

NORTH AMERICA

We are increasingly working towards aligning our taxonomy with UNAIDS, to create a more internationally accessible report and to allow for more direct data comparisons. This year we have merged the United States and Canada under the banner of North America, however given the disproportionate amount of funding received by the U.S., we are separating out Canada's funding so that it will not be overshadowed. Mexico continues to be included in the Latin American region, per UNAIDS and FCAA's taxonomies.

CANADA

HIV-related philanthropy to Canada in 2021:



\$2,999,739
in funding



121
grants

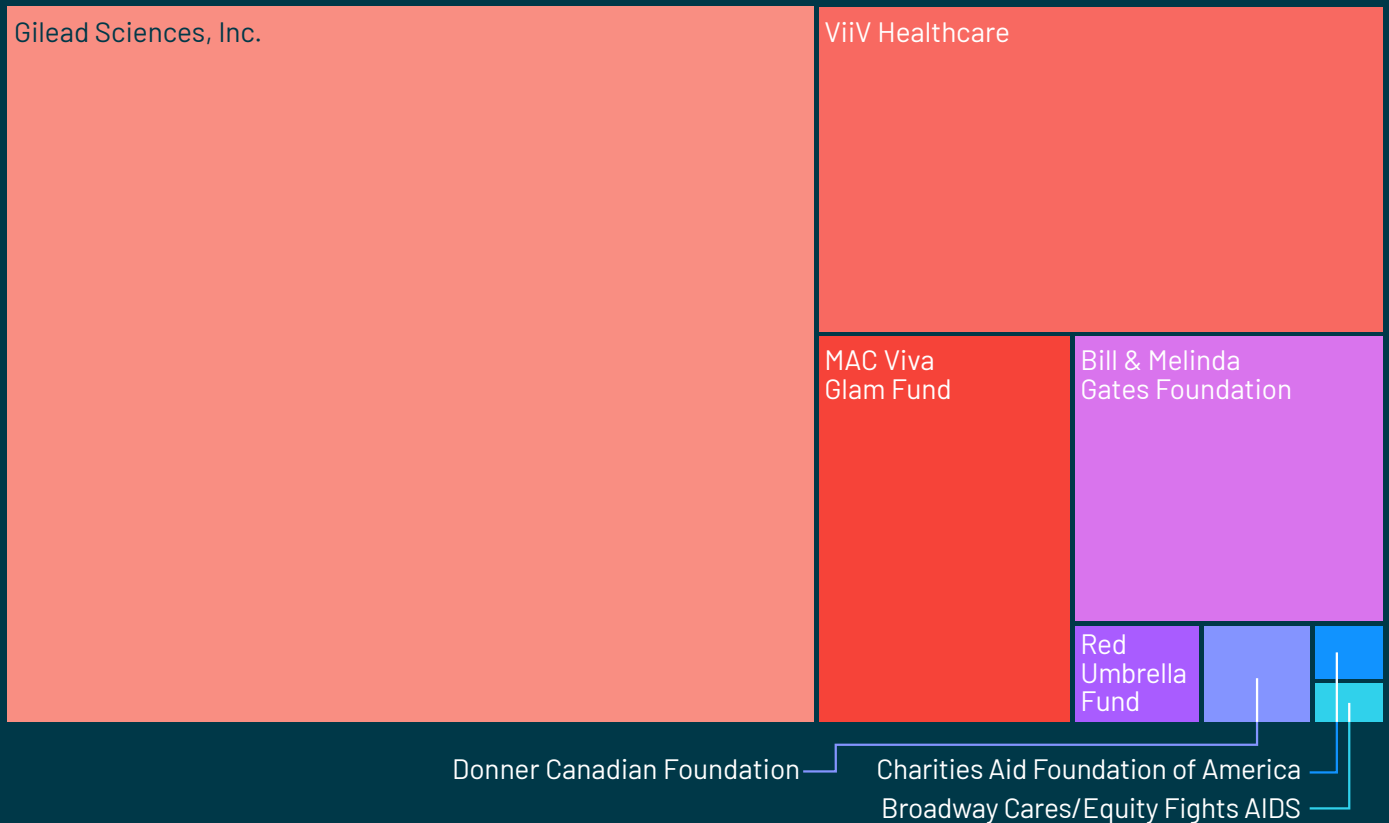


8
funders

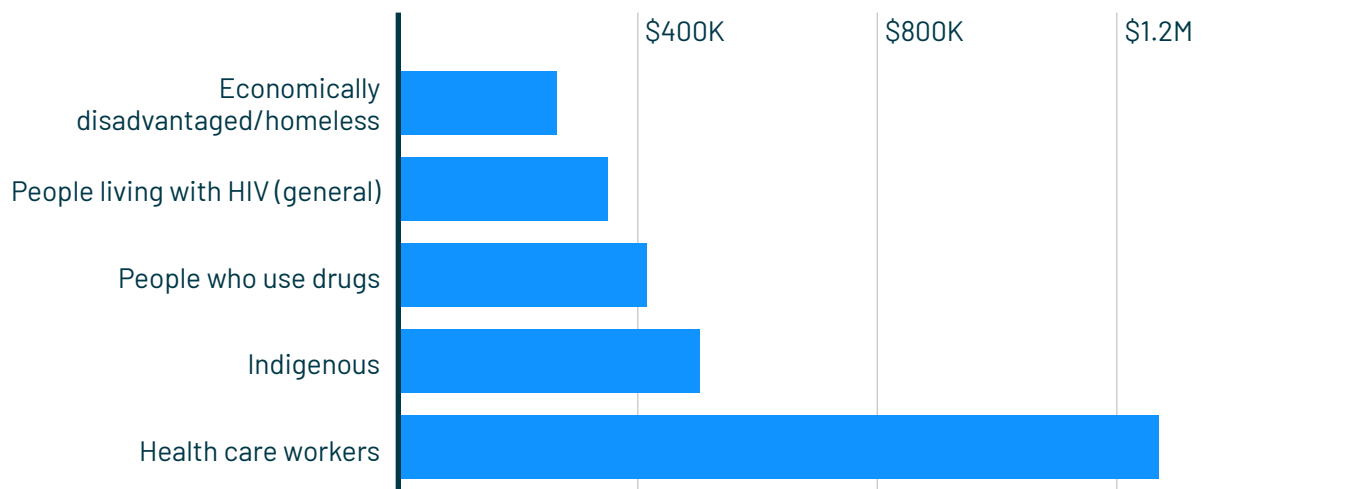


62,790
PLWH

2021 Canada: Top 8 Funders



2021 Canada: Top 5 Populations of Focus (US\$)

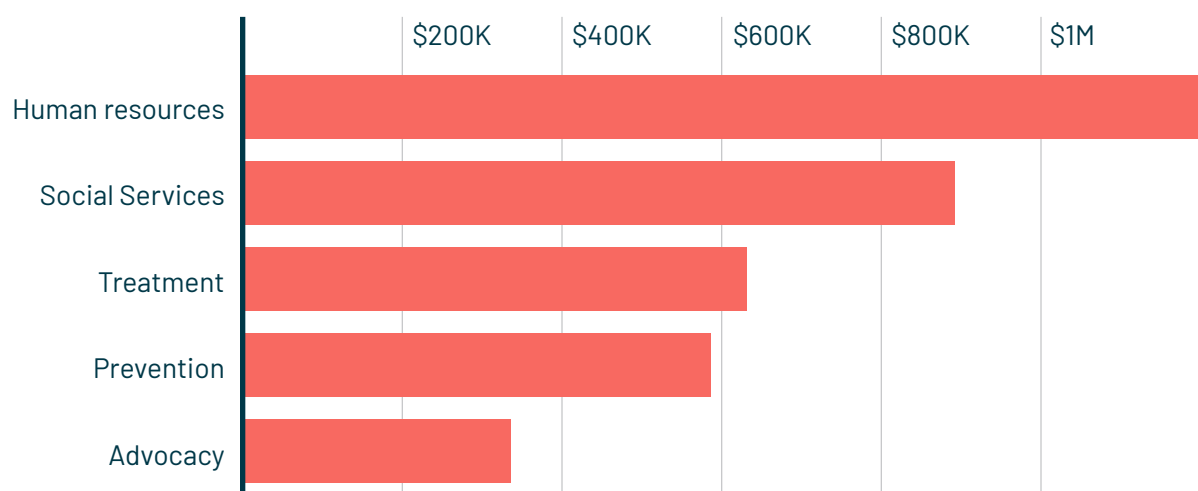


COVID-19/Emergency Response funding:
\$620,153



Key populations funding:
\$778,528

2021 Canada: Top 5 Intended Use of Funding (US\$)



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HIV-related philanthropy to the United States in 2021:



\$267,541,609
in funding



2,491
grants



133
funders



1,200,000
PLWH

As a complement to *Philanthropic Support to Address HIV and AIDS in 2021*, this regional profile provides a new level of data to help inform the advocacy of funders and communities active in the region. Due to the size and complexities of the epidemic in this region, FCAA invited perspectives from both FreeState Justice and the Afiya Center.



FREESTATE JUSTICE

At least 32,149 people aged 13+ are living with diagnosed HIV in the state of Maryland, 65% of whom are virally suppressed. The HIV epidemic in the state disproportionately impacts Black communities, as 75% of the diagnosed people living with HIV (PLWH) in Maryland are Black. These numbers do not represent the true scale of the epidemic—at least 11% of all PLWH in Maryland are unaware of their status, and nearly 35% of youth living with HIV (ages 13-24) remain undiagnosed as of 2020. The lack of diagnoses (and therefore lack of viral suppression) among the state's population of PLWH is exacerbated by the state's discriminatory criminal penalties for people who transmit HIV.

Maryland Code section 18-601.1 singles out HIV as the only infectious disease specifically named virus in Maryland's criminal code and imposes a penalty that is five times more expensive and three times as long as the penalties imposed by the general disease transmission statute. This law encourages unscientific and discriminatory enforcement practices. It frustrates public health goals related to HIV because it severely discourages testing, since the legal standard for enforcement requires that an individual "knowingly" transmit the virus. Baltimore City's Ending the HIV Epidemic plan explicitly states

that "removing this law would be a significant positive step for destigmatization of people living with HIV and would go a long way in helping improve prevention and treatment recommendations."

FreeState Justice (FSJ) is a social justice organization that works to make Maryland a place where everyone, no matter sexual or gender identity, can thrive. Through direct legal services, legislative and policy advocacy, and community engagement, we enable locals across the spectrum of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer identities to be free to live authentically in all communities throughout the state. FSJ is Maryland's leading advocate for HIV decriminalization. Through FSJ's advocacy in 2023, HB287 passed out of the Maryland House of Representatives with a 97 to 37 vote, which is the first time a bill decriminalizing HIV has passed either chamber. FSJ leads an HIV coalition comprised of PLWH and advocates, many of whom provided written and oral testimony in Maryland's capital, Annapolis.



“Funders can support grantees in a number of ways beyond providing financial resources. We can serve as supportive peers, share best practices, and join or help develop coalitions. Low-barrier funding is critical for under-resourced organizations and coalitions, and multiyear investment is almost mandatory to ensure successful state policy outcomes. We’ve learned that funders should also do a full, careful assessment and consider the consequences of any potential funding cuts. Equality Federation Institute’s support of FreeState Justice has already led to progress toward decriminalizing HIV in Maryland. With additional investment, we can collectively secure policies and laws beyond decriminalizing HIV to include enhancing access to PrEP/PEP and other priorities that’ll usher in an era free from HIV.”

— **Fran Hutchins**, Executive Director,
Equality Federation

FSJ’s work was supported by a grant from Equality Federation to organize the HIV coalition and a two-year grant from the Elizabeth Taylor Foundation, which is ending before the 2024 legislative session.



AFIYA CENTER

The Afiya Center, located in Texas, was founded in response to the absence of programs that would assist the needs of marginalized womxn living in poverty and at risk of high-incidence rates of HIV and AIDS. The term womxn is central to the Afiya Center’s mission, and is an alternative term for the English language word women, meant to explicitly include transgender women and women of color.

While traditional outreach focused on using a condom during sex, the Center’s unique connection with community helped discover that was not a priority for the population of womxn we serve that are most vulnerable for HIV acquisition. It was not that they didn’t care about their general health and well-being; it was more about not focusing on the potential of what might happen in the face of what was actually happening.

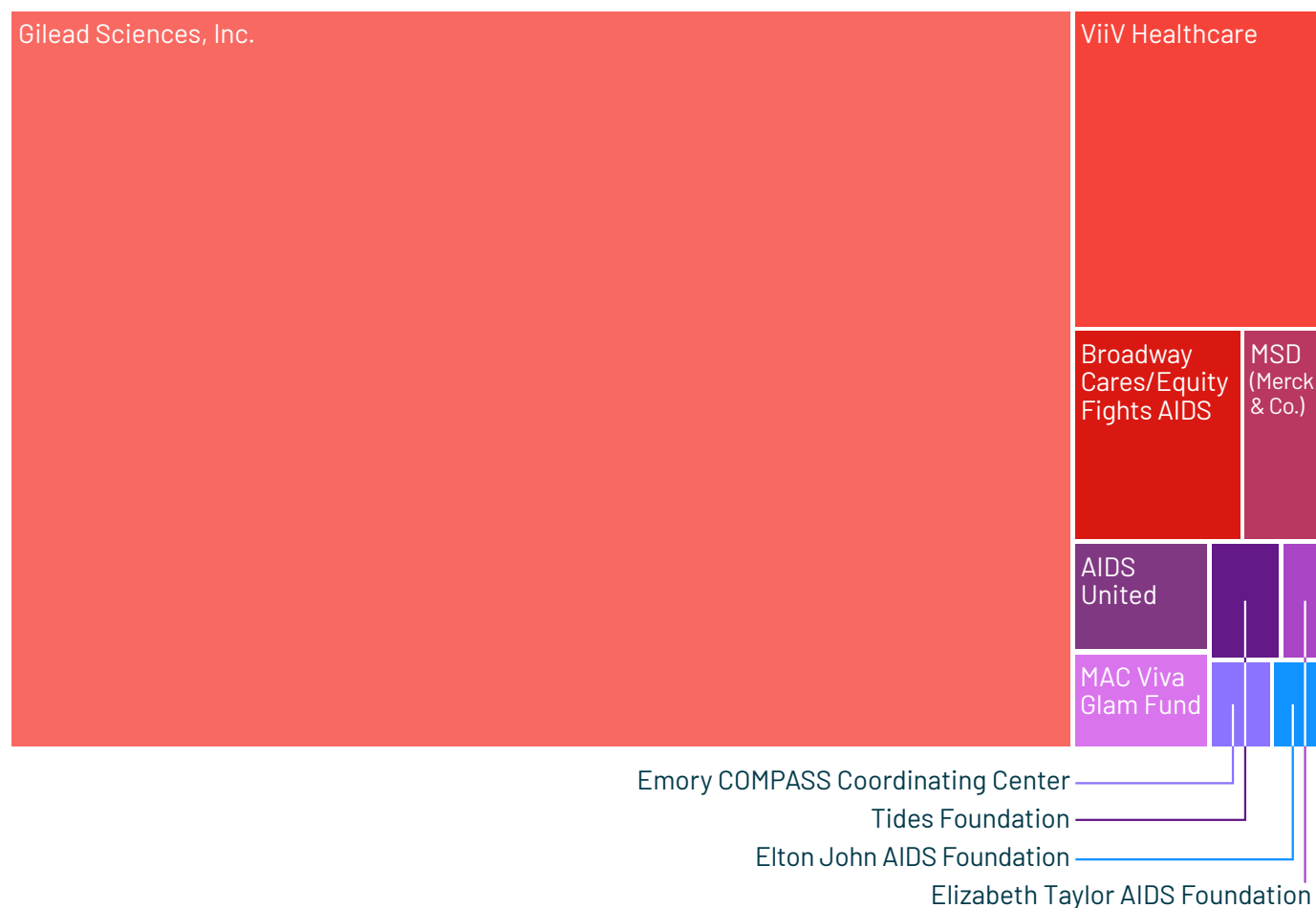
The Afiya Center's work reaches Black womxn, girls, femmes, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people in ways that are organic and traditional to us but innovative in the HIV, public health, and reproductive justice, health, and rights spaces. The Center's programming uniquely centers the way Black womxn communicate around sensitive issues and creates safe spaces to unite around vital traditional intergenerational American/African American and Black cultural rituals such as crafting, storytelling, music, dance, doing hair, beauty/wellness, self-care, and other modes of self-edification. Through this programming, participants conduct critical self-, peer, and policy advocacy, as well as resource navigation, life coaching, mentoring, research dissemination, and community-centered education.

As one example, Living Out Loud: With a Purpose is a peer-driven, trauma-informed program designed to support Black cisgender and transgender womxn living with HIV. Black womxn deserve to feel safe, seen, and celebrated in our communities, regardless of HIV status. Program participants are community leaders who use storytelling and relational organizing to create a safe environment for their peers and educate their community on HIV and its impact on Black womxn and girls.

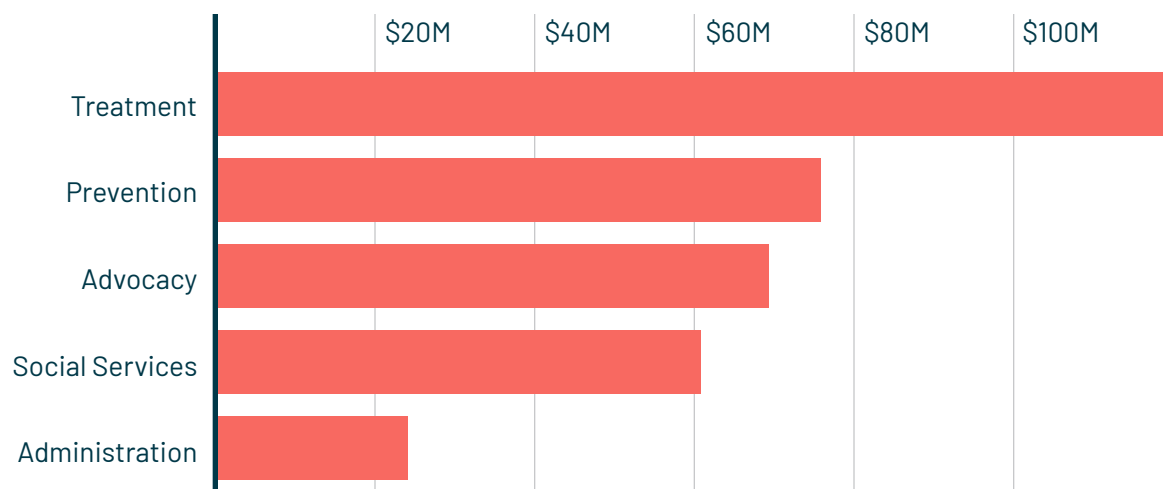
“Program funding should address HIV stigma [and] equip participants with skills to advocate for practices and policies that ensure inclusionary representation while increasing their knowledge of HIV and related health issues using a reproductive justice framework. The Afiya Center believes Black womxn impacted by HIV should take the lead on how womxn-centered services are funded, allocated, and delivered.”

– **Marsha Jones**, Executive Director,
The Afiya Center

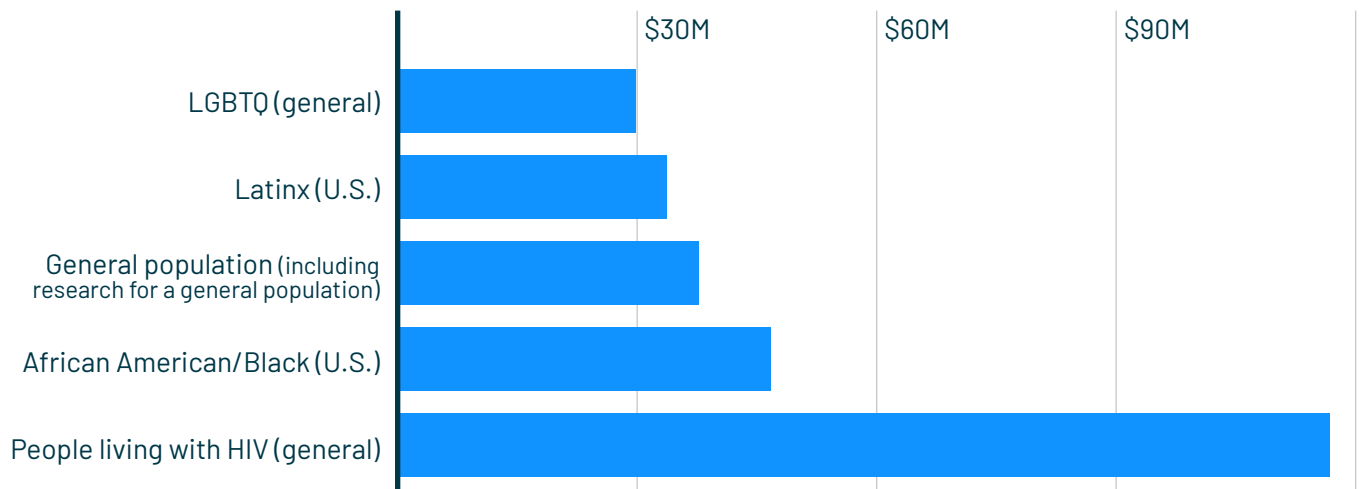
2021 United States: Top 10 Funders



2021 United States: Top 5 Intended Use of Funding (US\$)



2021 United States: Top 5 Populations of Focus (US\$)



COVID-19/Emergency
Response funding:
\$23,642,085



Key populations funding:
\$73,324,467



BIPOC funding:
\$58,189,118

2021 United States: Recipient Regions (US\$)

REGION	DISBURSEMENTS	REGION	DISBURSEMENTS
U.S. (national)	154,935,610	Northeast	14,758,383
South	52,642,422	Midwest	11,415,030
West	33,234,906	U.S. Territories	1,218,000

2021 United States: Top 10 States (US\$)

STATES	DISBURSEMENTS	STATES	DISBURSEMENTS
California	28,460,606	Illinois	5,646,981
Texas	10,157,122	Georgia	4,035,967
New York	9,344,799	Louisiana	3,070,762
Florida	6,668,936	North Carolina	3,058,986
Washington, DC	5,888,934	Maryland	3,040,749

2021 United States: Proportion of HIV Prevalence vs. HIV Philanthropy (per U.S. Region)²⁴

