

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 Washington, 42 projects totaling \$277,500 received grants. They include:

- **Blue Mountain Heart to Heart** (Walla Walla, Washington): For HIV and Hepatitis C prevention programs, outreach, and testing services stretching across Eastern and South Eastern Washington, and into Oregon.
- **Center for Children & Youth Justice** (Seattle, Washington): For the eQuality project, including its efforts to pilot safe and affirming care protocols for LGBTQ youth in the juvenile justice system.
- **Q Youth Resources** (Silverdale, Washington): For expanding LGBTQ youth programming in a more accessible location in Kitsap County to ensure that gender and sexuality minority youth have a safe space and access to resources.
- **Queer the Land** (Seattle, Washington): For strengthening the organization's capacity, as it works to develop a LGBTQ people of color-led cooperative network, community center, and transitional housing space.
- **Peace & Justice Action League of Spokane** (Spokane, Washington): For the Young Activist Leaders Program to build an intergenerational social justice movement through leadership development that integrates LGBTQ and racial equity, and engages youth in advancing human rights, peace, and equity.
- **U.T.O.P.I.A.** (Seattle, Washington): For hiring the organization's first full-time staff member in order to expand the organization's street-level support, individual advocacy, community-building, and referral service for the Pacific Islander LGBTQ community, particularly for Pacific Islander transgender youth and LGBTQ young adults in the sex industry.

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.”

The challenges for LGBTQ people living in Washington state remain formidable. Recently, there has been an increase in reported bias crimes and hate violence against LGBTQ people and people of color in King County. Meanwhile, across the state in Prosser, a school teacher and a librarian posted anti-immigrant messages on social media.

“Despite this climate, we are making progress,” said Tylene Carnell Pride Foundation Regional Philanthropic Officer in Washington. “Yakima and Wenatchee saw their first ever “out in the community” Pride events. The events were well received and well attended.”

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.