



# INFOGRAPHIC SUMMARY

# DERAILED

**Rising Attacks and  
Retreating Resources  
for Racial Justice**

**FIVE YEARS  
AFTER *MISMATCHED* —  
WHERE PHILANTHROPY  
STANDS NOW**

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FALL 2025



# From *Mismatched* to *Derailed* ... Where Does Philanthropy Stand on Funding Communities of Color and Racial Justice?

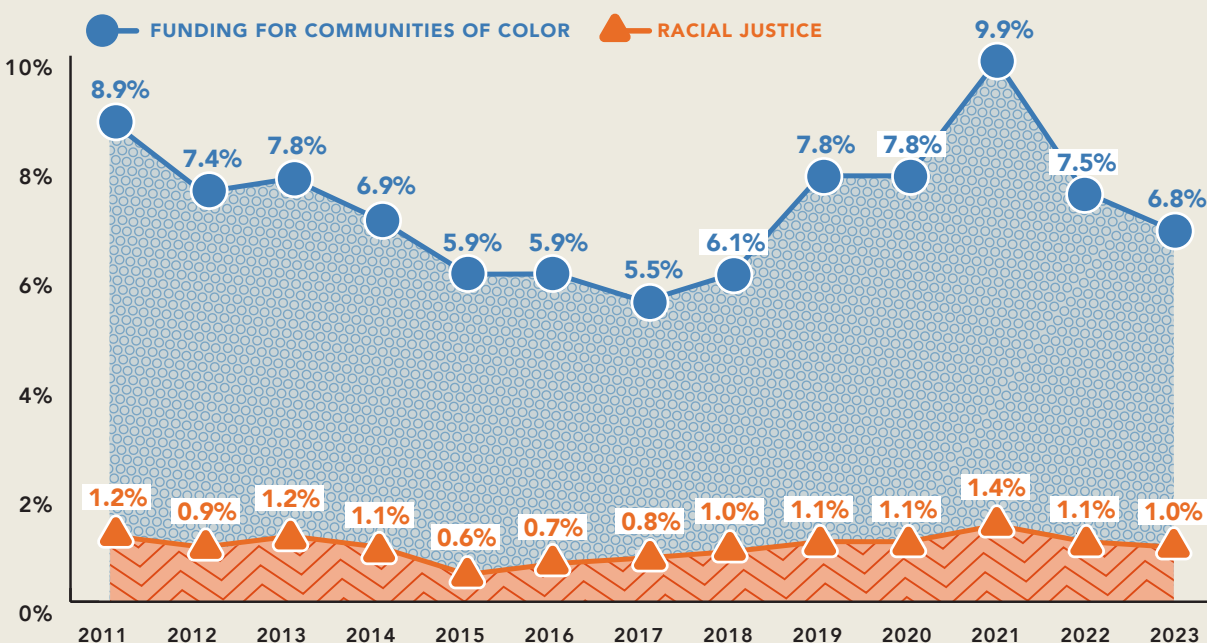
In September 2021 the Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity (PRE) released *Mismatched: Philanthropy's Response to the Call for Racial Justice*, which assessed the scale and scope of funding for racial equity and justice in the wake of the 2020 global uprisings after the murder of George Floyd. This report provides a detailed update and analysis on the scale and scope of funding for communities of color that makes use of data from Candid on final grants for 2019–2023.

The context has changed dramatically in the past four years. The U.S. Supreme Court's overturn of affirmative action in college admissions and a lawsuit against the Fearless Fund stoked fears among funders, pushing many to pull back from their commitments to racial equity work. More recently, the second Trump administration has launched unprecedented attacks on "diversity, equity, and inclusion," attempting to block race-explicit strategies at universities, federal contractors, and nonprofits and foundations. These developments have further derailed progress and contributed to a chilling effect around racial justice across philanthropy.

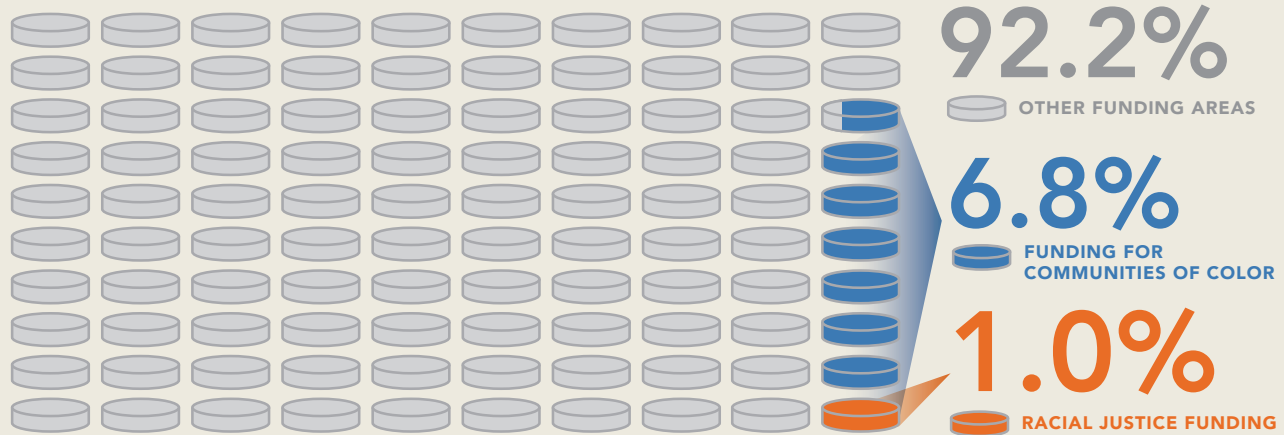
## Funding for Communities of Color Has Fallen Back a Decade

After a brief surge in 2020 and 2021, philanthropic support for communities of color is off track. While overall foundation and corporate giving grew by nearly 50 percent between 2019 and 2023, the share devoted to communities of color actually shrank. Even at its height in 2021, funding for communities of color made up less than a tenth of all institutional giving. **By 2023, it had dropped to 6.8 percent, lower than the proportion dedicated to communities of color in 2012–2014** (although not as low as its lowest trough in 2015–2018). Funding for racial justice — focused specifically on systemic change and building power in communities of color — was even lower, never exceeding 1.4 percent of all institutional giving.

PERCENTAGE OF FUNDING FOR COMMUNITIES OF COLOR  
VS. RACIAL JUSTICE



## PERCENTAGE OF ALL GRANTMAKING DEVOTED TO COMMUNITIES OF COLOR AND RACIAL JUSTICE, 2023



In terms of raw dollars, funding focused on communities of color nearly doubled from 2019 to a peak of \$11 billion in 2021, but then began dropping off. This decline in funding is even sharper when accounting for inflation. By 2023, funding for communities of color fell by about 22.2 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars.

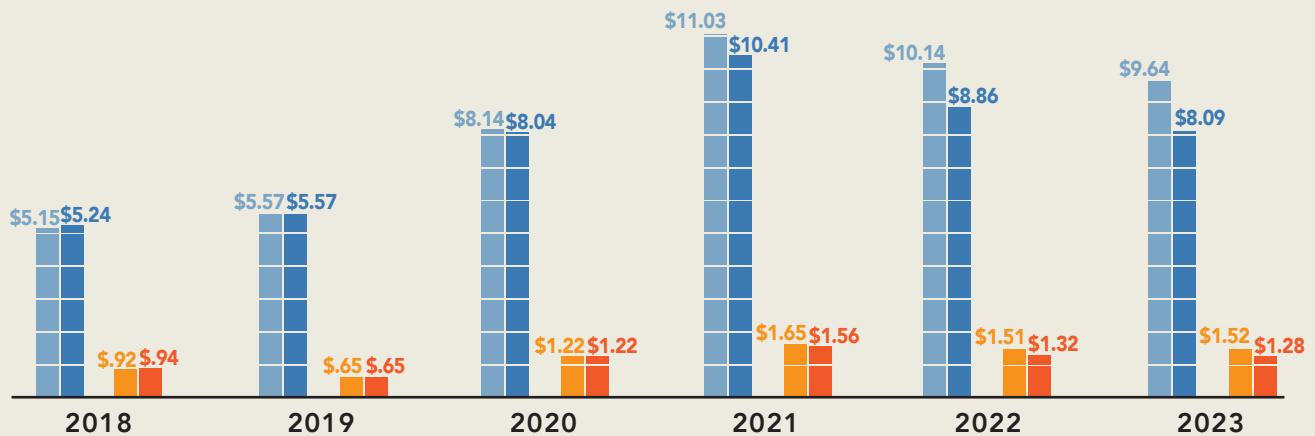
## NOMINAL DOLLARS AND ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION (2019 DOLLARS)

### FUNDING FOR COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

■ NOMINAL DOLLARS (IN BILLIONS)  
■ ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION (2019 DOLLARS)

### RACIAL JUSTICE FUNDING

■ NOMINAL DOLLARS (IN BILLIONS)  
■ ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION (2019 DOLLARS)



Total funding for racial justice peaked at about \$1.65 billion in 2021. For comparison with other domestic entities, this is roughly equal to the 2023 annual operating revenue of University of Notre Dame, which has a student body of 13,139 students. **Institutional philanthropy’s support for the entire racial justice movement barely equals the annual budget of a single midsized university.**

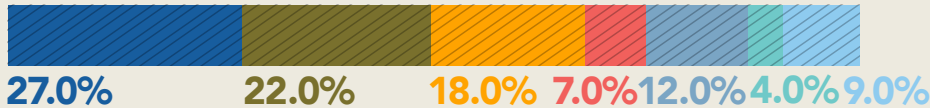
The top-funded subject areas for communities of color were consistent with previous PRE reports, with education, community and economic development, human services, and human rights leading the list. Education grant dollars, including scholarships and support for charter schools and universities, surpassed all other issue areas by a wide margin.

Looking at funding specifically for racial justice, the lion's share of dollars (63 percent) focused on human rights. Public affairs and public safety also captured larger shares of racial justice funding than they did of funding for communities of color overall.

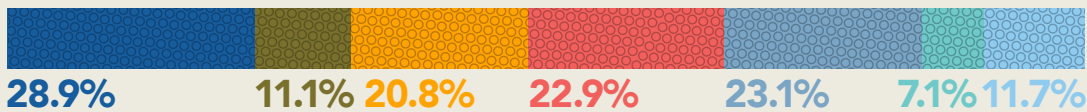
Community and economic development captured a larger share of funding for communities of color than they did of grantmaking overall; 23 percent of funding for communities of color focused on this subject area, which includes financial education and small-business development, whereas these issues only received 12 percent of all institutional funding. In other words, funding for communities of color is more likely to focus on economic development.

### PERCENTAGE OF FUNDING DEVOTED TO TOP SUBJECT AREAS, 2019–2023<sup>1,2</sup>

#### ALL FOUNDATION FUNDING



#### COMMUNITIES OF COLOR FUNDING



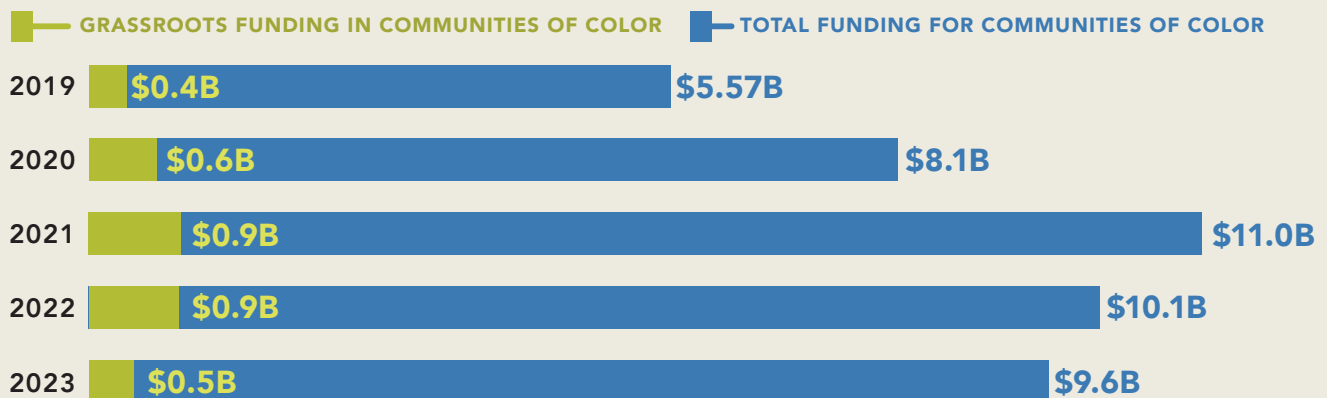
#### RACIAL JUSTICE FUNDING



- EDUCATION ● HEALTH ● HUMAN SERVICES ● HUMAN RIGHTS ● COMMUNITY / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- PUBLIC SAFETY AND AFFAIRS ● ARTS AND CULTURE

Funding for grassroots organizing in communities of color remained a minuscule share of overall funding for communities of color. On average from 2019 to 2023, grassroots organizing was about 7.4 percent of all grantmaking for communities of color. The share marginally reached its peak in 2022 at 8.8 percent, before falling to half that in 2023.

### FUNDING FOR GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING, IN BILLIONS

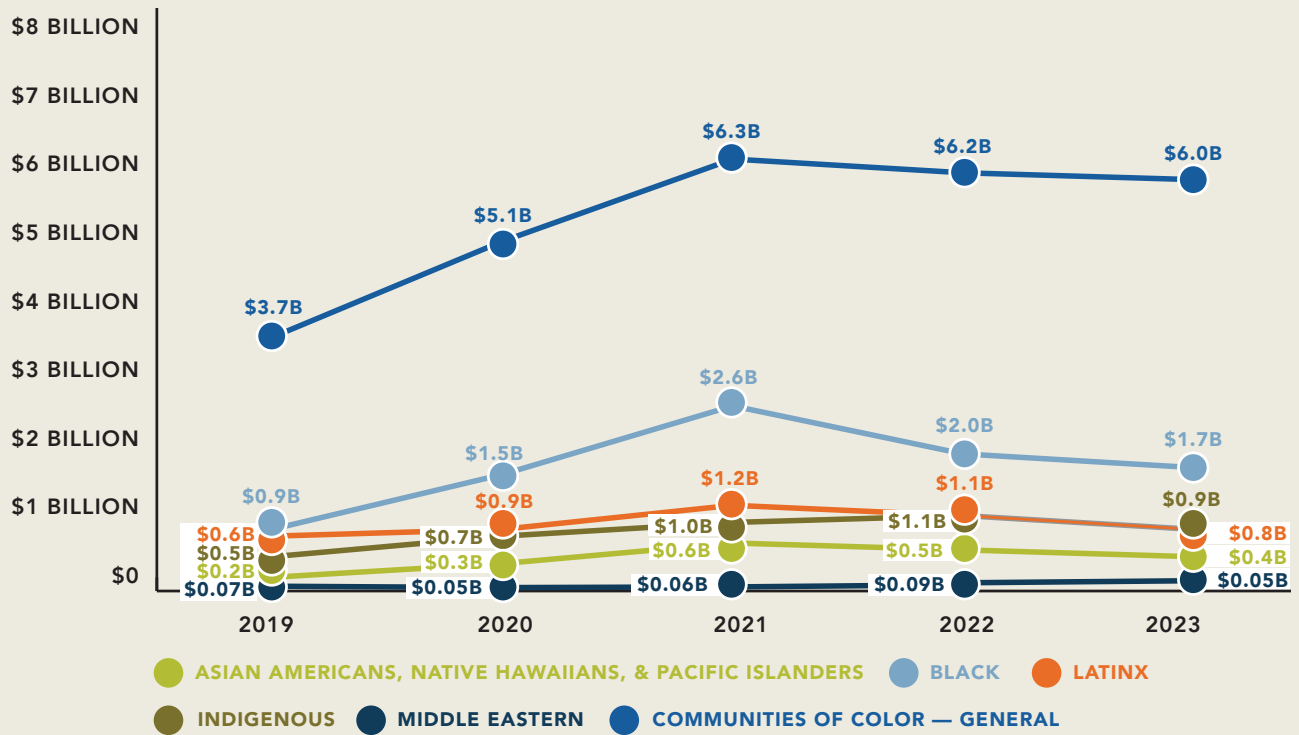


[1] Data on overall funding are based on Candid's 2022 reported numbers for community and private foundation giving. For more information, [see here](#).

[2] NOTE: Percentages exceed or approximate 100 percent as the Candid taxonomy allows grants to be coded with more than one subject area.

The largest portion of dollars was devoted to communities of color broadly rather than to any specific racial or ethnic group. Cumulatively, more than \$27 billion, or almost two-thirds of the \$44.5 billion awarded to communities of color from 2019 to 2023, was labeled without a focus on a particular racial or ethnic community.

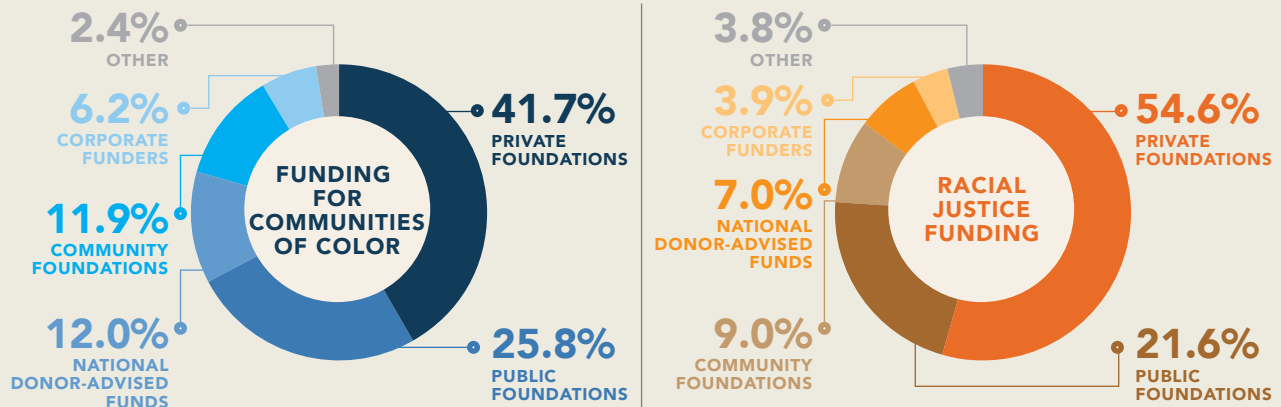
### FUNDING FOR COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, BY POPULATION, 2019–2023



NOTE: This chart has not been adjusted for inflation.

The largest share of funding for both communities of color and for racial justice came from private foundations, providing almost two-thirds of the latter. National donor-advised fund (DAF) sponsors saw the largest increase in their funding for communities of color, growing by over 500 percent from 2019 to 2021 before dropping by almost half in 2021–2023. Funding from community foundations also increased significantly, doubling for communities of color and tripling for racial justice between 2019 and 2021.

### FUNDING FOR COMMUNITIES OF COLOR AND RACIAL JUSTICE, BY FUNDER TYPE



Leaders described living with active and ongoing trauma, even as they continue to organize in their communities to defend democracy and to protect families from being detained or disappeared.

— Kenia Morales and Becca Guerra Molo, authors of *Views from the Field: A Crossroads for Latinx Movements*.  
SEE PAGE 40 OF THE FULL REPORT.

## THE FIVE DERAILMENTS

Five ways that philanthropy has gotten derailed from its progress on funding for racial justice and communities of color:

1

**Too many funders are retreating from funding with a racial lens, reversing a decade of progress on funding for communities of color and racial justice and jeopardizing a fragile ecosystem at a time when the needs are more urgent than ever.**

2

**Attacks on human rights and civil society have pushed many in philanthropy toward fearful risk aversion, exacerbating the burden placed on movement leaders and shrinking crucial resources for building multiracial coalitions.**

3

**Funding continues to have a disproportionate focus on mainstream efforts such as education and services rather than racial justice, grassroots movement building, and structural change.**

4

**Some funders have taken the wrong lessons from the past two years, blaming losses on identity politics and vulnerable communities rather than the failure to fund racial justice coalitions at scale and for the long term.**

5

**Funders' vacillation between exaggerating and obfuscating their support for communities of color has undermined efforts for transparency, accountability, and honest assessment of progress in funding for racial justice.**

You heard some [funders] saying, 'We're committed to supporting racial justice but not to Palestine.' There's this refusal to recognize how integral this fight is to our racial justice and racial equity fights domestically.

— Darakshan Raja, founding executive director of Muslims for Just Futures, in *Movement Perspectives*.  
SEE PAGE 53 OF THE FULL REPORT.

# RECOMMENDATIONS TO GET ON TRACK

*Derailed* aims to provide a comprehensive picture of the challenges that racial justice funders and movements faced in 2025. Outlined are five recommendations for how we can collectively get on track:

## 1 Recognize and Affirm the Importance of Maintaining Race-Explicit Funding Strategies.

*Philanthropy must not retreat or over-comply in the face of political pressure or legal threats. Foundations are uniquely situated to defend and sustain race-explicit strategies, which are essential tools for fighting the realities of racial inequality.*

## 2 Fund Multiracial Coalitions AND Social Change Led by and for Communities of Color.

*Building a broad coalition and funding that focuses on specific identities are not mutually exclusive; they work in tandem. Funders should invest in both identity-based groups driving change within their own communities and larger multiracial movements as they rally to protect democracy.*

## 3 Go Beyond Equity to Build Power.

*Racial equity opens doors, but long-term systemic change requires continued investment and power-building efforts. Funders should move beyond access and inclusion toward building lasting capacity, infrastructure, and influence for racial justice movements that are truly transformative.*

## 4 Recognize that Racial Justice Is Core to the Fight for Democracy.

*The erosion of democracy and the rollback of civil rights are intertwined. Attacks on racial justice, immigrants, and LGBTQ communities are proxies for a broader dismantling of democratic norms. By explicitly resourcing the targeted groups most under siege, funders will defend human rights at large and strengthen democratic integrity.*

## 5 Defend the Data While Protecting Grantee Safety.

*Transparent data is democracy's early warning system. As political pressure mounts and legislation obstructs access to clear information systems, funders should do all they can to maintain transparent data on racial equity and justice while protecting the safety of grantee partners that may be vulnerable to attacks.*

If we are serious about combating the anti-Blackness at the core of our society, we must fund the fight for the long term so that it can be at scale with the problem it is trying to solve.

— **charles long**, Movement for Black Lives, author *Views from the Field: Advancing Black Movement Power In a Time of Philanthropic Flux*. SEE PAGE 37 OF THE FULL REPORT.



## THE PHILANTHROPIC INITIATIVE FOR RACIAL EQUITY

The goal of the Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity (PRE) is to increase the amount and effectiveness of resources aimed at combating institutional and structural racism in communities through capacity building, education, and convening of grantmakers and grantseekers.

PRE is a project of Tides Center.

*Derailed: Rising Attacks and Retreating Resources for Racial Justice.* Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity. 2025.

@ December 2025, Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity

*All opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view of Tides, PRE's funders, or other organization or institution affiliated with PRE.*

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[racialequity.org](https://racialequity.org)