

TEXAS SPOTLIGHT:

Trends in LGBTQ Philanthropy for Funding Forward 2025



March 2025

National LGBTQ Philanthropy Funding in 2022

According to national survey data, approximately **13.9 million, or 5.6%, of the total adult population in the U.S. identify as LGBT.**¹

U.S.-based foundations awarded a total of \$258.1 million in grant funding to support LGBTQ communities and causes across the country in 2022. For a more comprehensive understanding of the latest trends in LGBTQ philanthropy in the United States, please see the [Resource Tracking Data Explorer](#).²

- For every \$100 awarded by U.S. foundations, only 25 cents specifically supported LGBTQ communities and causes in the United States in 2022.³

The total funding for LGBTQ communities and causes across the Southern region decreased by **12% from \$32.2 million in 2021 to **\$28.5 million** in 2022.**

Southern LGBTQ Philanthropy Trends Over Time

The U.S. South is the region with the highest percentage of adults that identify as LGBTQ+ in the country with **35.9%**, compared to **24.5%** of adults in the West, **21.1%** of adults in the Midwest, and **18.5%** of adults in the Northeast.⁴

Even though more LGBTQ people live in the South than any other region in the country, **only \$28.5 million, or 11% of total domestic support for LGBTQ communities** from U.S.-based foundations, was geographically focused on the region in 2022.⁵

- The total funding for LGBTQ communities and causes across the region **decreased by 12% from \$32.2 million in 2021 to \$28.5 million in 2022.**⁶
- Philanthropic funding for Southern LGBTQ communities and causes has never been commensurate with need in the region and the decrease in Southern funding in 2022 is particularly troubling given escalating right-wing attacks targeting LGBTQ community members in the region, and a surge of community-led organizing and activism that has been necessary in response.

Funders for LGBTQ Issues and its members are working to reverse the historical trend of underinvestment in this region through the Out in the South Program, which works to increase philanthropic resources that support a healthy ecosystem of LGBTQ organizations in the U.S. South through a funder network, the Out in the South Fund, and targeted training and technical assistance.⁷

- Historically, foundation support focused on LGBTQ communities and causes issues in the South totaled between three and four percent of all LGBTQ funding in 2011 and 2012, respectively.⁸ **Funding has grown substantially since the launch of Out in the South in 2015.**

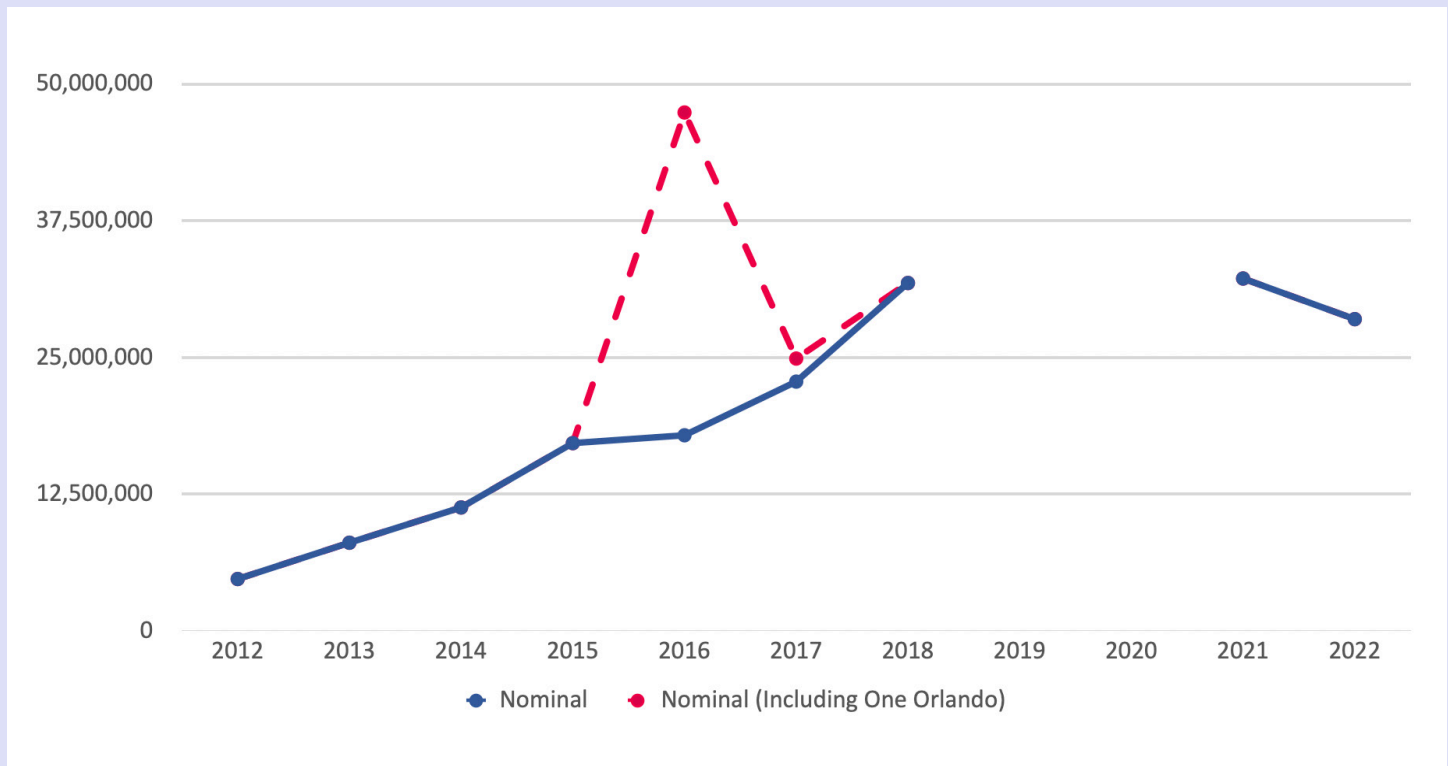
LGBTQ Philanthropy in the Southeast* Region by Year, 2012-2022

Year	Nominal Total (\$)
2012	\$ 4,742,238
2013	\$ 8,058,704
2014	\$ 11,282,476
2015	\$ 17,165,964
2016	\$ 17,882,284
2017	\$ 22,789,493
2018	\$ 31,803,690
2019	**
2020	**
2021	\$ 32,214,600
2022	\$ 28,499,618

* For the purposes of the Resource Tracking Report, the following states are considered part of the Southeastern region: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. The regional distinctions we use do not necessarily correspond with the U.S. Census regions. Sometimes Texas is not included as part of the South but it is included in the Out in the South Programs focus area, which refers to Southern states with a high level of unmet need for LGBTQ funding, a history of enslavement, and a high percentage of rural areas.

**** As you can see from the table and graph:** due to COVID-19 and staff capacity constraints, Funders for LGBTQ Issues was unable to disaggregate 2019-2020 funding by geographic location.

LGBTQ Philanthropy in the Southeast* Region Over Time, 2012-2022



LGBTQ Philanthropy Trends in Texas

- **In the state of Texas, 5.1% of adults identify as LGBT, for a total of approximately 1,071,300 people.**⁹

Additionally, the latest estimates indicate that 1.42% of youth ages 13-17 and 0.43% of adults specifically identify as transgender in Texas.¹⁰

- It is difficult to determine where the most LGBTQ people live in Texas because the U.S. Census focuses on measuring same-sex households, which does not capture those that live in other arrangements. Additionally, LGBTQ people have reported being hesitant or afraid to disclose their sexual orientation or gender identity through the Census – especially those who live in conservative states or rural areas.¹¹

- **A total of \$2.37 million in grants supported LGBTQ communities of color in Texas in 2022, which was a decrease from \$4.94 million in 2021.**

- The percentage of grants that specifically supported LGBTQ communities of color in Texas in 2022 was 71%, which was much higher than the national average of only 31%.
- This high percentage of funding for LGBTQ communities of color in Texas is likely due to a few large grants that were specifically focused on LGBTQ communities of color in both reporting years.

Total Grants & Funding for LGBTQ Communities of Color in Texas

Year	Grants	Total \$	# of Funding	% of Texas
2021	▶	34	▶ \$ 4,943,500	▶ 76%
2022	▶	29	▶ \$ 2,374,500	▶ 71%

According to the 2022 Resource Tracking Report, U.S.-based foundations awarded a total of \$3.34 million through 87 grants that supported LGBTQ communities and causes in Texas in 2022 and \$6.52 million through 93 grants in 2021.¹²

Top Ten Funders of LGBTQ Communities and Causes in Texas in 2022

1.	Gilead Sciences	\$1.5M
2.	Gill Foundation	\$450K
3.	Ford Foundation	\$300K
4.	Groundswell Fund	\$298K
5.	Borealis Philanthropy	\$227K
6.	Texas Pride Community Foundation <small>(formerly known as Texas Pride Impact Funds)</small>	\$215K
7.	Third Wave Fund	\$149K
8.	JP Morgan Chase	\$58K
9.	Legacy Collective	\$46K
10.	Anonymous	\$25K

Of these funders, only 2 (TPCF and Legacy Collective) were based in Texas, and none were based in the South outside of Texas.

In the state of Texas, 5.1% of adults identify as LGBT.

Distribution of Funding Among LGBTQ Communities of Color in Texas, 2021-2022

POPULATION	2021 (\$)	2022 (\$)
Communities of Color (General)	\$ 2,986,000	\$ 1,844,000
Black	\$ 1,320,000	\$ 193,000
Latinx	\$ 637,500	\$ 337,500
AAPI	\$ 0	\$ 0
Indigenous	\$ 0	\$ 0
Middle Eastern	\$ 0	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 4,943,500	\$ 2,374,500

- In 2021 and 2022, **philanthropic support for LGBTQ communities and causes in Texas largely focused on health and wellbeing**, as well as efforts to strengthen communities, families, and visibility of the LGBTQ community.

Distribution of Funding for LGBTQ Issues in Texas, 2021-2022

ISSUES	Health & Wellbeing	2021: \$ 2,043,984 2022: \$ 662,667
	Strengthening Communities, Families, & Visibility	2021: \$ 1,775,423 2022: \$ 871,050
	Civil & Human Rights	2021: \$ 1,191,385 2022: \$ 514,633
	Economic Issues	2021: \$ 1,191,403 2022: \$ 460,217
	Education & Safe Schools	2021: \$ 8,250 2022: \$ 141,633
	Unspecified	2021: \$ 306,000 2022: \$ 694,415

- With regard to addressing the specific needs of LGBTQ communities in Texas during the COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. foundations awarded approximately **\$293 thousand in 2020, \$259 thousand in 2021, and \$937 thousand in 2022.**

COVID-Specific Funding for LGBTQ Communities in Texas, 2021-2022

COVID	2020 (\$)	2021 (\$)	2022 (\$)
	\$ 292,947	\$ 258,500	\$ 936,500

- Additionally, **philanthropic funding for specific strategies decreased from 2021 to 2022 in Texas.** Similar to trends at the national level, advocacy was the highest funded strategy in Texas in 2022 with \$1.1 million.

Funding for LGBTQ Communities in Texas, by Strategy, 2021-2022

STRATEGY	Advocacy	2021: \$ 1,987,310 2022: \$ 1,056,915
	Direct Service & Health Care	2021: \$ 1,708,293 2022: \$ 773,650
	Capacity Building	2021: \$ 1,233,600 2022: \$ 862,250
	Culture & Media	2021: \$ 1,179,550 2022: \$ 237,250
	Research	2021: \$ 125,600 2022: \$ 110,000
	Philanthropy & Fundraising	2021: \$ 84,091 2022: \$ 63,000
	Unspecified	2021: \$ 198,000 2022: \$ 241,550

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Putting Data in Context

At Funders for LGBTQ Issues, it is our hope that these trends in philanthropic support for LGBTQ communities and causes in Texas and across the South are used to identify funding gaps and inform future grantmaking that best supports LGBTQ communities and causes in the region.

However, we are aware that the 2022 resource tracking data do not capture the full breadth of LGBTQ funding across the state of Texas because we do not receive direct submissions of LGBTQ grant data from all foundations who support LGBTQ communities and causes in Texas or the South more broadly. Though the methodology also includes analysis of IRS Form 990 data, these data often do not contain enough grant-level information to code for geographic focus.

For context, Funders for LGBTQ Issues is aware of **at least 54 funders that supported LGBTQ communities and causes in Texas through their grantmaking in 2022** according to research conducted in partnership with Texas Pride Community Fund (TPCF) as part of the Out in the South Program.¹³ However, only LGBTQ grant data from 18 of those funders are included in the 2022 Resource Tracking Report dataset.

Much of the financial support for LGBTQ communities and causes in Texas comes from community-based fundraising through events, individual donors, and mutual aid. **These efforts range in scope and size and can raise up to \$1 million in larger metropolitan areas**, but may not be measured through existing resource tracking methodologies.

In addition, our resource tracking data indicate that LGBTQ communities in Texas are largely reliant on funders that are based outside of Texas and the Southern region. Any change in funding strategy, priority areas, or even staffing at these top funders could have long-lasting impacts in Texas.

Importantly, this is a trend that we have noted for other states in the Southern region, as well, so we want to continue to increase philanthropic support for LGBTQ communities and causes in the South through initiatives like Out in the South.

As one step to increase the depth and accuracy of resource tracking across Texas and the rest of the Southern U.S., **Funders for LGBTQ Issues and Out in the South grantees have worked together to create *LGBTQ Philanthropic Landscape in the U.S. South: Reflecting on Ten Years of the Out in the South Program*.**¹⁴

The next Resource Tracking Report will cover LGBTQ grantmaking in calendar year 2023, including regional breakdowns and specific funding by state. **The report is expected to be published in June 2025.**

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The Work of Texas Pride Community Foundation

Texas Pride Community Foundation (TPCF), formerly known as Texas Pride Impact Funds (TPIF), is the leading and only progressive statewide LGBTQ+ community foundation and co-host of Funding Forward 2025. TPCF drives attention to the dynamic and diverse lives and experiences of LGBTQ+ people and addresses their needs and supports their dreams through a vast and active network of donors and organizations across the state.

TPCF boldly supports transformational change and racial equity in Texas. TPCF's long-term vision includes achieving **\$100.0 million in assets under management that, with donor-advised funds and annual fundraising, will support \$6.0 million in annual grantmaking.**

TPCF's listening grantmaking is designed to learn more about the community and the potential of grantee organizations in addressing community needs. TPCF refrains from prescribing specific outcomes and instead provides general operating support, occasionally for specific capacity initiatives, encouraging potentially different kinds of success that come from investment in community or grassroots knowledge, expertise, and ingenuity.

Learning from this grantmaking can help set baselines, determine future possible directions, and spur additional giving to TPCF to replicate successes and encourage more innovation.¹⁵

LGBTQ-serving organizations in Texas

LGBTQ community centers across Texas play a vital role in providing safe spaces, essential services, and advocacy for LGBTQ individuals. They offer mental health counseling, HIV testing, social support, and educational programs, fostering community and belonging. Many LGBTQ organizations in Texas, which have traditionally not been identified as community centers, now serve as community hubs, addressing local needs through diverse programs and initiatives, especially local pride organizations that aspire to open drop-in centers in the future.

According to research conducted in partnership with TPCF, there are at least 120 grantees that serve LGBTQ communities across the state of Texas.

Of these, at least 23 of them are based in Houston, which indicates the city with the most LGBTQ-serving organizations. For comparison, there are 18 LGBTQ-serving organizations in Dallas, 14 in Austin, and 7 in San Antonio. However, these numbers do not include organizations based and operating in suburban areas.

While the full scope and number of these organizations are unclear, CenterLink, a nonprofit network of LGBTQ centers, lists 23 member organizations in Texas. However, only six operate full brick-and-mortar drop-in centers. The largest, in Dallas and Houston, have the highest budgets of well over \$1 million annually, while centers in San Antonio and El Paso operate on less than \$600,000 per year, and the others, including those without a brick-and-mortar, function with an annual budget under \$100,000 and are mostly all volunteer-led¹⁶.

Queer History of Houston

- **Houston is the fourth-most populous city in the United States after New York City, Los Angeles, and Chicago, and the sixth-most populous city in North America.**
- Houston has a rich LGBTQ+ history, as well as a vibrant LGBTQ+ community today.¹⁷
 - In the 1930s, the “gay circuit” was located in downtown Houston, between Franklin and McKinney and Main Street east to San Jacinto.¹⁸ Some of the first queer bars to open in Houston included the Pink Elephant and the Wagon Wheel Nite Club which both opened in 1936.¹⁹
 - **In 1954, the first Diana Awards took place in Houston**, which represents the oldest continuously active LGBTQ+ organization in the country that is still active to this day.²⁰
 - Rita Wanstrom opened The Roaring Sixties, one of the first lesbian clubs in Houston.²¹
- Montrose has been known as the “gayborhood” in Houston since the late 1970s. For more information, please visit the Montrose Center community space website, which has a timeline of key LGBTQ historical events in Houston.²²

Anti-LGBTQ legal landscape in Texas

Based on analysis of over 50 LGBTQ-related laws and policies by the Movement Advancement Project (MAP), the legal landscape in Texas is particularly harmful for LGBTQ people.²³

Some of the anti-LGBTQ policies affecting queer communities in Texas include:

1. A ban on best practice medical care for transgender youth,
2. The lack of transgender inclusive health benefits for state employees,
3. HIV criminalization laws,
4. Restrictions on drag performances,
5. The inability to change one's gender marker on driver's license or birth certificate,
6. No laws or ordinances banning conversion therapy.

* At the time of printing, experts predict that the 2025 legislative session will be far more hostile than prior years. For real-time information about anti-LGBTQ bills in the Texas legislature, visit the 2025 Legislative Bill Tracker operated by Equality Texas.²⁴

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Endnotes

1. Flores, A.R. and Conron, K.J. (2023, December). [Adult LGBT Population in the United States. Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law.](#)
2. 2022 Resource Tracking Report: [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer \(LGBTQ\) Grantmaking by U.S. Foundations. Funders for LGBTQ Issues \(2024, June\).](#)
3. 2022 Resource Tracking Report: [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer \(LGBTQ\) Grantmaking by U.S. Foundations. Funders for LGBTQ Issues \(2024, June\).](#)
4. Flores, A.R. and Conron, K.J. (2023, December). [Adult LGBT Population in the United States. Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law.](#)
5. 2022 Resource Tracking Report: [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer \(LGBTQ\) Grantmaking by U.S. Foundations. Funders for LGBTQ Issues \(2024, June\).](#)
6. 2022 Resource Tracking Report: [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer \(LGBTQ\) Grantmaking by U.S. Foundations. Funders for LGBTQ Issues \(2024, June\).](#)
7. Learn more about the Out in the South Program [here](#)
8. [Funders for LGBTQ Issues. \(2012\). Foundation funding for LGBTQ issues in the U.S. South. Out in the South: Building Resources for LGBTQ Advancement in the U.S. South.](#)
9. The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. (2019, January). [LGBT Demographic Data Interactive.](#)
10. [Herman, J. L., Flores, A. R., & O'Neill, K. K. \(2022, June\). How many adults and youth identify as ...](#)
11. Daniel Carter, T.C.H.N. (2023) [U.S. Census and other surveys likely undercount the number of LGBTQ+ people living in Texas, The Texas Tribune.](#)
12. 2022 Resource Tracking Report: [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer \(LGBTQ\) Grantmaking by U.S. Foundations. Funders for LGBTQ Issues \(2024, June\).](#)
13. For a complete list of funders who have supported LGBTQ communities and causes in Texas, please refer to the resource entitled: [LGBTQ Philanthropic Landscape in the U.S. South: Reflecting on Ten Years of the Out in the South Program](#)
14. [LGBTQ Philanthropic Landscape in the U.S. South: Reflecting on Ten Years of the Out in the South Program](#)
15. [TPIF funding programs \(2024\) Texas Pride Impact Funds.](#)
16. [Centerlink LGBTQ community centers in Texas. Centerlink.](#)
17. [Doyle, J. \(2013\) Houston LGBT history.org.; Houston LGBT Travel & Community Guide \(2025\) My Gay Houston.](#)
18. [Doyle, J. \(2013\) Houston's Gay Thirties, Houston LGBT history.org.](#)
19. [Doyle, J. \(2013\) Houston LGBT History Timeline: 1940s and Prior, Houston LGBT history.org.](#)
20. [Doyle, J. \(2013\) The Diana Foundation, Houston LGBT history.org.;](#) Announcements & Events (2025) The Diana
21. [Doyle, J. \(2013\) Houston LGBT History Timeline: 1960s, Houston LGBT history.org.](#)
22. [\(2024\) The Montrose Center.](#)
23. [Texas' Equality Profile \(2025\) Movement Advancement Project.](#)
24. [2025 Legislative Bill Tracker: Equality Texas \(2025\) equalitytexas.org.](#)