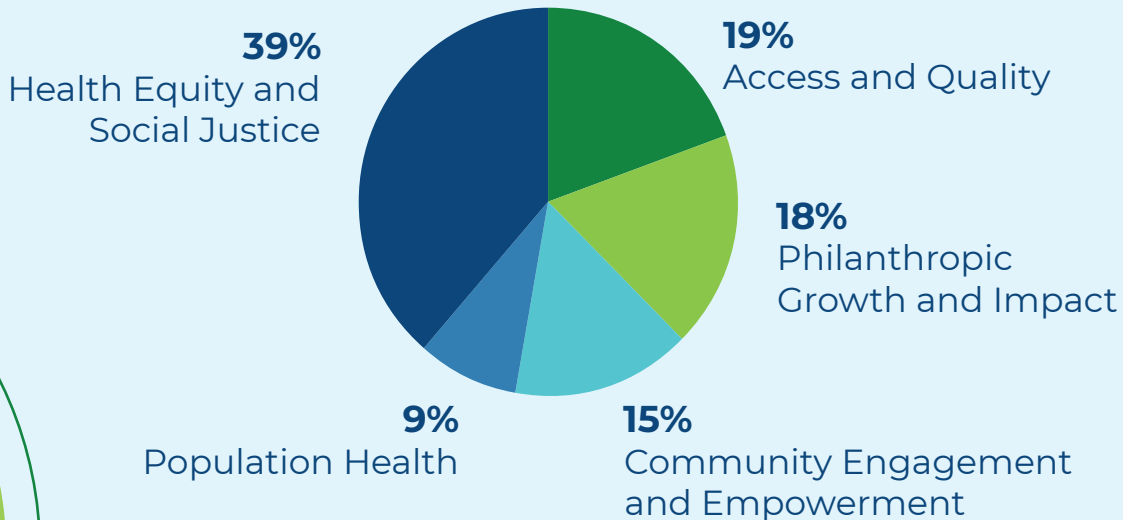
**8** Grantmaker Profiles

**6** In-Person Meetings

**6** President's Letters

**3** Reports and Surveys

## Products by Focus Area







## In-Person Meetings

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted our ability to host in-person gatherings for nearly two years, but 2022 saw the full return of our two marquee events—the annual conference and Fall Forum—along with the biennial Terrance Keenan Institute convening, Public-Private Collaborations in Rural Health meeting, and the addition of a successful new cosponsored summit focused on birth equity:

- [10th Annual Public-Private Collaborations in Rural Health Meeting](#)  
June 2–3 | Washington, DC
- [GIH Health Annual Conference on Health Philanthropy, 40 Years Together and Focused on the Future](#)  
June 27–29 | Miami, Florida
- [2022 Terrance Keenan Institute for Emerging Leaders in Health Philanthropy](#)  
October 12–13 | Washington, DC
- [Birth Equity Funders' Summit, It's Time for Collaborative Action on Birth Equity](#)  
October 25–27 | Atlanta, Georgia
- [GIH Fall Forum, Better Health Policy Through Stronger Communities](#)  
November 16–18 | Washington, DC

## Webinars and Virtual Convenings

In addition to our in-person events, GIH offered 30 [webinars, working groups, and other virtual convenings](#) covering a range of topics from rural workforce needs to gender-affirming medical care to climate's effects on health. These online meetings offer deep dives into their subject areas, provide access to experts both

inside and outside of health philanthropy, extend the knowledgebase available to Funding Partners, and serve as opportunities for networking.

Webinar and virtual convenings highlights include:

- [Disability Justice: What Funders Can Do to Address Disparities, Equity, and Health](#)  
January 27
- [Aligning Foundation Communications to Restore Trust in Public Health](#)  
May 23
- [Millions of Children Still at Risk of Losing Health Insurance Coverage](#)  
May 26
- [Advancing State Data Collection on Opioid Treatment](#)  
July 13
- [Local Impact Investing Models for Health Conversion Foundations](#)  
August 26
- [Responding to the Monkeypox Virus Outbreak](#)  
September 7
- [The Future of Access to Reproductive Health Services](#)  
September 28
- [Leveraging Federal Funding for Climate Justice in Midwestern Frontline Communities](#)  
*Cosponsored by The Climate and Energy Funders Group (CEFG), the Health and Environmental Funders Network (HEFN), the Neighborhood Funders Group's Midwest Organizing Infrastructure Funders, the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Funders (SAFSF), and The Funders Network (TFN)*  
September 30
- [Gender-Affirming Care 101](#)  
October 28
- [White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health—Funder Debrief Working Session](#)  
*Cosponsored by Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Funders*  
November 9
- [Opportunities for Philanthropic Investment in Rural Connectivity and Broadband](#)  
*Cosponsored by Appalachia Funders Network, with support from United Philanthropy Forum*  
December 7

ABOVE: GIH staff members Samantha Ostenso, Lana Jacobus, Monique Jackson, and Meg Senecal.

## Reports, Surveys, and Publications

Every year, GIH produces original [reports, surveys, and other publications](#) on important health philanthropy issues. These publications help Funding Partners understand critical health issues and develop a deep understanding of the current state of play in policy and program implementation.

Publication highlights include:

- [Funder Approaches to Youth Behavioral Health Equity](#)
- [Civic Engagement Is a Social Determinant of Health](#)
- [The Impact of COVID-19 on Aging and Older Adults Grantmaking Survey](#)

## GIH Bulletin

The [GIH Bulletin](#) newsletter delivers the latest news from the field, including articles on timely topics and early information on grants and awards, reports, transitions, and requests for proposals. It also features a regular letter from GIH President and CEO Cara V. James, exploring GIH's priorities and lifting up broader topics that health funders should consider.

President's Letter highlights include:

- [Now More than Ever We Need Philanthropy to Prioritize Health Equity](#)  
April 18
- [Rural Road Trip Showcases Resiliency, Collaboration, Innovation, and the Need for a Shared Vision for Rural Health in the United States](#)  
September 19
- [Committing to the Long Game of Advancing Better Health Through Public Policy](#)  
October 18
- [Achieving Better Health for All Requires Transforming the Way We Do Business](#)  
December 5

## Views From the Field

As part of the GIH Bulletin, we invite Funding Partners; Philanthropy Support Partners; grantees; federal, state, and local government officials; and other experts to contribute to our ongoing [Views from the Field](#) series.

These articles provide detailed learnings gleaned from on-the-ground work to help shape philanthropy's investments in health; examine critical issues like health equity, social justice, and climate; explore strategies for community engagement and empowerment; and serve as a forum for funders to discuss topics that they see as critical in the field's shared goal of achieving better health for all.

Views from the Field highlights include:

- [The Power of Partnerships in Improving Health Care Access and Outcomes](#)  
*Kelly Brittain, Senior Program Officer, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation*  
January 21
- [On the Precipice: Why Health Funders Should Care about Abortion Access](#)  
*Christine Clark, Program Officer in Gender Equity and Governance, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation*  
April 14
- [Will We Hear the Voices of the LGBTQ Community?](#)  
*M. Ryan Barker, Vice President of Responsive Philanthropy, Missouri Foundation for Health*  
June 16
- [Promoting Health Equity and Combating Racism Through Health Policy](#)  
*David Blumenthal, MD, MPP, Commonwealth Fund*  
*Laurie Zephyrin, MD, MPH, MBA, Commonwealth Fund*  
November 23

## Grantmaker Focus

Our ongoing [Grantmaker Focus](#) series showcases GIH Funding Partners, offering a look into their funding priorities and unique approaches to investing in health. The series provides important insights into how Funding Partners vary based on budget, geographical location, and mission focus.

Grantmaker Focus profiles include:

- [Florida Blue Foundation](#)
- [Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts](#)
- [From Now On Fund](#)
- [Merck Foundation](#)
- [Metro Health Foundation](#)
- [Movember Foundation](#)
- [Novo Nordisk, Inc.](#)
- [Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland](#)

# Strategic Plan Implementation

On January 1, 2022, Grantmakers In Health kicked off implementation of our newly released [2025 strategic plan](#), using five new focus areas—1) Access and Quality, 2) Community Engagement and Empowerment, 3) Health Equity and Social Justice, 4) Philanthropic Growth and Impact, and 5) Population Health—as building blocks to advance our vision of better health for all through better philanthropy. The plan is organized around four strategic pillars which center its partner-centric approach as a hub for philanthropy, emphasize GIH’s leadership in the field, and bolster GIH as a high-performing organization. The development and implementation of the plan is informed by input from Funding Partners and others across the health sector. We are grateful to our Funding Partners and the broader GIH community for their support of the plan. The emotional as well as financial support will allow GIH to better serve Funding Partners and the field more broadly, as well as deepen our impact.

During the year, GIH made changes—both big and small—to how it operates, shifted the critical lenses through which it views its work and communicates its story, and laid the groundwork for launching its inaugural policy agenda in 2023.

What follows is a glimpse into everything GIH has accomplished so far—we look forward to continuing to hear from Funding Partners as we move into the second year of the strategic plan in 2023.

## Transition to New Focus Areas

Previously, GIH’s work centered around 12 issue areas representing a broad range of topics in health and philanthropy. As noted in the strategic plan, we learned that we can better effect change and increase our organizational impact by focusing more deeply on a smaller set of issues that are inclusive of the breadth of funder priorities. To do this, we have identified five new focus areas for GIH’s programming. We view them as the essential building blocks for achieving better health and believe that regardless of the specific topic, focusing on these key areas increases our likelihood of improving health outcomes. They are:

- Access and Quality
- Community Engagement and Empowerment
- Health Equity and Social Justice
- Philanthropic Growth and Impact
- Population Health

We have begun the process of transitioning into the new focus areas. This involves folding our existing activities into the new rubric, while developing goals and programs specific to our updated priorities. What follows is a look at how that work has progressed, with examples of the types of programming we are developing in each area—the full list of GIH products by focus area is available in the 2022 [GIH product directory](#).





## Access and Quality

*GIH's Access and Quality programming focuses on improving health by expanding access to quality affordable health services. GIH's work in this area includes topics like health coverage, the safety net, and workforce development.*

Perhaps the most significant 2022 policy development affecting access and quality was the United States Supreme Court's *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision overturning the right to abortion care codified in *Roe v. Wade*. Even prior to the ruling, we understood how much of an impact *Dobbs* would have, so we invited Funding Partner Christine Clark of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to author "[On the Precipice: Why Health Funders Should Care about Abortion Access](#)," a Views from the Field article providing a look at the landscape of declining access to reproductive health care in many states.

Other work on reproductive health access included a webinar about improving equitable outcomes by [expanding the doula workforce](#) and an [online discussion](#) about the *Dobbs* decision's effects on reproductive health services across the country.

The impact of the pandemic continues to have a disproportionate and profound impact on our nation's youth, especially as it relates to their mental health and access to care. In recognition of the continued importance of this topic GIH offered programming and content on [filling youth mental health gaps](#) by funding innovation

and how millions of children are still at risk of [losing their health insurance coverage](#), hosted a screening and discussion of the documentary [Hiding in Plain Sight: Youth Mental Illness](#) at the annual conference. GIH also published [Funder Approaches to Youth Behavioral Health Equity](#), the results of a survey of Funding Partners to better understand how health foundations are addressing youth behavioral health.

The second day of the GIH Fall Forum focused on Medicaid and CHIP as vehicles for advancing health access, particularly as the COVID-19 federal public health emergency comes to an end. This included Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure's remarks at the Lauren LeRoy Health Policy Lecture and a panel discussion featuring CMS staff and other Medicaid and CHIP experts.



Cara V. James, President and CEO of GIH, Admiral Rachel Levine, Assistant Secretary for Health for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and Michelle Larkin, Vice President of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and GIH Board Chair.



# Community Engagement and Empowerment

*GIH's Community Engagement and Empowerment programming focuses on working collaboratively with communities to address issues affecting their well-being while promoting shared decisionmaking, authority, and power.*

Community engagement and empowerment is an area of increased emphasis across health philanthropy, and GIH worked throughout 2022 to build funder knowledge around partnering with and listening to communities. We intentionally sought to incorporate community voices throughout our programming, including at the Birth Equity Funders Summit, Fall Forum, annual conference, and numerous webinars. We also helped funders connect with others to share lessons learned.

Eleven sessions at the 2022 GIH annual conference concentrated on community engagement, including two site visits focused on community projects in Miami, discussions on engaging with local congregations, building local news media infrastructure for [accurate and reliable health information](#), a networking breakfast on community power-building, and much more.

The 2022 GIH Fall Forum, [Better Health Through Stronger Communities](#), centered community in its programming, with the third day exploring how community organizing is an essential strategy for health funders seeking to build community power and advance health and racial equity. We kicked off

the day with a look at how community organizing is structured. This was followed by an interactive session inviting attendees to participate in active listening exercises and learn first-hand how organizers engage communities, build trust, and support agency.

Another Fall Forum panel discussion looked at the shifting landscape for organizers, including changing dynamics, emerging opportunities, and future directions. This was followed by a small group exercise where funders discussed a variety of topics related to philanthropy's role in building community power, such as changing organizational culture to elevate power building, community-centered approaches to evaluation, and aligning community organizing with other power building strategies.

In addition to the annual conference and Fall Forum sessions, GIH published "[Activating the Potential of Residents to Lead Community Transformation, Collaboratively](#)," a Views from the Field article on the creation of a [collaboration lab in Virginia's Dan River region](#), an immersive leadership development experience that built collaborative leadership across sectors.



Reverend Alvin Herring, Executive Director of Faith in Action speaking at the Fall Forum.





## Health Equity and Social Justice

*GIH's Health Equity and Social Justice programming focuses on ensuring that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to achieve their highest level of health regardless of race and ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity, disability, or other determining factors like socioeconomic status. GIH's work in this area includes applying a health equity lens to all our focus areas and explores the partnerships, programs, and policy changes necessary to eliminate disparities; addresses the social determinants of health; and institutionalizes internal diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.*

Health equity and social justice continued to be at the center of much of GIH's work in 2022, intersecting with programming across all our other focus areas. Nowhere was this more evident than during the 2022 GIH annual conference in Miami, Florida, which featured [18 sessions](#) devoted to the area.

Racial equity is a critically important health equity and social justice topic for GIH, with conference sessions, webinars, and website articles all devoted to it. Highlights of this work include: Centering Black Voices: A Case Study in Philanthropic Reparations, an annual conference session designed by the REACH Foundation and Rooted Strategy; a health equity funders networking call; and a [Views from the Field article](#) about how local health departments can commit to transformative change through racial healing among others.

GIH also produced a considerable amount of programming about LGBTQ health equity throughout the year. One key annual conference plenary session, [LGBTQ and Racial Equity: Two Sides of the Same Coin](#), covered recent policy threats affecting LGBTQ and BIPOC communities and explored how philanthropy can help build alliances that change systems and advance health equity for all.

We were honored to welcome Admiral Rachel Levine, Assistant Secretary for Health, for an engaging annual conference [strategy session](#) discussing the acute health needs of LGBTQ communities, recent threats to LGBTQ equality and well-being, and promising philanthropic strategies to secure LGBTQ health equity. Following Levine's remarks, a panel of LGBTQ health experts from across the philanthropic and nonprofit spaces addressed the current landscape for funders, providers, patients, and activists.

The discussion about LGBTQ health equity that began at the annual conference continued on the first day of the [2022 GIH Fall Forum](#), which provided a detailed look at the urgent legislative threats to the LGBTQ community and the health impact of those threats. Funders participated in conversations about supporting advocacy, policy, and community engagement work that both addresses policy threats and supports the health, emotional well-being, and safety of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals.

Maternal morbidity and mortality, preterm birth, and infant mortality rates in the United States are among the worst in the developed world, with rates particularly high among Black and Indigenous people, regardless of income or education. There is a pressing need for funders to align their investments to help improve health outcomes for parents and infants in the United States. To help address this crisis, GIH partnered with eight organizations for the [Birth Equity Funders' Summit: It's Time for Collaborative Action on Birth Equity](#) on October 25–27 in Atlanta, Georgia.

The annual conference was GIH's largest in-person gathering since 2019, bringing together professionals from across the field of health philanthropy.





## Philanthropic Growth and Impact

*GIH's Philanthropic Growth and Impact programming identifies, disseminates, and supports best practices in the ongoing operations of health funding organizations. GIH's work in this area addresses governance, grantmaking, evaluation, communications, and the myriad ways health funders are advancing diverse public policy, advocacy, and civic engagement goals.*

Philanthropic Growth and Impact lies at the core of GIH's mission to support health funders, and related learning and professional development opportunities inform most of our products and services. At the 2022 annual conference, 15 sessions offered learning opportunities for foundation leadership, staff, and trustees, and our annual Fall Forum focused entirely on expanding philanthropy's impact on public policy. Conference programming included a workshop exploring how health funders who are operationalizing trust-based philanthropy are measuring impact and learning alongside their grantee partners.

The [Terrance Keenan Institute for Emerging Leaders in Health Philanthropy](#) is a biennial professional development opportunity for our field's next-generation leaders. In 2022, we awarded the fellowship to 20 emerging health philanthropy professionals, convening the class in Washington, D.C. for an intensive session designed to foster relationships among the fellows; connect them with established figures in the field; and reflect on key themes from Terrance Keenan's work and writings such as leadership, innovation, taking risks, and the creative deployment of

resources available to grantmakers. Newly announced GIH board members Melinda Abrams of The Commonwealth Fund, Tiffany Donelson of Connecticut Health Foundation, and Elizabeth Myung Sook Krause of Perigee Foundation are all Terrance Keenan Institute alumni.

For many years now, GIH has convened a CEO working group to give senior leaders the opportunity to strategize, network, and learn from each other's work. In 2022, GIH coordinated three meetings for the CEO Working Group on Access and Coverage. A webinar on January 12 gave leaders the opportunity to discuss the consequences and related challenges for the end of the COVID-19 federal public health emergency. On June 27, we brought CEOs together for a special networking breakfast at the annual conference which included a health policy update from Katie Keith, an Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown University. The working group ended the year with a webinar December 7 focused on how funders can improve the health of undocumented immigrants, including opportunities to extend health care coverage.

In the spring of 2022, GIH and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation began to explore the possibility of creating a forum for candid conversations among health foundation communications staff. We hosted two meetings—one virtual and one in-person—to hear about the [impact of misinformation and disinformation on public health](#) at the community level; to learn about other issues, challenges, and questions that are top of mind for communications staff; and to assess participants' appetite for continued opportunities for peer exchange and learning. More than 50 individuals from health foundations across the country participated in these meetings. This project will continue into 2023 and beyond as GIH works to create a national network of foundation communications staff.

Laura Landy, former President and CEO of the Rippel Foundation presents Evelyn Delgado, President and CEO of Healthy Futures of Texas with the Andy Hyman Award for Advocacy.





We also continued to develop programs focused on the art and science of health philanthropy. Through an ongoing partnership with The Rippel Foundation, we created a series of four informative and interactive webinars for funders. [The Long View](#) webinars provided an opportunity for funders to consider emerging practices that have the potential to transform philanthropy to be more equitable and impactful so that all people can thrive. We also continued to create programming for staff at [foundations with assets of less than \\$30 million](#). Building on previous annual conference networking sessions, the group of funders gathered virtually in January to discuss the unique challenges they face in maximizing their impact.

In another first for the organization, in July, GIH launched a survey to assess diversity in the field of health philanthropy. The information gathered will help us better understand the field and identify what practices seem to be most important in advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion. An analysis of our findings will be shared in 2023. This project represents an early step to operationalize our strategic plan's commitment to health equity as our focal priority.

Finally, each year, GIH recognizes the outstanding grantmakers and advocates who have advanced health and social change. The annual Terrance Keenan Leadership Award celebrates grantmakers whose thoughtful use of philanthropic dollars has had an impact on human health, at any level. Award recipients' work demonstrates responsiveness to the people in their communities, large or small, with a particular focus on those in the greatest need. This year's Terrance Keenan Leadership Award recipient was [Janice B. Yost](#) of The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts.

The Andy Hyman Award for Advocacy is presented each year to an outstanding advocacy grantee from the nonprofit or public sectors who embodies a commitment to principled action, leadership to advance social change, and dedication to making progress in policy and practice despite challenging political environments. 2022's Andy Hyman Award winner was [Evelyn Delgado](#) of Healthy Futures of Texas.

Both GIH award recipients were honored [at a ceremony](#) at the 2022 annual conference in Miami, Florida.



TKI Fellow Megan Simpson, Program Director at The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation and Mark Constantine, President and CEO of Richmond Memorial Health Foundation.





## Population Health

*GIH's Population Health programming focuses on the health outcomes of a group of people, whether defined by age, geography, or other factors. GIH's work in this area explores public health, prevention, and the mobilization of multiple disciplines to health for all.*

Population health was the subject of substantive work at GIH throughout 2022, including through topics like rural communities, aging and older adults, LGBTQ communities, and women and children.

Rural health has long been an important priority for GIH, and 2022's return to in-person activities prompted a "rural road trip" that included GIH President and CEO Cara V. James and Senior Program Director Eric Stockton, as well as key partners from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and National Rural Health Association (NRHA). The trip provided a chance to learn more about how health funders are supporting rural communities, additional opportunities for philanthropic organizations interested in rural settings, and how to further strengthen public-private partnerships. James provided a full account of the trip in her September [Letter from the President](#), which included details about the group's visits to a HRSA-funded opioid response project in northern Georgia; Cherokee Indian Hospital in Cherokee, North Carolina; and GIH Funding Partner Dogwood Health Trust in Asheville, North Carolina.

GIH's other rural health work included our ongoing partnership with Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) and the NRHA on the annual Public-Private Collaborations in Rural Health meeting, which returned as a hybrid meeting with 93 in-person attendees. Population Health webinars covered topics such as [philanthropic investment in rural broadband](#), [substance abuse disorder recovery](#), and the [well-being of immigrants living in rural communities](#).

This year saw the continuation of GIH's long partnership with Grantmakers In Aging on work related to the health of aging adults. This included a grantmaking survey on the [impact of COVID-19](#) on people over the age of 65, finding that as a consequence of the pandemic, communities struggled with myriad challenges related to the shortcomings of health services and social supports. We also collaborated on a webinar about [accelerating healthy aging through impact investing](#).

Finally, in an example of work that represents the intersection between Population Health and Health Equity and Social Justice, GIH hosted a webinar about how the mpox virus continues to [disproportionately affect the LGBTQ community](#), particularly men who have sex with men, as well as those living with HIV.



Chuck Shelton, CEO of Mountain Community Health Partnership and Maggie Sauer, Director of North Carolina's Office of Rural Health.



# Implementing GIH's Strategic Pillars

GIH's strategic plan identified four pillars of work in key areas of action required to reposition the organization to better serve Funding Partners:

- Valued for our partner-centric approach
- Seen as the hub of health philanthropy
- Known for visionary leadership and influence
- Recognized as a high-performing organization

Throughout 2022, we aligned GIH with each of these pillars by creating spaces for conversation and feedback, by partnering with organizations across the field to provide impactful products and events, and by initiating ongoing communications outreach to position GIH as a leader in health philanthropy. Perhaps most importantly, we began the critical internal work of being recognized as a high performing organization by living up to our values and supporting the needs of our Funding Partners.

## Public Policy Agenda

A key aspect of implementing the leadership and influence pillar of GIH's strategic plan is developing GIH's policy agenda. As part of this work, we are taking a more active role in defining the key issues that will advance health, and we are supporting health philanthropy with the thought leadership and programming to make lasting, measurable change by influencing advocacy, policy, and funding in targeted areas.

The process began with a board-staff workgroup and continued throughout 2022 with conversations with Funding Partners and others in the field to gather input on our policy agenda. This included in-person focus groups at the annual conference in Miami, virtual

focus groups during the summer, and one-on-one conversations. We reviewed feedback and synthesized it into our draft policy agenda, which was presented at the 2022 Fall Forum in Washington, DC.

We are now finalizing the policy agenda for an early 2023 release and look forward to working with Funding Partners to enact it. It is our hope that by working collectively in advocating for change, we can make a demonstrable impact on health policy and see real movement towards better health.

GIH's upcoming policy agenda is just one way that we engaged in the policy arena this year. Hunger is a critical social determinant of health, and GIH elected to join the policy conversation on food security and health when the opportunity emerged. In partnership with Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Funders, The Funders Network, Grantmakers for Education, Native Americans in Philanthropy, and 49 other organizations in philanthropy, [GIH sent a letter to President Biden supporting the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health](#). The letter's signatories offered four recommendations for the Administration and federal agencies to adopt leading up to and following the conference.

GIH President and CEO Cara V. James and Program Director Colin Pekruhn were invited to participate in the conference, and GIH [issued a statement](#) applauding the administration's ambitious vision for ending hunger and diet-related disease by 2030 and emphasizing what philanthropy can do to help achieve that goal. We look forward to continuing to work with Funding Partners and others to advance the key issues of food access and justice addressed at the conference.



# 2023: A Look Ahead

As we enter 2023, we remain deeply grateful for the continued support of our Funding Partners. We will continue implementing the new strategic plan, taking lessons learned and applying them to our ongoing efforts. We will provide regular updates through the GIH Bulletin and at events and meetings. It is important that this continue to be a collaborative process between GIH and Funding Partners—feedback from the field has been critical in our work, and we will continue to create opportunities to engage.

A recent gift from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott gives us a unique opportunity to transform our work and how we support Funding Partners. We are considering how best to use these funds and will provide more information about our plans in the new year. We also will be hosting a conversation with health funders who have also received gifts from Scott to discuss potential opportunities for partnership.

In 2023, we look forward to launching our inaugural policy agenda and beginning the harder work around its implementation. We are excited about engaging in health policy on the federal level, as well as working with Funding Partners to further our shared vision of advancing better health for all. We also look forward to expanding the work in our new focus areas, particularly as it relates to health equity; behavioral health; diversity, equity, and inclusion; working with foundation staff, including communications, DEI, and trustees; as well as exploring opportunities to address health workforce issues. Most importantly, we look forward to building on our work with GIH Funding Partners and others in the health sector to achieve better health for all through better philanthropy.



# About GIH

Grantmakers In Health (GIH) is a nonprofit, educational organization dedicated to helping foundations, corporate giving programs, and other philanthropic organizations improve the health of all people. Its mission is to foster communication and collaboration among grantmakers and others and to help strengthen the grantmaking community's knowledge, skills, and effectiveness. Observing its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022, GIH has developed programming, provided technical assistance, and hosted convenings to help funders learn, connect, and grow. Visit GIH on the web at [www.gih.org](http://www.gih.org).

## Funding Partners

GIH Funding Partners are philanthropic organizations and advisors that make annual financial contributions to support GIH's work. They are a diverse constituency of foundations, corporate giving programs, philanthropic advisors, government agencies, and other health funders.

Learn more about how to become a GIH Funding Partner and view the full directory at [www.gih.org/join](http://www.gih.org/join).

## Philanthropy Support Partners

GIH Philanthropy Support Partners are philanthropy-serving organizations with whom GIH has formal partnership agreements.

Learn more about how to become a Philanthropy Support Partner at [www.gih.org/join](http://www.gih.org/join).

## Program and General Operating Grants

Some foundations provide issue-specific funding to GIH. These program grants address one or more of GIH's five focus areas, which GIH has identified as critical to achieving better health for all:

- Access and Quality
- Community Engagement and Empowerment
- Health Equity and Social Justice
- Philanthropic Growth and Impact
- Population Health

GIH uses program grants to help health funders raise the visibility of the issues they care about, amplify ongoing work, and learn from promising approaches. General operating grants enable organizations to be nimble, yet thoughtful.

If you have questions about or interest in making a general operating support or program grant to GIH, please contact Kate Treanor at [ktreanor@gih.org](mailto:ktreanor@gih.org) or 202.452.8331.



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