

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Pride Foundation Awards More than Half a Million Dollars in Grants Bolstering LGBTQ Communities across the Northwest**

*Awards \$507,000 to organizations in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, & Washington*

**SEATTLE, WA**— Today, Pride Foundation announced \$507,000 in grants to 81 organizations in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington—investing vital resources into local organizations working to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people and their families can live fully and safely in their home communities.

This year's award amount is the highest Community Grants funding total in Pride Foundation history and comes at a time when LGBTQ communities are facing enormous challenges and opportunities at local, state, and federal levels.

Here in Montana, nine projects totaling \$52,500 received support. They include:

- **Salish Kootenai College – Spirit of Many Colors Gay Straight Alliance** (Pablo, Montana): For developing and implementing leadership training for LGBTQA and Two Spirit students to support them as they take on more visible roles on campus and across the Flathead Reservation.
- **Montana Human Rights Network in collaboration with the American Civil Liberties Union Montana and Montana Women Vote** (Helena, Montana): To support public education and community engagement efforts focused on raising awareness and deepening understanding of the lives of transgender people and their families.
- **Montana Racial Equity Project** (Bozeman, Montana): For the *Advocate to Activate Teen Leadership Program*, through which they will train young people to become community organizers and offer learning opportunities around equity and justice issues that plague historically marginalized communities, including the LGBTQ community.

Read a complete list of grantees [here](#).

“The number of organizations engaged in critical life-saving and life-affirming work is truly inspiring,” said Kris Hermanns, Pride Foundation Chief Executive Officer. “Today, and since 1985, Pride Foundation and its partners are committed to supporting and growing this movement—a grassroots movement based in love, courage, and empowering people to be their full selves.”

Despite nearly 20 years of work to pass statewide non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ people, the Montana legislature has been unwilling to support non-discrimination legislation.

“This leaves people feeling further disenfranchised and living in a state where many cannot live genuine and authentic lives,” said Kim Leighton Pride Foundation’s Regional Philanthropic Officer in Montana.

In addition to the community grants announced today, Pride Foundation awarded a total of nearly \$850,000 to impactful organizations and student leaders in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington in 2017 through our scholarship program, sponsorships, Rapid Response Fund, and Donor Advised Grants.

Since the foundation began in 1985, Pride Foundation has awarded more than \$70 million to promote the safety, health, and well-being of LGBTQ individuals and families across the Northwest region—with a focus on those who are most impacted by disparities and inequities.

The press and members of the public can learn more about these remarkable grantee organizations at local [year-end events taking place around the region](#). We invite you to join us in celebrating their accomplishments and important work which is sparking lasting change across our communities.

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*Founded in 1985, Pride Foundation is a regional community foundation serving Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Its mission is to inspire giving to expand opportunities and advance full equality for LGBTQ people in the Northwest. Learn more at [www.pridefoundation.org](http://www.pridefoundation.org).*