



December 2019 Newsletter: Focus Area Committees Forming Soon

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MANY HANDS UPDATES

Application Review Starts in January - Make Your Gift Now!

Many Hands received a record-setting 138 grant applications this fall. We are currently reviewing the applications to ensure that they meet our eligibility requirements and are assigned to the appropriate focus area. Following this screening, the four Focus Area Committees--Education, Health, Housing, and Job Readiness--will begin their work.



This collaborative, member-driven process is a hallmark of Many Hands' grantmaking and, for many members, a highlight of the year. Each committee member typically receives 2-4 applications for initial review. They report on these applications to the committee, which may request additional information or decide not to proceed with the application. Over

the course of several meetings, the committee compiles a short list of organizations that will receive site visits. Following the site visits, the committee chooses its semifinalists and, after a comprehensive financial review, its finalist. All four finalists are invited to make presentations at Many Hands' annual meeting in May. One of the four will receive the Many Hands \$100,000 Impact Grant; the three others will receive Many Hands Partner Grants.

Meeting information for this year's Focus Area Committees appears below. Each committee will meet roughly half a dozen times from late January to April; in addition, site visits will be scheduled from late February through March.

Education Committee

When: Thursday mornings

Where: Bethesda, MD

Housing Committee

When: Sunday afternoons

Where: Bethesda, MD

Health Committee
When: Wednesday mornings
Where: Cleveland Park, DC

Job Readiness Committee
When: Sunday afternoons
Where: McLean, VA

Members who have made their gift by December 31, 2019 are eligible to serve on a Focus Area Committee for this grant cycle. All eligible members will receive an email invitation to sign up for a committee in early January.

2019 Impact Report - Now Available for Download

In the 2019 Grant Cycle, Many Hands awarded \$275,500 to four nonprofit organizations: [Access Youth](#), [Court Appointed Special Advocates \(CASA\)/Prince George's County](#), [Greater DC Diaper Bank](#), and [New Endeavors by Women](#). To learn more about the grantees and other highlights of Many Hands' fifteenth year, [download the report](#).

If You Could Wave a Magic Wand...

Many Hands is committed to constantly learning and adapting to better serve our mission, our members, and the broader community. Five years ago, we decided to move beyond education, health, and housing to make a fourth grant in the area of job readiness. Today, as we again consider how best to allocate grant funds, we are reaching out for member feedback. To suggest an area of unmet need where Many Hands funding could make "a lasting impact on the lives of Washington, DC area women, children, and families in need," please email Grants Committee co-chairs Elizabeth Bausch, Jill Rosenbaum Meyer, and Kathryn Zecca at grants@manyhandsdc.org.



Ways to Give



A Many Hands membership makes a great ecofriendly gift for the philanthropist in your life. Offer family and friends the gift of Membership or Young Membership before December 31, and they will be eligible to serve on a Focus Area Committee and help select the 2020 Many Hands Grantees. Gift memberships can be purchased through the [Donate & Join](#) link at the top of [our website](#); in addition, donations can be made in a gift recipient's honor. Please contact Treasurer

Wendy Lynn Gray at treasurer@manyhandsdc.org with any questions.

FIELD NOTES

Everyone Counts - The 2020 Census and Local Nonprofits

Each year, the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia receive more than \$24 billion for 16 large federal assistance programs that distribute funds based on information gathered through the decennial census. A large portion of that funding supports health and human services programs that provide critical assistance to low-income women, children, and families, including affordable housing, food assistance, foster care, Head Start, and community healthcare. These services are provided both by government agencies and by nonprofits with government grants or contracts.



A critical challenge facing these service providers is the historical difficulty of counting many

of the groups they serve, including low-income residents, people of color, immigrants, non-English speakers, and those experiencing homelessness. By some estimates, the largest undercounted population is young children under 5. The Annie E. Casey Foundation's [2019 Kids Count Data Book](#), the latest report in a series that has tracked trends in child well-being for 30 years, calls the census "one of the most important tools for learning how children, families, and communities are faring" and urges community leaders to get involved to make sure every child is counted in 2020.

You can help raise awareness of the 2020 census in your neighborhood, school, and faith communities by working with a Complete Count Committee. Complete Count Committees, established by local government and community leaders, organize local and regional outreach efforts to ensure that everyone is counted. For more information, visit the [Census Bureau's Complete Count Committees website](#).

[Join Many Hands Today!](#)

Many Hands is a women's grantmaking organization committed to making a lasting impact on the lives of Washington, DC area women, children, and families in need and to helping its members become well-informed donors. Many Hands is a 501(c)(3) organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

