



FOUNDATION

UPLIFTING COMMUNITIES



Letter from the President

2020 was a year of unexpected challenges. At The Kroger Co. Foundation, we are reflecting on what matters most and identifying how we can help even more.

After a year of extraordinary challenges, our mission to lift up the communities we call home through Kroger's Zero Hunger | Zero Waste social and environmental impact plan has never been more important.

The COVID-19 pandemic reminded all of us of our fundamental interconnectedness—the virus could infect anyone, anywhere—and it exposed systemic inequities in our most vulnerable populations, including seniors, individuals with chronic health conditions, and people and communities of color. It also confirmed that Kroger's Zero Hunger | Zero Waste social impact plan is more critical than ever. In response, The Kroger Co. Foundation directed help in our communities where it was needed most. We increased our annual contributions, delivering grants totaling \$16.4 million in 2020, including nearly \$5 million to organizations providing pandemic relief.

As part of a national reckoning on social justice, the Foundation accelerated support for racial equity. As part of Kroger's *Framework for Action: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion*, Kroger allocated

\$5 million to the Foundation to establish a new Racial Equity Fund. Our vision is to create more equitable communities by being the spark that ignites innovative solutions. In the first phase of funding, we directed \$3 million to organizations that are focused on enhancing equity and addressing the intersection of race and food security.

I am inspired by all our partners who have worked tirelessly to drive positive change in our communities during this incredibly challenging time.

At The Kroger Co. Foundation, we will continue to do our part. We remain committed to doing even more good through impact philanthropy in 2021 and beyond.

Keith G. Dailey

Keith Dailey

President, The Kroger Co. Foundation
Group Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Kroger



Our Mission

We're on a mission to lift up the communities we call home. We focus our philanthropic efforts on building stronger communities and supporting neighbors in need.

The Kroger Co. Foundation is Kroger's private foundation, established in 1987 and dedicated to making a difference at the national, regional and local levels. We focus on supporting our communities' needs today and finding innovative solutions to build a better tomorrow.

2020 Highlights

\$16.4M

in grants

373

grants offered to national and local non-profit organizations

\$4.9M

donated to COVID-19 relief efforts

24

states received \$50,000 or more in grants

M = million



Kroger Scholars Program of the Kroger Foundation

In 2020, the Foundation celebrated its 12th year of the Kroger Scholars program. We provided scholarships for 120 students who are dependents of eligible Kroger associates and pursuing a two- or four-year college degree or a vocational or technical certificate. No matter what inspires a student to pursue a post-secondary education, these \$2,500 scholarships support their success. To date, the Foundation has awarded more than \$3.9 million to Kroger Scholars across the country.



Congressional Hunger Center Washington, D.C.

Since 2017, the Foundation has invested in the next generation of diverse and inclusive leaders by supporting two Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows each year. In 2020, Rocio Perez of Los Angeles and Curtis Hills of Lexington, MS, gained first-hand experience helping to improve food security in the U.S. through advocacy, public policy and strengthening the capacity of hunger-relief organizations and the communities they serve.



USO Arlington, VA

The Foundation directed funding to the United Service Organization's (USO) Combat COVID-19 Fund to support efforts to nourish military service men and women and their families during the pandemic. With this grant, the USO helped service members who were quarantined after returning home from deployments. The USO's virtual programs also helped boost morale and keep service members connected to family and home during stay-at-home orders.

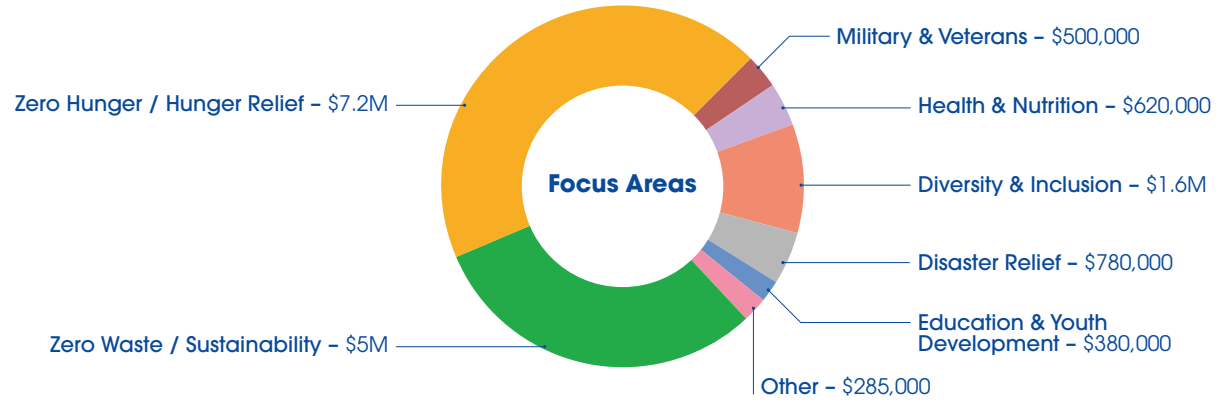


American Red Cross Washington, D.C.

The Foundation's support as an Annual Disaster Giving Program partner helps the Red Cross prepare for disasters in advance and respond immediately with care and comfort when disasters happen. As a trusted and critical part of our communities' first response network, the Red Cross stands ready to use its strong infrastructure, trained volunteers, innovative technology and critical resources to provide immediate relief and support when needed most.

Funding Overview

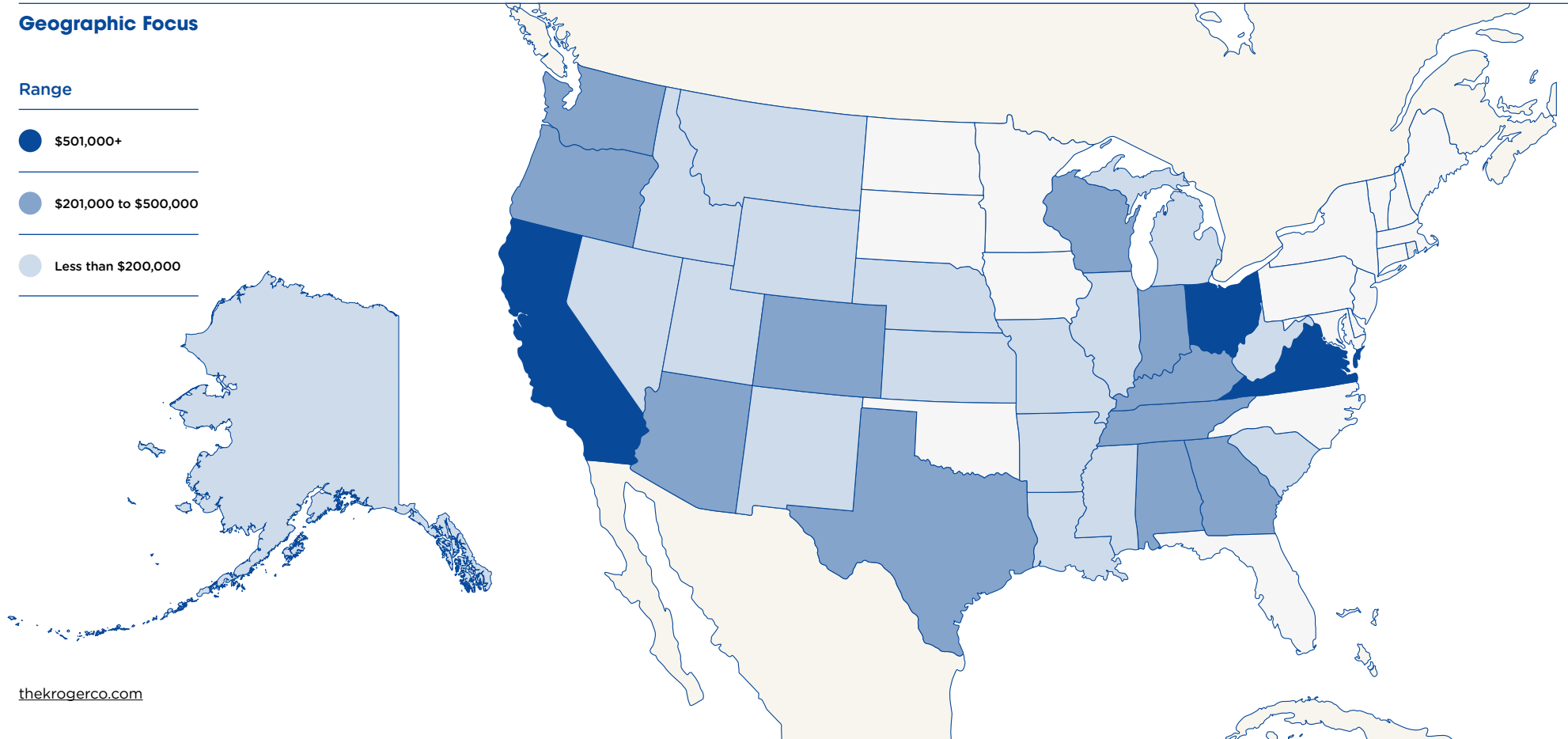
Foundation grants help advance Kroger’s Zero Hunger | Zero Waste mission and other strategic priorities. We are committed to supporting our communities’ needs in the following focus areas:



Geographic Focus

Range

- \$501,000+
- \$201,000 to \$500,000
- Less than \$200,000



Racial Equity Fund

In 2020, The Kroger Co. Foundation established a new \$5 million Racial Equity Fund to support non-profit organizations advancing racial equity in our communities. In our first *Build It Together* challenge, we awarded \$3 million in grants to projects that reflect Kroger's *Framework for Action: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion* to accelerate change in the communities we serve and beyond.



In 2020, we invited 14 organizations to apply for *Build It Together* grants to support programs focused on creating more equitable communities. A judging panel, made up of Kroger associates, external partners and local community foundations, evaluated the proposals and selected four finalists to receive a total of \$3 million in grants.

We are pleased to support the critical work of these organizations:



Black Girl Ventures

Washington, D.C.

Black Girl Ventures' mission is to provide Black and Brown women entrepreneurs greater access to capital and capacity-building resources. The non-profit will use a \$500,000 Foundation grant to launch a cohort of the Change Agent Fellowship, a nine-month leadership and ecosystem development program for Black and Brown founders in Cincinnati who identify as female. The program expands the capacity and local ecosystems of Black and Brown women founders by delivering an exclusive curriculum and connecting them with supporters, mentors and peers.



Everytable

Los Angeles

Everytable is pioneering a new way to produce fresh food and healthy prepared meals as an affordable alternative to fast food. The organization's social-franchise model features grab-and-go storefront markets in communities with low access to healthy food options. Everytable will use its \$1 million *Build It Together* grant to help fund more business ownership among Black entrepreneurs and other people of color. Their goal is to open 40 franchises during the next two years.



LISC

New York

The Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) is the largest U.S. community development organization, with offices in 37 cities and a rural program serving over 2,200 counties in 46 states and Puerto Rico. LISC's mission is to create economic opportunity for all. They will use a \$500,000 grant to advance Project 10X, an ambitious strategy to close racial health, wealth and opportunity gaps. The funds will support food-system businesses and community organizations advancing food access among Black, Brown and indigenous communities.



Thurgood Marshall College Fund

Washington, D.C.

Established in 1987, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf) is the nation's largest organization exclusively representing the Black college community. A \$1 million *Build It Together* grant will help the TMCf adapt its successful entrepreneurship program to focus on food insecurity and sustainability initiatives, particularly in Black communities that lack convenient access to food and other services. An initial three-day Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Innovation Challenge engaged TMCf students earlier this year.

Join Our Journey



To request a grant, please visit
<https://thekrogerco.versaic.com/login>

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