

ABOUT THIS SERIES

As young people face myriad challenges, we explore how youth philanthropy can best engage young people of all socioeconomic backgrounds in grantmaking.

Why Youth Philanthropy Matters

The Sillerman Center's research on youth philanthropy outlines best practices and explores the ways these programs benefit young people, their communities, and the philanthropic sector.

Youth grantmaking programs help make the field of philanthropy more **inclusive** and **equitable**. They are an often overlooked, but extremely instructive model of participatory grantmaking and civic engagement in which **young people are given power** to make key decisions in support of their communities. Our research shows that **young philanthropists develop leadership skills** and a stronger sense of **belonging and purpose in their communities**.



Nearly 80% of youth philanthropy programs serve 13-18 year olds

Today's GenZ youth philanthropists, born between 1996 and 2014, report that they want to make decisions about where their donated dollars go and see the impact of that money. GenZers tend to give small and spontaneous donations and are the most likely of any generation to give via social media.

In 2020, 44% of Gen Zers donated to charity – most frequently to children, animals, health, religion, and social services.



26% of Gen Zers volunteered in 2020, the highest percent of any age group.

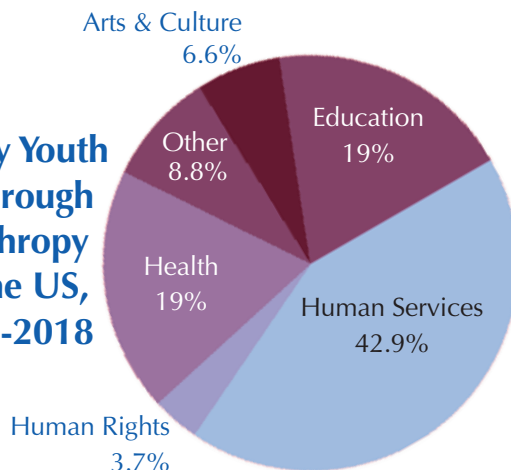


Participation in youth philanthropy programs is declining

Our research indicates that participation in youth philanthropy programs is declining. In 2018, there were an estimated 513 such programs in the United States. In 2021 there were an estimated 475 programs.

Where and how much do youth philanthropy programs give?

All Grants Made by Youth Philanthropists, through youth philanthropy programs in the US, from 2015-2018



FROM 2015-2018, YOUTH PHILANTHROPISTS MADE GRANTS TOTALING \$6.3 MILLION THROUGH YOUTH PHILANTHROPY PROGRAMS IN THE US

Why Youth Philanthropy Matters — Sources

- * The Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy, Youth Philanthropy Project.
- * Youth ages 14-17 with at least one adult mentor in the community who provides advice or guidance in the United States. Kids Count Data Center, *Annie E. Casey Foundation*. July 2021.
- * YouthTruth, Student Survey. (2021). *Students Weigh In, Part III: Learning and Well-being During COVID-19.*
- * Youth ages 14-17 who participated in community service or volunteer work at school, church, or in the community during the past year in the United States. Kids Count Data Center, *Annie E. Casey Foundation*. July 2021.
- * Seller, S. and Ponce, K. (2021). *The State of Youth Philanthropy: 2020-2021.* *The Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy*.
- * Labetti, C. and Wanger, K. (2021). *Engaging the Next Generation of Philanthropists.* *Giving USA*.
- * Giving USA 2021: In a year of unprecedented events and challenges, charitable giving reached a record \$471.44 billion in 2020. Philanthropy Network Greater Philadelphia via *The Lilly Family School of Philanthropy*. June 2021.
- * "Foundation Maps." YouthGiving.org. *Search by Youth-Driven, U.S.-based grantmaking programs, and year range.* Accessed August 2022.