

We Got Us

A NEW BREATH FOUNDATION FUND

We get it, and *We Got Us*

New Breath Foundation (NBF) is a national community-led public foundation that leads the movement to fund grassroots groups transforming the lives of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPIs) directly impacted by incarceration, deportation, and systemic violence in the U.S. Our fight is rooted in the collective liberation of all people of color. Launched in 2017, NBF is the first grantmaking foundation established and led by a formerly incarcerated "juvenile lifer," Eddy Zheng. Our team of activists and advocates has substantial movement-building experience and knowledge.

NBF is unapologetically committed to building long-term power in our communities while dismantling institutions of policing, incarceration, and deportation to create real safety.

About the *We Got Us* Fund (*WGUF*)

New Breath Foundation launched the *We Got Us* Fund (*WGUF*) in 2021 in response to rising anti-Asian violence. With a fundraising goal of \$10M, the *WGUF* offers grants to AANHPI grassroots organizations across the U.S. whose work supports currently and formerly incarcerated AANHPIs and communities targeted for criminalization and immigration detention/deportation. Our grantees' approach is rooted in cross-racial solidarity with local communities of color and within their communities.

The grassroots organizations we support:

- Fight scapegoating
- Support culturally relevant healing
- Promote cross-racial solidarity
- Protect communities from systemic and interpersonal violence

The Fund's Progress So Far

Our philanthropic approach relies on going directly to the source—the community. NBF uses a participatory grantmaking process to select organizations, working with grantees through trust-based practices and taking their cues. As of 2024, the *We Got Us* Fund granted \$5.65M to smaller grassroots organizations, most with annual budgets of less than \$1M. Many are volunteer-run on less than \$100K. Because these smaller AANHPI frontline groups are typically overlooked by traditional philanthropy, a *WGUF* grant significantly affects their capacity to create transformative impact and narrative change.

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.

What's Next

New Breath Foundation aims to grow our *WGUF* grantee cohort from 24 to 35 organizations by the end of 2025. We will continue to identify grassroots groups that build organic, authentic relationships and work to address violence experienced in their local communities or nationally. As NBF moves ever closer to reaching our *WGUF* \$10M fundraising goal, we will create more pathways to philanthropy for formerly incarcerated and other directly impacted AANHPIs so that those closest to the problem have the power to develop the right solutions.

Interested in partnering with us on the *We Got Us* Fund?
 Contact Maya Iwata maya@new-breath.org to set up a conversation.