



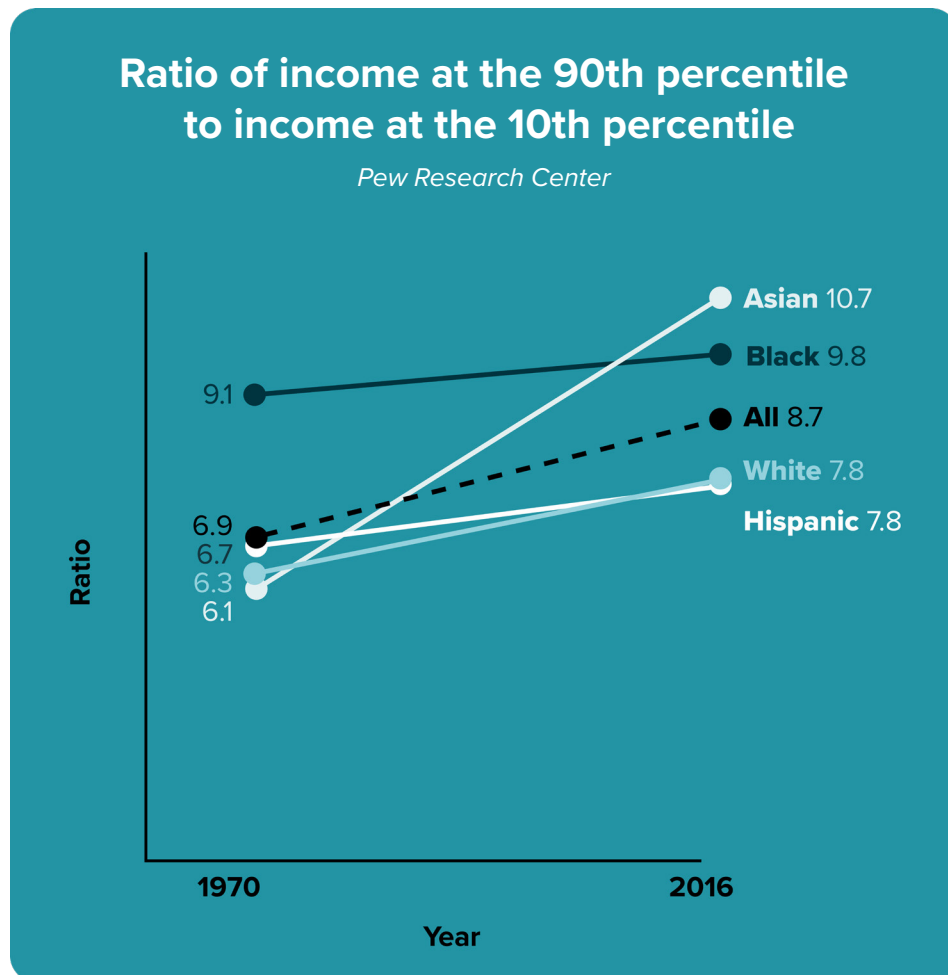
We Got Us Fund

a New Breath Foundation Fund
2023 Update & Call to Action

In 2021, New Breath Foundation (NBF) partnered with the East Bay Community Foundation (EBCF) to launch the *We Got Us* Fund (*WGUF*). Founded in 2017 by Eddy Zheng, NBF mobilizes resources to support Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPIs) harmed by the unjust immigration and criminal justice systems to heal, keep families together, and build movements that shift narratives and policies. We are organizers and directly impacted leaders building a community of funders and donors committed to providing hope and healing to AANHPIs facing violence, incarceration, and deportation.

We Got Us is a fund co-created, first with initial conversations about a cross-racial response to the community's need between Eddy Zheng and then EBCF's CEO, James Head, and then in coalition with other funders as a response to escalated public anti-Asian violence and systemic violence, while also acknowledging the history of violence and scapegoating of both communities. While the needs and inequities were always there, how people reacted to ongoing violence against Asians with more law enforcement, prisons, and punishments is counter-productive because it does not address the root causes of the violence and systemic racism. The *WGUF* addresses inequity and harm through the lens of collaborating with other people of color.

The Challenge: Why We Are Here



More than “Other”:

Asians are the fastest growing racial group and are represented in every state with different ethnicities that are most populous.

Poverty Rates Hidden by Wealth Gap:

Poverty and other challenges are an issue which is often hidden because AANHPIs have the largest racial wealth gap within their group than any other racial group including Blacks and whites.

Miniscule Support vs. the Need:

Less than the 20 cents per \$100 that goes to the AANHPI communities, the communities NBF supports receive even less.

Racially Targeted Violence and Violence related to Trauma:

Pre-existing violence targeting Asian, especially women, youth and elders rose exponentially during the pandemic and high rates continue.

New Breath Foundation and *We Got Us* Fund's Progress

We Got Us Fund's bold praxis is that the way to safety is not only in supporting the currently and formerly incarcerated and advancing cross-racial solidarity but also in changing what traditional philanthropy sees as a "good investment." Led by the community, *WGUF* takes risks that lead to transformative philanthropic investments and narrative change on who is "risky" and "worthy of support." In our third year, we have made significant progress on our outcomes of increased capacity, increased opportunity for racial healing and cross-racial solidarity, and increased leadership pathways for those with lived experience of incarceration to philanthropy. By the end of our 2023 grant cycle, *WGUF* will have moved a cumulative \$5,650,000 in six-figure direct trust-based grants that build power for AANHPI racial justice movements. NBF's focus on AANHPIs and the criminal legal and deportation systems made the issues and people visible to combat the great inequity of support. With our grantees and partners, we connect the dots for philanthropy and the public to learn about the issues, create understanding, and fund solutions for healing and collective liberation.

We Got Us Fund's Future

New Breath Foundation is a community-led grassroots public foundation creating a seat at the philanthropic table for advocacy within philanthropy and to fund directly impacted AANHPI front-line organizations that align with our cross-racial solidarity analysis. With the *We Got Us* Fund, we uplift the inequity of our community, especially as it pertains to the often invisible AANHPI currently and formerly incarcerated people for healing, keeping families together, and building movement. Our grantmaking strategy of funding AANHPI groups with an intersectional racial justice strategy reflects our understanding of our responsibility to fight for other people of color communities rather than be pitted against them.

Our *WGUF* grantee cohort will grow to 35 organizations working locally and nationally to have organic, authentic relationships with each other and the field. We will continue to model and learn how to create pathways to philanthropy for formerly incarcerated people so those most impacted can be closer to funding the solutions.

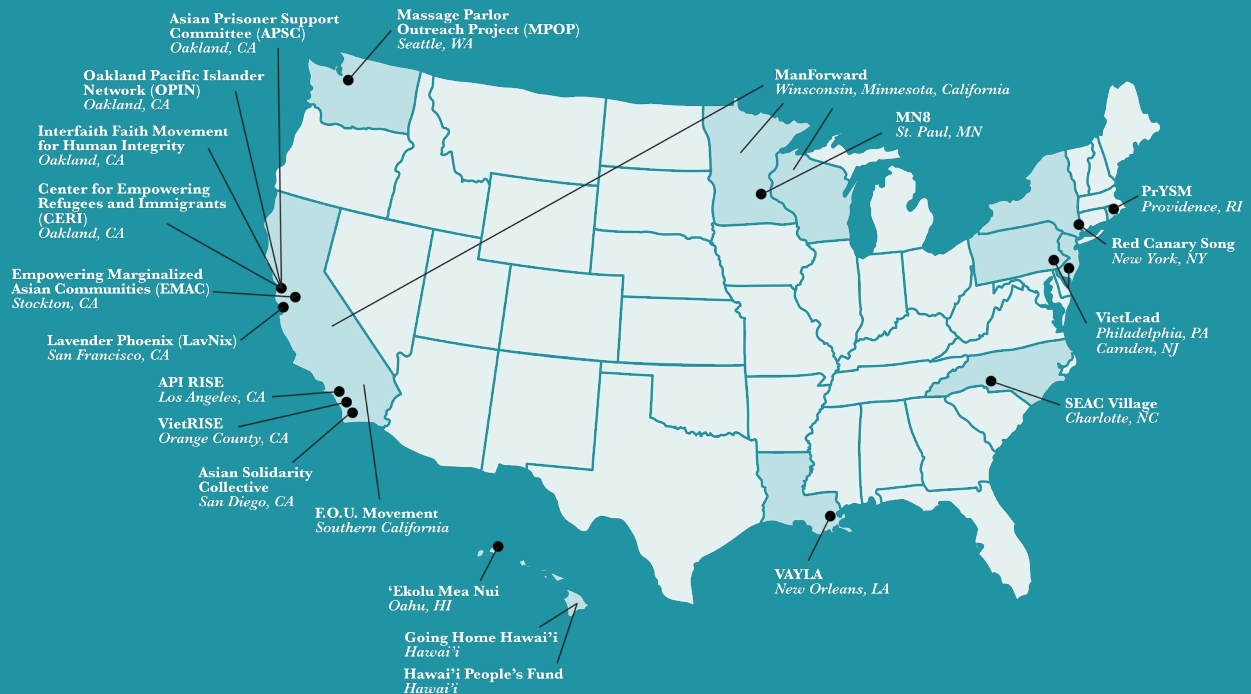
Year	New <i>WGUF</i> Grantees	Grants to Previous Grantees	Total <i>WGUF</i> Grantmaking/Year	Total to Date	Cumulative <i>WGUF</i> Grantees	Directly Impacted People in Leadership*
2021	10	-	\$2,280,000	\$2,280,000	10	4
2022	7	-	\$1,170,000	\$3,550,000	17	4
2023	7	6	\$2,100,000	\$5,650,000	24	7
2024*	6	9	\$2,150,000	\$7,800,000	30	8-10
2025*	5	9	\$2,200,000	\$10,000,000	35	8-12

*Leadership is defined as being on the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), NBF Board of Directors, staff, and volunteer advisor.

*Projected grantmaking, actual grantmaking will be based on fundraising.

Fast Facts

Map of *WGUF* Grantees Across the Country



WGUF has 24 grantees, 21 who work locally across 11 states, and 3 national organizations.

- ★ **Survived and Punished National**
- ★ **Grassroots Asians Rising (GAR) National**
- ★ **Southeast Asian Freedom Network National**

The *We Got Us* Fund is a donor advised fund at the East Bay Community Foundation. Starting in 2022, all grantmaking dollars committed each year are moved to this fund regardless of the distribution timing requested by the grantee. Our Fund prioritizes grantmaking to grassroots AANHPI organizations with annual budgets of less than \$1 million and includes organizations that are volunteer-run on less than \$100,000.

Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI):

NBF explicitly and consciously names Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders because we recognize the deeper inequities that impact these communities especially around criminal legal systemic issues. Our praxis of inclusion ensures we fund Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander organizations in each grant cycle.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC):

We build leadership through our Community Advisory Committee (CAC), and this Committee is now primarily composed of AANHPIs with direct lived experience. We have deepened the leadership-building and grantmaking knowledge of the CAC by increasing the number of meetings and engaging 100% of the CAC members to participate in our 2023 grantee convening.

Philanthropic Advocacy:

NBF is a community-based and led funder within philanthropic and community spaces; therefore, we play a crucial role in educating philanthropic stakeholders and advocating to increase investment in community-grounded racial solidarity efforts. Over decades, NBF staff, board, and our Community Advisory Committee established and maintained strong and trustful relationships with grassroots groups and leaders that inform our work. We leverage our position within philanthropy to uplift our grantees and other often invisible organizations and voices of those formerly incarcerated at philanthropic conferences, webinars, and media. NBF welcomes collaboration within the sector and cross-racial community spaces through our grantees and community connections.

Cross-racial

Healing and Solidarity Work:

Cross-racial and cultural engagement is not just a founding New Breath Foundation value but an ongoing practice in everything we do. NBF centers the AANHPI community, specifically concerning incarceration, deportation, and violence. The lived experience of our Founder, advisors, and communities informs us that the only way forward is together in solidarity with all communities of color.

NBF uses trust-based and participatory grantmaking processes. To this end, NBF supports cross-racial solidarity and healing through its grantmaking to only AANHPI grassroots organizations that embody a cross-racial analysis and often organize with communities of color locally or address cross-racial healing and solidarity through working within their communities.

Directly Impacted:

NBF funding supports grassroots organizations that support AANHPI community members who are formerly/currently incarcerated and formerly/currently detained for deportation.

Relationship-based Philanthropy:

WGUF grantees are considered NBF grantees in an ongoing manner regardless of whether we are directly funding them in a given year. We continue to be in relationship through annual check-ins and additional grantee-driven contacts where we are there as trusted thought partners to help with problem solving or leveraging of resources.

Trust-based Grantmaking:

WGUF are unrestricted general operating support “gifts” that do not require written reports. NBF’s staff has conversations with our grants and places the onus of reporting on NBF, not our grantees.

New Breath Foundation established the *We Got Us* Fund to decrease violence against the Asian American community by promoting cross-racial solidarity and advancing effective alternatives to criminalization. The organizations NBF supports fight scapegoating, cultivate healing, promote cross-racial solidarity, and protect communities from state violence.

2021 Grantees

API RISE - *Los Angeles, CA*

**Center for Empowering
Refugees and Immigrants (CERI)** - *Oakland, CA*

**Empowering Marginalized
Asian Communities (EMAC)** - *Stockton, CA*

Grassroots Asians Rising (GAR) - *National*

Hawai'i People's Fund - *Hawai'i*

MN8 - *St. Paul, MN*

**Oakland Pacific
Islander Network (OPIN)** - *Oakland, CA*

Red Canary Song - *New York, NY*

Survived & Punished - *National*

VAYLA - *New Orleans, LA*

 @newbreathfoundation

 New Breath Foundation

 @newbreathfoundation

 @newbreathfdn

2022 Grantees

‘Ekolu Mea Nui – *Oahu, HI*

**Asian Prisoner
Support Committee (APSC)** – *Oakland, CA*

Lavender Phoenix (LavNix) – *San Francisco, CA*

ManForward – *Wisconsin, Minnesota, and California*

Massage Parlor

Outreach Project (MPOP) – *Seattle, WA*

SEAC Village – *Charlotte, NC*

VietRISE – *Orange County, CA*

2023 Grantees

Asian Solidarity Collective - *San Diego, CA*

F.O.U. Movement - *Southern California*

Going Home Hawai'i - *Hawai'i*

**Interfaith Faith Movement
for Human Integrity** - *Oakland, CA*

PrYSM - *Providence, RI*

**Southeast Asian
Freedom Network (SEAFN)** - *National*

VietLead - *Philadelphia, PA & Camden, NJ*

We give our deep thanks to our generous funding partners who contribute to the *We Got Us* Fund directly or through their general operating support to New Breath Foundation. Our current partners include Chockstone Fund of the Marin Community Foundation, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Crankstart Foundation, East Bay Community Foundation, Heising-Simons Foundation, the Libra Foundation, Meadow Fund, San Francisco Foundation, Sobrato Family Foundation/Sobrato Philanthropies, Stupski Foundation, the Surdha Foundation, The California Endowment, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

We are also grateful to our donors, including anonymous donors, who help make this work possible.

**NEW
BREATH
FOUNDATION**

WeGotUs@new-breath.org
www.new-breath.org
Updated October 2023