MacKenzie Scott’s transformational giving

In the past two years, MacKenzie Scott has publicly announced 1,251 grants for a total of $12.4 billion. The gifts are multi-year and unrestricted, placing almost no administrative burden on the recipient organizations, using elements of a trust-based philanthropy approach.

Scott’s giving has not only been transformational for many of the recipient organizations, but the large volume of grants and their concentration in certain issue areas have the potential to be transformational for key sectors as well.

Panorama Global analyzed how, what, and where Scott’s recipients are engaged in their work.

Unprecedented flexible grants to address needs and inequities

Reviewing Scott’s grants to date, Panorama categorized each into one of six sectors: Civil Society, Youth Development, Basic Services, Philanthropic, Education Institutions, and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI)/Lenders.

Civil Society
- Nonprofit organizations organized around key issues, communities, or equity
- 43% of grants
- 539 grants

Youth Development
- Organizations and chapter organizations focused on supporting and empowering youth—children, teens, and young adults
- 21% of grants
- 268 grants

Basic Services
- Networked affiliates of United Way, Goodwill, and Feeding America, providing basic human support services
- 14% of grants
- 170 grants

Philanthropic
- Organizations working to strengthen the philanthropic sector, and those making sub-grants to specific communities or issue areas
- 12% of grants
- 147 grants

Education Institutions
- Universities, colleges, schools, student scholarships, and teacher programs
- 7% of grants
- 92 grants

CDFI/Lenders
- Community development financial institutions and other similar lenders to small businesses, affordable housing, and more
- 3% of grants
- 35 grants

Within the Youth Development Sector:

- YMCA/YWCA: 105 grants
- Boys & Girls Clubs: 63 grants
- Other Organizations: 59 grants
- Communities in Schools: 41 grants

MacKenzie Scott donated over $12.4 billion in under two years
Distribution of grants by issue across all sectors (1,251 total)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Grants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth - 276</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education (Policy and Training) - 117</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health - 108</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poverty Alleviation - 95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Culture - 92</td>
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<td>Housing - 91</td>
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<td>Food Security - 77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sector Strengthening - 61</td>
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<td>Racial Justice - 56</td>
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<td>Economic Mobility - 38</td>
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<td>Gender - 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financing - 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civic Engagement - 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criminal Justice Reform - 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disability - 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGBTQ+ - 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate - 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refugees &amp; Immigrants - 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterans - 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender-based Violence - 10</td>
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<td>Journalism - 7</td>
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<td>Faith - 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aging - 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Entrepreneurship - 4</td>
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Among the 1,251 grants, a focus on Youth and Education predominates, receiving nearly one-third of Scott’s grants to date.

Scott launched her giving during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 by supporting chapters and affiliated member organizations of Feeding America and United Way to help alleviate food insecurity and meet basic needs. In addition to colleges and state universities in underserved communities, she supported 25 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), seven Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and eight equity-driven scholarship funds.

In the December 2021 and March 2022 lists of grants, Scott’s scope expanded to more rights-based organizations and new concentrations of giving in the issue areas of reproductive health and rights, racial justice, criminal justice reform, civic engagement, and housing.

Across all of Scott’s grants, she has prioritized equity-centered organizations and institutions seeking to reverse historical underinvestment rooted in discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, orientation, and ability.

**Issue definitions:**

*Financing* denotes lending or investment of capital in small businesses and other arenas such as affordable housing, childcare, food security, and workforce development.

*Poverty Alleviation*, for the purpose of this analysis, denotes the affiliates of Goodwill and United Way that provide basic welfare services and support.

*Sector Strengthening* refers to organizations working to make an array of diverse non-profits or philanthropy more strategic, effective, informed, or equitable.
Distribution of civil society grants by issue (539 total)

Scott funded 539 Civil Society organizations across diverse issue areas and identity groups. These include community-based organizations, NGOs, and policy or advocacy organizations that are distinct from those categorized in the Youth, Education Institutions, CDFIs, Philanthropic, and Basic Services sectors.

Health - 90
Housing - 87
Arts & Culture - 67
Racial Justice - 37
Sector Strengthening - 36
Economic Mobility - 30
Education (Policy and Training) - 26
Criminal Justice Reform - 25
Civic Engagement - 25
Disability - 23
Gender - 15
LGBTQ+ - 13
Climate - 13
Veterans - 11
Refugees & Immigrants - 10
Gender-based Violence - 7
Journalism - 7
Aging - 6
Faith - 5
Entrepreneurship - 4
Food Policy - 1

In the Civil Society sector, Scott has focused her giving on a range of organizations driving change, fighting inequities, alleviating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and those leading from within historically marginalized regions and communities.

In her last two rounds of giving, Scott heightened inclusion of rights-based organizations focused on reproductive health and rights, racial justice, criminal justice reform, civic engagement, and housing. The high numbers in health and housing are boosted by Scott’s funding of 21 local affiliates of Planned Parenthood, and 84 chapters of Habitat for Humanity. A growing number within the Health issue area focus on mental health. Other new additions focus on seniors and veterans.

Also noteworthy is Scott’s significant support for Arts & Culture, with 67 grants to unique arts organizations connected to diverse cultural and identity groups. This underscores the importance of these endeavors as part of Scott’s goal to amplify voices that have been underrepresented, and to help build empathy and community, improve mental health, academic outcomes, and economic mobility.

The range of issues and communities served by equity-minded organizations in the Civil Society sector is also characterized by their intersectionality. For the purpose of this analysis, we applied a “primary purpose test” for each organization, selecting one primary issue area outlined in the organization’s vision, mission and impact statements.
**Geographic reach**

In her first two rounds of giving, grants were awarded to organizations with a heavy focus on the United States, with a small number of gifts to organizations in Africa and India. In the two most recent rounds of gifts, the geographic scope expanded, and to date, 89 organizations based in 30 countries outside the U.S. have received grants. In addition, Scott supported 95 organizations headquartered in the U.S. that operate globally or in specific geographic regions. In total, 184 organizations, or 15% of her gifts to date, have a global reach.

The following countries each had one organization that received a grant: Afghanistan, Argentina, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, El Salvador, Germany, Mexico, Micronesia, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tanzania, and Uganda.
How we conducted our analysis

Scott published four Medium posts in a 22-month period where she listed the 1,251 grants she had made. In our first review of the data, we aimed to use well-established taxonomies to categorize her grants. However, the diversity of the organizations funded by Scott did not align with the macro-level categories that these databases track.

We ultimately decided to categorize each of the grants by “geography,” “issue,” and “sector.”

The geographic categorization was the most straightforward: What country was the grant recipient headquartered in, and did the grant recipient organization have a domestic or global mandate?

The second way we categorized the grants was by assigning each to an issue area. Many funded organizations have an intersectional approach to their work, given the social determinants underlying many issues. Therefore we determined how to categorize organizations by applying a “primary purpose test” for each organization, selecting one primary issue area outlined in the organization’s vision, mission, and impact statements. We ultimately identified 24 issue categories.

We are calling the third area for categorization “sector.” We recognize that all of the grants could be characterized as social sector but wanted to better understand the types of organizations that had been funded. We ultimately grouped the grants into six sectors.

We recognize the degree of subjectivity to this evaluation, but believe the total analysis is indicative of the breadth and reach of Scott’s funding and is an important contribution to the discussion around Scott’s giving.

For additional information on how we conducted this analysis, please go to panoramaglobal.org/Impact-Philanthropy.

About this infographic

This infographic is the first product of Panorama Global’s Collaborative Learning from Impact Philanthropy initiative, encompassing research, peer learning, and knowledge sharing, with a goal of informing and educating both the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors about best practices in making and managing large gifts.

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