Respond

2020 Giving Report



There is no question: Everyone in America was impacted by COVID-19, none more than the underserved, uninsured populations whom we serve. When what was previously challenging – access to proper health care, transportation, free clinics – became significantly difficult, the Foundation looked to develop strong local partnerships throughout our region.

For the Highmark Foundation exists to help — to respond, with innovation and with vision, where the needs are greatest.

As a recognized leader in funding schools and community-based organizations that address critical health issues affecting children, adults, and families in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, the Foundation constantly seeks new ways to help where the needs are greatest, especially in these difficult times — but surely not without hope.

Continuing to provide funding to health-related nonprofit and community-based organizations to support evidence-based initiatives, the Foundation seeks out request for proposals, pilot projects, planning grants, and thought leadership forums from across America that have the potential to be successful throughout our 62-county region in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Over the years, outcomes from these projects have helped the Foundation to be innovative — challenging usual ways of thinking, enhancing program evaluation, and quantifying results to ensure that those in need receive the best quality care and treatment.

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We Share a Mission

Throughout the Highmark Health enterprise, we share a joint mission — to create a remarkable health experience, freeing people to be their best.

We also have a shared vision — a world where everyone embraces health. The Highmark Foundation is a key component in realizing that mission and vision.

For more than 20 years, the work of the Foundation has been to ultimately improve the overall health and well-being of the large population it serves throughout Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

We accomplish change by giving organizations the capacity and capability to provide access to care, as well as funding strategic and evidencebased health care initiatives that educate, protect, and improve the health of communities.

This was even more critical in 2020, as the health care industry shifted its focus to battling the COVID-19 pandemic. Highmark Health and the Highmark Foundation pivoted resources to supporting customers and the communities we serve through unprecedented challenges and uncertainty. For example, the Foundation designed a provider and community strategy to support Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alikes, free clinics, and community-based organizations as a way to build their capacity to meet the health needs of their patients and community. For many, these critical needs included purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE), software to implement telehealth services, distributing accurate health information, and more.

The Highmark Foundation is well positioned to strategically invest in priorities focused on closing critical care gaps through service delivery systems, chronic disease, and family health. These investments include providing access to quality health care in rural communities, funding a newly established diabetic retinopathy screening program, and supporting a transition clinic for post-incarcerated individuals, who often fall through the cracks in receiving health care.

I remain confident that we will not waiver in helping customers and communities through the pandemic. We are fortunate to have employees who make a difference, who understand how

> much is at stake, and who step up to make sacrifices and do what's right for the greater good. That kind of clear purpose, and focus on what each of us can contribute, can go a long way toward helping us overcome our broader challenges as a society as well.

On behalf of the entire Highmark Health enterprise, we thank and celebrate the Highmark Foundation for its commitment and dedication to our communities.

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David Holmberg President and Chief Executive Officer, Highmark Health



WELCOME



Welcome to the 2020 Highmark Foundation Annual Giving Report

We mark the 21st anniversary of the Highmark Foundation with both sadness and hope. COVID-19 has taken more than a half-million American lives, more than all our casualties in 20th-century wars. Yet we continue to believe in ourselves, and in our future. As the Foundation has responded, working to alleviate suffering and distress, so will we find a way to prevail in this difficult time.

Certainly, we are in the midst of a struggle. But it is hardly one without hope.

So while COVID-19 continues to be overwhelming, it has neither reduced nor obviated our previous goals and efforts.

It allowed us no time to steer away from our responsibilities and commitments. We had to redouble our efforts to meet long-standing community needs – to the underserved and uninsured across our footprint – as well as to respond to this unforeseen crisis.

That is how we have always worked. Since 2000, the Highmark Foundation has addressed the greatest health issues faced by at-risk regions and people, and has worked to reduce the burden on communities and their health care systems.

To that end, in 2020 we awarded \$2,803,330 in funding not only for COVID-19 relief but also to support nonprofit organizations, hospitals, schools, and other partners whose missions were to combat chronic disease, serve family health, reduce disparities, and increase access to care.

Throughout Pennsylvania and West Virginia, our greatest successes have been forged by strong partnerships with organizations that have similar missions — raising awareness of community health needs and stimulating innovative change.

On the following pages, you'll see examples of how the Highmark Foundation responds and how we remain at the forefront of community health by providing grants to serve those most in need.

We look forward to continuing to share our successes with you.

Daniel Onorato Chairman of the Board, Executive Vice President, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Highmark Health

/Yvonne Cook President, Highmark Foundation

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Highmark Foundation Staff Members



Jane Brooks Program Officer



Tracey Pollard Executive Assistant to the President



Kate Hancock Program Officer

Mission

The Highmark Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) private, charitable organization dedicated to improving the health, wellbeing, and quality of life for individuals who reside in the communities served by Highmark, Inc. and its subsidiaries and affiliates. We fulfill our mission by awarding highimpact grants to charitable organizations that implement evidence-based programs aimed at improving community health. Central to the Foundation's mission is identifying and continuously reevaluating our region's prevailing health care needs. By doing so, the Foundation remains at the forefront of those needs, well-equipped to pinpoint the issues that most urgently need support.

For more information, visit highmarkfoundation.org.



Two months into 2020, COVID-19 became America's — and the Highmark Foundation's — single biggest priority. Overwhelming, overpowering, the world hadn't seen anything like it in a century.



Naturally, the Foundation's priorities changed overnight. So many individuals and institutions needed different kinds of help – and needed it right away.

Of course, the Foundation responded.

Yet in doing so, we did not lose sight of many important areas where for more than 20 years we have provided necessary funding.

In 2020, the Highmark Foundation awarded 197 health-related grants in three funding priority areas: nonprofit organizations, including, schools, universities, and free clinics; Federally Qualified Health Centers; and other community-based organizations to help provide greater access to and availability of quality health care. In every case, grant funding helps our community partners empower individuals to improve their quality of life. Here are our grantmaking priorities:

Chronic Disease

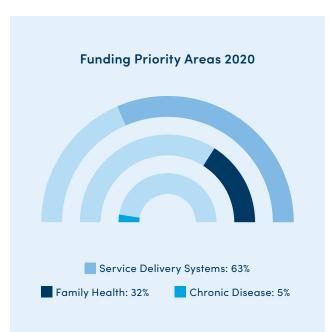
Programs that offer Alzheimer's disease care and information in underserved populations and expand access to diabetic retinopathy screening in rural West Virginia.

Family Health

Initiatives that address innovative models, including neighborhood health care outreach on Pittsburgh's North Side, health and wellness approaches to lifestyle management, and statewide access to oral health care – especially pediatric oral health.

Service Delivery Systems

Support that helps organizations provide access, such as behavioral health services in primary care settings, addressing the health and needs of released incarcerated individuals, and healthrelated organizations focusing on the social determinants of health.



COVID-19 Response

2020 was a year like no other. COVID-19 cut a previously unimaginable swath through American life. Children, hungry and homeless. Seniors, isolated and scared. Families, unemployed and uninsured. To strained social service providers, even the most basic needs were now in doubt: not only education and health care, but also food, shelter — even clean laundry and hot showers.

We responded – not only to the health demands of the moment, awarding grants to support diverse communities, but also addressing longstanding needs in innovative ways. We were prepared to readdress ongoing issues such as Alzheimer's disease and rural oral health, among many others, and we responded by supporting innovative initiatives in COVID-19 remediation, health care coverage, access, information, hotlines, education, outreach, community engagement – every conceivable way to help those most in need.

As we face 2021, we will continue to take responsibility for all our areas of concern. We will look to flatten curves — not only of COVID-19 but also of access to care, alleviating suffering in underserved minority and rural communities.

PROVIDER STRATEGY

2020 upped the ante, not only placing previously unimaginable demands on patients and providers, but also creating new fears, fear of COVID-19 itself, fear of running out of resources — especially in underserved areas.

Our COVID-19 provider strategy is exactly what the words imply. Rather than trying to create an overarching action plan, the Foundation responded quickly and efficiently, awarded capacity grants to trusted community providers to support the most urgent needs of those on the frontlines of COVID-19, including PPE, telehealth capabilities, administrative support, and clinic supplies.

Nimble and adaptable, these grassroots agencies changed overnight to meet the unique and unprecedented needs of the community.

The Foundation worked every step of the way to help them provide desperately needed health care – from masks to telemedicine, mental health to COVID-19 testing – to many agencies, as indicated by two awardees, Christ Lutheran Church Health Ministries in Harrisburg, and Metro Community Health Center in Greater Pittsburgh.

Christ Lutheran Church Health Ministries

Harrisburg's South Allison Hill, one of central Pennsylvania's most economically challenged neighborhoods, faces the daily critical health needs of an underserved community. Underinsured or uninsured, the residents are in constant need of the most basic health care — a walk-in clinic, dental, urgent care, and prenatal services.

Then came COVID-19.

With its health care services already strained, Christ Lutheran Church Health Ministries needed to shore up support for their immediate needs while planning for what would clearly be greater future demands. How could they continue to be the open door to their community – while knowing they had to hold back resources for an unpredictable future? How to provide care now – and in the future?

Even more, how could they afford all the extra equipment that COVID-19 demanded: masks, PPEs, testing supplies, and more?

Faced with a difficult situation, Christ Lutheran reached out to the Highmark Foundation, a longtime partner.

And the Foundation responded – immediately and impactfully. A \$15,000 grant gave Christ Lutheran the ability to stay open during the brunt of the crisis, provide the same level of care they traditionally had, with additional help for people who had such daily concerns as getting to work or even going grocery shopping.

"The Highmark Foundation grant made all the difference," says Christ Lutheran Church's pastor, Reverend Drew Stockstill. "They really understand our needs and support the kind of grassroots work we do. That grant was a real vote of confidence."

Metro Community Health Center

In Greater Pittsburgh, among the worst areas of impacted poverty are three neighborhoods east of the city: Swissvale, Wilkinsburg, and Braddock – neighborhoods served by Metro Community Health Center's free, open-door clinic.

Like so many other community resources in 2020, Metro was both challenged by emerging needs and needed to react – quickly and efficiently.

How would Metro continue to treat people without compromising both their high standard of health care as well as the health of staff and those served?

Telemedicine. And to keep up with increasing demand, they implemented electronic record-keeping.

But the cost of these services — in addition to the cost of masks and PPE now mandated by COVID-19 — was extremely high.

With resources stretched thin, the \$34,000 Highmark Foundation grant enabled Metro to maintain continuity of patient care while transitioning to telemedicine — for both physical and mental health services. In addition, the Foundation grant aided the purchase of necessary electronic medical record software. Finally, Metro was able to create its own COVID-19 initiative, acquiring appropriate PPE for residents, testing thousands for the disease.

"The Highmark Foundation was wonderful," says Metro's director of development, Patrick Buehler. "They were able to disburse funds really fast for us. When we went into those communities, it was the first time that many people felt seen, that someone was actually taking care of them and their families. That really made a difference."

COMMUNITY STRATEGY

Community is how people define themselves. Sometimes it's a single town or neighborhood. Or a group of agencies joined by a common purpose. Even an entire state. Community is the people involved.

And the Highmark Foundation's task is to respond. To be involved where the community's needs are the greatest. Where those needs are the most human and most profound.

To help an entire community means addressing more than just health care, as vital as that is. Since communities, like people, are living organisms, everything is connected to general well-being — flu shots to food banks, COVID-19



Hosanna House Celebration of Hope: With the support of over 100 volunteers, 500 families received basic needs such as clothing and food, and even holiday supplies to ensure families would have the necessary resources to make it through the holiday season.

testing to dental clinics to family counseling to mental health.

To answer such community needs, the Foundation partners with sister agencies, which act as umbrellas, to address multiple needs with

concerted community strategies, to inform and assist families as they face uncertain futures, and to help them stay healthy and safe. Working with these many community partners, we will continue not only to address our current problems, but also to emerge stronger, in our abilities, in our resolve to respond, to remain hopeful for our future. And we will persevere to help provide information,

C The Highmark Foundation understands the importance of partnering with rural communities... They were able to come forward and help raise resources where there were gaps.

PAUL DAUGHERTY. PHILANTHROPY WEST VIRGINIA PRESIDENT & CEO

health center for all of 2020, providing COVID-19 testing, supplies, and cleaning productss, as well as dental and flu shot clinics.

Elsewhere, more than 500 families, including some 750 children, benefited from Hosanna

House's food bank, toys and clothing programs.

"The Highmark Foundation's grant was more than helpful," offers Hosanna House Executive Director Leon Haynes, III, "It was needed. Without the Foundation's fast turnaround and critical action, we would not have done all we did."

Philanthropy West Virginia Mini-Grants

In general, greater distances mean more

remediation, testing, safety kits, whatever is needed, however it is defined by the community – medical, social, economic. Human.

Hosanna House

The COVID-19 pandemic hit the entire Wilkinsburg community — especially the families Hosanna House serves — extremely hard. Every group, every need, was adversely affected — without exception. As the numbers kept rising, and the people affected continued to grow, Hosanna House created a comprehensive COVID-19 relief program designed to support the most vulnerable populations, notably seniors and children.

Seeking help from the Highmark Foundation, Hosanna House accepted a \$35,000 grant enabling it to promote community mitigation, helping more than 5,000 people and numerous local businesses.

Working, for example, with 50 families in a single building, Hosanna House provided safe health information, medical referrals, access to food services, health screenings for children, and essential living supplies for hundreds.

In another instance, despite enormous demands, Hosanna House was able to maintain a family challenging access, and in West Virginia and throughout rural communities it seemed that people were laid off and schools closed more quickly. In every conceivable community, the needs simply multiplied.

Working with the Highmark Foundation, a longtime partner, Philanthropy West Virginia, whose focus is on helping build and maintain regional nonprofits, used the opportunity to create Take 5 to Give 5, the statewide COVID-19 response fund, a challenge match fund. Using a \$19,000 Highmark Foundation grant, along with other funds, Philanthropy WV leveraged \$250,000 to provide mini-grants to 22 separate relief agencies over 55 counties. From PPE and cleaning supplies to basic health care delivery, operating funds to relief supplies, senior and youth services, rent and utility assistance, substance abuse counseling and community gardens, even restaurant support and converting little free libraries into food drops, along with every other conceivable need, Philanthropy WV maximized the impact of every dollar.

"The Highmark Foundation understands the importance of partnering with rural communities," says Philanthropy West Virginia President and CEO Paul Daugherty. "The great thing about



the Foundation is that they were able to come forward and help raise resources where there were gaps."

POISE Foundation

They saw the results soon enough. The enormous needs that COVID-19 created were severely affecting the Black community — and many small Black-led, Black-serving organizations in Allegheny and Beaver counties. When the POISE Foundation reached out to others, and conducted focus groups, they found the needs enormous. People were out of work; children were out of school. Even the most casual observer could see that it was not clear those small organizations would survive.

Working with the Highmark Foundation, POISE Foundation helped fund seven indigenous Black community organizations, including the Children's Sickle Cell Foundation, Allen Place Community Services, Pittsburgh Black Nurses in Action, King's Community Center, M-PowerHouse of Greater Pittsburgh, Black COVID-19 Equity Coalition, and the Neighborhood Resilience Project. Through these grantees, not only were COVID-19 needs addressed — including the distribution of thousands of masks, hand sanitizers, and vaccine education kits — but also such vital ongoing needs, such as chronic disease management, medicine distribution, mental health services, and even delivery of 7,000 boxes of desperately needed fresh fruits and vegetables.

POISE Foundation Program Officer Traci Johnson says, "The Highmark Foundation was very responsive. They have been very supportive of the work we've been doing. It's been a very positive experience."

Impact in West Virginia

Although one of America's most beautiful states, with breathtaking vistas and striking hills and hollows, West Virginia works to continue to meet the health care challenges its residents face.



With many gripped by generational poverty and rural distance, accessing quality care can be challenging. Then COVID-19 made it worse. Overnight, people became more isolated, everything became more costly.

Simply, COVID-19 affected every aspect of life.

Just as the Highmark Foundation had to respond in new ways, had to rethink how it would disburse precious resources, so did the Mountain State's service agencies.

Quickly, they discovered that COVID-19 meant more than masking and PPEs. It meant help for mental health and eye care, food banks, free clinics, and rent subsidies.

As such, the Foundation awarded grants, large and small – some direct, some matching funds – to support every possible need.

As just a few of many examples, Foundation grants helped the Boone County Community Organization feed 870 meals to 174 seniors; Logan County Miracle Island Unlimited construct outdoor shelters for people waiting for food boxes; the Kanawha Valley Roark-Sullivan Lifeway Center provide showers, laundry, and health screenings.

Emergency after emergency. Need after need.

"Traditionally our focus was only on building permanent endowments," said Beckley Area Foundation Executive Director Dena K. Cushman. "We learned that our organization could respond to emergency needs when they arise because of funding opportunities that are available."

WEST VIRGINIA COVID-19 RESPONSE GRANTS

In West Virginia, a strong state beset by COVID-19, the Highmark Foundation adopted a strategy of localization, of addressing health care and community needs by awarding grants to many service organizations for a vast array of needs.

From Beckley Health Right to Good Samaritan Free Health Clinic, Ebenezer Medical Huntington Outreach Center to the Mercer Charitable Clinic, and others, the Foundation funds significantly improved the lives of people bereft of help and services.

With grants ranging from \$15,000 to \$50,000, made to more than a dozen agencies, the Foundation helped address such needs as small business and restaurant survival, food insecurity, PPE and cleaning supplies, senior and youth services, rent and utility assistance, telemedicine and counseling services, substance abuse counseling, meals for frontline workers, Wi-Fi hotspots and laptop loans, community gardens, literacy kits, even the conversion of little free libraries to include food.

As one Hardy-Hampshire-area clinician put it, "By having access to telemedicine services, hundreds of our patients were able to limit exposure risk while being assessed by trained medical providers using upgraded equipment."

Added another in Nicholas County, "As the demand for food steadily increased, we used the funds to purchase commercial freezer/



LEFT: Bethany College students review the college's expanded mental health and wellness services.

RIGHT: A Hygeia practitioner uses the newly purchased RetinaVue Care Delivery Model camera to determine if the patient screens positive for diabetic retinopathy.

refrigeration units, getting us to be compliant with USDA guidelines."

Bethany College

Going to a small, isolated college far from home can be a difficult situation for any undergraduate, even more so for minority students. Especially during a pandemic.

At Bethany College, in West Virginia's northern panhandle, a third of entering students identify as Black or Hispanic. Not only are these students introduced to the new life of being a college student, they also are at greater risk of feeling isolated, lonely, anxious, and depressed.

Recognizing that students in general need mental health resources, and that students of color needed culturally competent resources, Bethany reached out to the Highmark Foundation for help.

The Foundation responded with a \$25,000 grant to increase the number of mental health counselors on and off campus, notably featuring counselors of diverse ethnicities. In addition, upon seeing the signs of deteriorating mental health, the Foundation's grant has enabled Bethany to bring Mental Health First Aid Training, a nationally recognized and highly regarded program, which teaches skills to non-medical personnel to be able to respond to the signs of mental illness and substance abuse.

"It was wonderful working with the Highmark Foundation," offers Dr. Julia Wilson, Bethany College's director of Government, Foundation, and Academic Grants. "They were so responsive, so kind. The Foundation was enthusiastic about helping fulfill students' needs."

Hygeia Facilities

Whitesville, a southern West Virginia town, is an area of such high numbers of Medicaid and Medicare patients, that West Virginians call it the forgotten part of the state for medical care.

Facing such needs, the nonprofit Hygeia Facilities Foundation has worked for more than six decades to bring quality health care to the region.

One need — one of many — was to alleviate diabetic retinopathy (DR), the leading cause of blindness for people with diabetes.

Although residents come to Hygeia's Whitesville facility for routine examinations of all sorts, the closest site for DR screening was 40 miles away. As the locals put it, that's 40 country miles, a deterrent if there ever were one. Realizing that such eye exams and timely treatment could prevent 90% of diabetes-related blindness, Hygeia began searching for a way to accomplish them on-site.

With COVID-19 stretching precious resources to the breaking point, Hygeia approached the Highmark Foundation for a \$16,000 grant to purchase a RetinaVue Care Delivery Model camera – thereby eliminating the need to refer patients to a separate – and virtually inaccessible – provider.

"Working with the Foundation was great," says Hygeia Facilities Foundation Chief Financial Officer Terri Grandstaff. "When they understood how rural our communities are, their timeline was fast."

Access to Care in Rural Communities

In every Pennsylvania and West Virginia county, access to health care is a challenge for rural communities. "Rural health disparities are deeply rooted in economic, social, racial, ethnic, geographic, and health workforce factors. That complex mix limits access to care, makes finding solutions more difficult, and intensifies problems for rural communities everywhere" (Robin Warshaw, *Health Disparities Affect Millions in Rural U.S. Communities*).

At the Highmark Foundation, we believe that everyone should have access to quality and affordable health care.

Faced with a need for community care, for healthy people as well as healthy places, in 2020 the Foundation responded with a wide variety of grants, to single agencies, public action groups, and umbrella organizations for every conceivable need.

From the Susquehanna River Valley Dental Health Clinic for pediatric services, to Centre Volunteers in Medicine for psychiatric services, to the Pennsylvania Oral Health for statewide access to affordable care – there was PPE and cleaning supplies, hot meals, and even hotter showers.

There were new technologies to keep people healthy and in touch; computers and the Wi-Fi to connect them; telemedicine services; literacy kits for kids away from school; and memory activities for seniors away from families.

Susquehanna River Valley Dental Health Clinic

More than 48 million Americans live in areas with dentist shortages. In Pennsylvania alone, there are 164 such pockets, including Sunbury, in the heart of underserved Northumberland, Snyder, and Union counties. Serving hundreds of underinsured or uninsured families who need dental care, the Susquehanna River Valley Dental Health Clinic wanted to expand.

With a vision to purchase the building they already occupied, Susquehanna Dental planned to transform the unoccupied second floor into a dedicated pediatric suite, with two treatment rooms, open hygiene bay, waiting room, sterilization area, and office space. When Susquehanna approached the Highmark Foundation, the Foundation responded with a \$125,000 grant that not only helped fund the physical plant, but also help hire a pediatric dentist and administrator, and purchase additional equipment.

Immediately, the numbers skyrocketed, 30 children a day, three days a week. As word-ofmouth circulated, patient visits grew to some 900 children and adults a month. "The Highmark Foundation," Susquehanna Dental Office Manager Susan White says, "was very easy to work with, very encouraging. They gave us lots of ideas, helped us push forward, suggested other things we could do to leverage funds. And we continue to work with them. The Foundation really believes in what we do."

Centre Volunteers in Medicine

Centre Volunteers in Medicine – the Centre County, Pennsylvania, branch of a national network of free clinics using retired medical and lay volunteers to care for the working uninsured – has traditionally provided medical and dental care, case management, and medication assistance to impoverished families without health insurance.

Yet in their work, Center Volunteers saw the lack of a holistic approach to medicine, including a much-needed mental health component. Centre Volunteers patients diagnosed with mental health conditions not only struggled to find affordable care, they were also subject to long waiting lists for services. C The Highmark Foundation has been a great partner. They're very interested in the work we're doing and the results we're seeing. And they care about us succeeding.

CHERYL WHITE, CENTRE VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Pennsylvania Coalition for Oral Health

Poor dental health can affect everything, not merely oral discomfort but also general health, behavioral problems, even substance abuse.

In Pennsylvania, nearly three million people receive medical assistance with dental benefits. However, because of poor access, a scarcity of dental resources, or the unwillingness of more than three-quarters of all providers to accept low reimbursements, many adults go untreated – and less than half of their children regularly see a dentist.

To make matters worse, COVID-19 caused office closures, insurance changes, infection

fears, transportation difficulties, high unemployment, and more.

Suddenly, resources which were traditionally scarce became even more so.

And finding them became a nightmare.

Recognizing the problem, the Pennsylvania Coalition for Oral Health sought a viable solution. Their initial discovery was

The Highmark Foundation helped change that. With a \$125,000 grant, Centre Volunteers was able to hire a part-time psychologist, part-time consultative psychiatrist, and a behavioral health manager to integrate behavioral health services into the primary care clinic.

The results have been excellent. Medical providers appreciated having access to a psychiatrist, especially when it came to diagnosing conditions and prescribing medications. And patients appreciated the fact they could get all their care in one place.

"It's been wonderful," says Centre Volunteers Executive Director Cheryl White. "The Highmark Foundation has been a great partner. They're very interested in the work we're doing and the results we're seeing. And they care about us succeeding." that while there were multiple places to seek help, there was no single source for information.

Using a \$24,700 grant from the Highmark Foundation the Oral Health Coalition created a single, statewide dental referral resource. Adapting an existing database, United Way's 211 call line, the Oral Health Coalition doubled the number of listed providers, greatly expanding people's abilities to find affordable care.

"Working with the Highmark Foundation was wonderful," says Oral Health Coalition Executive Director Helen Hawkey. "They were great partners, really flexible, extremely helpful about all our questions and concerns."







CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Centre Volunteers in Medicine (CVIM) providing telehealth as part of Foundation funding.

The upgraded Susquehanna River Valley Dental Health Clinic (SRVDHC) waiting room.

A child receiving dental care at the SRVDHC.

CVIM vaccination clinic where a Highmark Foundation grant was utilized to purchase critical PPE.





To serve the underserved. To identify the overlooked. To answer need with vision and innovation. To offer hope. That is how the Highmark Foundation responds. Working with our partners, the Foundation has helped identify populations in need of care, or support, who often go unnoticed. Ensuring people have access to care is critically important to our mission.

In addressing both the social determinants of health as well as health equity, the Foundation has partnered with Pittsburgh's Project Destiny. Project Destiny developed and launched Thrive18, a ground-breaking model that builds direct, trusted, household-level, communitybased relationships with residents of Pittsburgh's Northside neighborhoods to more effectively address the social determinants of health, and improve access to healthcare and personal health.

Those who've been released from prison face serious hardships. Confused, bereft, and with a myriad of health, mental, or substance problems, they often have nowhere to go. Working with AHN, the Foundation helped fund RIVER Clinic, which helps inmates find post-incarceration care.

Finally, to battle Alzheimer's disease, the Foundation has partnered with the Alzheimer's Association, communicating with disparate populations the stages and effects of the disease, creating materials, call-in lines, and offering methods to care for loved ones.

Project Destiny

Addressing poor health care equity in Pittsburgh's 18 North Side neighborhoods, including nearly 20,000 residents at or below the poverty line, required innovative thinking. And the Highmark Foundation was there to help.

Disinvestment in low-income communities and communities of color has created notable challenges, including transit access, food insecurity, underemployment, underperforming schools, social isolation — as well as obesity, hypertension, diabetes, mental health problems, prostate cancer, substance abuse, and asthma, among others. Clearly, a new model for individual health care delivery and community wellness was needed.

With a Foundation grant helping fund faith-based Project Destiny's new Thrive18 initiative, residents in need were connected with service providers. Building on direct, trusted, community-based relationships, Thrive18 used teams of outreach workers and community-based navigators to reach out to North Side residents in their own homes, identifying problems, then connecting people with needed services — for food, housing, employment, health care, education, COVID-19 prevention, and more. In the process, Thrive 18 pieced together an entire network of services, making referrals, generating trust based on neighborhood backgrounds, mutual respect, and shared values.

"We are so pleased to be in partnership with the Highmark Foundation," says Project Destiny Chief Executive Officer Reverend Dr. Brenda J. Gregg. "They're helping us reach people where they are."

Allegheny Health Network RIvER Clinic

As a population generally needing the most basic health care, and mostly under- or uninsured, the formerly incarcerated often have little or no regular access. As such, health care providers needed innovative thinking to identify, develop, and implement a program to connect released inmates to appropriate health and social services.

While Pittsburgh's Allegheny Health Network provides health care for many Allegheny County Jail inmates, no primary care clinic existed for those upon discharge. Recognizing the problem, AHN's Center for Inclusion Health sought a way to help this vulnerable population.

Vulnerable puts it mildly. Nearly a third of all inmates have substance abuse problems, twothirds suffer from hepatitis C, a third require mental health services.

With a \$110,000 grant from the Highmark Foundation to fund a nurse navigator and a community health worker, and meet site expenses and engagement materials, AHN's Center for Inclusion Health created the RIvER Clinic (for Rethinking Incarceration and Empowering



Recovery) in downtown Pittsburgh, where former inmates receive primary care appointments and are guided in human services, including housing, employment training, and transportation.

"The Highmark Foundation made things easy," says RIvER Clinic Program Developer Dr. Divya Venkat. "Not only were they excited about what we're doing, they were also flexible about timelines. We really appreciate everything they've done for us."

Alzheimer's Association

It's the great hidden killer, and it will take a great deal of innovative thinking to combat it.

With more than five million people suffering from Alzheimer's disease in America, and a projected 13.8 million in 30 years, dementia represents a growing health crisis. Locally, Alzheimer's is Pennsylvania's sixth-leading cause of death, West Virginia's seventh.

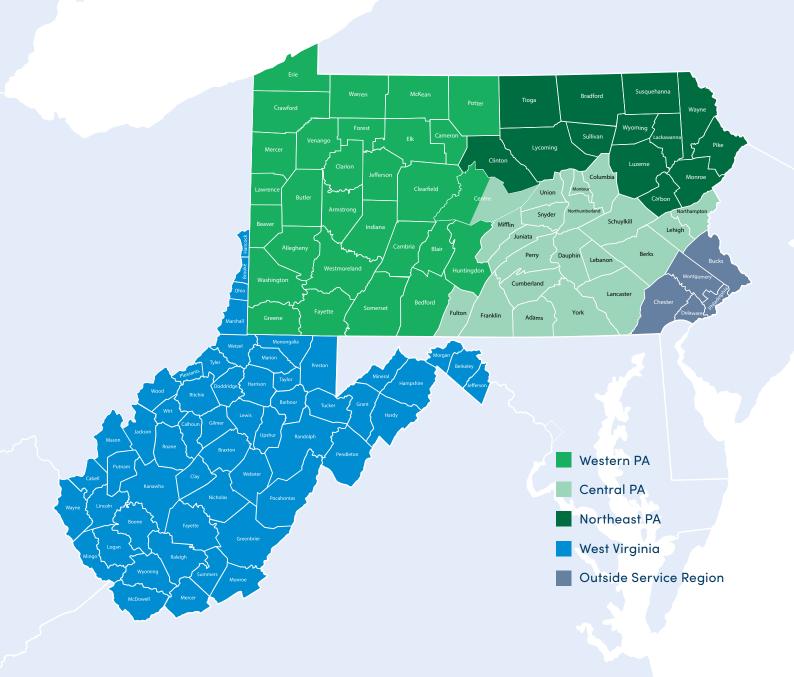
How to fight it? How to detect, diagnose, educate, and advocate for different ethnic, geographic, and socioeconomic groups where disparities often dictate health outcomes? Choosing four different areas, the Alzheimer's Association set about to increase public awareness, health literacy, and patient advocacy. Those areas were Pittsburgh (Black); the Lehigh Valley (Hispanic), where Alzheimer's has had a devastating impact; rural central Pennsylvania; and Morgantown, West Virginia.

A \$100,000 grant from the Highmark Foundation provides support, education, and other resources to increase awareness, education, community planning, technical assistance, and intervention. Further, innovative programming includes inperson and virtual peer and professionally led support groups and workshops, a 24/7 Helpline, information on living with Alzheimer's, and caregiving techniques.

"We're humbled and excited to work with the Highmark Foundation," says Alzheimer's Association Vice President of Programs and Services Sara Murphy, "to be able to expand our reach into underserved communities, to provide care in culturally sensitive ways."

Service Region

The Highmark Foundation service area spans across 62 counties in Pennsylvania and the entire state of West Virginia.



Grant Listing

CHRONIC DISEASE

Alzheimer's Association To improve dementia quality care and awareness in communities.	\$100,000
Hygeia Facilities Foundation To fund a newly established Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Program.	\$16,000
South Central Educational Development, Inc. To expand access to naloxone education workshops.	\$22,000

FAMILY HEALTH

Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention To continue advancing knowledge and awareness of bullying prevention resources and expand school-based health resources throughout Pennsylvania and West Virginia.	\$110,000
Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit – Center for Safe Schools To support and promote a new pilot program focused on improving school climate in Pennsylvania.	\$225,00
Lancaster General Hospital To create the Care Connections Caring Kitchen program to provide individualized medically prescribed diets to patients with multiple chronic conditions.	\$60,000
Three Rivers Mothers' Milk Bank Planning grant to support feasibility of milk bank expansion into West Virginia.	\$25,000

SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEMS

Allegheny Health Network Support the creation of the AHN Center for Inclusion Health's Rethinking Incarceration and Empowering Recovery (RIvER) Clinic.	\$110,000
Bethany College To expand culturally competent mental health and behavioral counseling for the student body.	\$25,000
Bethany Community Ministries To support connecting seniors to medical, physical, and psychological services.	\$49,500
Children's Hospital Foundation To support The Whole Child Wellness Clinic (WCWC) pilot, a coordinated hub for health care, designed for families and their children with unmet developmental-behavioral health care needs.	\$250,000

SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEMS (CONT)

Cornerstone Care To support Smile for Life Integrated Oral Health Outreach Program.	\$75,000
Erie County Department of Health To support Growing Smiles of Erie County: An integrated primary and dental care program.	\$45,000
Face2Face Healing To support expansion of Advancement of Case Management: Assisting individuals with body disfigurement with the inclusion of a clinical psychologist.	\$65,000
Jewish Healthcare Foundation – AIDS Free Pittsburgh To support a two-year program aimed to normalize HIV screening in Allegheny County through the implementation of a centralized HIV screening and community outreach campaign and an accompanying mini-grant program.	\$125,000
Project Destiny, Inc. To support Project Destiny's Thrive18 initiative.	\$200,000
United Disabilities Services Foundation To pilot a Telemedicine Wound Care Management program and provide coordination of care for individuals with physical and age-related disabilities in the United Disabilities Services' home and community-based services division who experience significant wounds as a result of their physical disability.	\$100,000

COVID-19 Response Grants

WEST VIRGINIA FREE CLINICS

Beckley Health Right	\$15,000
Ebenezer Medical Huntington Outreach Center	\$15,000
Good Samaritan Free Health Clinic	\$15,000
Health Access Inc. (Clarksburg)	\$15,000
Mercer Charitable Clinic	\$15,000
Milan Puskar (Morgantown)	\$15,000
West Virginia Health Right (Charleston)	\$15,000
Wheeling Health Right	\$15,000

PENNSYLVANIA FREE CLINICS

9th Street Clinic (McKeesport)	\$15,000
Beacon Clinic for Health & Hope (Harrisburg)	\$15,000

PENNSYLVANIA FREE CLINICS (CONT)

Birmingham Free Clinic	\$15,000
Catholic Charities	\$15,000
Centre Volunteers in Medicine (State College)	\$15,000
Columbia County Volunteers in Medicine	\$15,000
Corry Area Free Clinic	\$15,000
Edward Leahy Jr. Center Clinic for the Uninsured	\$15,000
Free Clinic at Braddock	\$15,000
Free Medical Clinic of DuBuois	\$15,000
Highlands Health (Johnstown)	\$15,000
Hope Within Ministries	\$15,000
ean B. Purvis Community Health Center	\$15,000
Katallasso Family Health Center	\$15,000
Lebanon Valley Volunteers in Medicine	\$15,000
Meadville Area Free Clinic	\$15,000
Mission of Mercy (Harrisburg)	\$15,000
Operation Safety Net	\$15,000
Sheep Inc. Health Care Center (Monroeville)	\$15,000
The Health Ministries of Christ Lutheran	\$15,000
/olunteers in Medicine (Wilkes-Barre)	\$15,000
Western Berks Free Medical Clinic	\$15,000

PENNSYLVANIA & WEST VIRGINIA FQHC LOOKALIKES

Hygeia Facilities Foundation Inc. (Whitesville)	\$34,000
Metro Community Health Center	\$34,000
Rural Health Access Corporation (Coalfield)	\$34,000
Sharon Community Health Center Inc.	\$34,000
Wright Center for Community Health	\$34,000

COMMUNITY STRATEGY GRANTS

The community strategy is designed to support collaborative partnerships that focus on prevention and interventions to meet critical health care needs.

AHN Center for Inclusion Health To support a telehealth for the homeless initiative in partnership Allegheny County Dept. of Human Services.	\$76,000
Family Life Center To support COVID-19 programmatic efforts.	\$25,000
Hosanna House To support a COVID-19 community assistance campaign.	\$35,000
Philanthropy West Virginia To support small COVID-19 health response grants.	\$19,000
POISE Foundation To support emerging critical community needs for African American communities in Allegheny and Beaver counties.	\$25,000
Travelers Aid Society of Pittsburgh To support the Medical Transportation Assistance Fund.	\$25,000
West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness To support COVID-19 health, mental health, and benefits navigation for persons experiencing homelessness.	\$25,000
West Virginia Local Health Inc. To address the decline as a result of COVID-19 in routine immunizations in children and older adults throughout WV.	\$50,000

DISCOUNTS

Grants Discount and Canceled Grants	-\$211,156

Traditional Grants Total	\$2,356,344

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School Grants and Awards

Highmark Foundation School Grants

For more than two decades, schools have been a top priority for the Highmark Foundation. As a recognized leader in addressing critical health issues affecting children in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, the Foundation's overarching goal of our School Grants and Awards program is to provide support that empowers schools to take greater strides in improving child health and wellness.

In 2020, the Foundation provided \$3,000 grants to each of the 115 schools that applied to its School Grants and Awards program. These one-time COVID-19 health-related grants replace the Foundation's traditional grants awarded annually to schools that address bullying prevention, environmental health, physical activity, nutrition education, and school-based health initiatives.

Understanding that our schools are now focusing on keeping children safe, the Foundation awarded every applicant a grant to address health and COVID-19-related programs.

Since 2013, the Foundation has contributed more than \$2.65 million to support healthy school environments and remains committed during these extraordinary times.

Advanced Excellence in School Nursing Awards

In any given year, school nurses are the backbone of every school's health care. Decent and supportive, they care for children, counsel them, cure them if possible. They are kind first responders, often unrecognized, selfless, invariably unsung.

Eternally vigilant, they are responsible for implementing best practices, managing students with a variety of conditions, including acute, chronic, and complex health conditions. Providing a variety of complex services, school nurses also help develop programs to support school personnel. Often there is but a single nurse to serve hundreds of students across multiple school buildings in a district – a virtually impossible task.

While many schools were closed in 2020 due to COVID-19, any number of school nurses deserved recognition for their service over the years. Since the inception of the program in 2016, 39 nurses have received \$58,500 from the Foundation that can be used to support professional development or student health.

Supportive Services Health Grants

More than books, supplies, even teachers, schools have become vital community resources, especially in areas of impacted poverty, especially in terms of health care.

At the Highmark Foundation we know that other than the school nurse, all too frequently children have no other access to care.

We also know that without proper health – even without proper clothing – children cannot learn.

As part of the Highmark Foundation's continued commitment to education, we make grants that benefit economically disadvantaged school districts and high-needs schools. Schools can receive Child Health and Wellness Grants to help purchase items that impact a child's overall health and well-being, including clothing, eyeglasses, and undergarments.

Equipment and Supplies Challenge Grants match funds schools raise or secure from other foundations, businesses, and other interested parties for the purchase of such equipment as blood pressure monitors, digital scales, glucometers, and so on. Since 2016, 113 schools have received grants totaling \$111,424 to benefit child health.

BULLYING PREVENTION

Butler Area School District: Second Step at Butler Area School District	\$3,000
Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School: Olweus Anti-Bully Program	\$3,000
Dunmore Elementary and Jr./Sr. High School: The Contentment Foundation's Four Pillars of Well-being	\$3,000
East Pike Elementary School: Social and Emotional Tiers of Support	\$3,000
Forest Hills Jr./Sr. High School: Leader in Me by FranklinCovey	\$3,000
H. Austin Snyder Elementary School: Second Step Bullying Prevention	\$3,000
H.E. White Elementary School: Second Step	\$3,000
.incolnway Elementary School: Making Second Step a First Step towards Student Social Success	\$3,000
Meyersdale Area Middle School: Ambassadors-Community Matters	\$3,000
Moshannon Valley Jr./Sr. High: Second Step Middle School Program	\$3,000
Parkersburg Catholic Elementary School: I Can Problem Solve (ICPS)	\$3,000
Pittsburgh Beechwood PreK-5: HealthyCHILD	\$3,000
Reamstown/ Adamstown/ Denver Elementary Schools: Elementary Responsive Classroom Implementation	\$3,000
Saint Patrick School: Leader in Me	\$3,000
Sto-Rox Junior-Senior High School: Olweus Bullying Program	\$3,000
Urban Pathways K-5 College Charter School: Bullying Prevention	\$3,000

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Beaver County Career and Technology Center: Infection Transmission Reduction UV Sanitizer	\$3,000
Bethlehem Center Elementary School: Beth Center Elementary School Wide Positive Behavior Team	\$3,000
Carlynton Jr./Sr. High School: Sensory Room for Life Skills Students	\$3,000
Central High School: Healthy Learning Through Indoor Air Quality Improvement	\$3,000
Franklin Regional Middle School: Hydration Station	\$3,000
Greenbrier Community School at Bolling: Bolling School Renovation	\$3,000
Harman School: Harman School Kiln Vent Hood	\$3,000
eannette Junior-Senior High School: Healthy Drinking	\$3,000
aurel Middle High School and Laurel Elementary School: Cleaner Greener Laurel	\$3,000

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (CONTD)

Leechburg Area High School: Student Motivation for Clean Hydration	\$3,000
Marian Catholic High School: Safe School Environment Program	\$3,000
McKee Elementary: Healthy Drinking	\$3,000
Norwin High School: Toxin Free Lavatories	\$3,000
Our Lady of Peace School: A Positive Change for a Changing World	\$3,000
Philipsburg-Osceola High School: Mountie Makerspaces: Safe, Clean, and Well Ventilated!	\$3,000
The Janus School: Experiential Learning: Aeroponics and Native Plant Nursery	\$3,000

HEALTHY EATING AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Beaver Area High School: Bobcat Fit	\$3,000
Beaver Area Middle School: Bobcat Fit	\$3,000
Big Otter Elementary: Operation Tone-Up	\$3,000
Blennerhassett Middle School: Blennerhassett Middle School Playground	\$3,000
Broughal Middle School: Farm to School Program	\$3,000
Buffalo Elementary School: Climbing to Move Meaningfully	\$3,000
Central Elementary: Weekend Meal Program	\$3,000
Chestnut Ridge High School: Outdoor Fitness for Life	\$3,000
Cranberry Junior Senior High School: Cranberry Campus Disc-mania	\$3,000
Deer Lakes High School: The Smarter Lunchrooms Movement	\$3,000
East Forest School: Bicycle Curriculum Implementation	\$3,000
Freeport Area High School: SPARKing Freeport Teens to Brand X (continued)	\$3,000
Freeport Area Middle School: SPARKing Freeport Youth to Brand X (Year 3)	\$3,000
Grandview Elementary School: Grandview Wellness Initiative	\$3,000
Herbert Hoover High School: Herbert Hoover Physical Education Program	\$3,000
Hillcrest Intermediate School: Hillcrest Intermediate Physical Education Program	\$3,000
Hillsboro Elementary School: Fitness Grant	\$3,000
Hite Saunders Elementary: Get Moving Bulldogs	\$3,000

HEALTHY EATING AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY (CONTD)

Ingomar Elementary: Health, Physical Education and School Wellness	\$3,000
Lancaster Country Day School: Employee Wellness	\$3,000
Lizemore Elementary: Operation Tone-Up	\$3,000
Manchester Academic Charter School: MACS Weekend Wellness Community (MACS WWC)	\$3,000
Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV: Feeding and Swallowing Team	\$3,000
Milton Elementary School: Fitnessgram Documentation	\$3,000
Milton Middle School: Panthers Pumping Iron	\$3,000
Mineral Wells Elementary: Mineral Wells Playground	\$3,000
Moniteau Jr./Sr. High School: Healthy Living and Wellness	\$3,000
Moshannon Valley Elementary School: Mo Valley Fit Climbing Course	\$3,000
New Castle Sr. High School: Let's Go CANES	\$3,000
Northside Elem. Palmyra Area School District: Emotional Support & Physical, Creative, & Relaxing Indoor Recess	\$3,000
Oakview Elementary: Peaceful Playground and Positive Peer Play	\$3,000
Peebles Elementary School: SPARK Program	\$3,000
Penn Cambria Middle School: Accept the Challenge - Grade 5	\$3,000
Pittsburgh Faison K-5: All Kids Bike at Faison	\$3,000
Rock Cave Elementary: Backpack Program	\$3,000
Rocky Grove Junior Senior High School: Integrating FitnessGram software into Health and Physical Education Program	\$3,000
Rolling Ridge Elementary School: Highmark Huskie Heroes	\$3,000
SCA Middle School, SCA High School, G.C. Hartman Elementary Center: Farm Fresh Food of the Month	\$3,000
Sheridan Terrace Elementary School: Sensory-Friendly Playground	\$3,000
Shrewsbury Elementary School: SPARK Curriculum	\$3,000
Slippery Rock Middle School: Rockin' Fit Program	\$3,000
South Buffalo Elementary School: Climbing to Move Meaningfully	\$3,000
Southern Middle School: Heart Zones System	\$3,000
Spectrum Charter School: The Spectrum Charter School Healthy Living Program	\$3,000

HEALTHY EATING AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY (CONT)

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SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH

Admiral Peary: Continuing Education	\$3,000
Barboursville Middle School: Glo Germ Classroom Kit	\$3,000
Belington Middle School: Healthy Hydration for High Achievement at BMS	\$3,000
Carnegie Elementary School: The CHILL Project	\$3,000
Elkview Middle School: Community Action - Poverty Simulation Kit	\$3,000
Executive Education Academy Charter School: Enhanced Vision Screening for EEACS Students	\$3,000
Greenbrier West High School: Greenbrier West Wellness	\$3,000
Greensburg Salem Middle School: Learning Lions Health Class	\$3,000
Hahntown Elementary School: Emotional Well-Being and Mindfulness Tools	\$3,000
Hampton Middle School: Wellness Center	\$3,000
Herbert Hoover High School: Herbert Hoover Health Program	\$3,000
Johnstown Christian School: Stop the Bleed	\$3,000
Laurel District Middle/High School: Making a spartan effort to improve student health	\$3,000
Morgantown High School: Stop the Bleed School Response Program	\$3,000
North Clarion High School: Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Education for Students and Staff	\$3,000
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SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH (CONT)

Parkersburg Catholic High School: SPARK program	\$3,000
Penn Cambria High School: Continuing Education for School Nurse	\$3,000
Penn Cambria Intermediate School: Continuing Education for School Nurse	\$3,000
Philippi Middle School: Healthy Hydration for High Achievement at PMS	\$3,000
Pittsburgh Phillips K-5: Sit, Get Fit, and Learn	\$3,000
Secondary Center: Student Health Services	\$3,000
outh Park Middle School: SPSD/ACW Partnership for Trauma-Based Care	\$3,000
St. Michael Parish School: Hydration Stations	\$3,000
Stewartsville Elementary School: CASTLE Learning Space	\$3,000
win Valley High School: Health Screenings Support	\$3,000
Jniversity High School: Replacement of Recovery Cots	\$3,000
Vestern Beaver County Jr./Sr. High School: COVID-19 Supplies and PPE	\$3,000
Vestmont Hilltop Elementary School: Screening Technology and Support	\$3,000
Vood County Schools Board of Education: Expanded School-based Screening, Management, and Support for School Nurses	\$3,000

HEALTH GRANTS AND AWARDS

Supportive Services	\$24,000
Nurses Awards	\$7,500

School Grants and Awards Total	\$376,500
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Educational Support and Contracts

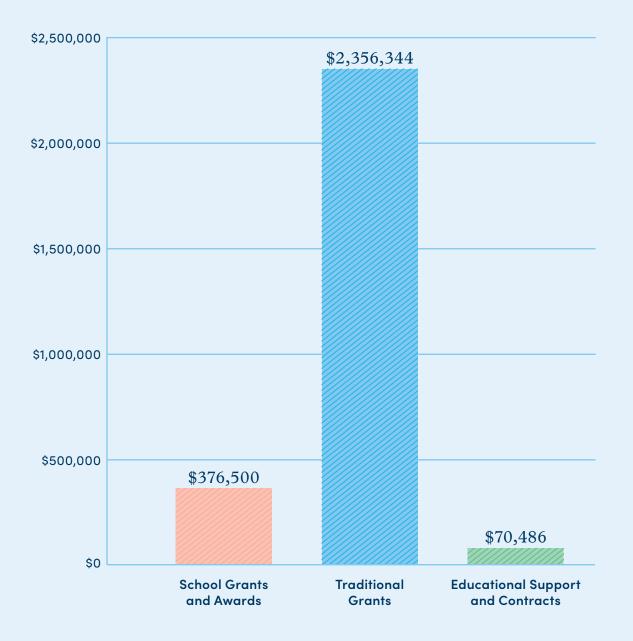
EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

Pittsburgh Business Group on Health (Sponsorship) To sponsor a three-part educational series around health inequities in our region.	\$65,000
TOTAL	\$65,000
CONTRACTS	
Christopher Pratt	\$1,760
UPContent, LLC	\$3,726
TOTAL	\$5,486
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Educational Support and Contracts Total	\$70,486

Total Foundation Funding

\$2,803,330

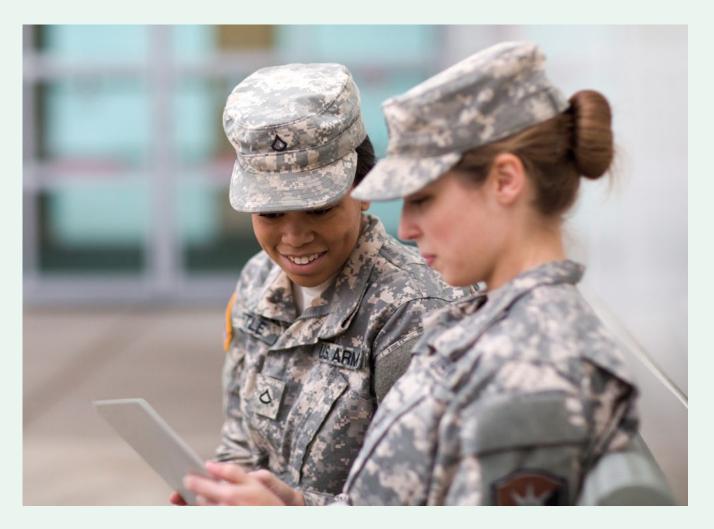


Thought Leadership

The Highmark Foundation (Foundation) has a history of addressing the health care needs of individuals and communities served by Highmark Inc. and its subsidiaries and affiliates. In 2018, the Foundation issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to initiate or enhance services for female veterans with capacity-building grants.

Eight organizations in central and western Pennsylvania were awarded a total of \$275,000 to implement measurable actions and interventions to address health care barriers for female veterans. The funding helped to provide accessible, coordinated, and comprehensive care and supportive services, while encouraging these women to have an active role in their health.

As a result, these veterans now have access to quality resources and social services to help meet their needs, especially when dealing with challenges like military sexual trauma, depression, and homelessness. In total, more than 9,000 lives were positively impacted by the initiative.



In the News

January

- \$20,000 grant will help Allentown landlords install newly required window guards in apartments: *The Morning Call, Allentown*
- Highmark opens school grant program: Trib Live
- Highmark Foundation accepting applications grants: *The Parkersburg News & Sentinel*

February

• Remarkable Leadership: Meet Yvonne Cook: Highmark Health Digital Magazine

March

• Highmark Foundation Accepting Applications: The Wheeling Intelligencer

April

- Corporate Funders Support COVID-19 Relief: *Philanthropy News Digest*
- TIMELINE: Pennsylvania coronavirus updates April 2: WPXI

May

 Highmark Foundation celebrates National School Nurse Day by honoring five nurses with Advancing Excellence in School Nursing Awards: Highmark Foundation Press Release

- Penn-Trafford nurse wins Highmark nursing excellence award: *Trib Live*
- SV School Nurse Named Winner of The 2020 Excellence In School Nursing Award: *Seneca Valley School District Press Release*
- Bringing telehealth to the people by giving them a hand and a tablet: *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

November

- AHN, Highmark, and UPMC Join Together Again to Fund AIDS Free Pittsburgh: *Jewish Healthcare Foundation*
- Fundraising focus shifts to upcoming Giving Tuesday after Philanthropy West Virginia's 'Take 5 To Give 5' campaign: *Metro News*

December

• JHF-managed HIV/AIDS initiative receives \$1.5 million: *Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle*

Visit the Highmark Foundation at highmarkfoundation.org. Call: 1-866-594-1730 | Email: info@highmarkfoundation.org 04/21 MX514423