



2022 Health Equity Report

A Decade of Improving Community Health



Introduction

Universal access to healthcare is a human right. Your health, lifespan, and quality of life depend on social conditions starting at birth and accumulate every year after. Disparities in health and wellbeing are deep and wide, and are shaped by geography, ethnicity, culture, and opportunities such as education or employment. These disparities have been persistent for generations and philanthropy's response to the barriers ever evolving. While access to health care is crucial, the social determinants of health equally matter. The [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) defines this as “living and working conditions, education, income, neighborhood characteristics, social inclusion, and medical care.” To address the social determinants of health means influencing [80% of health outcomes](#) in the United States, a powerful way to build a philanthropic response.

People function best when at their highest level of health. Communities thrive when we remove barriers to

health - poverty, discrimination, and racism - and promote improved access to healthcare, employment, housing, quality education, and safe environments. It is our collective role alongside community members, nonprofits, funders, government, and other institutions to tackle the social barriers, open the gates to healthcare access, and develop sustainable health equity across all communities.

For over a decade, Catchafire has operated at the intersection of volunteerism and philanthropy, connecting nonprofits with highly skilled volunteer professionals to provide critical programmatic and operational support. We recognized the barriers to nonprofit success early and designed an [equitable model that aims to support BIPOC communities](#). This frees up the to-do lists for grantees, allowing them to focus on advancing community services including key health issues like education, maternal health, housing, employment, and nutrition.

Through Catchafire, health-related nonprofits have experienced outsized gains more than ever before—reflecting the need for ongoing capacity support in the health sector. Since 2018, Catchafire has seen a 238% growth in the number of matched health-related nonprofits.

Introduction

As inflation rises and the threat of an economic downturn looms over the United States, nonprofits know they will experience an increased demand in services. Community needs exacerbated by the long pandemic will continue to press on resources, and nonprofits will again and again rise to the challenge of providing services that contribute to healthy lives and safe communities. Most nonprofits will attempt this without the capacity support they need to get it done because it is essential. Catchafire expects to see a continued increase in capacity support requests by health-focused nonprofits over the next year and we are ready to meet their needs.

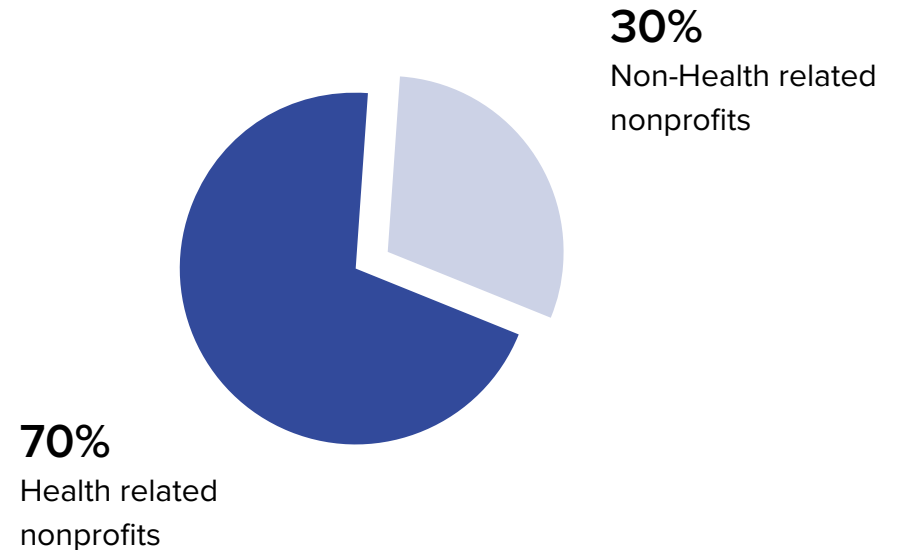
We share this report as a guide on how capacity support can positively impact the social determinants of health and boost the work of local organizations based on our experiences partnering with philanthropic leaders in the Health field. We are humbled by their scholarship and thankful for their candor that has advanced work in diverse communities and informed Catchafire services along the way.



Key Findings

Over 7,000 health-related nonprofits have completed projects on Catchafire. This diverse group of organizations represents a broad swath of the sector—with a special focus on smaller, more resource-strapped organizations. For those with minimal staff or budget, quick virtual access to talent, tools, and training is transformational. For grantmakers, it is a scalable way to ensure resources are reaching the broadest set of organizations meeting the most diverse range of community needs.

Supporting healthier nonprofits since 2010



Key Findings

70%

projects by nonprofits focused on the social determinants of health

In California, this amounted to 244 more projects related to housing insecurity in 2021 compared to 2018.

1082

DEI & justice-related nonprofits

1082 DEI and justice-related nonprofits looked to Catchafire in 2021 compared to 130 in 2018.

34.2%

education projects

Nearly 17,000 completed projects (34.2%) on Catchafire are by nonprofits addressing education and health.

1525%

more projects related to housing insecurity in California

884%

more projects by health nonprofits in Virginia

In Virginia, this amounted to 165 more projects by nonprofits who served food insecure communities in 2021 compared to 2018.

49.1%

more in impact

In Texas, organizations serving formerly incarcerated communities received 49.1% more in impact compared to the average nonprofit on Catchafire.

Key Findings

Health equity is more than one community-driven intervention; it's a lens through which all work should be viewed. Our partnerships have included an intentional focus on:

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice

Historically, policies have created an unequal distribution of money, power, and resources based on factors like race, class, gender, and location. To assure that everyone has the opportunity to attain their highest level of health, we must address equity.

Over the past two years, Catchafire has seen an increase in DEI and justice-related nonprofits on the platform from **130 nonprofits matched in 2018 to 1082 nonprofits matched in 2021**. Nonprofits on Catchafire related to DEI and justice have a strong focus on low-income communities and women.

Education

Education and health is the primary health focus of nonprofits on Catchafire, with **over 34.2%** of projects completed related to this field. That translates to close to **17,000 projects** providing capacity for organizations to focus on education as a critical social determinant of health.

Having access to education creates an opportunity for a more prosperous and healthy life, and has a strong correlation between generational wealth and health. Education increases health literacy and problem-solving skills, creating a positive chain of health behavior impact.

Income

Catchafire is serving a significant cross-section of low-income communities across health-driven nonprofits providing access to education, quality care, housing, and health resources. Each additional year of education leads to **11% more annual income**, improving access to health insurance and housing. Due to structural racism, certain groups are more likely to experience housing instability and live in neighborhoods with limited resources and low-quality housing.

State-Level Findings



State-Level Findings

California

Housing has become a particularly poignant issue in the midst of the pandemic as many lost their jobs and homes.

In California, millions face a state of emergency as they struggle to maintain their homes. There are currently [2.1 million Californians categorized as facing housing hardship](#) with late rent and mortgage payments. Without the proper interventions and support, these families will experience eviction and homelessness. Low-income communities have faced the brunt of pandemic job losses and inflation, with [50% of California renters with low income](#) categorized as facing housing hardship. This has a particularly adverse effect on Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) communities; they are more likely to rent and experience higher rates of housing hardship as a result of systemic inequities preventing home ownership.

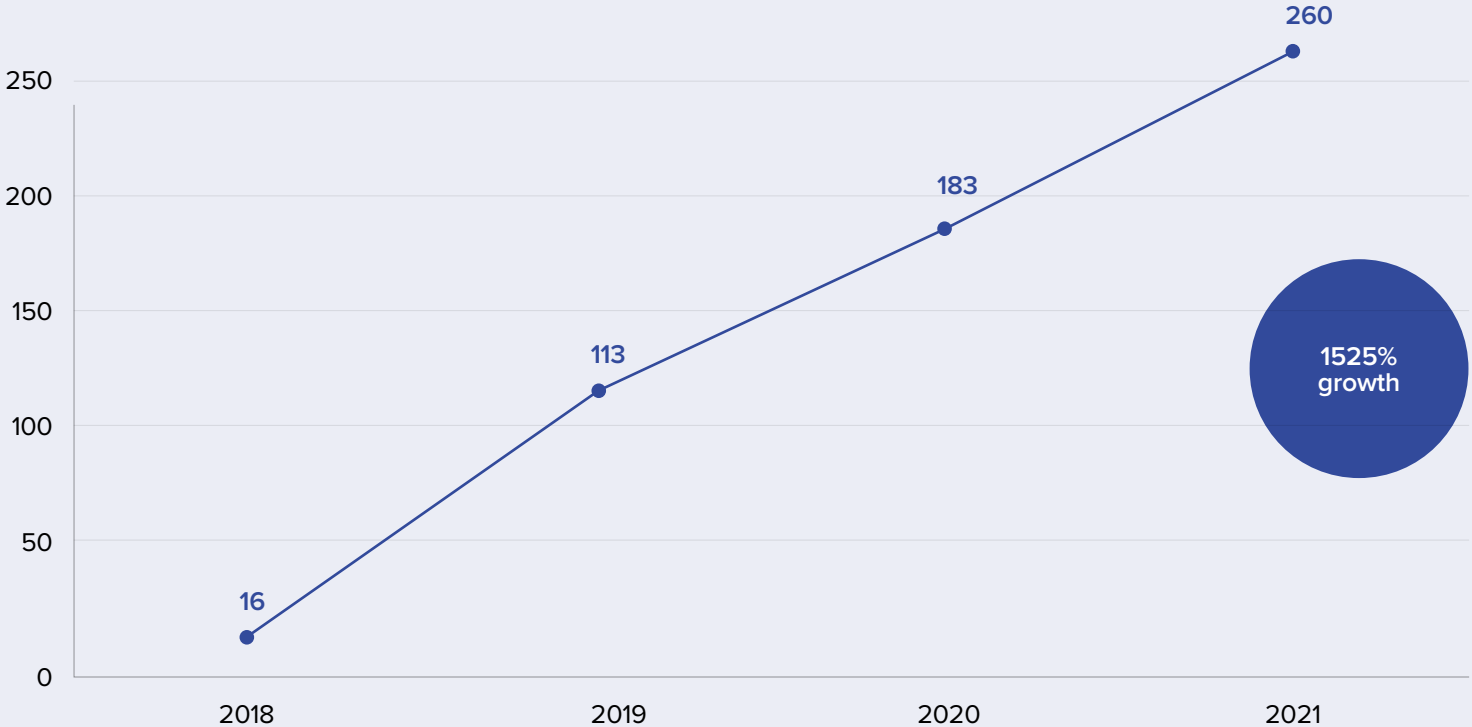


State-Level Findings

Nonprofits are struggling to meet the increasing demands of housing insecure communities. Since 2018, we have seen a vast increase in the number of projects posted on Catchafire by housing-focused nonprofits in California, demonstrating the overwhelming need for capacity support.

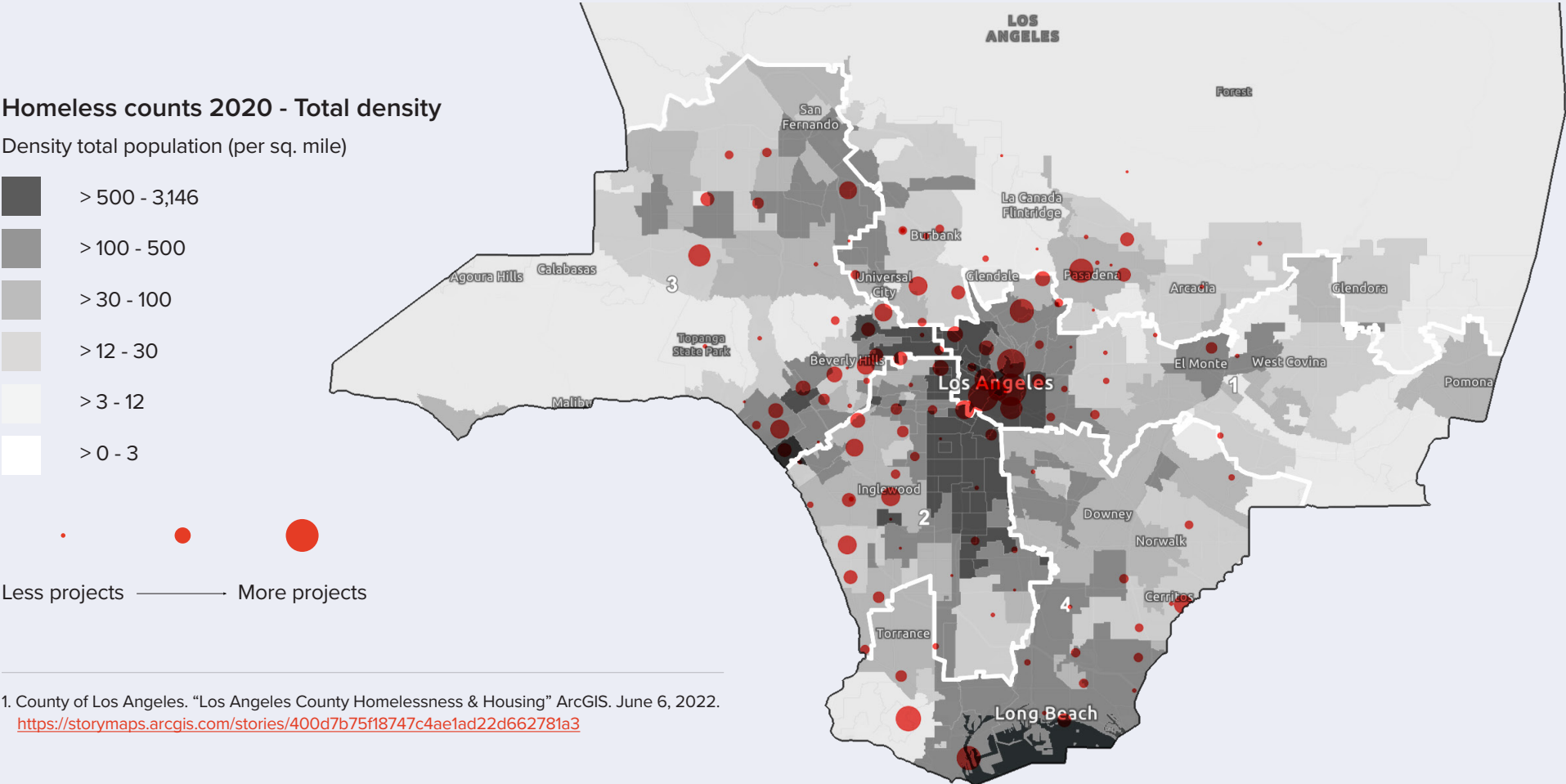
These organizations are looking to Catchafire to help them expand their impact and visibility of their services; the top five projects posted involve assistance with websites, designing print materials, marketing strategy, technology systems, and translations.

Number of projects posted by nonprofits serving homeless or housing-insecure communities in California



State-Level Findings

A geographical representation¹ of nonprofits in Los Angeles serving housing insecure communities visually shows a relationship between zip codes, the socioeconomic background of the community, and housing stability. As a result, housing-focused nonprofits are concentrated in lower-income communities.



State-Level Findings

Texas

Catchafire is also filling an emergent need for the formerly incarcerated community in Texas. Nonprofits serving formerly incarcerated community members heavily utilize Catchafire; compared to the average organization in Texas, these nonprofits receive about **49.1% more in impact**.

One example is [AES Literacy Institute Incorporated](#), an education nonprofit that helps individuals who did not complete high school earn their Texas Certificate of High School Equivalency. The organization has saved over \$105,000 in impact thanks to capacity building support.

Average dollar impact



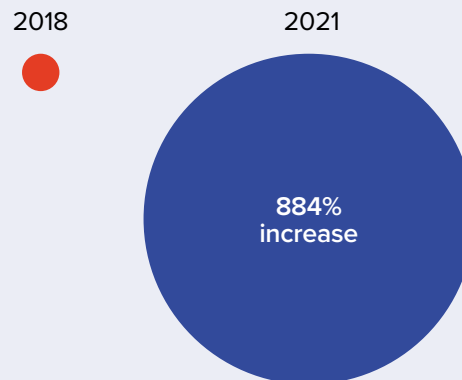
State-Level Findings

Virginia

Access to affordable and nutritious food has a profound effect on youth, impacting childhood obesity rates and health outcomes as an adult. There has been a significant rise in food insecurity in Virginia since 2018. Food insecurity rates jumped from 9.9% in 2018 to 22.5% in 2020 due to the pandemic. In 2020, 58% of households reported not having enough money to purchase the adequate amount of food for their families. As a result, children in 29% of households were not eating enough or receiving the correct amount of nutritional care. Currently, 1 in 9 children in Virginia face hunger.

With Catchafire serving more health-related nonprofits than ever before, we have seen an increase in the number of projects posted by nonprofits in Virginia who serve food insecure communities. **There were 884% more projects posted by these nonprofits in 2021 compared to 2018, reflecting the rising need for food access.** Nonprofits primarily focus on low-income youth to address the opportunity gap, access to education and health programming, and preventative measures geared at addressing food insecurity or negative health outcomes that will influence children later in life.

Number of projects posted by nonprofits focused on food security in Virginia



Catchafire's Health Equity Partnerships

Our work in the health sector is made possible through the generosity and dedication of our volunteers and partners.

Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation & Catchafire

For over six years, Catchafire has partnered with the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation to sponsor nonprofit access to the platform and offer virtual, skills-based volunteering opportunities to their workforce. Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS) committed nearly \$150 million over five years to address health disparities, increase clinical trial diversity, expand supplier diversity, increase workforce representation, and enhance employee giving in support of social justice organizations. BMS employees have joined in on this effort by volunteering their skills with health-driven nonprofits, creating a unique access point to the pharmaceutical industry and its expertise. In the first half of 2022 alone, BMS volunteers saved health nonprofits over \$174,000 by volunteering through Catchafire.



If you're a grantmaker and would like to learn more about equipping nonprofits in your community with responsive, high-quality operational support, let's connect.

Email partnerships@catchafire.org.