

# Climate Change Strategies

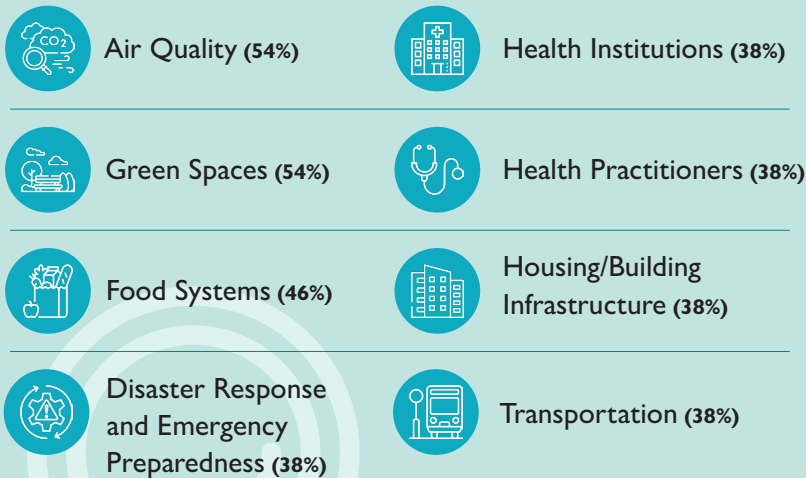
Climate change is affecting individual and community health in a multitude of ways, with climate-related disasters, displacement, and disparities only anticipated to increase. Climate change is an urgent health equity issue given low-income communities and communities of color are disproportionately burdened by the health and economic impacts of climate change.

## Key Takeaways

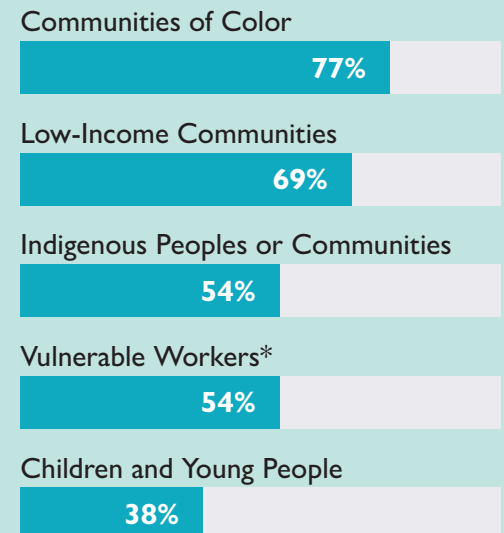
Grantmakers In Health's survey provides timely data and insights on current funding trends, challenges, and opportunities to advance climate and health justice.

- 1 Respondents said their most common focus areas are air quality, green spaces, and food systems. Most support advocacy and civic engagement, capacity building, community partnership and power building, and policy change with programs grants still the primary type of support offered.
- 2 Significant opportunity exists for health funders to advance equity by supporting organizations with leadership from populations disproportionately impacted by climate change, including people with disabilities, older adults, and rural communities.
- 3 A core group of dedicated health funders has been funding climate strategies for over 5 years, but climate change is not central to the work of most foundations. Information and strategies for linking climate and health funders' priorities could lead to more action.
- 4 Among health funders not funding climate change, nearly half are unsure about future support, while 17 percent anticipate funding climate change in the future.

## Focus Areas



## Primary Populations Supported



\*e.g., agriculture, construction, transportation, manufacturing, warehouses, and emergency response workers with occupational exposures

## Main Types of Support



Program Grants



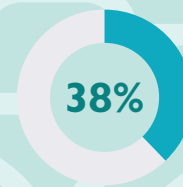
Convening



General Operating



Technical Assistance



Funding to Intermediary or Regranting Organizations

## Top 4 Strategies



Advocacy and Civic Engagement (69%)



Capacity Building (69%)



Community Partnership and Power Building (69%)



Policy Change (69%)

## Reasons for Not Funding Climate Change Initiatives

57%  
Outside defined focus areas

47%  
Issue does not align with mission or strategy

27%  
Other higher priority issues

17%  
Uncertain of how to engage on issue

## Funding Climate and Health Justice

Although many respondents do not identify as currently funding climate change initiatives, most acknowledge that their other grantmaking strategies directly or indirectly intersect with climate mitigation, adaptation, or resilience. Funding efforts on the social determinants of health are climate relevant and warrant more health funder involvement in climate conversations. There are numerous areas ripe for health funder engagement and leadership, including addressing the mental health impacts of climate change; role of health care and public health systems, institutions, and practitioners; equitable emergency response plans; and development of resilient, sustainable communities. Supporting community-based programs, leadership development, narrative building, and research remain under-

funded strategies worthy of investment and peer learning. Untapped opportunities also exist for health funders to contribute to pooled funds, support grantee facilities or equipment, provide loans and mission- or program-related investments, and help communities leverage or match public funds. Additionally, addressing climate change and environmental sustainability within internal organizational operations, policies, and practices is another useful and under-utilized starting point for engagement. Climate does not have to be a strategic priority or a separate initiative for health funders to work on this issue. All regions, communities, and grantees will be impacted by climate change, so now is the time to learn, connect, and grow to ensure a resilient and healthy future for all.



### LEARN MORE & GET INVOLVED

Visit [GIH.org](https://www.gih.org) for more resources on climate, health, and equity. Share this infographic with your colleagues and funder peers.

This infographic summarizes the responses to a Grantmakers In Health survey conducted May–June 2023 with 46 respondents. Support for the survey and report was provided by a grant from The Kresge Foundation.