

The PRISM Fund

2022-23

Pilot Program

Progress Report



2022 - 2023 PRISM Alliance Grantees

The PFund Foundation Board of Directors approved 17 general operating grants totaling \$125,000 to organizations from the upper Midwest that are located in or serve rural LGBTQ+ communities. Supported with funds from the PRISM (Promoting Rural Interconnections for Sexual Minorities) Fund, these grants were used to boost organizational capacity and build networks of rural-serving queer organizations across Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and the First Nations therein.

IOWA

Lavender Legal Center | Cedar Rapids, IA | \$12,500

LGBTQ Iowa Archives & Library | Iowa City, IA | \$5,000

GLBT Youth in Iowa Schools Taskforce (Iowa Safe Schools) | Des Moines, IA | \$7,500

MINNESOTA

New Prague Area Chapter of PFLAG | New Prague, MN | \$4,000

PFLAG Marshall Buffalo Ridge | Cottonwood, MN | \$4,000

QUEERSPACE collective | Minneapolis, MN | \$7,000

Gender Justice | St. Paul, MN | \$10,000

NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota Human Rights Coalition | Fargo, ND | \$10,000

QSpace Bismark | Bismark, ND | \$10,000.

Welcome Connection | Fargo, ND | \$5,000

SOUTH DAKOTA

Uniting Resilience | Rapid City, SD | \$12,000

The Transformation Project | Sioux Falls, SD | \$10,000

LGBTQ+ Family Connections Center, Inc. | Box Elder, SD | \$3,000

WISCONSIN

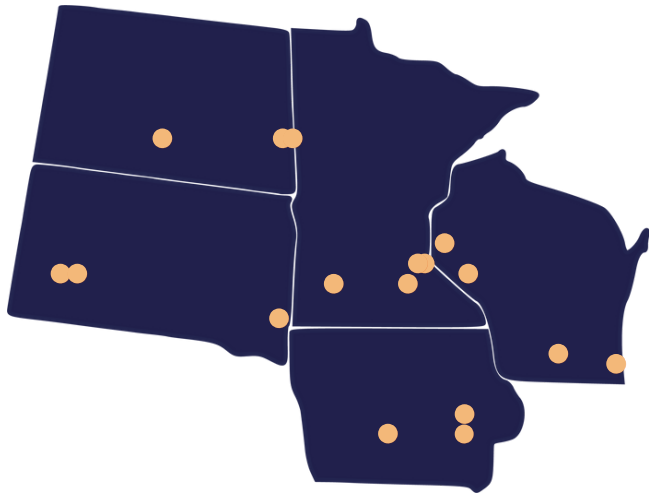
LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin | Racine, WI | \$3,000

Chippewa Valley LGBTQ+ Community Center | Eau Claire, WI | \$10,000

Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools Inc. | Madison, WI | \$9,000

Philadelphia Community Farm | Osceola, WI | \$3,000

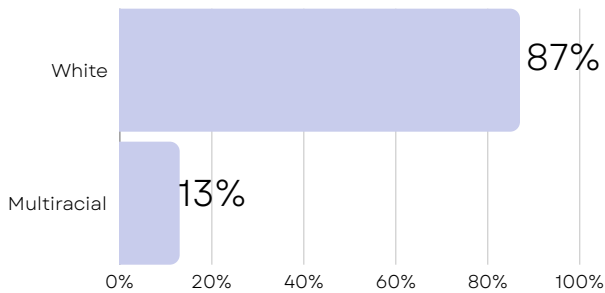
PRISM Grantee Snapshot



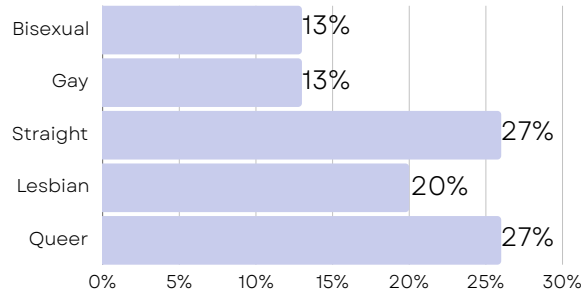
PFund awarded its first-ever round of PRISM grants in fall 2022 to 17 queer organizations located across the foundation’s five-state service area. Grantees received funds to support capacity building and professional development. Grantees also participated in eight PRISM Alliance virtual trainings plus an online virtual intensive in August 2023.

All demographic information shared here is taken either from grantee application materials or from mid-program evaluation surveys that representatives from PRISM grantee organizations completed in summer 2023. All figures have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

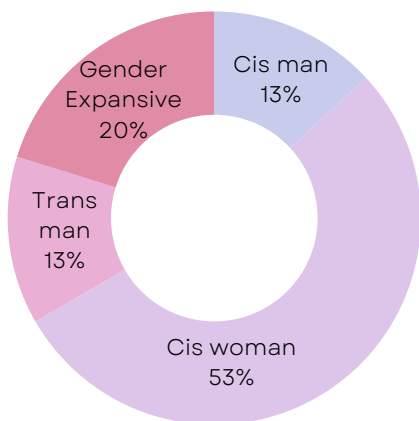
Racial & Ethnic Background 2022-23 PRISM Alliance Participants



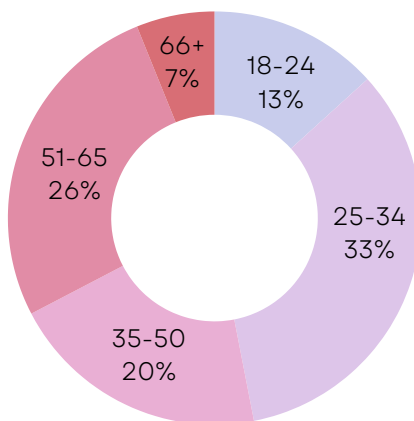
Sexual Orientation 2022-23 PRISM Alliance Participants



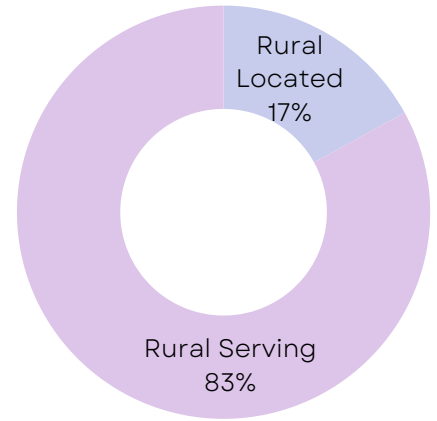
Gender Identity 2022-23 PRISM Alliance Participants



Age 2022-23 PRISM Alliance Participants



Rural serving vs. rural located 2022-23 PRISM grantee organizations



2022-23 PRISM Fund Program Impacts

- For the first year of the PRISM grants program, a total of \$125,000 was distributed to 17 grantee organizations.
- Representatives from each PRISM grantee organization attended a total of eight virtual training sessions (most were led by professionals from the Nonprofit Center at LaSalle University) and two days of summer intensives held remotely in August 2023.
- PRISM grantees organizations reported using funds to support a variety of activities, including:
 - The New Prague chapter of PFLAG hosted an event featuring author, advocate, and parent of a transgender child Jo Ivester. The group also donated \$1,000 in LGBTQ books to its local public library.
 - Iowa Safe Schools held its annual Governor's Conference on LGBTQ Youth.
 - GSAFE used funds to support bringing in indigenous queer and two-spirit speakers to its Middle School Conference held in March 2023.
 - The Chippewa Valley LGBTQ+ Community Center used funds to increase volunteer recruitment for the organization and expand its youth programming.
 - Lavender Legal was able to conduct outreach targeted at rural areas to build awareness of its pro-bono legal work for queer people.
 - The Marshall/Buffalo Ridge chapter of PFLAG held a Lavender Graduation dinner for local queer high school students.
 - The LGBTQ Iowa Archives and Library was ever to hold its first-ever fundraising event.
 - Family Connections Center opened a drop-in and transitional housing center.
 - St. Mark's Lutheran Church funded a transgender peer support group for local residents.
- 86% of PRISM Alliance members reported making meaningful connections with other LGBTQ+ organization in the region as a result of PRISM.
- 100% of PRISM Alliance participants reported a stronger sense of connection to the Upper Midwest's LGBTQ+ ecosystem as a result of participating the in program.
- 93% of PRISM Alliance participants reported that the virtual training sessions taught them new things and increased their understanding of resources available to their organizations.
- 100% of PRISM Alliance members reported that networking activities undertaken as part of the PRISM grants program facilitated them connecting with others.
- In addition to PRISM grants and the PRISM Alliance, PFund conducted two virtual focus groups with LGBTQ+ individuals living in rural communities in the Upper Midwest in November 2023. Focus group participants reported difficulty in pursuing higher education or securing gender-affirming medical care, but also reported a variety of coping strategies and resilience in the face of discrimination. The full focus group report can be found on [PFund's program evaluation page](#).

Contact us

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