



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Investing in Our Common Future



**Michael J.
Murray, Ph.D.**

President's Letter

Dear Friends and Partners of AVDF,

In 2021 foundations in the United States disbursed just under \$90B dollars in grant funds. While this represents less than 20% of the philanthropic giving that year, such investment in the non-profit sector is substantial. Despite their relatively low share of overall giving, foundations can often have outsized impact. There are many reasons for this. But one of those reasons is that foundations are able to hire staff with expertise in philanthropy as well as in the areas within which the founder(s) seeks to make a difference. This allows those foundations to plan carefully, give strategically, measure successes and failures, and adjust accordingly.

In addition to drawing on the expertise of their own staff, many foundation personnel participate in “funder collaboratives” that allow them to learn from peers. Members of the collaborative can share successes and failures, research findings, especially effective grantees, and other strategic information across the sector, all of which can serve to make each member more effective.

Many of these collaboratives also seek to foster funding partnerships between foundations with common interests. But curiously, such partnerships are rare. I often hear foundation leaders explaining their interest in launching partnerships with peers. But by this they typically mean: a relationship where other foundations surrender some of their assets to advance the work we are doing.

Seeking partnerships understood this way is not inherently bad. But partnerships of this sort rarely emerge. Why is that? Undoubtedly there are many reasons: foundation staff are too busy to explore the work other foundations are undertaking in any depth; foundation leaders typically don't think they have enough resources to accomplish their own goals, never mind contributing to others; and more besides. But one reason that such partnerships rarely emerge is more troublesome. Fear. Foundation leaders are often afraid to go to the decision makers within their organizations and ask them to devote some of their limited resources to support the good ideas of another foundation. They fear that in doing so they will somehow confess that the leaders or staff at the peer foundation are smarter, better, or more strategic. They worry about getting the response: if staff at that other foundation have the good ideas, why are we paying you?

While the fear might be well placed, foundation leaders and foundation boards need to approach partnership differently. Foundation staff are, among other things, talent scouts. They are on the lookout for projects, people, organizations, and ideas that are likely to get them closer to their goal. But among the talent worth scouting is the talent had by other foundations. Sometimes, when another organization is funding under-capitalized strategic efforts that are succeeding, the most strategic thing we peer funders can do, is support them.

At the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, we believe in partnerships. We actively seek them. We are on the lookout for initiatives launched by peers that are making a difference, and are poised to make a greater difference with more resources.

It is this passion for partnerships that led us to approach the [Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation](#) and offer to double the funding that they were providing through their successful, strategic program to fund nursing-driven innovations in serious illness and end of life care. It is what led us to approach the [Teagle Foundation](#) and offer to double the investment in creating statewide transfer pathways from community colleges to independent colleges in twenty states. It is what led us to approach the [El Hibri Foundation](#) to co-fund their highly successful Peace Awards which celebrate those who champion religious diversity and provide leadership within the American Muslim community.

These programs were not our ideas. But they were good ideas. And we have been privileged to do our part to support these brilliant efforts of our peers.

We hope that other foundations (and foundation boards) will take up the challenge of setting aside a portion of their annual allocation of funds to support the work that another foundation is doing. Increasing work of this sort will not only strengthen the bonds among our sector, but concentrate our resources around efforts that are succeeding.

We at the Arthur Vining Foundations are proud of the work of our peers, and hope to join more of them in supporting the good work they do. Here is to a more collaborative 2023.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Murray, President

2022 GRANTMAKING

DURING 2022, the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations paid \$12.9 million in grants and approved \$11.7 million in new grants. A total of 55 new program grants were awarded to 18 states with the District of Columbia, Massachusetts, and New York receiving a larger amount of grants than other states across programs. Non-program grants totaling \$494,790 were awarded to 74 nonprofits for general support.

\$12.9 Million

IN PAID GRANTS

55

NEW PROGRAM GRANTS

\$494,790

NON-PROGRAM GRANTS

\$11.7 Million

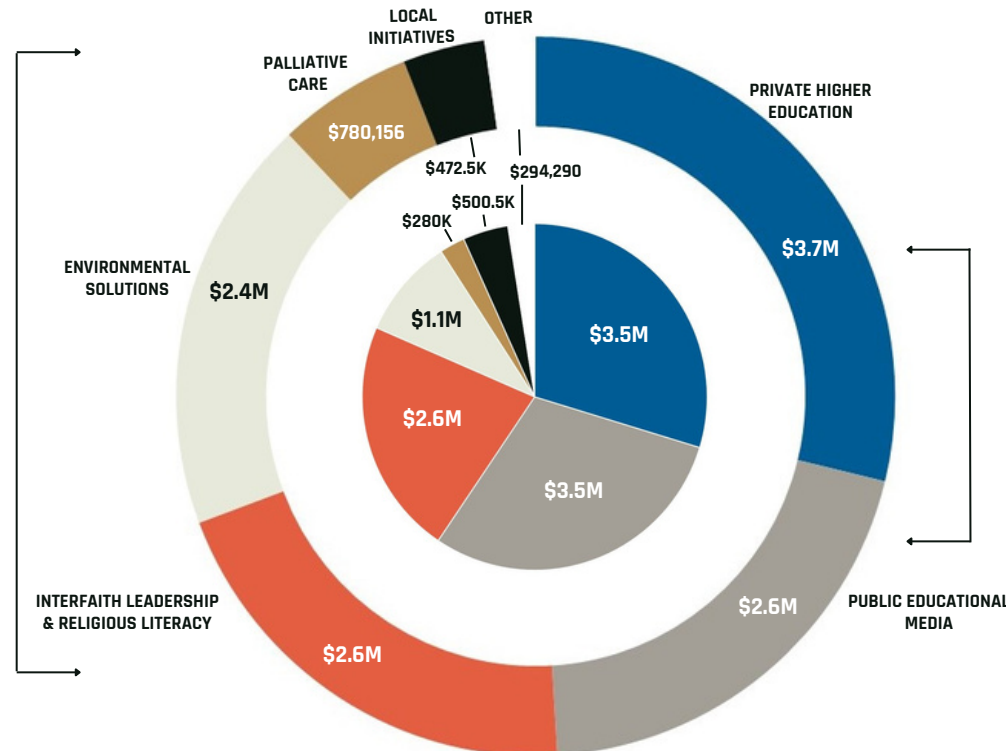
IN APPROVED GRANTS

18

STATES RECEIVED GRANTS

2022 Paid Grants by Program Area

Private Higher Education - \$3.7 Million	■
Public Educational Media - \$2.6 Million	■
Interfaith Leadership & Religious Literacy - \$2.6 Million	■
Environmental Solutions - \$2.4 Million	■
Palliative Care - \$780,156	■
Local Initiatives - \$472,500	■
Other - \$294,290	□



2022 Approved Grants by Program Areas

\$3.5 Million - Private Higher Education	■
\$3.5 Million - Public Educational Media	■
\$2.6 Million - Interfaith Leadership & Religious Literacy	■
\$1.1 Million - Environmental Solutions	■
\$280,000 - Palliative Care	■
\$500,500 - Local Initiatives	■
\$294,290 - Other	□

2022 GRANT CYCLE

THE 2022 GRANT CYCLE yielded a total of 215 Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) across programs with a total requested amount of \$54 million. Of this amount 54 percent was for projects in Private Higher Education and 46 percent for Interfaith. Invited proposals from the LOI pool totaled \$3.8 million for Private Higher Education and \$2.8 million for Interfaith. Proposals were also invited from designated partners in Public Educational Media totaling \$3.3 million, Environmental Solutions totaling \$1.1 million, and Palliative Care totaling \$850,000.

215
LETTERS OF INQUIRY

\$54 Million
REQUESTED

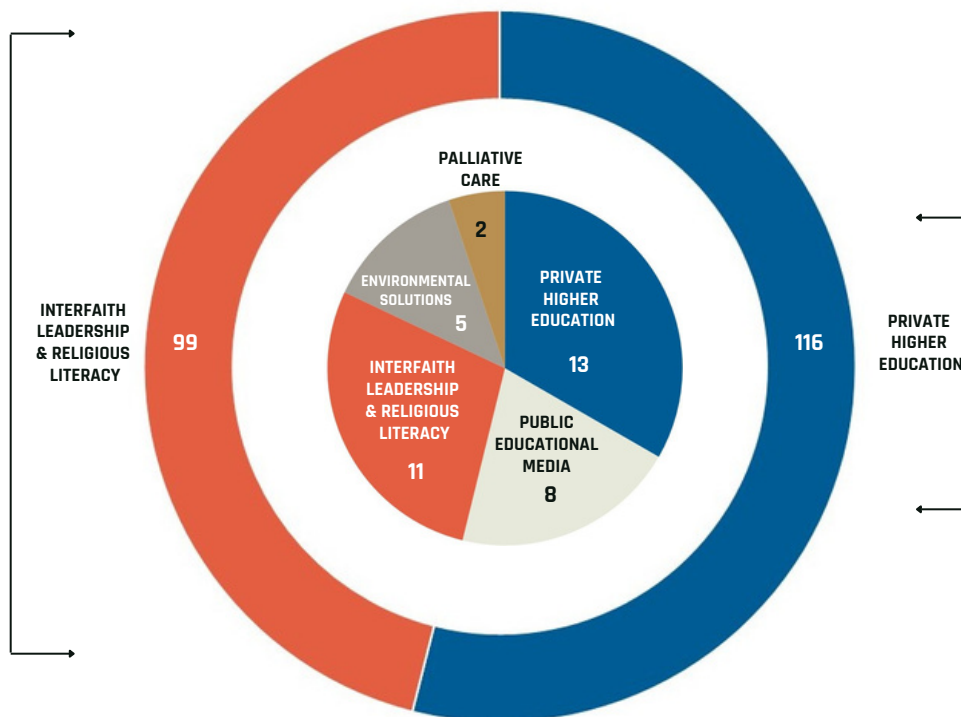
54%
PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION

46%
INTERFAITH LEADERSHIP
& RELIGIOUS LITERACY

2022 Letters of Inquiry Received by Program Area

Private Higher Education
116 LOIs
\$30.7 MILLION

Interfaith Leadership & Religious Literacy
99 LOIs
\$23.3 MILLION



2022 Invited Proposals by Program Areas

Private Higher Education
13 FULL PROPOSALS / \$3.8 MILLION

Public Educational Media
8 FULL PROPOSALS / \$3.3 MILLION

Interfaith Leadership & Religious Literacy
11 FULL PROPOSALS / \$2.8 MILLION

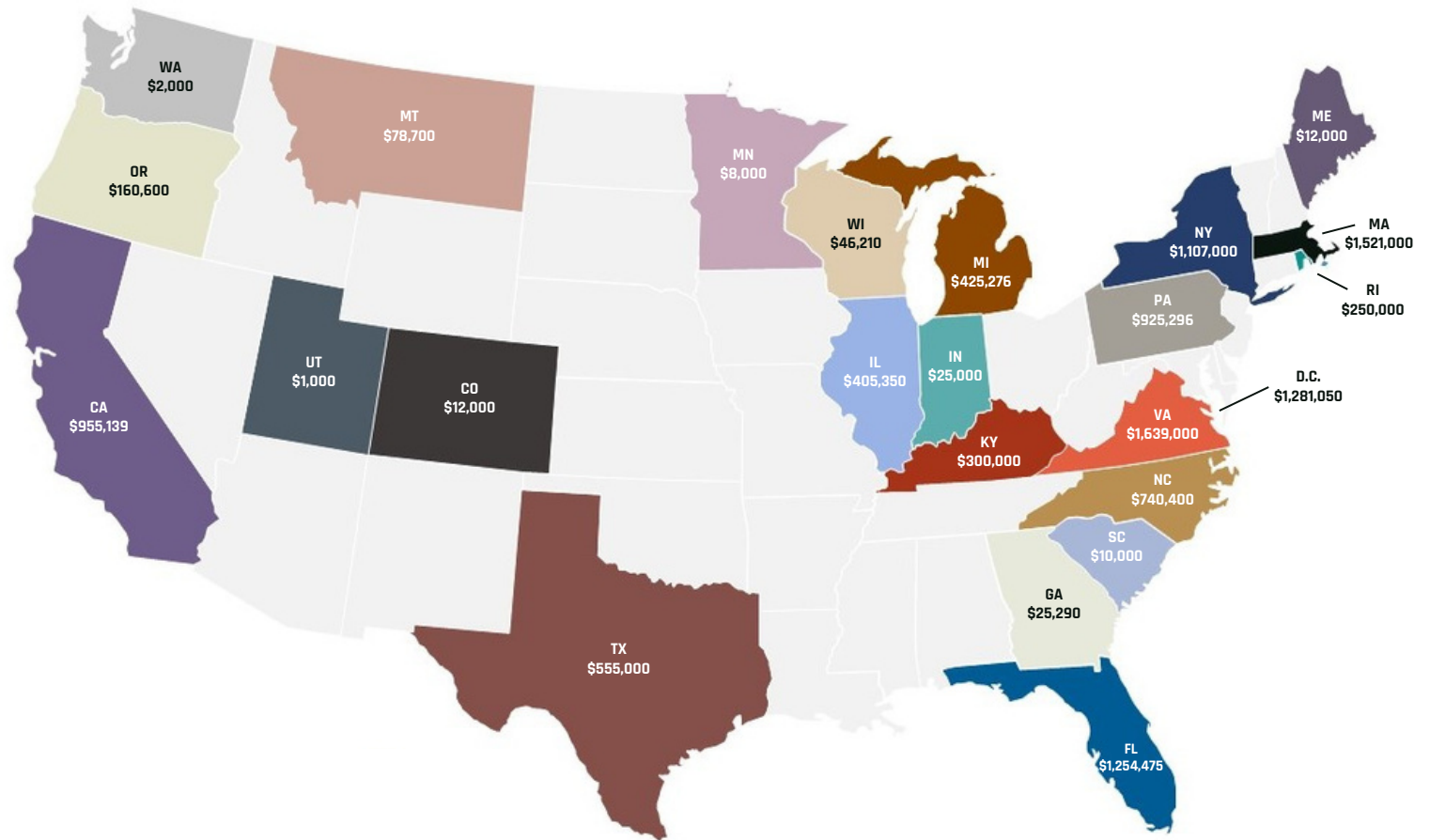
Environmental Solutions
5 FULL PROPOSALS / \$619,441

Palliative Care
2 FULL PROPOSALS / \$850,000

2022 GRANT DISTRIBUTION

2022 Geographical Distribution of New Grants

Virginia – \$1,639,000	■
Massachusetts – \$1,521,000	■
District of Columbia – \$1,281,050	■
Florida – \$1,254,475	■
New York – \$1,107,000	■
California – \$955,139	■
Pennsylvania – \$925,296	■
North Carolina – \$740,400	■
Texas – \$555,000	■
Michigan – \$425,276	■
Illinois – \$405,350	■
Kentucky – \$300,000	■
Rhode Island – \$250,000	■
Oregon – \$160,600	■
Montana – \$78,700	■
Wisconsin – \$46,210	■
Georgia – \$25,290	■
Indiana – \$25,000	■
Colorado – \$12,000	■
Maine – \$12,000	■
South Carolina – \$10,000	■
Minnesota – \$8,000	■
Washington – \$2,000	■
Utah – \$1,000	■



2022 FINANCIALS

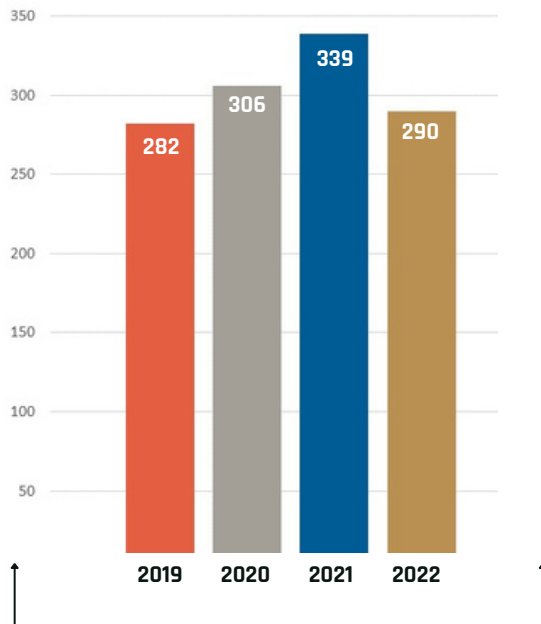
IN 2022, AVDF's endowments decreased to an average of \$290 million due to global market conditions. As the prior year endowments reached an all-time high, AVDF enjoyed its highest level of grants paid at \$12.9 million.



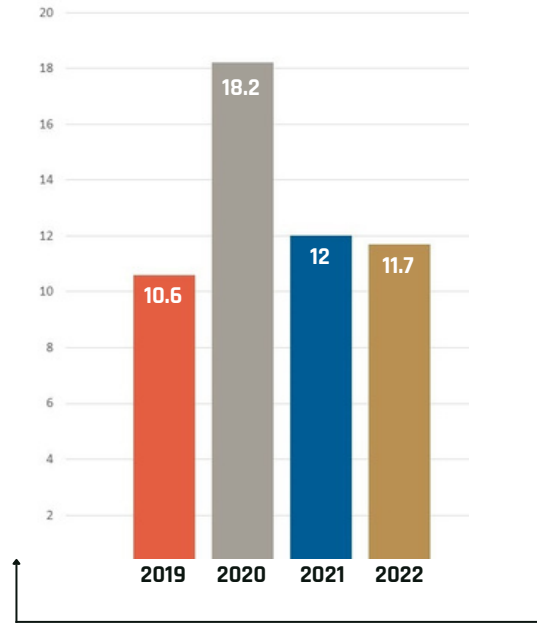
\$290 Million
TOTAL ASSETS

\$11.7 Million
IN APPROVED GRANTS

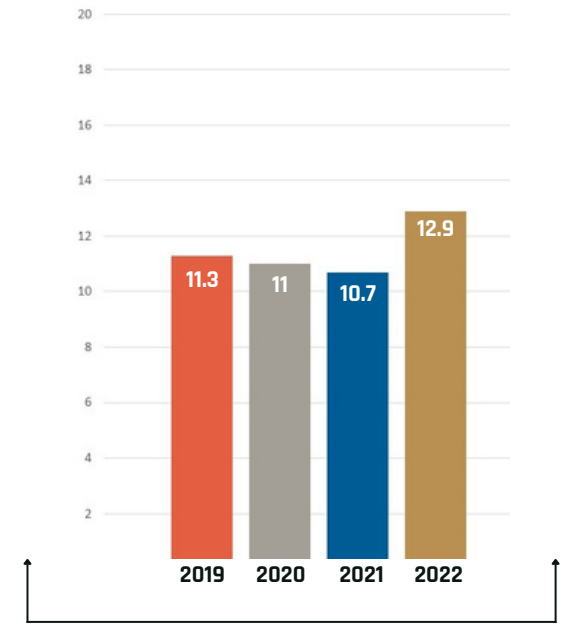
\$12.9 Million
IN GRANTS PAID



Total Assets
in Millions



Grants Approved
in Millions



Grants Paid
in Millions



Investing in Our Common Future



The Arthur
Vining Davis
Foundations

P 904.359.0670
F 904.359.0675

814 N. Highway A1A, Suite 300
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

AVDF.ORG