

# 2021-22 Annual Report



**WOMEN'S  
FOUNDATION**  
OF MISSISSIPPI



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FOUNDATION**  
OF MISSISSIPPI

**Dear Friends,**

As we reflect back on the last few years of our work, it's incredible to think about how much has happened. With so much uncertainty, one thing is clear: the work of the Women's Foundation of Mississippi—improving economic security for the state's women and girls—is more important than ever.

Amidst the challenges of the pandemic, the existing needs faced by women and girls never paused. In fact, those challenges have been exacerbated.

We've responded by doing what we always do: empowering our partners, directing resources where they can do the most good, and helping women amplify their voices, no matter their role in public life.

This report will serve as an overview of our recent work across Mississippi. From helping nursing students complete their studies to inspiring the next wave of women policy leaders, there's something in our grantmaking and original programming to benefit everyone in the state.

Above all, this report is a massive 'Thank you' to the donors who make our work possible. Your support is no less than visionary, and every day you help improve the future for generations of Mississippi women and girls. No matter what challenges we encounter in our state, the Women's Foundation of Mississippi will remain an innovative, trusted partner.

With gratitude,

Tracy DeVries, Executive Director



**Our mission is economic security for women. We believe that women have a greater opportunity for upward mobility and economic sustainability when they can earn a degree or receive relevant job training, pursue a viable career with a livable income, and plan for their pregnancies.**



## Grantmaking

As the only grant making entity in Mississippi focused entirely on women and girls, we aggregate financial and other resources to cultivate social change and create long-term opportunity for both personal stability and stronger families. The benefits of our grants go beyond the financial: our processes and capacity-building support help create stronger organizations across the state, empowered to create change in the years to come.



## Signature Programs

Through networking, education, and community engagement events in support of women, the Women's Foundation of Mississippi leads the conversation statewide for the benefit of all women and girls in the state.



## Research & Data

We follow evidence-based best practices to guide our work and most skillfully target our assistance. For example, we've learned:

- Mississippi's female community college students are a motivated group who invest substantial energy and effort in completing their education.
- More than 40% work while in school.
- And 31% are parents balancing work, school, and family responsibilities.
- Closing the income gap for men and women in similar jobs would cut Mississippi poverty in half. Yet, at the current rate, women will not receive equal pay until 2087.



## Leadership Development

Through nonprofit board leadership trainings, public policy capacity building, internship opportunities, and more, the Women's Foundation of Mississippi is developing the current and next generation of Mississippi women leaders. Increasing opportunity for leadership roles recruits and retains professional women with Mississippi companies.

# Grants

Grant awards over  
\$25,000 in 2021 and 2022 =



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**\$1,565,000**

**Bower Scholars Pilot Sites 2021-2023**

Total investment in 13 pilot sites:

**\$760,000**



Annual Grants approved in 2021:

**\$360,000**



**PLAN A  
MOBILE  
FREE CLINIC**

**STRATEGIC  
SOLUTIONS FOR  
FAMILIES, INC.**



**William Magee Center**  
for AOD and Wellness Education

**TEEN HEALTH  
MISSISSIPPI**  
T H M S

# 2022 Grants

Annual Grants approved in 2022:

# \$445,000

- Institute For The Advancement of Minority Health
- Meridian Community College
- Midtown Partners
- Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative
- Pearl River Community College
- St. Gabriel Mercy Center, Inc.
- Strategic Solutions for Families, Inc.\*
- Teen Health Mississippi\*
- The Gradus Project
- The SHE Project
- University of Mississippi Medical Center Foundation
- Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Foundation
- Mississippi Delta Community College
- Spring Initiative



**PEARL RIVER**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



**STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS FOR FAMILIES, INC.**



St. GABRIEL MERCY CENTER



\*Organization was awarded grants for two projects



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FOUNDATION**  
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# Mississippi Grantees

## BOWER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

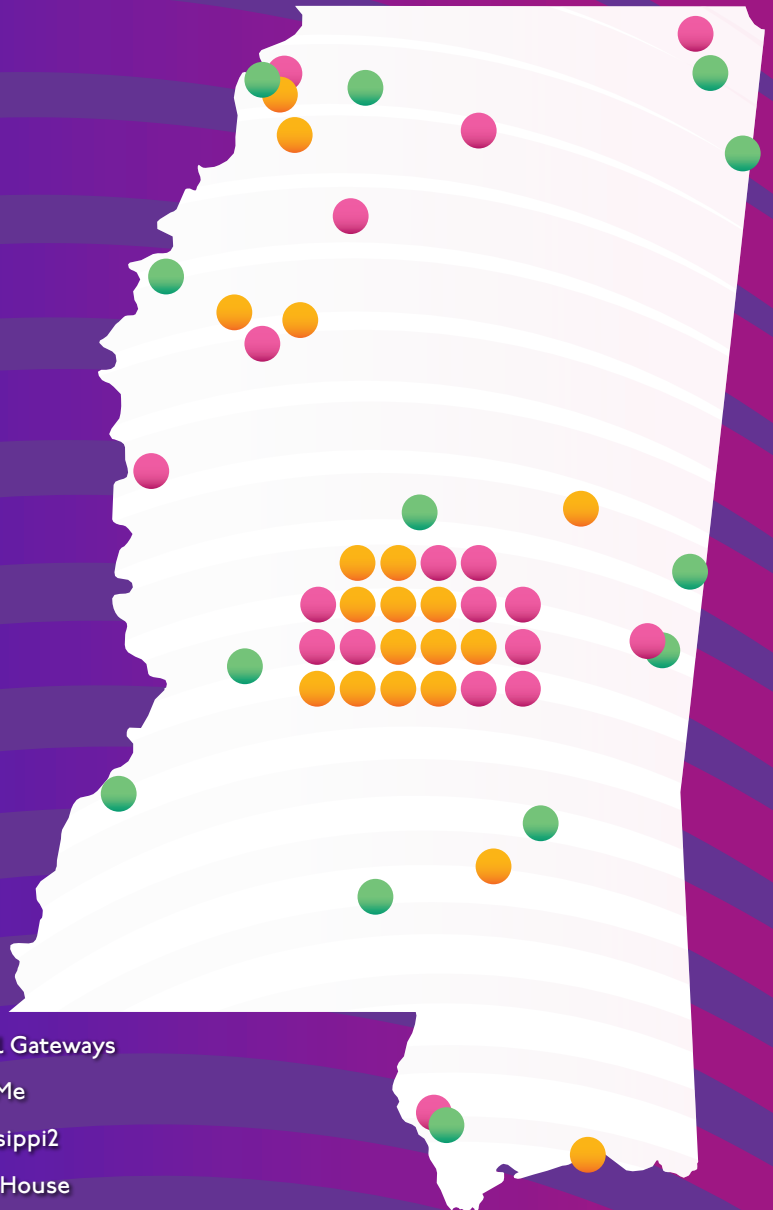
- Copiah-Lincoln Community College
- Delta State University
- East Mississippi Community College
- Holmes Community College
- Northeast Mississippi Community College
- Northwest Mississippi Community College
- Alcorn State University
- Coahoma Community College
- Hinds Community College
- Itawamba Community College
- Jones College
- Meridian Community College
- Pearl River Community College

## 2021-22 GRANTEEES

- Meridian Community College, Connect2MCC
- Pearl River Community College, WAVES
- Cary Christian Center
- Magnolia Medical Foundation, SPACE
- Plan A Mobile Health
- Strategic Solutions for Families
- Teen Health Mississippi, Mobilizing Youth Summit
- University of Mississippi – William Magee Center
- Coahoma Community College, CCCWEF
- Hinds Community College, Single Stop
- Parents for Public Schools
- Jackson Association & Development Enterprise
- Global Gateways
- Mom.Me
- Mississippi2
- Grace House
- Tutwiler Community Education Center
- Mississippi Black Women's Roundtable

## PANDEMIC RAPID RESPONSE

- Coahoma County Diaper Bank
- MS Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health
- Lanier Clinic
- Disability Rights Mississippi
- UMMC – Office of Diversity & Inclusion
- Love Me Unlimited 4 Life
- Mississippi Center for Justice
- Methodist Children's Home
- Mississippi Low-Income Childcare Initiative (MLICCI)
- Extra Table
- Mississippi Immigrants Rights Alliance
- United Methodist Choctaw Mission
- We2Gether Creating Change
- Delta Health Center
- Children's Defense Fund
- Lighthouse | Black Girls Project



# Grant Spotlight

## Creating Economic Opportunity for Families, and Addressing Mississippi's Nursing Workforce Need

Recent research revealed that women community college students often need seven years to complete a two-year degree. This can be attributed to economic disparities and gaps in financial or childcare resources. We partnered with the Bower Foundation to implement the Bower Scholars program, which supports community colleges in helping nursing students get across the finish line with their degrees.

*This program will help individual students to complete their degrees, get licensed, and secure employment with a livable wage. It will also contribute to developing the healthcare workforce in our state, meeting the critical healthcare staffing shortages we are facing. Our interventions allow students to navigate challenges that might otherwise derail their studies or cause them to graduate later.*

**The Women's Foundation grants improves lives for women and children across the state. Sometimes that work is big and systemic, and sometimes it's personal:**

“On November 23, 2021, the worst day of **Melissa's** life happened, when a tragic house fire took her family home, possessions, and vehicles. This devastating setback could put an end to a school career. Women's Foundation community college grants are designed to help with exactly this type of situation, and Melissa was able to continue classes and finish her Associate Degree Nursing Program at Meridian Community College.”



# 2021-22 Grant Highlights

## Rapid Response Grants

### MOVING FAST, MOVING SMART

Our trusted network of grantees helps us move funds to where they're needed most and where they'll do the most good. In 2021 we continued to provide Rapid Response funds as well as discretionary grants to organizations. Groups are invited to apply for these grants under \$5,000 for specific and targeted needs.

We were able to move support to critical issues like COVID vaccine outreach for underserved populations, parent engagement, LGBT support, Jackson water crisis, and post-partum assistance.



## ORGANIZATIONS



# Programming

# Women in Leadership

## Mississippi Women in the Lead

INVITING WOMEN TO CONSIDER A LIFE IN ELECTED LEADERSHIP.

This exciting new fellowship series helps women consider a future in public policymaking through running for elected office. Workshops and support will demystify the process and outline key steps to advance as a public leader.



## She's on Board

EMPOWERING WOMEN TO SERVE IN NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP.



## Thrive @ Work

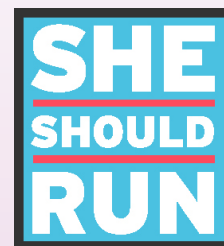
SHARING STRATEGIES FOR WOMEN TO FIND SUCCESS IN THEIR WORKPLACE.

featuring **Camille Snyder**

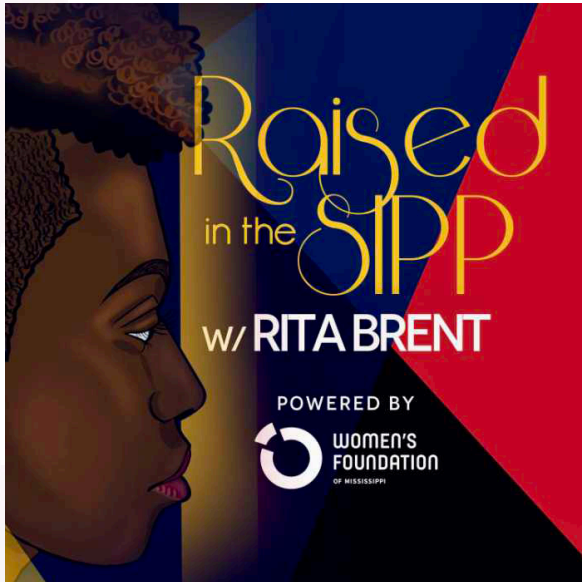


Thank you to the Sponsors of these Events!

MISSISSIPPI WOMEN IN THE LEAD

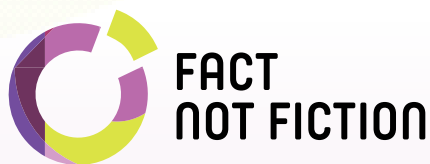


# Program Highlights



## Raised in the Sipp podcasts

- **Episode 1: Black Maternal Health**  
*with Dr. Nakeitra Burse*
- **Episode 2: Mothers of the Civil Rights Era**  
*with Ms. Gloria Dickerson*
- **Episode 3: Mothers of the Civil Rights Movement**  
*with Dr. Flonzie Brown Wright*
- **Episode 4: Knowing Your History**  
*with Pamela Junior*
- **Episode 5: Fighting for Working Women**  
*with Cassandra Welchlin*
- **Episode 6: Creating Mississippi's Tech Future**  
*with Dr. Nashlie Sephus*
- **Episode 7: Finding Your Groove**  
*with Teneia Sanders*
- **Episode 8: Creating for Good**  
*with Talameika Brice*



 579,000

 2,256

 2,308

Web Sessions: 8.9k

# Support & Administration

# Corporate & Foundation Donors

**We are grateful to our donors for supporting our work!**

## CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION DONORS 2021-2022

Anonymous	Panorama Global – The Ascend Fund
Baker Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC	Regions
BlueCross Blue Shield of Mississippi	Ross & Yerger
Bradley Law	The Bower Foundation
Enterprise Holdings Foundation	The W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Jesse Smith Noyes Foundation	The Phil Hardin Foundation
JonesWalker	The Source (BankPlus)
Junior League of Jackson	The Tara Health Foundation
Mississippi Development Authority	Sanderson Farms
MS Foundation for Women	Southern Healthcare Agency
MTM, Inc.	

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Lynette Suttler

Carolyn S. Townes

Laney Watkins

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Cupples

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Kate McNeel

Mary Clay Morgan

Risa Moriarity

Susan Phillips

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Carol Taff

Kathryn York

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Gena Lentz

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Shaw & Associates, LLC

Margaret Wodetzki

Dorothy Wofford

Deborah and Johnny  
Wray

Doing  
Good  
Is Better  
With  
Friends.





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2021

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**Mary Largent Purvis** SECRETARY

**Ashley Sanders** TREASURER

**Margaret Cupples** CHAIR ELECT

**Vonda Reeves** PAST CHAIR

**Susan Phillips** AT-LARGE

2022

**Margaret Cupples** CHAIR ELECT

**Mary Largent Purvis** SECRETARY

**Susan Phillips** TREASURER

**Lindsey Thomas Dowdle** CHAIR ELECT

**Shanell H. Watson** PAST CHAIR

**Julieta Mendez** AT-LARGE

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Dowdle

LoRose Moore

Norma B. Ojeda

Michelle Owens

Kim Burke

Barbara Logan  
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Grace Lee

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Donna  
Barksdale

Barbara Logan  
Smith

Ashley Sanders

Norma B. Ojeda

Holly Lange

Trudy Fisher

LoRose Moore

Bethany Tarpley

Michelle Owens

Kathryn York

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Frances Croft**  
DIRECTOR OF  
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES



**Latisha Latiker**  
DIRECTOR OF  
GRANT PROGRAMS



**Marqueta Perkins**  
OPERATIONS MANAGER

## Financials

In 2021, with a strong financial position, our Board approved the creation of a six-month Operating Reserve. Our most recent audited financial statements can always be found on our website.

[VIEW HERE](#)



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