

SHIFTing THE NARRATIVE: A CELEBRATION OF FIVE YEARS OF THE SOUTHERN HIV IMPACT FUND



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This AIDS United retrospective report is an analysis of the Southern HIV Impact Fund's first five years of operation, highlighting the tremendous strides made and a demonstration of its commitment to ending the HIV epidemic in the South.

As AIDS United completes the sixth year of the initiative, it is critical to conduct a thorough five-year retrospective evaluation of its impact and its alignment with the original mission and goals. The purpose of this retrospective analysis is threefold:

1. To evaluate the effectiveness of the approaches employed by AIDS United and to determine whether the Southern HIV Impact Fund's strategic emphases and funding allocations have translated into tangible impact in the South.
2. To identify emerging patterns and changes over the last five years, crucial in informing HIV prevention and care service provision, in addition to the development of policies in the South.
3. To contribute a robust base of evidence for future strategic planning, empowering AIDS United to amplify the program's impact and continually refine its approach.

This retrospective is a tool for AIDS United to hold itself accountable to its goals, its partners and the broader community of organizations supporting communities living with or vulnerable to HIV. AIDS United is committed to understanding the Southern HIV Impact Fund's impact through systematic data collection, insight discovery and refinement of strategies. These practices constitute AIDS United's framework for facilitating this understanding.



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INTRODUCTION

Southern HIV Impact Fund historical overview

Funders Concerned About AIDS convened in 2017 a group of funders with the intention of collaborating to create leveraged impact on the HIV epidemic in the Southern United States. This collaborative fund brought a strategic focus on HIV care and prevention services, advocacy and leadership development efforts in this region, with a coordinated approach among funders. The Southern HIV Impact Fund was created with generous support from five funders under the the Funders Concerned About AIDS umbrella: Ford Foundation, Gilead Sciences, Elton John Foundation, ViiV Healthcare and Johnson & Johnson.

This collaborative model was a coordinated approach to developing strategies to end the epidemic and was pivotal in deepening the understanding of challenges faced by the region. Back in 2017, the five funders saw the strengths and commitment that regional organizations already possess in creating effective, relevant programs and initiatives to address the HIV epidemic in their communities.

Because there is a strong legacy of social justice work in the South that has long focused on racial and gender equality and reproductive rights, there are many allied organizations who are primed to combat the HIV epidemic. Funders Concerned About AIDS formed the Southern HIV Impact Fund with the understanding that Southern organizations working in the intersecting fields of racial and social justice, gender equality, reproductive and LGBTQ+ rights, immigration reform, and detention and mass incarceration, among others, are already ideally positioned to positively impact the social determinants of health that have significant implications for people living with or vulnerable to HIV in the South.

Five years later, the Southern HIV Impact Fund remains committed to identifying leaders and organizations that are already engaged in HIV work — as well as those who are relatively new to HIV but are engaged in intersecting social justice work — to effectively address the prevention, care and support, advocacy, and leadership needs of individuals and communities impacted by HIV.

Our mission

We are a collaborative of funders seeking a more coordinated and effective response to HIV and greater collective impact against the disparities that continue to drive the epidemic in marginalized communities in the Deep South.



Vision

We envision unfettered access to HIV prevention and care for those living with, and most impacted by, HIV in the deep south, achieved through:

- Increased, impactful and coordinated investment in communities where resources are most needed.
- Intersectional and sustainable social justice movements, recognizing HIV as a central challenge.
- A robust pipeline of leadership that is inclusive of Black, Latinx and LGBTQ communities.

Values

- Operate with transparency in grantmaking.
- Ensure grantmaking is informed by and responsive to community needs.
- Bring an intersectional approach to movement-building and service delivery.
- Build on the existing infrastructure and resilience inherent in southern communities.
- Offer user-friendly and flexible grantmaking processes, accessible to a wide range of organizations and groups.
- Take risks and award innovation.
- Bring race, class and gender analyses to the grantmaking process.
- Prioritize evaluation to better understand and advocate for collaborative grantmaking.

HIV in the Southern U.S.

The Southern HIV Impact Fund initiative is strategically aligned with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative. The EHE was established to prioritize those jurisdictions accounting for over half of new HIV diagnoses, and the states that bear a significant burden. It provides 57 jurisdictions with additional resources, technology and expertise to enhance HIV prevention and treatment activities. By design, the Southern HIV Impact Fund also prioritizes jurisdictions that account for a significant proportion of new HIV diagnoses, especially those located in urban and rural parts of the South. By merging its efforts with the established framework of the EHE initiative, the Southern HIV Impact Fund not only amplifies its reach and impact in these critical areas, but also becomes an integral part of a coordinated national effort to end the HIV epidemic.

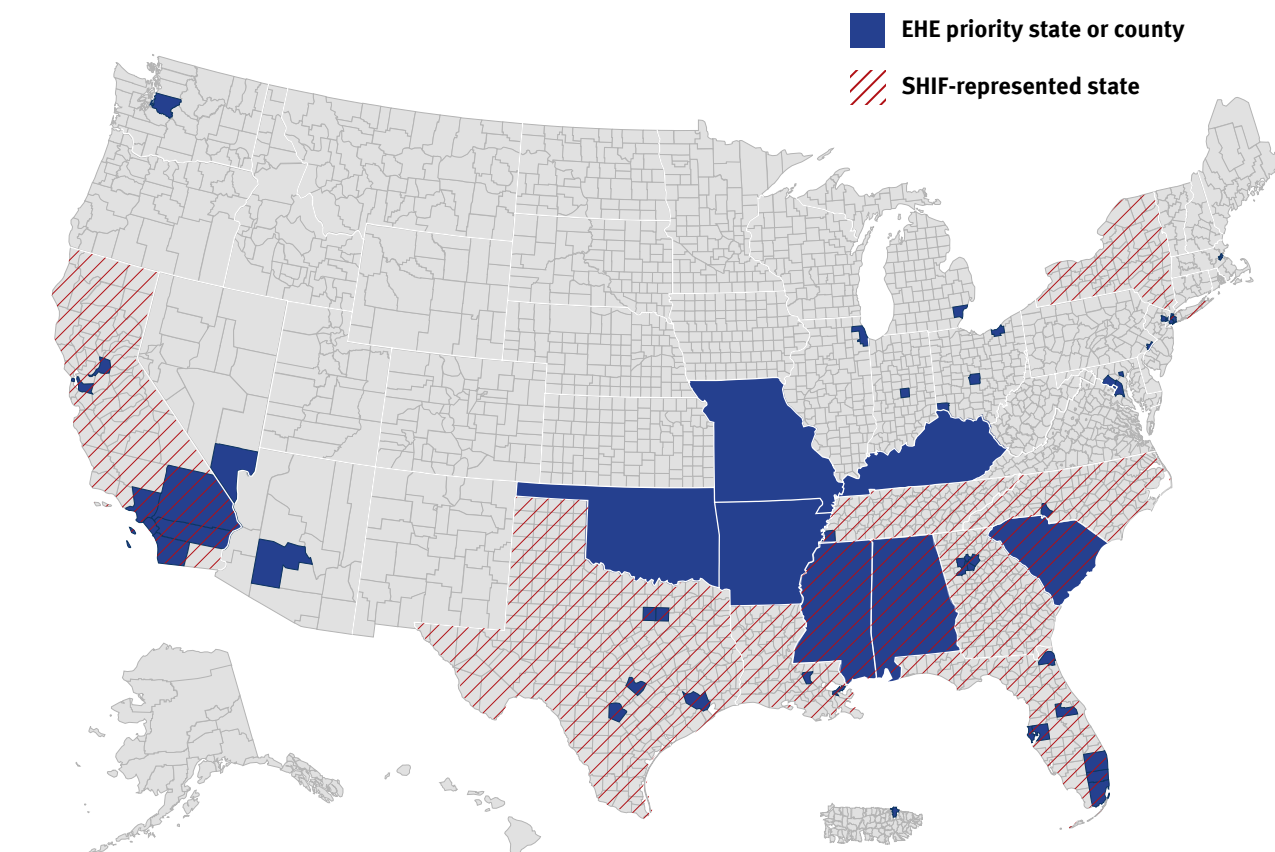
1. Jurisdictions | Ending the HIV Epidemic | CDC ([http](#))

The U.S. South has an extremely disproportionate burden of HIV when compared with other regions of the country. The region, characterized by significant socioeconomic disparities, limited access to sexual and reproductive health care, and a complicated sociopolitical landscape, bears the country's highest HIV diagnosis rates. Social determinants such as poverty, lack of transportation, income inequality and lack of insurance have been shown to be predictive indicators for HIV. Lack of insurance and absence of specialized HIV care, combined with HIV stigma, racism, homophobia and transphobia all pose barriers to receiving the treatment and the support people living with HIV need.

During the Southern HIV Impact Fund's third and fourth years, the COVID-19 pandemic only exacerbated these challenges faced by many Southerners living with and vulnerable to HIV. The program's foundational intent was to address these disparities through strategic deployment of direct funding to frontline organizations in the region.

In its first five years years, the Southern HIV Impact Fund allocated a significant sum — more than \$11.9 million — to a diverse portfolio of 189 grantees. Grantees ranged from new to moderately experienced community-based organizations, and varied in size, all unified in their mission to end the HIV epidemic.

Grants came in two forms: project specific and general operations. There were 120 project specific grants that funded individual projects, each tied to specific goals and measurable outcomes. And there were 69 general operations grants that offered flexibility, allowing organizations to cover any operational costs as needed, including overhead, salaries and routine expenses.



METHODS

A comprehensive approach was adopted to gather the data referenced in this five-year retrospective report. A combination of qualitative and quantitative analyses formed the backbone of this evaluation and allowed for a multifaceted exploration of the first five years of the Southern HIV Impact Fund.

Data collection

- 1. Requests for Proposals (RFPs)** were used as benchmarks to understand the intended outcomes at the beginning of each grant year.
- 2. Grantee application profiles** were reviewed to understand each grantee organization's goals, direct services and activities for beneficiaries.
- 3. Budget reports** served as the lens to observe resource allocation for each grant year.
- 4. Survey results** conducted at baseline, interim and final stages, provided a progressive view of grantees' activities and development.
- 5. Annual evaluation reports** from the last five years formed the foundation of the analysis, yielding valuable insights into the historical performance of grantees.
- 6. Grantee testimonials** were incorporated to lend a qualitative dimension, humanizing and authenticating the empirical data.

Data management and standardization

With this comprehensive approach came limitations to the analysis due to inconsistent data collection practices and some missing information. In response, AIDS United is committed to — and is in the process of — standardizing its data management practices across all programs via implementation of uniform data collection methods, storage and analysis. This strategy is anticipated to streamline data gathering and evaluation processes, to improve operational efficiency and to enhance the precision of future reports.

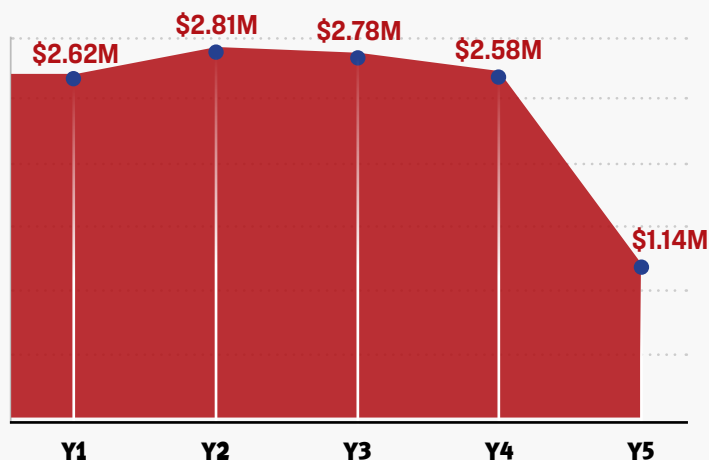
ANALYSIS

Funding overview

The Southern HIV Impact Fund allocated funding to grantees in the amount of \$2.619 million in the first year, \$2.814 million in the second year, \$2.788 million in the third year, \$2.582 million in the fourth year, and concluded with \$1.144 million in the fifth year.

This variance is primarily due to changes in the program's funding landscape. Three of the initial key funders — Johnson & Johnson, the Elton John Foundation, and the Ford Foundation — shifted their priorities and reduced or eliminated their commitment to the Southern HIV Impact Fund.

SOUTHERN HIV IMPACT FUND TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT

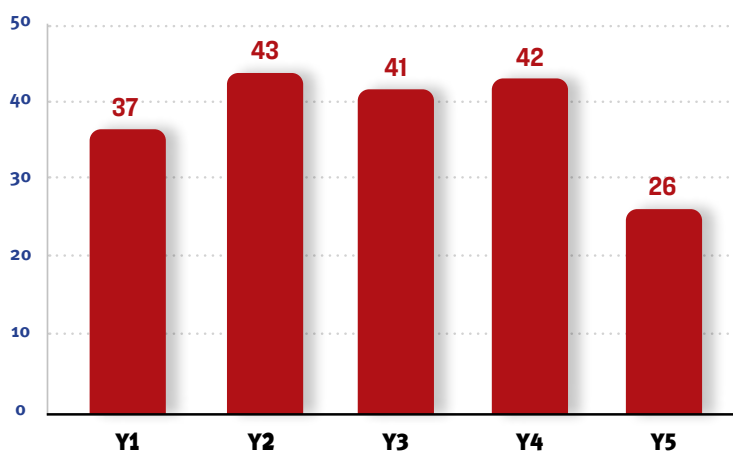


While this presented challenges, the AIDS United and the Southern HIV Impact Fund adapted by securing new partners — including the Levi Strauss Foundation, Merck, Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies, and a generous anonymous funder — who helped sustain its operations.

Number of grantees

The Southern HIV Impact Fund has supported 189 grantees, and over the years, the number of grantees varied in correspondence with changes in funding. Starting with 37 grantees in the inaugural year, this number peaked at 43 in the second year, coinciding with the peak funding amount. The number of grantees in the fifth year, when funding was lowest, was only 26. This trend pointed to a direct relationship between available funding and the capacity to support grantees, while underscoring the initiative's resilience in maintaining support for a substantial number of grantees amidst funding fluctuations.

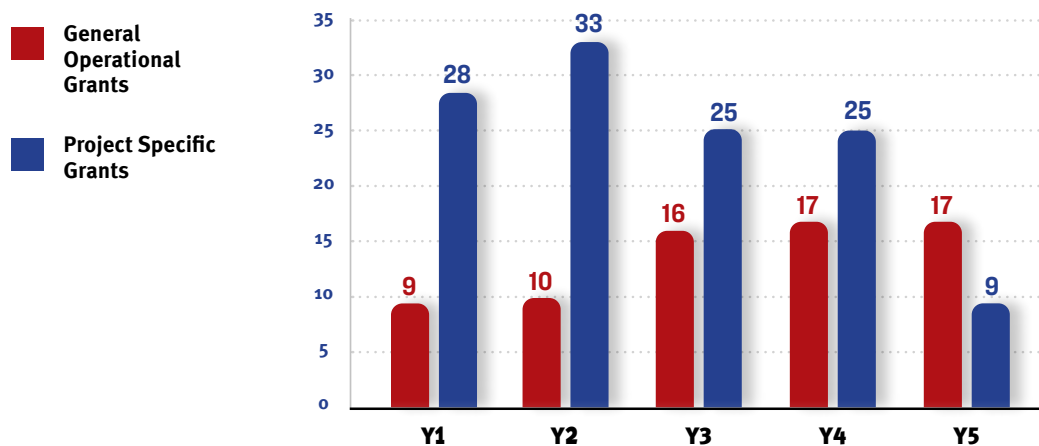
SOUTHERN HIV IMPACT FUND GRANTEES



General operations grants and project specific grants

Over time, the Southern HIV Impact Fund amended its grant allocation model, transitioning from an initial focus on project specific grants, to general operations grants. The latter allowed grantees to cover any operational costs, including overhead, salaries and routine expenses.

In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, AIDS United quickly reclassified project specific grants as general operations grants. This immediate strategic modification was implemented to ensure that grantee organizations were adequately poised to respond to emerging challenges and emergency needs. In turn, grantees maintained critical services during crises, adapted to rapidly changing circumstances and ensured continuity of support to beneficiaries during the pandemic. This support further contributed to the overall sustainability and crisis-readiness of the grantee organizations.



Grantee demographics and meaningful involvement

Throughout the first five years, the demographic diversity within grantees' boards, executive teams and staff was a consistent standard. For each cohort, Black or African American-led, Latinx-led and LGBTQ-led organizations were well-represented. These demographic groups also had significant presence in grantee boards and leadership positions. In terms of adherence to Meaningful Involvement of People Living with HIV principles, most grantee organizations had a person with lived experience on staff, while others placed people living with HIV in decision-making positions, including board seats. This diversity within grantees reflects the Southern HIV Impact Fund's dedication to supporting organizations that authentically represent and understand the communities they serve.

Geographic impact

Geographically, the Southern HIV Impact Fund's impact has consistently covered nine states over the years: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. Importantly, these states are home to many of the priority jurisdictions as identified by the federal Ending the Epidemic Initiative. By focusing on both urban and rural communities within these states, the Southern HIV Impact Fund strategically targets regions with a high HIV burden, effectively complementing the EHE's aims.

Despite the fluctuations in funding and challenges, like the COVID-19 pandemic, the Southern HIV Impact Fund's unwavering commitment to these EHE-identified regions underscored its strategic resilience and dedication to ending the HIV epidemic.



Number of beneficiaries served

Grantees described direct beneficiaries based on the engagement and interactions individuals had with them. Definitions ranged from individuals who receive onsite services and complete an intake, to those who attend a training, and anyone deemed an active member by either volunteering or attending at least one event. Unduplicated beneficiaries are unique individuals who accessed services or engaged with the grantee organization. This ensured that each person was counted only once, regardless of how many times they may receive a service or participate in an event.

YEAR	TOTAL NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES IN FINAL REPORTING
Y1	83,868
Y2	63,273
Y3	33,587
Y4	22,999
Y5	20,725
Total	224,452

In its first five years, the Southern HIV Impact Fund has reached a total of 224,452 unduplicated direct beneficiaries. Evident here was the connection between available funding and the total number of beneficiaries served. It was most apparent in the fifth year when a significant reduction in funding coincided with the lowest count of beneficiaries.

Year four also saw a decrease in the number of beneficiaries served. This reduction is attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic, which significantly impacted the grantee's programs. Within two years of the COVID-19 pandemic (years three and four), the Southern HIV Impact Fund made strategic amendments that enabled grantees to reach a combined number of over 50,000 beneficiaries. This further underscored the fund's significant reach, its commitment to addressing HIV disparities in the South and its capacity to be responsive and effective in the face of unprecedented challenges.

Beneficiaries demographics

The Southern HIV Impact Fund's emphasis on diversity and representation has been a cornerstone of building trust and credibility with beneficiary communities. The demographics of beneficiaries impacted by the program presents a diverse picture, reflecting its original commitment to the inclusion of the communities most impacted by HIV.

Age: Grantees primarily served beneficiaries within the age groups of 18 to 24 and 25 to 44.

Race and ethnicity: Grantees served individuals that were mostly Black or African American and Latinx.

Sexual orientation: LGBTQ+ beneficiaries, particularly gay or same-gender-loving individuals were significantly represented.

Gender identity: Although majority of beneficiaries were cisgender, transgender, gender nonconforming and nonbinary individuals were substantially represented.

Grantee activities

HIV prevention and care activities

Grantees participated in a variety of prevention and care activities. Of these, HIV testing was the most consistently implemented activity, as observed in each of the five years. This fundamental prevention activity reflected the importance of access to HIV testing and early detection. The next most reported activity was increasing access to PrEP, or preexposure prophylaxis, a medication that prevents HIV.

Grantees' approach to community-based prevention strategies was highlighted via additional endeavors such as group-based activities, like workshops, training and interventions. Another recurrent activity throughout the years was new linkages to care, which emphasized the critical role of connecting individuals to necessary HIV care services. Peer navigation, another critical care and support activity underscored grantees' dedication to the provision of comprehensive, client-centered care.

HIV prevention and care activities

- Access to PrEP.
- Group interventions.
- Group workshops and training.
- HIV testing.
- Individual intervention training.
- Linkages to care.
- New linkage to care.
- One-on-one intervention,
- Peer navigation for clients.
- Peer navigator training.
- PrEP prescriptions.
- PrEP referrals.

Policy and social action activities

An environmental scan of this region over this five-year period validated grantees' instrumental role in driving transformative policy and social change. A range of policy, advocacy and movement-building activities were consistently implemented.

Efforts to enable meetings between those impacted by HIV and key decision-makers were the most frequent of these activities. This showcases a dedication to engaging key stakeholders in the shaping of HIV-related policies.

Moreover, leadership training activities indicated the grantees' focus on capacity building among the beneficiaries. They fostered the development of local advocates, with the appropriate training to effectively advocate for changes in HIV-related policies and programs.

Voter registration was also a common activity, and it underscored the value placed on civic engagement as a tool for HIV advocacy.

Policy and social action activities

- Enabling meetings (inviting people impacted by HIV to meet with agency or elected decision-makers).
- Group leadership completions.
- Individual coaching.
- Leadership training.
- Meetings (with decision-makers or elected leaders to discuss HIV-related legislation or policy change).
- Meaningful Involvement of People with HIV.
- Paid individual meetings for full-time staff.
- Social media engagement.
- Training other organizations.
- Voter registration.

Grantee partnerships

Partnership development surfaced as a vital component of the Southern HIV Impact Fund's strategy, given that the program consistently invested in the cultivation of new grantee collaborations. Over these five years, this initiative not only broadened the reach of grantees' advocacy efforts, but also strengthened the coalition of organizations in the South dedicated to ending the HIV epidemic.

Looking ahead, continued investment in grantee partnerships has the potential to empower a robust framework of advocacy and action in the South — and beyond. Undoubtedly, there is tremendous potential for these partnerships to continue to drive change in this region.

The expansive reach and diverse representation within grantee partnerships is pivotal in the promotion of targeted outreach and interventions beyond their individual or respective communities. Through strengthened collaboration, an opportunity exists for enhanced resource pooling, capacity building and pointed impact in the fight to end the HIV epidemic.

With the Southern HIV Impact Fund as a conduit, continued fostering of these partnerships remains pivotal in the sustained response to HIV.

Partners

- North Carolina AIDS Action Network
- Southern AIDS Coalition
- Latino Commission on AIDS

Background

- Grantees emerged from the Southern HIV Impact Fund's second cohort with the goal of advocating for policy changes in the South through the collection of public opinions on HIV and PrEP.
- In July 2019, the three grantees collaborated on the development of a public opinion survey.
- The poll was conducted across seven Southern states: Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.
- Approximately 600 voters in each state were surveyed, resulting in 4,200 total participants.

Results

- The findings showed that many Southerners are in favor of:
 - Expanding Medicaid.
 - Requiring insurance companies to cover PrEP.
 - Medically accurate, comprehensive sex education.
- Analysis showed that many residents are not knowledgeable about the effectiveness of HIV treatment.
- Only a minority of residents were aware of PrEP in all 7 states.

Outcomes

- The outcomes of these efforts achieved considerable recognition, including coverage in POZ Magazine.
- Poll findings were presented at the 10th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science in Mexico City, Mexico, in July 2019.
- The event was the world's largest convening focused on HIV research and its applications, with over 6,000 people in attendance.

The Southern HIV Impact Fund's role in partnerships development

The Southern HIV Impact Fund recognized the value of grantee collaborations and stayed committed to fostering an environment that allowed for organic growth within grantees' relationships. By providing opportunities for shared experiences, resources and advocacy, the program orchestrated conditions where grantee organizations could thrive and flourish in their joint initiatives.

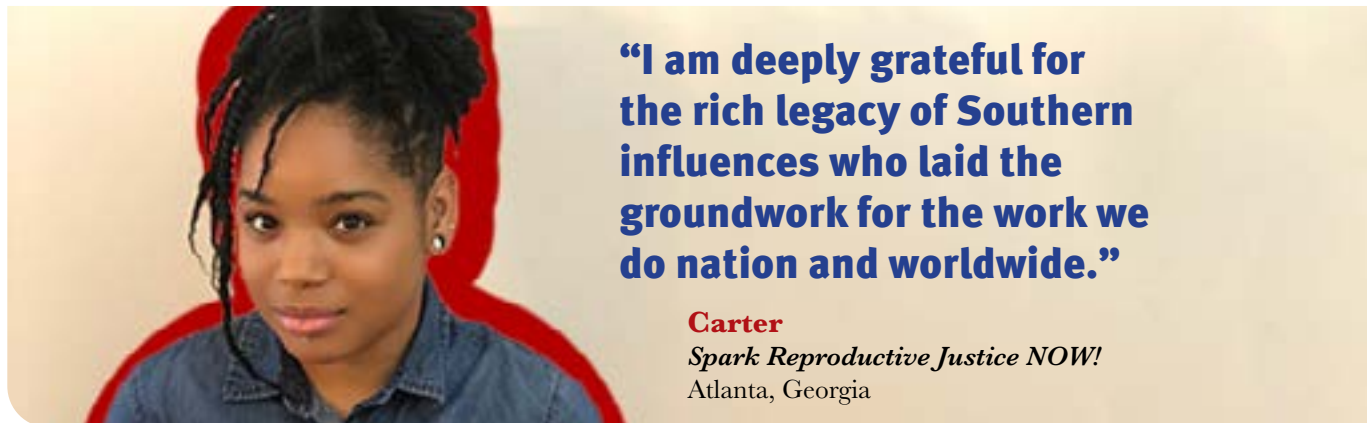
The program also acknowledged the importance of diverse and inclusive partnerships in addressing the HIV epidemic through its commitment to supporting these partnerships and compounding their impact. The Southern HIV Impact Fund continues to encourage grantees to take ownership of partnerships, recognizing that organic and self-driven collaborations often yield the most sustainable and impactful outcomes.



Leadership Development Program

The Leadership Development Program, a key initiative of the Southern HIV Impact Fund, was developed to cultivate and empower leaders across the South. These yearlong programs involved mentoring and technical assistance, and they culminated in a service-learning project.

This initiative successfully worked to build capacity, foster networks, and amplify the voices of those leading the fight to end HIV. Over this five-year period, a total of 49 leaders were enrolled in the program, with an aggregate investment of \$252,000.



Leadership Development Program cohorts

Year 1: The Leadership Development Program began with an inaugural cohort of 10 attendees, nine of whom were people of color, most were living with HIV and identified as LGBTQ+ people. Activities during the inaugural year included in-person retreats in Southern states, individual coaching and resources designed to meet their individual needs. Participants focused on honing skills in networking, communication, management and self-care. They utilized flexible professional development funds to pursue opportunities such as participation in leadership training, attending conferences and technology upgrades.

Year 2: In its second year, the Leadership Development Program welcomed 47 executive leaders, 37 of whom were part of the queer community and 23 were gay men. Eighteen participants were women and almost half disclosed they were living with HIV. Half this cohort identified as Black or African American and 37 identified as people of color, to include African American, Latinx and multi-racial individuals. During this grant year, 18 participants received promotions in their current jobs and over half the cohort held director-level positions by the end of the program.

Year 3: Year three saw diverse representation across gender, race, ethnicity and geography. Participants included cisgender women and men, transgender men, and gender queer individuals from a variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds. They represented the following states: North Carolina, Texas, Louisiana, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia. The program adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic, transitioning to virtual meetings and webinars, and extending the duration of individual executive leadership coaching.

Year 4: During the fourth year of the Leadership Development Program, participants gained vital skills for balancing personal and professional life, bolstering team leadership, and improving communication. The program helped to instill renewed commitment to fighting the HIV epidemic in Southern Black or African American, Indigenous, and people of color communities. Participant feedback suggested extending the duration of coaching and incorporating interactive sessions.

Year 5: In the fifth year, the Leadership Development Program facilitated the attendance of 20 members and four AIDS United staff to the 24th International AIDS Conference in Montreal, Canada. Attendees learned about global efforts to end the HIV epidemic, had exposure to cutting-edge HIV research and networked with professionals in this field. The diverse scholarship recipients hailed from organizations across 10 Southern states. They were Black or African American, Hispanic or Latinx, Chicano and white, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, pansexual and heterosexual. This trip was one of many firsts. This was the first International AIDS Conference for 14 of the attendees. It was also the first international experience for six of the participants, five of whom got their passport for the first time.

Leadership Development Program overall impact

Over the years, Leadership Development Program participants consistently reported the transformative impact of their experiences. Many highlighted the invaluable networking opportunities provided, enabling them to connect with peers and share insights. Other participants appreciated the program's capacity-building focus. By supporting the development of more effective programs and services, the Leadership Development Program has enabled leaders to better serve their communities. Participants also noted the significant improvements in their organizational infrastructure and leadership capacity, thanks to the technical assistance provided by the program.

The Leadership Development Program proved to be incredibly impactful and effective over its five-year span. The program played a vital role in empowering individuals from diverse backgrounds and equipping them with crucial leadership and management skills, alongside tools for resilience and self-care. Its adaptability during the COVID-19 pandemic, by successfully transitioning to virtual platforms, demonstrated the program's commitment to maintaining participants' continuous learning and development.

Moreover, by supporting individual professional growth, as seen through career advancements and increased director-level positions, and organizational capacity building, the Leadership Development Program meaningfully enhanced the infrastructure and leadership ability within the grantee organizations represented in the five cohorts. Further, unique opportunities, like the scholarships for the International AIDS Conference, broadened participants' exposure to global insights and networks. Overall, the program's multifaceted approach not only enriched the professional journeys of its participants but also catalyzed systemic change within their organizations' work.

Technical assistance and support

Technical assistance provision has been a vital component of the Southern HIV Impact Fund's support strategy over the last five years. The program's original intent was to empower grantees by providing the tools and resources necessary to effectively participate in evaluation processes, improve their direct services, and more-effectively serve their beneficiaries.

In its first year, the Southern HIV Impact Fund provided tailored technical assistance to grantees, including webinars and individualized support. To assist in data collection, the Southern HIV Impact Fund developed custom tools such as Excel spreadsheets and Qualtrics surveys and modified grantee's existing data collection systems. An in-person evaluation training was planned for grantees needing additional support.

As the initiative evolved, it began offering technical assistance via video conference calls, which facilitated a revision of grantees' existing data systems and the development of new ones. This hands-on approach resulted in grantees refining their data collection protocols and implementing new tracking systems. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for technical assistance grew significantly. Grantees were faced with unprecedented challenges, including navigating the technologies required to shift to working remotely. In response, the Southern HIV Impact Fund offered one-on-one technical assistance virtually, helping grantees innovate their programs. The program also pivoted its annual convening to a virtual model and tailored the schedule to include sessions most beneficial for all grantees.

Further into the program, technical assistance provision expanded to encompass leadership growth opportunities, board development and assistance in establishing and implementing effective programs and services. Grantees reported a high level of effectiveness in the assistance provided, with many noting changes in their organizational work infrastructure and leadership capacity as a result.

In the most recent years, the areas of technical assistance support have broadened to include managing staff and volunteers, policy analysis or advocacy, communication, branding, outreach, and healing or anti-trauma work. This holistic approach ensured that grantees received comprehensive support, enabling them to improve their services and increase their impact in their respective communities.



In the span of five years, technical assistance proved invaluable to grantees. By providing customized tools, resources and support, the Southern HIV Impact Fund helped grantees adapt, innovate and grow, significantly contributing to the collective fight against HIV in the South.

Versatility and adaptability in crisis

The Southern HIV Impact Fund's response to three devastating hurricanes in 2017 showcased its versatility and adaptability in resource allocation. There was \$190,000 allocated for rapid response funding as part of the projects 2017 budget. At AIDS United's request, the original funders approved using the entirety of those funds to address the emergency of three hurricanes: Hurricane Harvey in Texas, Hurricane Irma in Florida and Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

All three hurricanes caused significant destruction, leading to the loss of life, property damage and the displacement of many residents living with and vulnerable to HIV — and to the organizations that serve them. Thirteen organizations in impacted regions received those immediate relief funds. Those funds also became the foundation of AIDS United's Hurricane Relief Fund, which has since broadened to today's Relief, Recovery and Resilience Fund.

Within days of the devastating 2017 hurricanes, three original funders — Gilead, Johnson & Johnson, and ViiV Healthcare — played a pivotal role in expanding the relief effort by contributing significant additional funding outside their commitment to support the impacted regions. Their support inspired additional funding from corporate, foundation and individual donors, which led to AIDS United giving out over \$2 million to over 70 organizations supporting the impacted HIV communities.

The funders' expanded commitment not only bolstered the Relief, Recovery and Resilience Fund but also served as a catalyst for adopting a more versatile and adaptive funding strategy for rapid response and emergency support funding across AIDS United.

The following grantee organizations played a crucial role in post-hurricane relief and recovery by extending vital support to communities living with or vulnerable to HIV:

- **Organización Latina de Trans en Texas** in Houston utilized its grant to assist transgender or undocumented people living with HIV by providing them shelter during Hurricane Harvey, replacing lost income, food and utilities, aiding in vehicle repairs, and ensuring they received essential medications.
- **Triangle Area Network** in Beaumont, Texas, allocated its funding for medical expenses like blood tests and co-pays for people living with HIV who were uninsured or under-insured. The funds also catered to housing needs, including rental and utility deposits for those displaced by Hurricane Harvey, and facilitated client outreach and linkage-to-care.
- **Legal Aid Service of Broward County** in Plantation, Florida, used grant funds to offer legal support to people living with HIV without access to funds from the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS Program, ensuring they obtained secure housing post-Hurricane Irma.

COVID-19

The Southern HIV Impact Fund's response to three devastating hurricanes in 2017 showcased its versatility and adaptability in resource allocation. There was \$190,000 allocated for rapid response funding as part of the projects 2017 budget. At AIDS United's request, the original funders approved using the entirety of those funds to address the emergency of three hurricanes: Hurricane Harvey in Texas, Hurricane Irma in Florida and Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

During years three and four, the COVID-19 pandemic presented significant obstacles to grantees. In response, the Southern HIV Impact Fund made the decision to offer general operating support grants for the entire grantee cohort. This reclassification of project specific grants as general operations grants was a crucial step in adapting to the shifting landscape presented by the pandemic. The effort contributed to sustaining the work of grantees, trusting them to make the right organizational decisions, and allowed them to maintain their programs and direct services.

In the face of heightened organizational needs and financial instability, this flexible funding strategy ensured continuity of operations and a well-poised response to emergent needs. For instance, the repurposing of travel and in-person meeting funds to create an emergency response fund of \$192,000 displayed the program's agility and responsiveness in unprecedented conditions. Within the first two years of the pandemic (Years three and four), grantees served over 50,000 beneficiaries, indicating extensive reach and impact during a global pandemic. The grantees, in turn, leveraged these resources to remarkable effect. They recruited PrEP navigators, integrated COVID-19 awareness and response into their existing services.

The general operating grants also facilitated the provision of essential support to the grantees in the areas of leadership and board development, leading to improvements in their organizational structure and capacity. This, combined with the targeted rapid response grants to organizations experiencing sudden hardships due to the pandemic, showcased the Southern HIV Impact Fund's commitment to its mission despite the unfolding crisis.

Despite challenging circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Southern HIV Impact Fund demonstrated profound adaptability and unwavering commitment to its grantee organizations. The strategic shifts allowed grantees to continue their essential work, while broadening their services and improving their infrastructure, resulting in significant and tangible impact in the face of a pandemic.

iFORWARD

Considering the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which exacerbated existing disparities and emphasized the critical need for robust technical infrastructure, the iFORWARD program was created in 2022. Supported by Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, the initiative's purpose was to address the challenges Southern organizations confront in leveraging proper technology for their services and missions.

In its first year, iFORWARD supported a cohort of seven Southern grantee organizations in Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Washington, D.C., and Texas, and supported a total of 8,225 unduplicated beneficiaries. iFORWARD grantees launched digital campaigns and created digital health literacy materials to promote health linkages and address barriers to care. They also hosted hybrid events and workshops targeting key populations and bolstered their technical infrastructure, from expanding telehealth services to investing in Wi-Fi and digital communication tools.

Leaders from these organizations benefited from focused professional development sessions with guidance from AIDS United coaches. Grantees also organized community education events to raise HIV awareness and counteract prevailing and damaging stigma towards people living with HIV.

THE SOUTHERN HIV IMPACT FUND'S IMPACT ON SOUTHERN INFRASTRUCTURE

In the span of five years, the Southern HIV Impact Fund has been a catalyst for change in communities disproportionately impacted by HIV in the South. Recognizing the critical need for robust public health infrastructure in this region, the Southern HIV Impact Fund acted as a growth incubator for small and new local organizations supporting communities of people living with and vulnerable to HIV.

In areas where infrastructural resources were previously limited or nonexistent, the Southern HIV Impact Fund successfully filled this void, providing the necessary framework and tools for community-based organizations to thrive and effectively serve their respective communities. From assisting small organizations in obtaining their 501(c)(3) status, to enabling them to access direct funding sources, the Southern HIV Impact Fund was instrumental in fueling growth and enhancing their operational capabilities.

This approach was about more than just filling gaps — it was about empowering grantees to become active players in both their local communities and the broader regional public health landscape.

By identifying and nurturing the unique intersections where these organizations operate, the Southern HIV Impact Fund initiated a call to action to bolster local infrastructure, thereby improving overall public health outcomes in the South. This approach aligned with the broader aim of tackling the HIV epidemic, which needed strong, local, on-the-ground organizations that understood and responded appropriately to beneficiaries' unique and nuanced needs.





The Southern HIV Impact Fund's impact extended beyond just providing funding — it equipped grantees with the tools, skills and confidence to grow, sustain and multiply their efforts. In this way, the Southern HIV Impact Fund invested in the future of these organizations and their expanded impact in this region and beyond.

As the Southern HIV Impact Fund reflects on its first five years, it is evident that commitment to developing local infrastructure has been a key driver of its success.

The transformation of grantee organizations — from small, local nonprofits into formidable

public health advocates — speaks volumes to the initiative's role in this landscape. Its evolution story underpins this retrospective and signals a strong path forward, as it continues its mission to strengthen organizations in the South in their fight against the HIV epidemic.

Grantee infrastructure support highlights

The Southern HIV Impact Fund's engagement with the **Arianna Center** in South Florida exemplifies its transformative impact. Prior to the fund's involvement, support for the transgender community was minimal in this area. The infrastructural aid allowed the Arianna Center to stretch its outreach and enhance its impact. It also facilitated key initiatives including HIV prevention and care programs, health awareness campaigns and advocacy work. The Arianna Center has since evolved into a critical hub for the trans community, offering comprehensive support and influencing local policy, thereby shaping the regional discourse on trans-related health matters. This success story embodies the enduring impact that investment in local infrastructure can catalyze, indicating the value of its efforts.

Next, the **Texas Harm Reduction Alliance** increased its capacity to provide vital harm reduction services and resources to some of the most vulnerable communities in Texas. Despite external challenges, the organization has successfully distributed naloxone, a lifesaving drug that reverses opioid overdose, to an unprecedented number of beneficiaries. This feat demonstrates the significant impact of bolstered local infrastructure on the general public's health.

In another inspiring example, **Gender Benders** in South Carolina scaled up its peer support services and organized advocacy events that were attended by hundreds of people. Their targeted work within the transgender community led to increased visibility, inclusivity and awareness on the local and national stage.

Similarly, the **Mississippi Center for Justice** amplified its advocacy work and policy influence in a region that presents unique challenges for communities impacted by HIV. By strengthening its operational infrastructure, it has become a formidable actor in policy and rights advocacy for its community.

Further, **SisterLove** and **SisterReach** grew their HIV prevention and care programs. They reached and empowered thousands of women, particularly women of color, with critical health information and services. These two organizations have in turn become trusted resources in their communities, creating safer spaces and fostering empowerment among beneficiaries.

Lastly, **Circle of Friends Task Force**, a new and small organization in Louisiana, secured its 501(c)(3) status and expanded its efforts to addressing the needs of aging adults living with HIV.

Each of these examples is a compelling testament to the impact of organizational investment in infrastructure at the local level. By serving as a growth incubator, the Southern HIV Impact Fund commendably developed small and new local organizations into significant actors in their communities and cumulatively, in the South.

LESSONS LEARNED

A retrospective look at the first five years of the Southern HIV Impact Fund granted AIDS United invaluable insights into the operations of its grantees. These insights, rooted in grantees and their beneficiaries' first-hand experiences, in concert with the Southern HIV Impact Fund's impact evaluation outcomes, yielded invaluable lessons that will inform the path forward.

- 1. Comprehensive approach to prevention, care and support:** Implementing diverse prevention activities, care and support services is essential for providing comprehensive HIV services to beneficiaries. Commitment to this approach, in addition to ensuring the provision of holistic HIV services and prioritizing advocacy and policy work, contributed to creating long-term, sustainable impact on systemic barriers to HIV prevention and care. This approach will continue to improve health outcomes, reduce HIV transmission and enhance the overall quality of life for grantee communities.
- 2. Sustainability through infrastructure support:** Offering infrastructure support to small and new grantees proved essential in linking complex cases to care and positioning them to address nuanced organizational needs. Technical assistance, leadership development and other capacity-building support remain crucial for improved and consistent service delivery, greater organizational stability and the potential for small and new organizations to extend their reach and impact.
- 3. Leadership Development Program:** Investment in the development of organizational leaders was incredibly instrumental in enhancing capacity and promoting long-term sustainability. The Leadership Development Program continues to amplify the efficacy of its participants by training them to navigate challenging professional landscapes and effectively meet their development goals.
- 4. Adaptability during crises:** COVID-19 highlighted the value in transforming project specific grants into general operations grants, offering grantee organizations the flexibility and trust respond to surfacing organizational needs. Grantees were able to maintain critical services during crises, adapt to changing circumstances and ensure continuity of support

to beneficiaries. In the future, such adaptability can further contribute to the overall sustainability and crisis-readiness of grantee organizations.

5. **Value of a mixed-funding model under an intermediary:** Under the Funders Concerned About AIDS umbrella, the Southern HIV Impact Fund was created as a collaborative effort among diverse funders, combining both foundations and corporations. This approach showcased a model that not only amplified a collective impact but also harnessed the strengths of the different funding entities. As an intermediary, AIDS United facilitated this collaboration, creating a coordinated strategy to address the complex challenges of the HIV epidemic in the South. Given the success of this collaborative funding model, facilitated by an intermediary, it stands as a scalable and replicable blueprint for future initiatives in intersecting areas of social justice and public health.



RECOMMENDATIONS

The next steps in the evolution of the Southern HIV Impact Fund include forward-thinking recommendations that embrace both regional expansion and a broadening of the program's scope. Among the primary considerations is a new iteration or expansion of the program into different regions, specifically the focus jurisdictions in the federal Ending the Epidemic Initiative. This could include a replication model that allows for the establishment of grantees in other regions, amplifying the Southern HIV Impact Fund's reach and impact.

Furthermore, this expansion could encompass additional states in the South and diversify the types of organizations funded, possibly including historically Black colleges and universities, sororities and fraternities.

Emphasizing inclusivity, another significant recommendation is to incorporate youth components into the program's design, like the expansion of the Leadership Development Program to include youth, and the addition of an internship initiative targeting HBCUs and minority-serving institutions.

Such strategic growth and diversification will not only allow The Southern HIV Impact Fund to adapt to emerging needs but also empower and foster the development of the next generation of leaders in HIV.

CONCLUSION

The Southern HIV Impact Fund's impact in its first five years has been a gamechanger, marked by tenacity, adaptability and extraordinary growth.

The collaborative model's strategy of providing financial and developmental support to community-based organizations focused on HIV, has proved to be instrumental in navigating challenges presented in the South.

This coordinated approach has indisputably demonstrated this project's fundamental value in enabling grantees to expand and deepen their impact.

The Southern HIV Impact Fund embarks in on the next five years with affirmation that its model of cultivating small and new grantee organizations is simultaneously successful and transformative. The journey ahead is not without challenges, but with the dedication, commitment and collective support that has been incredibly evident in these first five years, the Southern HIV Impact Fund and its grantees will continue to make significant strides towards ending HIV in the South.

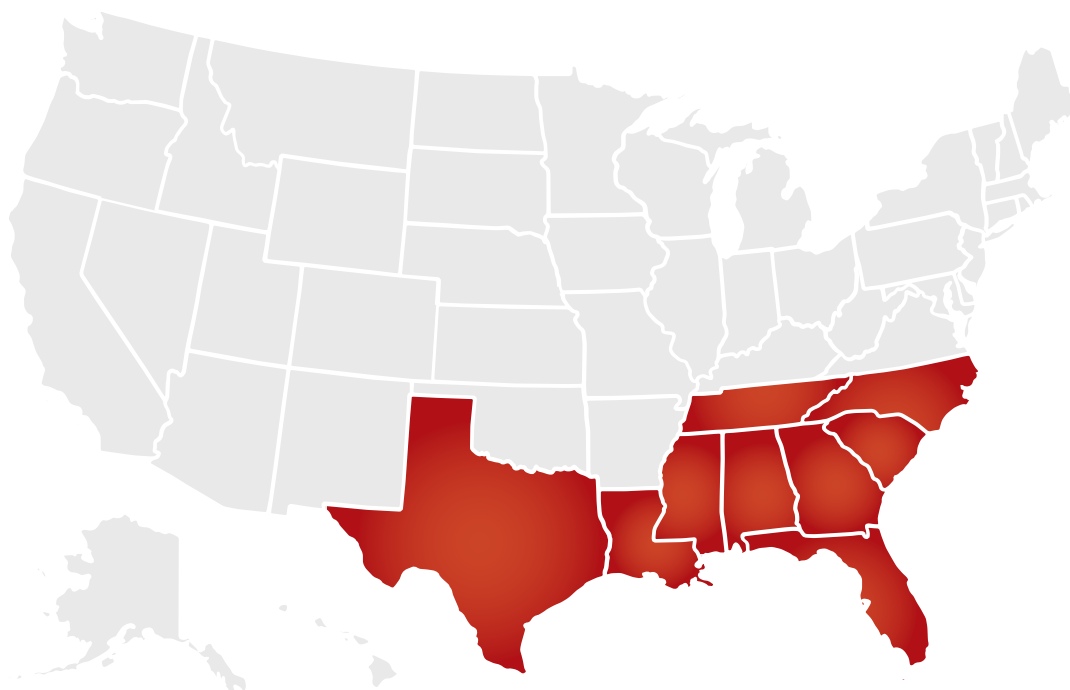


FUNDERS

FUNDERS	2017-2018 (Y1)	2018-2019 (Y2)	2019-2020 (Y3)
Elton John Foundation	\$530,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Ford Foundation	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$800,000
Gilead Sciences	\$2,020,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies (<i>iFORWARD only</i>)	—	—	—
Johnson & Johnson	\$250,000	\$250,000	—
Levi Strauss Foundation	—	\$50,000	\$50,000
Merck	—	\$25,000	—
ViiV Healthcare	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$280,000
Generous Anonymous Funder	—	\$300,000	\$300,000
	\$4,050,000	\$4,375,000	\$3,930,000

GRANTEES

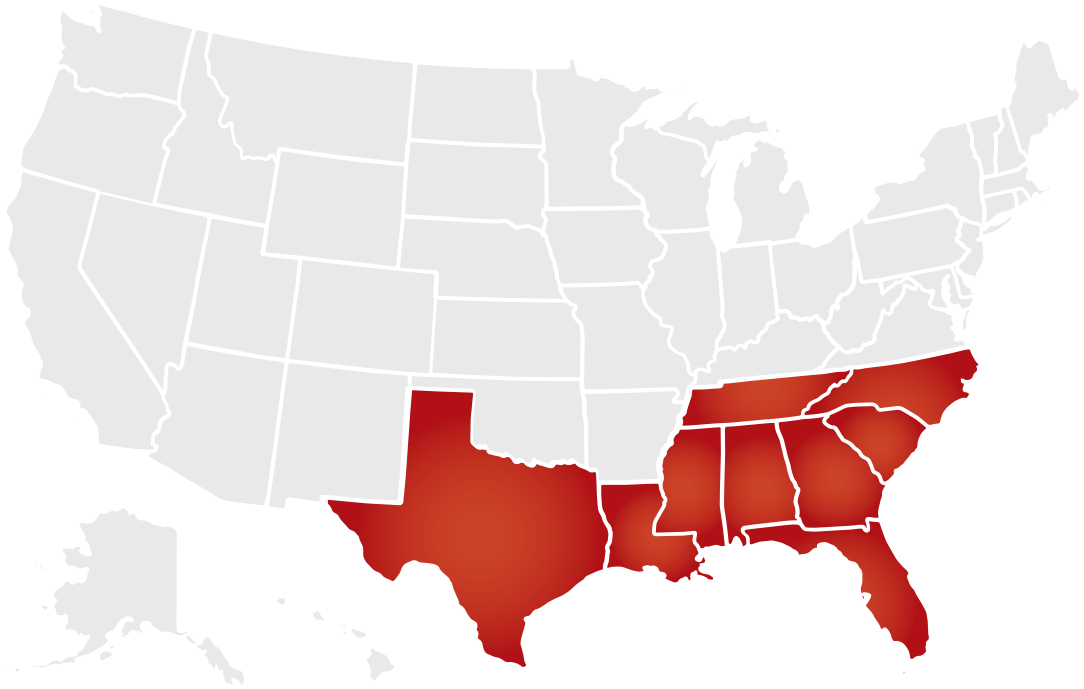
YEAR 1



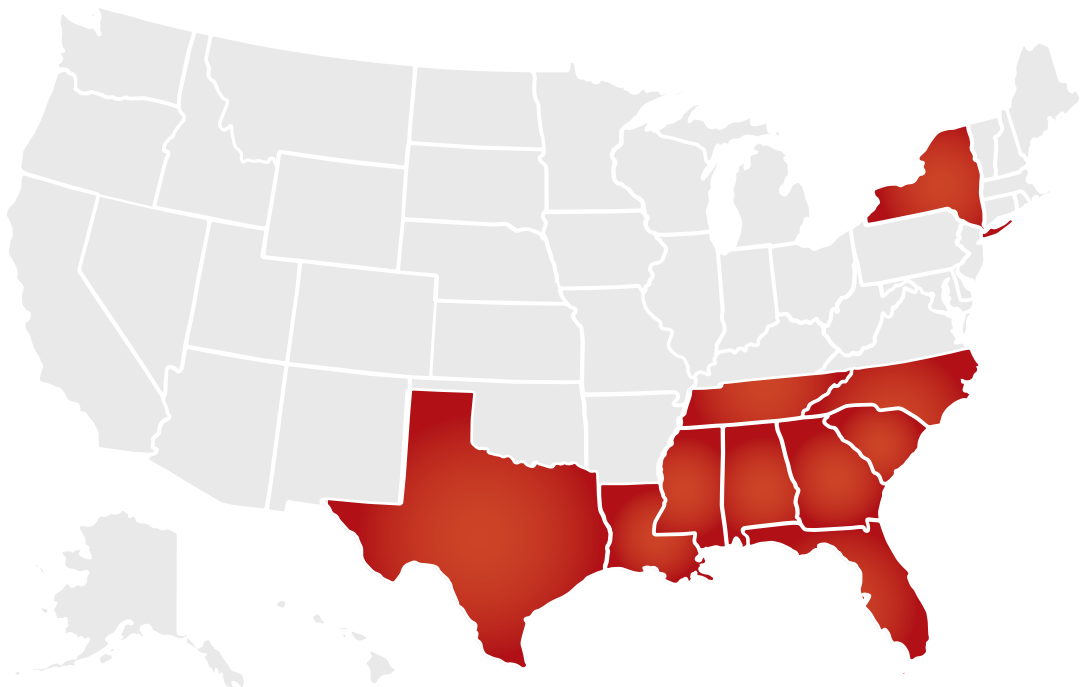
2020-2021 (Y4)	2021-2022 (Y5)	2022-2023 (Y6)	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS
—	—	—	\$1,530,000
\$800,000	—	—	\$3,600,000
\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$9,020,000
—	\$100,000	—	\$100,000
—	—	—	\$500,000
\$60,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$210,000
—	—	—	\$25,000
\$300,000	\$300,000	\$350,000	\$1,730,000
\$350,000	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$1,650,000
\$2,510,000	\$1,775,000	\$1,725,000	\$18,365,000

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Abounding Prosperity, <i>Dallas, TX</i> » Affinity Health Center, <i>Rockhill, SC</i> » Alamo Area Resource Center, <i>San Antonio, TX</i> » Atlanta Harm Reduction Coalition, <i>Atlanta, GA</i> » BASIC NWFL, <i>Panama City, FL</i> » Birmingham AIDS Outreach Inc., <i>Birmingham, AL</i> » BRBAC Metro Health, <i>Baton Rouge, LA</i> » BreakOUT!, <i>New Orleans, LA</i> » Capitol Area Reentry Program, <i>Baton Rouge, LA</i> » Choices: Memphis Center for Reproductive Health, <i>Memphis, TN</i> » Collaborative Solutions, Inc., <i>Birmingham, AL</i> » Counter Narrative Project, <i>Atlanta, GA</i> » East Texas Cares Resource Center, <i>Tyler, TX</i> » Equality Florida Institute, <i>St. Petersburg, FL</i> » Equality Foundation of Georgia, <i>Atlanta, GA</i> » Freedom Fund Network, <i>Ft. Lauderdale, FL</i> » Frontline Legal Services, <i>New Orleans, LA</i> » HEROES, <i>Columbia, LA</i> » Jackson Medical Mall Foundation, <i>Jackson, MS</i> » Latino Commission on AIDS, <i>Durham, NC</i> » Mississippi Center for Justice, <i>Jackson, MS</i> » Mississippi Positive Network, <i>Jackson, MS</i> » NAESM, <i>Atlanta, GA</i> » North Carolina AIDS Action Network, <i>Raleigh, NC</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition, <i>Greensboro, NC</i> » Positive Impact Health Centers, <i>Duluth, GA</i> » Positively Living, Inc., <i>Knoxville, TN</i> » Prevention305, <i>Miami Beach, FL</i> » Racial Justice Action Center, <i>Atlanta, GA</i> » Rural Women's Health Project, <i>Gainesville, FL</i> » Southern AIDS Coalition, <i>Birmingham, AL</i> » Southerners On New Ground, <i>Atlanta, GA</i> » Southwest Louisiana Area Health Education Center, <i>Lake Charles, LA</i> » The Right Choice Project, <i>LaPlace, LA</i> » THRIVE SS, <i>Atlanta, GA</i> » Valley AIDS Council, <i>Harlingen, TX</i> » Western North Carolina AIDS Project, <i>Asheville, NC</i> |
|--|---|

YEAR 2



YEAR 3



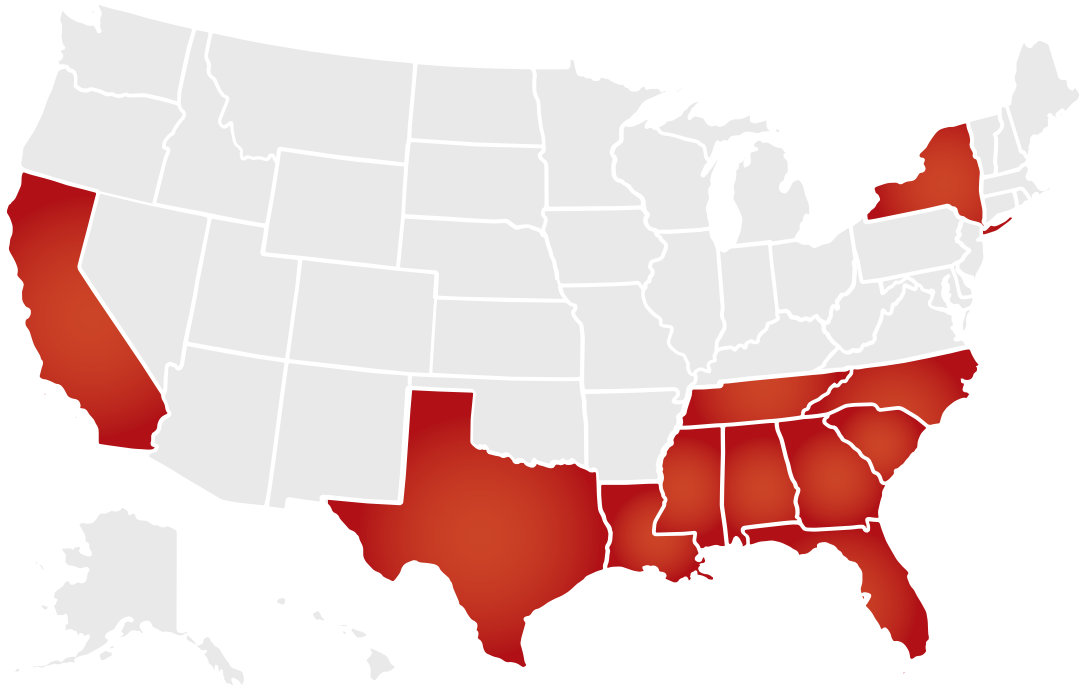
- » **Abounding Prosperity**, *Dallas, TX*
- » **Affinity Health Center**, *Rock Hill, SC*
- » **AIDS Foundation Houston**, *Houston, TX*
- » **AIDS Services Coalition**, *Greenville/Hattiesburg, MS*
- » **Alamo Area Resource Center**, *San Antonio, TX*
- » **Atlanta Harm Reduction Coalition**, *Atlanta, GA*
- » **BASIC NWFL**, *Panama City, FL*
- » **Birmingham AIDS Outreach**, *Birmingham, AL*
- » **BRBAC Metro Health**, *Baton Rouge, LA*
- » **BreakOUT!**, *New Orleans, LA*
- » **Capitol Area Reentry Program**, *Baton Rouge, LA*
- » **CHOICES: Memphis Center for Reproductive Health**, *Memphis, TN*
- » **Collaborative Solutions**, *Birmingham, AL*
- » **Counter Narrative Project**, *Atlanta, GA*
- » **East Texas Cares Resource Center**, *Tyler, TX*
- » **Equality Florida Institute**, *St. Petersburg, FL*
- » **Equality Foundation of Georgia**, *Atlanta, GA*
- » **Freedom Fund Network**, *Ft. Lauderdale, FL*
- » **Frontline Legal Services**, *New Orleans, LA*
- » **Gender Benders**, *Piedmont, SC*
- » **HEROES**, *Columbia, LA*
- » **Jackson Medical Mall Foundation**, *Jackson, MS*
- » **Latino Commission on AIDS**, *Durham, NC*
- » **Mississippi Center for Justice**, *Jackson, MS*

- » **Mississippi Positive Network**, *Jackson, MS*
- » **North Carolina AIDS Action Network**, *Raleigh, NC*
- » **North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition**, *Wilmington, NC*
- » **Positive Impact Health Centers**, *Duluth, GA*
- » **Positively Living**, *Knoxville, TN*
- » **Prevention305**, *Miami Beach, FL*
- » **Racial Justice Action Center**, *Atlanta, GA*
- » **Rural Women's Health Project**, *Gainesville, FL*
- » **Southern AIDS Coalition**, *Birmingham, AL*
- » **Southerners On New Ground**, *Atlanta, GA*
- » **Southwest Louisiana Area Health Education Center**, *Lake Charles, LA*
- » **T.A.K.E. Resource Center**, *Birmingham, AL*
- » **The Afiya Center**, *Dallas, TX*
- » **The Knights and Orchids Society**, *Selma, AL*
- » **The Right Choice Project**, *LaPlace, LA*
- » **THRIVE SS**, *Atlanta, GA*
- » **Transforming Hearts Collective**, *Durham, NC*
- » **Valley AIDS Council**, *Harlingen, TX*
- » **Western North Carolina AIDS Project**, *Asheville, NC*

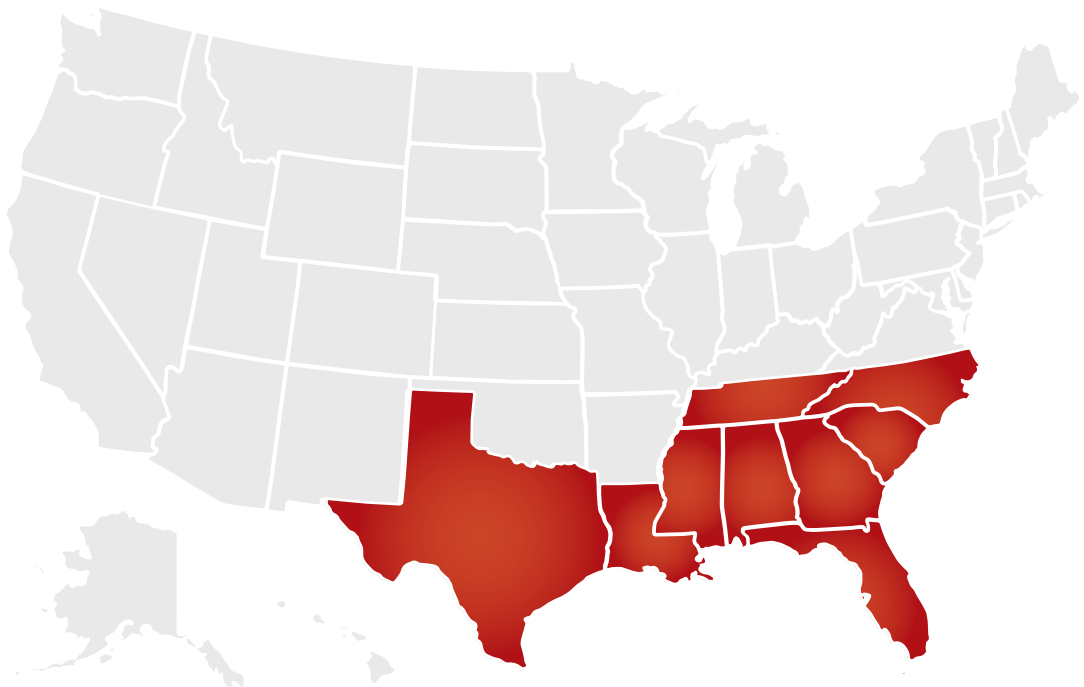
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- » **AIDS Services Coalition**, *Hattiesburg, MS*
- » **Alamo Area Resource Center**, *San Antonio, TX*
- » **Atlanta Harm Reduction Coalition, Inc.**, *Atlanta, GA*
- » **BASIC NWFL**, *Panama City, FL*
- » **Black Trans Advocacy Coalition / Black Transmen, Inc.**, *Carrollton, TX*
- » **Capitol Area Reentry Program, Inc.**, *Baton Rouge, LA*
- » **Centro San Vicente**, *El Paso, TX*
- » **Collaborative Solutions, Inc.**, *Birmingham, AL*
- » **Equality Florida Institute, Inc.**, *Tallahassee, FL*
- » **Freedom Fund**, *Fort Lauderdale, FL*
- » **Frontline Legal Services, Inc.**, *New Orleans, LA*
- » **GenderBenders**, *Piedmont, SC*
- » **He Is Valuable, Inc.**, *Atlanta, GA*
- » **Helping Everyone Receive Ongoing Effective Support (HEROES)**, *Columbia, LA*
- » **Latino Commission on AIDS, Inc.**, *New York, NY*
- » **Latinos Salud, Inc.**, *Wilton Manors, FL*
- » **Mississippi Center for Justice**, *Jackson, MS*
- » **Mississippi Positive Network / My Brother's Keeper**, *Cleveland, MS*
- » **NC Survivors Union**, *Greensboro, NC*
- » **North Carolina AIDS Action Network**, *Raleigh, NC*

- » **Positive Women's Network - USA**, *Houston, TX*
- » **Positively Living, Inc.**, *Knoxville, TN*
- » **Rural Women's Health Project, Inc.**, *Gainesville, FL*
- » **SisterLove, Inc.**, *Atlanta, GA*
- » **SisterReach**, *Memphis, TN*
- » **Solutions Not Punishment Collaborative (SNaP Co.)**, *Atlanta, GA*
- » **Southern AIDS Coalition**, *Birmingham, AL*
- » **Southerners On New Ground (SONG)**, *Atlanta, GA*
- » **Southwest Louisiana Area Health Education Center**, *Lake Charles, LA*
- » **SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW**, *Atlanta, GA*
- » **The Afiya Center**, *Dallas, TX*
- » **The Bros in Convo Initiative**, *Orlando, FL*
- » **The Counter Narrative Project**, *Atlanta, GA*
- » **The Knights & Orchids Society, Inc.**, *Selma, AL*
- » **THRIVE SS, Inc.**, *Atlanta, GA*
- » **Transforming Hearts Collective**, *Durham, NC*
- » **Transgender Advocates Knowledgeable Empowering (TAKE)**, *Birmingham, AL*
- » **TransLatina T Services, Inc.**, *Fort Lauderdale, FL*
- » **WeCareTn**, *Memphis, TN*
- » **Western North Carolina AIDS Project**, *Asheville, NC*

YEAR 4



YEAR 5



- » **Abounding Prosperity, Inc.,** *Dallas, TX*
- » **AIDS Services Coalition,** *Hattiesburg, MS*
- » **Alamo Area Resource Center,** *San Antonio, TX*
- » **Atlanta Harm Reduction Coalition, Inc.,** *Atlanta, GA*
- » **BASIC NWFL,** *Panama City, FL*
- » **Black Transmen, Inc.,** *Carrollton, TX*
- » **Capitol Area Reentry Program, Inc.,** *Baton Rouge, LA*
- » **Centro San Vicente,** *El Paso, TX*
- » **Collaborative Solutions, Inc.,** *Birmingham, AL*
- » **Equality Florida Institute, Inc.,** *St. Petersburg, FL*
- » **The Counter Narrative Project,** *Atlanta, GA*
- » **Freedom Fund,** *Delray Beach, FL*
- » **GenderBenders,** *Piedmont, SC*
- » **He Is Valuable, Inc.,** *Atlanta, GA*
- » **Helping Everyone Receive Ongoing Effective Support (HEROES),** *Columbia, LA*
- » **Latino Commission on AIDS, Inc.,** *New York, NY*
- » **Latinos Salud, Inc.,** *Wilton Manors, FL*
- » **The Bros in Convo Initiative,** *Orlando, FL*
- » **Mississippi Center for Justice,** *Jackson, MS*
- » **Mississippi Positive Network, a project of My Brother's Keeper,** *Ridgeland, MS*
- » **Positive Women's Network - USA,** *Oakland, CA*
- » **NC Survivors Union,** *Greensboro, NC*
- » **North Carolina AIDS Action Network,** *Raleigh, NC*

- » **Transforming Hearts Collective,** *Durham, NC*
- » **Positively Living, Inc.,** *Knoxville, TN*
- » **Rural Women's Health Project, Inc.,** *Gainesville, FL*
- » **SisterLove, Inc.,** *Atlanta, GA*
- » **SisterReach,** *Memphis, TN*
- » **Solutions Not Punishment Collaborative,** *East Point, GA*
- » **Frontline Legal Services, Inc.,** *New Orleans, LA*
- » **Southern AIDS Coalition,** *Birmingham, AL*
- » **Southerners On New Ground (SONG),** *Atlanta, GA*
- » **Southwest Louisiana Area Health Education Center,** *Lafayette, LA*
- » **SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW!, Inc.,** *Atlanta, GA*
- » **The Afiya Center,** *Dallas, TX*
- » **The Knights & Orchids Society, Inc.,** *Selma, AL*
- » **THRIVE SS, Inc.,** *Atlanta, GA*
- » **Transgender Advocates Knowledgeable Empowering (TAKE),** *Birmingham, AL*
- » **TransLatina T Services, Inc.,** *Wilton Manors, FL*
- » **WeCareTn,** *Memphis, TN*
- » **Western North Carolina AIDS Project,** *Asheville, NC*
- » **Community Health-Prevention Intervention Education & Research,** *Greenville, MS*

- » **Affinity Health Center,** *Rock Hill, SC*
- » **Arianna's Center,** *Fort Lauderdale, FL*
- » **Capitol Area Reentry Program, Inc.,** *Baton Rouge, LA*
- » **Choices: Memphis Center for Reproductive Health (MCRH),** *Memphis, TN*
- » **Circle of Friends Task Force,** *Greenville, NC*
- » **Community Health Prevention Intervention Education & Research (CH-PIER),** *Greenville, MS*
- » **Eagle Pass SAFE,** *Eagle Pass, TX*
- » **Frontline Legal Services, Inc.,** *New Orleans, LA*
- » **Gender Benders,** *Piedmont, SC*
- » **Helping Everyone Receive Ongoing Effective Support (HEROES),** *Columbia, LA*
- » **Hope House Day Care Center,** *Memphis, TN*
- » **Latino LinQ, Inc.,** *Atlanta, GA*
- » **Mississippi Center for Justice,** *Jackson, MS*
- » **Mississippi Positive Network,** *Ridgeland, MS*
- » **NC Survivors Union,** *Greensboro, NC*
- » **Positive Women's Network USA,** *Regional*
- » **SEEDS OF HEALING, INC.,** *Wilmington, NC*
- » **SisterLove, Inc,** *Atlanta, GA*
- » **SisterReach,** *Memphis, TN*
- » **T.A.K.E. Resource Center,** *Birmingham, AL*

- » **Texas Harm Reduction Alliance,** *Austin, TX*
- » **The Bros in Convo Initiative,** *Orlando, FL*
- » **The Knights & Orchids Society,** *Selma, AL*
- » **THRIVE SS, Inc.,** *Atlanta, GA*
- » **Trans Women in Need of Services,** *Pembroke Pines, FL*
- » **WeCareTn,** *Memphis, TN*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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We also offer special gratitude to the Elton John Foundation, Ford Foundation, Gilead Sciences, Johnson & Johnson, Levi Strauss Foundation, Merck, ViiV Healthcare, and a generous anonymous funder for supporting the Southern HIV Impact Fund over the past six years. Without you, none of this work would have been possible.

Finally, we give a heartfelt thanks to the many AIDS United staff who have worked on and supported the Southern HIV Impact Fund over the last five years. Your contributions have made this work possible. We are particularly grateful to Vanessa Lathan, Clifford Castleberry and Athena Cross for continuing this legacy, and Jesse Milan Jr., Vienna Mbagaya and Warren Gill for making this five-year retrospective possible.



SOUTHERN HIV IMPACT FUND

aidsunited.org