

GRANT
MAKERS
IN
HEALTH



2023

YEAR IN REVIEW



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

A Year of Policy Advocacy and Innovative Programming

Grantmakers In Health (GIH) launched our ambitious strategic plan in 2022, and implementation was in full swing in 2023. We started the year by releasing our first-ever policy agenda, which was informed by conversations with Funding Partners and others in the field of health philanthropy. It is grounded by four clear policy goals:

- Advance health equity and social justice,
- Expand health care access and improve quality of care,
- Improve population health, and
- Promote community engagement and empowerment.

These policy goals informed much of our work in 2023 and were showcased in our ongoing webinars and publications, at the GIH annual conference in Minneapolis, and perhaps most vividly at the revitalized Fall Forum in Washington, DC.

We continued to grow our flagship in-person events, which offered new opportunities for engagement and additional networking for health funders to connect, learn from each other, and collaborate. They also helped GIH to get to know our Funding Partners better and learn more about their priorities. We were delighted to receive so much positive feedback from attendees and are excited to make 2024's events even more relevant to health philanthropy.

We also continued to utilize partnerships to advance our mission and vision, such as through the longstanding Annual Meeting of the Rural Health Philanthropy Partnership and collaborations with our PSO peers, government agencies, and others. We were excited to launch a new partnership with Trust for America's Health on our monthly Health Policy Update newsletter, and we deepened our existing collaboration with Grantmakers In Aging around a new priority, the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.

Despite all we achieved in 2023, the implementation of our strategic plan is just getting started. 2024 will see even more engagement on policy, the introduction of new products and communities of practice, and the start of an ambitious project to integrate and improve GIH's digital services. We'll have more to share in the coming months and look forward to working with Funding Partners on everything we have in store.



Sincerely,

Cara V. James
President and CEO
Grantmakers In Health

2023 Overview

Grantmakers In Health (GIH) supports health funders of all sizes and interests through education, networking, and leadership. We convene Funding Partners through our annual conference, Fall Forum, webinars, and other meetings and reached over 1,600 event attendees in 2023. GIH 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 knowledge base through publications, newsletters, surveys, reports, and articles; and offers direct one-on-one strategic and technical advice. Our executive leadership team and program staff are public health and health philanthropy experts and an essential 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.

In-Person Meetings

This was a banner year for in-person gatherings, with GIH creating more spaces for funders to establish connections, exchange knowledge, and explore collaborative possibilities. The GIH Annual Conference on Health Philanthropy, *Advancing Philanthropy's Commitment to the Long Game*, featured a cohesive set of sessions and inspired attendees to rethink their approach to long-term investments in grantees; the Fall Forum, *Feeding Hearts and Minds: Food as Medicine, Divided Media, and Implications for Public Policy*, was one of our best-attended fall meetings, bringing together funders, grantees, government, media, and others for three days of in-depth policy discussion; and we once again cohosted the Annual Meeting of the Rural Health Philanthropy Partnership in partnership with the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, the National Rural Health Association, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Office of Rural Health:

- [GIH Annual Conference on Health Philanthropy, Advancing Philanthropy's Commitment to the Long Game](#)
June 7–9 | Minneapolis, MN

- [Annual Meeting of the Rural Health Philanthropy Partnership](#)
October 26–27 | Washington, DC
- [GIH Fall Forum, Feeding Hearts and Minds: Food as Medicine, Divided Media, and Implications for Public Policy](#)
November 1–3 | Washington, DC

Webinars and Virtual Convenings

In addition to our in-person events, GIH organized or cosponsored 32 [webinars, roundtable discussions, working groups, and other virtual convenings](#) covering a range of topics, such as bias in the health care system, strategies for workforce recruitment and retention, the 2023 Farm Bill, and strengthening food and nutrition security. These online meetings offer deep dives into their subject areas, provide access to experts both inside and outside of health philanthropy, extend the knowledge base available to Funding Partners, and serve as networking opportunities.

Webinar and virtual convenings highlights include:

- [COVID-19 Year Four: Implications for Philanthropy](#)
Cosponsored by Center for Disaster Philanthropy, Giving Compass, PEAK Grantmaking, and Philanthropy New York
January 12



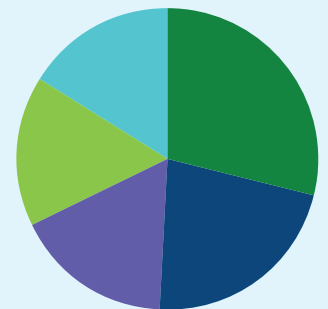
- [Exploring GIH’s Policy Priorities for 2023](#)
February 14
- [Protecting Public Health and Safety in the Event of Toxic Petrochemical Rail Disasters](#)
March 7
- [Farm Bill Platforms from the Field – Strengthening Food and Nutrition Security](#)
Cosponsored by Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Funders
April 19
- [Three Years Later, Funding Social Movements Matters More Than Ever](#)
Cosponsored by Philanthropy New York, Connecticut Council for Philanthropy, Economic Opportunity Funders, Forefront, Funders for Justice, Funders for Reproductive Equity, Grantmakers Council of Rhode Island, Grantmakers of Western Pennsylvania, and Maine Philanthropy Center
May 9 and June 13
- [Advancing Age-Friendly Public Health: Learnings from Michigan and Mississippi](#)
Cosponsored by Grantmakers In Aging
July 6
- [Power Sharing: Redefining Power Dynamics in Communities, Health Care Systems, and Philanthropic Practices](#)
Cosponsored by the Early Childhood Funders Collaborative
September 18
- [Census and Redistricting: Past, Present, and Future Roles for Health Funders](#)
October 4
- [Building Support for WIC: Opportunities for Philanthropic Advocacy](#)
Cosponsored by Sustainable Agriculture and Food System Funders
October 10
- [Bias in the Health Care System](#)
October 11 and October 25
- [State Strategies for Health Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention](#)
November 13

Products

- 60** Annual Conference Sessions
- 31** Webinars & Virtual Convenings
- 26** Views from the Field
- 20** Fall Forum Sessions
- 16** Publications
- 9** Grantmaker Profiles
- 7** President’s Letters
- 3** In-Person Meetings

Products by Focus Area

- 29%** Health Equity and Social Justice
- 22%** Philanthropic Growth and Impact
- 17%** Community Engagement and Empowerment
- 16%** Population Health
- 16%** Access and Quality



Launching GIH's First Policy Agenda

GIH unveiled our inaugural [policy agenda](#) in January 2023 in support of our [strategic plan](#). This followed a year-long process which included a series of focus groups and one-on-one meetings with Funding Partners to gather feedback on our draft agenda and learn more about health philanthropy's broader work on policy. The final document identified our public policy priorities for the year, guided our programming, influenced decisions related to issuing public statements on timely policy issues, and served as a guide for our emerging advocacy efforts.

Driving our work on policy are a series of objectives defined in the policy agenda, which include ensuring comprehensive health insurance coverage; expanding the supply, diversity, cultural responsiveness, and safety of the health workforce; encouraging innovation in the public health infrastructure at all levels; increasing access to high-quality, equitable care for mental health and substance use; increasing availability of high-quality health care services; eliminating nutrition insecurity; ensuring safe and affordable housing; reducing poverty and advancing economic mobility; and protecting and advancing democracy.

Throughout the year, we actively sought out opportunities to use GIH's unique nonpartisan voice and influence in the public policy conversation to advance better health for all, including the following activities:

- [Announcing a collaboration](#) with Grantmakers In Aging aimed at mobilizing funders in support of the 2024 reauthorization of the Older Americans Act;
- Releasing a [position statement](#) on the 2023 Farm Bill, recommending that it prioritize nutrition security by reducing barriers to accessing SNAP benefits; increase funding for equitable access to fresh, healthy food by improving existing nutrition programs like the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program; support emergency food providers in accessing fresh, culturally appropriate healthy foods; improve nutrition education; and invest in research and evaluation; and
- Joining with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Ford Foundation, Health Forward Foundation, Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, Grantmakers In the Arts, and 88 other philanthropy organizations in [responding to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision](#) in *Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA) v. Harvard* (2023) and *SFFA v. University of North Carolina* (2023) removing race as a consideration for college admissions.



We also launched a new monthly policy newsletter—the [GIH Health Policy Update](#)—at the 2023 GIH Fall Forum. Produced in collaboration with Trust for America’s Health and drawing on GIH’s policy priorities, the Health Policy Update keeps GIH Funding Partners current on federal health policy news and offers opportunities to engage. The first two issues of the newsletter were among our most successful email publications, with a nearly 50 percent open rate:

- [Health Policy Update: November 2023](#)
Spotlight: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Request for Information on coverage of over-the-counter preventive services
- [Health Policy Update: December 2023](#)
Spotlight: U.S. Playbook to Address Social Determinants of Health



Finally, we organized or cosponsored several policy-focused events, conference sessions, and webinars. Here are some highlights:

- [Roundtable Discussions for Health Funders’ Policy Staff](#)
A bimonthly forum for health funders’ policy staff to connect and discuss their work.
- [Funder Briefing and Conversation: USDA Summer Meals 2024](#)
A webinar discussing new bipartisan legislation designed to ensure every child gets the nourishment they need when school is out of session.
- [State Strategies for Health Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention](#)
Participants joined this webinar to learn more about innovative state policies to promote health care workforce recruitment and retention and explore ways philanthropy can advance these policies at the state level.
- [Building Support for WIC: Opportunities for Philanthropic Advocacy](#)
This webinar cosponsored by Sustainable Agriculture and Food System Funders gathered experts from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the National WIC Association, and 1,000 Days to explore why increasing WIC participation is vital to improving U.S. maternal and child health outcomes.
- [Farm Bill Platforms from the Field – Strengthening Food and Nutrition Security](#)
Cosponsored by Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Funders, this webinar convened leaders from the field for a conversation with experts from the Center for Science in the Public Interest, Fair Food Network, and the Bipartisan Policy Center, who provided insight into the current nutrition policy landscape in Congress and the priorities each organization is advocating for in the 2023 Farm Bill.
- [State Policies to Improve Maternal and Infant Health](#)
During this webinar, participants learned more about the state policy landscape related to maternal and infant health and explored how health funders can advance health-promoting policies.

Reports, Surveys, and Publications

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

Publication highlights include:

- [Funder Support for Health Care Transformation](#)
- [2023 Survey Summary: Climate Change Strategies](#)
- [The Story of Care: A Snapshot of the Care Narrative Change Landscape](#)
- [Public Health Approaches to Firearm Violence Prevention](#)

GIH Bulletin

The GIH Bulletin newsletter delivers the latest news and commentary from the field of health philanthropy, 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 broader health philanthropy topics.

President's Letter highlights include:

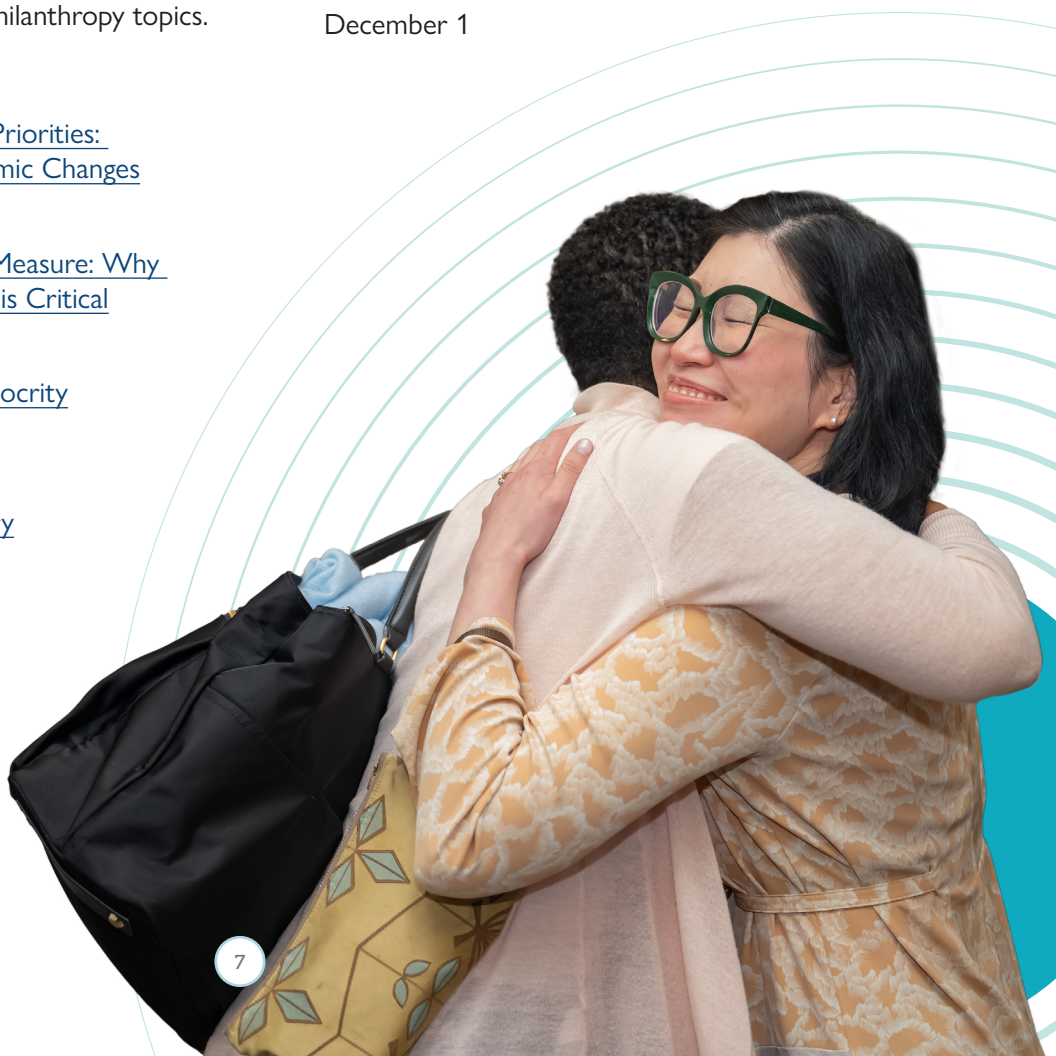
- [Announcing GIH's 2023 Policy Priorities: Using Our Voice to Make Systemic Changes](#)
January 31
- [We Can't Fix What We Don't Measure: Why the Youth Risk Behavior Survey is Critical](#)
April 24
- [No Time for Philanthropic Mediocrity](#)
July 24
- [2023 Rural Health Road Trip—Collaboration in Big Sky Country](#)
August 22
- [Feeding Hearts and Minds through Collective Action and Strong Partnerships](#)
October 23

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 seen as critical to the field's shared goal of achieving better health for all. In 2023, we also began publishing Views from the Field interviews, giving Funding Partners, grantees, and others another venue for sharing the impact of their work with the field.

Views from the Field highlights include:

- [Centering Black Voices: Lessons from a Two-Year Pilot Program in the Kansas City Region](#)
Carla Gibson, Vice President of Programs,
REACH Healthcare Foundation
Brenda Sharpe, CEO, REACH
Healthcare Foundation
December 1



Strengthening a National Field of Practice for Climate, Health, and Equity: Learning What it Takes

Cara Cook, Director of Programs, Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
Kalpna Ramiah, Vice President of Innovation and Director of the Essential Hospitals Institute, America's Essential Hospitals
Melissa Jones, Executive Director, Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative
Erica Browne, Program Officer, The Kresge Foundation
 September 18

Episcopal Health Foundation's Journey in Advancing Medicaid Non-Medical Drivers of Health in Texas

Shao-Chee Sim, Vice President for Research, Innovation and Evaluation, Episcopal Health Foundation
 August 11



- As More Americans Gain Health Care Coverage, Advocates Fight for Higher-Quality Insurance
Aija Nemer-Aanerud, Health Care for All Campaign Director, People's Action
 July 14
- Purpose-Driven Investments: Advancing Equity by Diversifying Foundations' Asset Managers
Qiana Thomason, President and CEO, Health Forward Foundation
Christie Zarkovich, Chief Administrative, Financial, and Investment Officer, Health Forward Foundation
 Interviewer: Miranda Wesley, Grantmakers In Health
 May 15
- New York State Foundations Working Together to Preserve Health Insurance Coverage for Millions of New Yorkers
Irfan Hasan, Deputy Vice President for Grants, The New York Community Trust
Avital Havusha, Vice President for Programs, New York Health Foundation
Chad Shearer, Senior Vice President for Policy and Program, United Hospital Fund
 April 19

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 profiles provide insights into how Funding Partners vary based on budget, geographical location, and mission focus.

Grantmaker Focus profiles include:

- [Arcora Foundation](#)
- [Caring for Denver Foundation](#)
- [Chuckanut Health Foundation](#)
- [Knapp Community Care Foundation](#)
- [Medica Foundation](#)
- [Jane Bancroft Robinson Foundation](#)
- [Jonas Philanthropies](#)
- [RRF Foundation for Aging](#)
- [VNA Foundation](#)

Strategic Plan Implementation

Throughout 2023, we continued to execute our five-year strategic plan. As detailed in the previous section of this report, we made tremendous progress supporting the Leadership and Influence strategic pillar, launched our inaugural policy agenda, and added our voice to national conversations around health policy. However, this was just one of several areas where we significantly furthered our strategic plan priorities.

Throughout the year, we prioritized expanding our role as the hub of health philanthropy. Most notably, we laid the groundwork for our new Communications Community of Practice, bringing together funders' communications staff to discuss the field's rising communications challenges. We hosted conversations at the annual conference and Fall Forum as we sought feedback from Funding Partners on the initiative and organized a special conference session where communications staff connected with each other about shared concerns. Our discovery work will culminate in 2024 with the launch of an online portal for the community featuring model resource materials like sample policy statements and press releases, a digital platform for collaboration, and regular in-person and online meetings.

Similarly, we began building a Firearm Violence Prevention learning community, bringing together funders interested in creating a shared vision for philanthropy to effect positive change in the ongoing gun violence epidemic. We kicked off the initiative at a 2023 preconference session, Public Health Approaches to Firearm Violence Prevention, which we recounted in a detailed December [Issue Brief](#).

We also grew our regular virtual and in-person meetings of foundation affinity groups, adding a new ongoing roundtable discussion for health funder policy staff and broadening the topics discussed at the CEO Working Group.

Another critical strategic pillar is the recognition that GIH should strive to be a high-performing organization, requiring investment in internal systems that improve GIH's efficiency and effectiveness. Understanding how critical our public-facing digital systems are to Funding Partners, we sought proposals from agency partners to assess our website, Funding Partner portal, database,

email marketing system, finance system, and overall IT infrastructure. This project will kick off in early 2024 and deliver actionable recommendations for providing an integrated suite of digital services and products.

GIH strives to be valued for our partner-centric approach, which is another key pillar in our strategic plan. We expanded our work with other philanthropy-serving organizations like Grantmakers In Aging, Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Funders, and Health and Environment Funders Network. Native Americans In Philanthropy, an important voice for Indigenous communities in the United States, became a GIH Philanthropy Support Partner. We also widened the tent of GIH partnerships, adding philanthropic consultants and working to bring on more corporate giving programs as Funding Partners.

Beyond supporting our strategic pillars, we also continued to produce programming aligned with the five focus areas defined in our strategic plan: Access and Quality, Community Engagement and Empowerment, Health Equity and Social Justice, Philanthropic Growth and Impact, and Population Health. What follows is a look at that work in 2023, highlighting some of the programming available to Funding Partners.



Our Focus Areas

Access and Quality

Community Engagement
and Empowerment

Health Equity and
Social Justice

Philanthropic Growth
and Impact

Population Health

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.



With the fallout from the Supreme Court's 2022 decision on abortion, the ongoing primary care provider crisis, the growing medical deserts in many rural and urban communities, and the challenges wrought by coverage losses caused by the unwinding of the public health emergency, philanthropy has a vital role to play in filling access and quality gaps.

Sessions at the GIH Annual Conference dealt directly with the issue of abortion access in states where reproductive health services are greatly restricted. Chief among them was the plenary session, [One Year Later: The Far Reaching Implications of the Dobbs Decision](#), which highlighted how the decision is affecting access to care and the people trying to provide care, the quality implications, and where we go from here. Another important conversation was Abortion Care is Health Care: The Role of Health Funders in this Moment, a breakout session where funders engaged directly on how they can help women and pregnant people gain access to the reproductive care they need.

Workforce issues were front and center in GIH programming, including the conference learning lab, The Leaky Bucket: Strategies to Address Health Workforce Retention. A Views from the Field article, [The Reimagining Nursing Initiative: Creating an Equitable Future by Investing in Nurse-Driven Solutions](#), showcased how the Reimagining Nursing Initiative and the National Nurses Foundation are funding "bold projects developed and led by nurses to transform nursing for improved access, care, and outcomes for all." Another highlight was [State Strategies for Health Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention](#), a webinar delving into a National Governors Association Center for Best Practices report on policy approaches to the workforce crisis and recommendations based on states' efforts.

Behavioral health continues to be an important programming priority. GIH President and CEO Cara V. James authored a President's Letter on the importance of the [Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#) and Walter Panziner, a trustee of Helmsley Charitable Trust, contributed a [Views from the Field article](#) on the need to close the gap on mental health. GIH also organized several webinars and conference

sessions focused on behavioral health, including a webinar cosponsored by the Health and Environment Funders Network about [the impacts of the climate crisis on mental health](#) and conference sessions including Funding Solutions to the National Overdose Crisis and Galvanizing the Gatekeepers: Reaching Families by Integrating Mental Health Supports.

Finally, a group of funders including The New York Community Trust, New York Health Foundation, and United Hospital Fund [shared an account](#) of collaborative efforts to preserve health care coverage for millions of New Yorkers at risk of losing coverage at the end of the public health emergency.



Our Focus Areas

Access and Quality

Community Engagement and Empowerment

Health Equity and Social Justice

Philanthropic Growth and Impact

Population Health

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.



When speaking to funders about their work, community engagement and empowerment often emerges as a top priority, especially for grantmakers focused on hyperlocal issues. GIH staff heard numerous accounts of efforts to listen to community needs, work to shift the power balance between funders and grantees, and an increasing movement towards trust-based philanthropy approaches that lower the burden on small community-based organizations that often lack the capacity to meet strict reporting obligations.

We brought community voices into all our major events, giving people working on the ground the opportunity to share their stories with funders. One key example is Black Women Thriving East of the River: Walking in Our Footsteps, a powerful and uplifting session at the GIH Annual Conference that elevated the efforts of Black women to address workforce development and cancer survival in one of Washington, DC's most historically underserved neighborhoods.

Perhaps most significantly, all our 2023 conference site visits involved local organizations working on community issues in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These include the whole-person well-being approach of YMCA of the North's community health programs, a visit with the Hmong American Farmers Association to learn about building community wealth and power through equitable food-oriented development, and a meeting with a multiracial alignment of low- and no-income community organizations partnering together in the wake of the George Floyd uprisings.

Representatives from groups working in their local communities spoke at the Fall Forum, including Jenn Bass, Executive Director of Boone, NC's Hunger and Health Coalition; Ismail Samad, Executive Director of Harlem, NY's Corbin Hill Food Project; and Ava Kian, a journalist and Race and Health Equity Fellow at MinnPost, a nonprofit news organization covering Minnesota. Each offered an important perspective on food as medicine, nutrition, and the unique health issues communities face nationwide.

Civic engagement was also a significant focus of GIH's 2023 community engagement and empowerment work. [Day three of the Fall Forum](#) was dedicated to the news media, building public trust, and fostering a healthier information ecosystem. Sessions gave attendees a deep dive into topics like the polarization of news; the link between local media, public trust, and civic engagement; and advancing health and civic engagement with investments in local media. In addition, we shared strategies for working with local communities in our Communications Community of Practice and Firearm Violence Prevention learning community, among other GIH initiatives.



Our Focus Areas

Access and Quality

Community Engagement
and Empowerment

Health Equity and
Social Justice

Philanthropic Growth
and Impact

Population Health

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.



Nearly a third of GIH's 2023 programming was dedicated to health equity and social justice or touched on those themes within the context of other focus areas. From racial equity to social determinants of health and firearm violence prevention to the disparate effects of climate change, we focused on the issues Funding Partners told us they most want to hear about and produced a wide range of learning opportunities, including conference sessions like *The Journey from Health to Health Equity: Moving from Words to Action* and *Taking Stock: Walking the Talk of Equity and Racial Justice*.

By holding the 2023 GIH Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, we were able to provide a deeply personal exploration of how the local community responded to the tragic 2020 murder of George Floyd by a police officer. We brought attendees to the site of Floyd's death, now known as George Floyd Square, where we heard from a multiracial alliance of local organizations working against racial inequity in the city. Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison joined us onstage for a plenary session on the journey Minneapolis and the state have undertaken since 2020 and the positive changes that have come from it. We were struck by the community's resilience and focus on constructive outcomes.

Two preconference sessions examined health equity and social justice issues, beginning with an interactive program offering a framework of practices that attendees could use to further racial equity in philanthropy. A concurrent session served as a springboard for our renewed emphasis on firearm violence prevention, bringing together expert panelists from philanthropy, government, and higher education to discuss potential solutions to this uniquely American crisis that disproportionately affects underserved communities. Later in the year, we [published an Issue Brief](#) that dove deeper into the topic and began building a firearm violence prevention learning community to further engage health philanthropy on the issue.

We also continued our longstanding work on climate change and environmental health, [releasing an infographic](#) summarizing the responses to a Grantmakers In Health funder survey conducted in May and June 2023 on how philanthropy is addressing

the health effects of climate change and the barriers and opportunities that exist to support climate-related efforts. A conference session explored green energy as a prerequisite for health and resilience, and a pair of webinars cosponsored by GIH, Health and Environmental Funders Network, and others addressed the issue of toxic petrochemical rail disasters in the wake of the East Palestine, Ohio derailment. In December, we cohosted a webinar on the mental health impacts of the climate crisis in partnership with the Health and Environment Funders Network.

Finally, we published 12 Views from the Field articles on health equity and social justice. Although there are too many to list in full, here are a few highlights:

- [Centering Black Voices: Lessons from a Two-Year Pilot Program in the Kansas City Region](#)
- [Exploring the Impact of Vaccine Equity Grants in Rural Communities of Color](#)
- [What Can Be Done About Disparities in Birth Outcomes? Follow the BIPOC Leaders](#)



Our Focus Areas

Access and Quality

Community Engagement
and Empowerment

Health Equity and
Social Justice

Philanthropic Growth
and Impact

Population Health

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.



Our philanthropic growth and impact work helps shape how health funders operate, partner with grantees, and ultimately improve health nationwide. In 2023, funder communications were an essential concern across the field. Many funders recognized the rising distrust in news media and public health experts in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and other societal disruptions. Foundation communications staff conversations hosted by GIH during the 2022 and 2023 annual conferences grew into a new Communications Community of Practice, with regular Funding Partner meetings and an online platform for communications resources and collaboration set to launch in 2024.

In addition to our work with foundation communications staff, we expanded the CEO Working Group to address a broader range of topics beyond access and quality, hosted a conference session on foundation governance, provided space for trustees to connect, organized an ongoing series of roundtable discussions for limited-asset funders, and began a regular series of meetings of policy-focused staff. Throughout the year we convened health funder recipients of MacKenzie Scott gifts to discuss various approaches to using those grants, culminating in an in-person meeting at the annual conference.

Although its results won't be released until 2024, we conducted our first-ever diversity survey of health philanthropy board members in 2023. The final report should give the health philanthropy field insights into ongoing efforts to diversify boards, the effects of diversity, equity, and inclusion commitments, and a stronger sense of how philanthropy leadership resembles the communities grantmakers serve.

We also released several articles and publications designed to support philanthropic governance and help funders understand trends in the field. We published [Tracking the Field: Funder Support for Health Care Transformation](#), an infographic detailing the findings of a survey of GIH Funding Partners about their priority issues. In the summer, we released a [Views from the Field interview](#) with Qiana Thomason and Christie Zarkovich of Health Forward Foundation about how they successfully diversified their asset managers to align with the Foundation's equity priorities. Other articles included [a look at American health philanthropy](#)

from an international perspective and [an account](#) of how Terrance Keenan Institute alumni partnered on a report about how COVID-19 changed grantmaking.

Finally, every 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 [Myechia Minter-Jordan](#), President and Chief Executive Officer of the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health.

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. 2023's Andy Hyman Award winner was [Gregory Jackson](#), former Executive Director of the Community Justice Action Fund (CJAF) and current Deputy Director of the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention.

Both GIH award recipients were [honored at a ceremony](#) at the 2023 annual conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



Our Focus Areas

Access and Quality

Community Engagement
and Empowerment

Health Equity and
Social Justice

Philanthropic Growth
and Impact

Population Health

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 better health for all.



In 2023, GIH engaged in substantial efforts related to population health, elevating the population-specific challenges faced by Black, Indigenous, and people of color; LGBTQ+ people; rural communities; older Americans; and women and children, among others.

Partnering with Grantmakers In Aging, GIH cohosted a series of webinars on issues related to older people, including [Multisector Plans for Aging: A Global Perspective](#), which briefed funders on national and subnational plans for managing growing aging populations; [Accelerating Healthy Aging for All Through Impact Investing](#) where funders learned about how they can leverage impact investment to advance their priorities on aging; and [Advancing Age-Friendly Public Health: Learnings from Michigan and Mississippi](#), which highlighted efforts in states where Trust for America's Health's Age-Friendly Public Health Systems ecosystem is expanding and partnerships are flourishing.

GIH President and CEO Cara V. James continued our annual tradition of partnering with the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy and National Rural Health Association for a rural health road trip, providing an up close and personal look at how rural communities are working together to find solutions to health issues. This year, the trip took participants to Montana, where they connected with local partners, including Headwaters Foundation, Montana Healthcare Foundation, and the Montana Office of Rural Health. The journey brought them to Helena, Great Falls, Shelby, Cut Bank, Ronan, and Missoula, where they met with the mayor. As James reported in her [August letter to Funding Partners](#), they visited hospitals, two Native tribes, an Urban Indian health care organization, a permanent supportive housing facility, a new child care alliance, a community development cooperation, and a rural disability research center at the University of Montana.

Additional work on rural health included an annual conference session on engaging communities through partnerships of funders and State Offices of Rural Health, a conference networking session for funders working on rural health issues, and rural community representation on food as medicine at the Fall Forum. In addition, GIH cosponsored the annual [Rural Health Philanthropy Partnership Meeting](#), which welcomed 70 foundations, partner organizations, and federal entities to discuss how our combined efforts might produce

better health outcomes for rural communities. This year's theme centered on the rural health workforce and opportunities for philanthropy to be engaged. We were also pleased to publish a [Views from the Field article](#) by Tom Morris, Associate Administrator for Rural Health Policy, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, on how funders can leverage National Rural Health Day to elevate rural health issues.

Other population health work included a [commentary by James](#) on the importance of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, a webinar on opportunities to use philanthropic advocacy to [build support for WIC](#), and a Views from the Field article about [PrEP and HIV prevention in Black America](#).



2024: A Look Ahead

As we move into 2024, we are especially excited about the opportunities for GIH and the health philanthropy community to advance better health for all. We are doubling down on our partner-centric approach and engaging our funding community more to learn about their needs. We will continue to build on the successes of the annual conference and Fall Forum to deliver events that educate and move the field on critical health issues. We will also create new vehicles for learning and connection online and in person.

The Presidential election, along with races for the House and Senate and state and local offices across the country, makes 2024 a consequential year for our policy agenda. We look forward to continuing to develop our partnership with Grantmakers In Aging

on the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, a key piece of legislation that will help determine the quality of life for older people for many years to come.

We are thrilled with the overwhelming response to our new Health Policy Update newsletter, launched in late 2023. We look forward to working with our Trust for America's Health (TFAH) colleagues to make the newsletter even more helpful to Funders and exploring other opportunities for collaboration with TFAH and others on new products and events.

In 2023, we conducted our first-ever diversity survey of health philanthropy board members. We will release the results in early 2024 and expect many discussions about our findings.

Our team is working on an ambitious project to assess GIH's website, Funding Partner portal, and other digital services, as well as our internal IT systems and processes. This is the first step in a larger effort to create a truly integrated suite of online tools and ensure that our IT systems perform at a high level. We will provide updates on our progress in 2024.

Finally, we want to thank our Funding Partners and Philanthropy Support Partners for their engagement and support of GIH. We look forward to continuing and growing our work together in pursuit of better health for all through better philanthropy.



GRANT MAKERS IN HEALTH

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. GIH develops programming, provides technical assistance, and hosts convenings to help funders learn, connect, and grow. Visit GIH on the web at 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.

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.





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