

FY25 Grant Reports Review:



Growth, Resilience, & Learning through Partner Voices

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Allegany
Franciscan
Ministries

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Photo above from Allegany supported Film "Without Shade, Without Rest"

Executive Summary

This report provides an analysis of the Allegany Franciscan Ministries FY25 Grant Report responses across six distinct program areas: Allegany Community Out Reach (ACOR), Common Good Initiative (CGI), Climate Justice & Care for Creation (CJCC), Nonprofit Capacity & Leadership Initiative (NCLI), St. Clare, and Tau.

Analysis of 187 grant reports shows a high 72% response rate to required evaluation questions, reporting meaningful outcomes, shared struggles, and commonly requested ways to further support grant partner organizations across all grant programs.

Verbal vs Written Reports: A significant finding of this report is the efficacy of Verbal Reporting, which produced more complete responses to the questions posed, compared to the responses received and available for written reports. Verbal reports made up 29% of all reports received.

Core Themes of Reports: The analysis produced four core themes in the developments reported across all program areas including:

1. **Expanded Services Improving Community Well-Being:** Organizations are reaching more vulnerable populations, offering more services, and increasing their impact.
2. **Infrastructure, Capacity Building, and Leadership Development:** Funding is being utilized for critical staff hires, leadership development, technological improvement, staff wellness, and organizational capacity.
3. **Deepened Community Engagement, Participation, and Volunteer Growth:** Many developments centered on strengthening community ownership, participation, and volunteer expansion.
4. **Cross-Sector Collaboration and Broader Systems Impact:** Grant partners are increasingly working in partnerships with other Community Based Organizations, and across sectors to influence policy and systemic change.

Challenges and Learnings: The primary challenges reported involve capacity gaps in staffing, board member and volunteer training and recruitment, technology, and funding sustainability, particularly in the face of external pressures like increasing community needs, inflation, climate-related disruptions, and the current political climate.

Support Needed Beyond Funding: Grant partners are primarily seeking networking opportunities to connect with others in their field and to other aligned funders, increased visibility and support with promoting their story, services, and events, continued wellness opportunities, and technical support for board development, capacity building, and operations.

In Closing : Open-ended grant partner reflections underscore profound gratitude for Allegany's trust-based, flexible funding model which strengthens organizational resilience, adaptability, and confidence in the face of ongoing uncertainty.

A. Introduction

Data Scope: This analysis is based on 187 report entries from six grant programs operated by Allegany Franciscan Ministries: Allegany Community Out Reach (ACOR), Common Good Initiative (CGI), Climate Justice & Care for Creation (CJCC), Nonprofit Capacity & Leadership Initiative (NCLI), St. Clare, and Tau.

The report types were written and verbal, mid year check in's, and end of year reports, in 2024 and 2025, addressing 7 evaluation questions.

1. "What were your most exciting/significant developments during the grant period?"
2. "Describe any challenges or lessons learned"
3. "What progress has been made on the program goals/outcomes?"
4. "How else can we champion your work/support you beyond providing more funds?"
5. "Share a success story from your work"
6. "Anything else we should know/you'd like to share?"
7. "How do you incorporate the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion in your operations?"

Purpose: To synthesize findings from Allegany Franciscan Ministries' 2024-2025 evaluation reports, identify cross-cutting themes, trends, and draw out key insights from grant partner reports for foundation staff and board.

Directive: To analyze completeness of responses across grant programs, assess verbal reporting for completeness and quality of reporting, and provide summaries of exciting significant developments, challenges, and how to champion work beyond funding.

Methodology: The responses from all grant reports were quantified to calculate average completion rates and cumulative totals across the six programs. For key sections, core themes were identified and qualitative answers were mapped to these categories to provide a deeper understanding of the organizational challenges, needs and successes. This data was then synthesized into the tables, graphs, and analytical findings which are presented here to offer a comprehensive comparison of reporting methods and outcomes. Additional methodological notes and processes are presented where relevant throughout the report.

B.1 Grant Report Completeness

Analysis of 187 grant reports shows a high 72% response rate to required evaluation questions, reporting meaningful outcomes, shared struggles, and high gratitude and relationship across all funding areas. Responses are thoughtful and generally thorough, with "Progress" being the most consistently answered question (90% completion). Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion had the lowest level of response (6 responses), however it is noted this was a newly added optional question for FY25.

Methodology: Average Report Completeness was calculated by measuring the average percentage of required questions answered in each grant program and across all the programs. The questions "exciting/significant developments", "challenges or lessons learned", "progress on program goals/outcomes?" and "how to champion your work beyond funding?" were analyzed as required questions. The questions "Success story", "Anything else?", and 'DEI values' were considered optional questions for the purpose of this analysis and were excluded from the calculations of overall completeness.

Response Rates by Question and Program Area

			Required Questions						
Average Total Completeness (out of 4 required questions)	Grant Program	Total Reports	Exciting/ Significant	Challenges & Lessons	Progress on Goals	Support Beyond Funds	Success Story	Anything Else?	DEI Values (Optional)
90%	Tau	26	23 (88%)	26 (100%)	23 (88%)	22 (85%)	24 (92%)	20 (77%)	0 (0%)
96%	St. Clare	28	28 (100%)	28 (100%)	24 (86%)	27 (96%)	18 (64%)	22 (79%)	3 (11%)
32%	NCLI	65	7 (11%)	7 (11%)	61 (94%)	7 (11%)	3 (5%)	1 (2%)	2 (3%)
74%	CJCC	17	12 (71%)	12 (71%)	14 (82%)	12 (71%)	8 (47%)	9 (53%)	0 (0%)
39%	CGI	23	6 (26%)	6 (26%)	22 (96%)	6 (26%)	1 (4%)	5 (22%)	0 (0%)
99%	ACOR	28	28 (100%)	28 (100%)	27 (96%)	28 (100%)	15 (54%)	17 (61%)	1 (4%)
72%	Combined	187	66%	68%	90%	65%	44%	49%	3%

* Note: The completeness rates for NCLI are skewed, as they do not reflect that 2024 Wellness Grant reports consisted of only one question.

Evaluation Trends by Program Area

1. Allegany Community Out Reach (ACOR)

Purpose: Extending the mission of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany through health and wellness in marginalized communities.

Evaluation Efficacy: High engagement with 90% completeness of required evaluation questions. The verbal reporting format used by 15 out of 28 ACOR partners captured the human narrative behind clinical outcomes.

2. Common Good Initiative (CGI)

Purpose: A 10-year, place-based strategy to build healthy, safe, and connected communities in Overtown, Wimauma, + Lincoln Park.

Evaluation Efficacy: Note that CGI evaluation data contained external attachments that were not a part of this evaluation, therefore the quantitative "completeness" score for the CGI program area is artificially low, reported at 39%, with Progress on Goals being the most answered question (96%).

3. Climate Justice & Care for Creation (CJCC)

Purpose: Protecting our common home by addressing the disproportionate impact of climate change on marginalized communities.

Evaluation Efficacy: Partners provided clear data on systemic wins and shared challenges with a 68% response completeness. 70% of reports were conducted verbally.

4. Nonprofit Capacity & Leadership Initiative (NCLI)

Purpose: Supporting the operational capacity and leadership resilience of community-based nonprofits.

Evaluation Efficacy: The largest cohort (65 reports), 52 NCLI grant reports were for smaller "Wellness" grants. Across NCLI reports, the majority answered the one required question "Progress on goals" (94%). NCLI grant responses were primarily written (94%) though the verbal reports were more complete in responses to "Most exciting development", "Challenges", and "How else to champion".

5. St. Clare

Purpose: Advancing the Allegany's mission through advocacy, civic engagement, philanthropic partnerships, and disaster response.

Evaluation Efficacy: This program achieved a high completeness rate (96%), with 11 Verbal and 17 Written Reports.

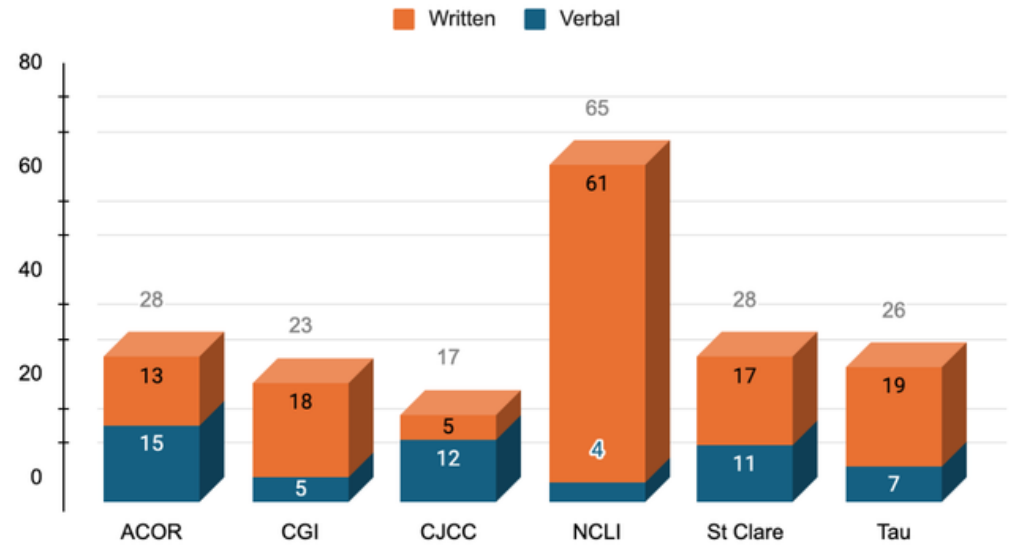
6. Tau

Purpose: Strengthening small nonprofits that expand healthcare access or promote economic mobility.

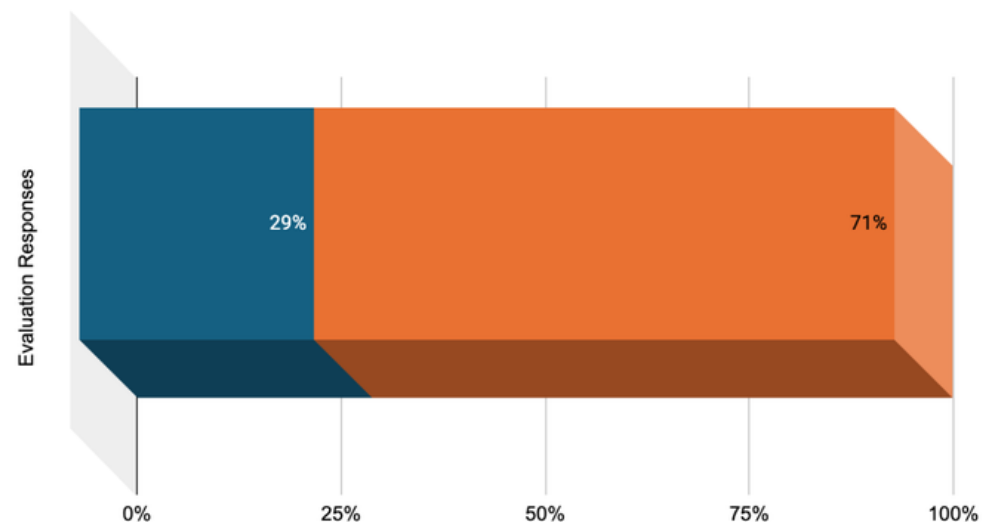
Evaluation Efficacy: Tau partners provided very comprehensive reports (90% completeness) and also had 92% completeness for the Success Story question. There were 7 Verbal and 19 Written responses submitted in this program area.

B.2 Number of Verbal & Written Reports

of Verbal and Written Responses by Grant Program



Graph of Verbal and Written responses, shown by grant program



Graph representing overall percentage of verbal vs written reports

B.3 Verbal Vs. Written Reports

Written Vs Verbal Completeness by Question								
Program (Total # of Reports)	Method	Exciting/Sig Dev	Success Story (Opt)	Challenges	Progress	Beyond Funds	Anything Else? (Opt)	DEI Values (Opt)
ACOR (28)	Verbal	100%	27%	100%	93%	100%	80%	7%
	Written	100%	85%	100%	100%	100%	38%	0%
CGI (23)	Verbal	80%	20%	80%	80%	80%	60%	0%
	Written	11%	0%	11%	100%	11%	11%	0%
CJCC (17)	Verbal	100%	67%	92%	75%	100%	75%	0%
	Written	0%	0%	20%	100%	0%	0%	0%
NCLI (13)	Verbal	100%	0%	100%	75%	100%	25%	0%
	Written	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%
NCLI - Wellness FY24 (49)	Written	-	-	-	100%	-	-	-
NCLI - Wellness FY25 (3)	Written	100%	100%	100%	0%	100%	100%	66%
St. Clare (28)	Verbal	100%	55%	100%	91%	100%	73%	9%
	Written	100%	71%	100%	82%	94%	82%	12%
Tau (26)	Verbal	100%	71%	100%	100%	86%	57%	0%
	Written	84%	100%	100%	84%	84%	84%	0%

Methodological Note: The data from NCLI program area contained 49 FY24 Wellness reports, in which there was only one required question posed: "Progress". Therefore, the data for FY24 and FY25 Wellness Grants has been separated from the rest of the NCLI grant reports in the table above in order to more accurately represent report completeness in the verbal and written NCLI grant reports.

Key Findings: Verbal Reporting Drives Narrative Depth

When looking across all grant programs, Verbal Reports tend to yield more consistent data for mandatory questions, while Written Reports show significant variance depending on the specific program. Partners participating in verbal check-ins provide substantive answers to an average of 4.8 out of 7 questions (ranging between 4 to 5.3 between the various grant programs). Because these are facilitated conversations, partners are prompted to discuss not just their progress but also their "Challenges," "Success Stories," and "Support Needs," resulting in a high completeness rate of 68%.

Whereas, completeness of written reports vary greatly between grant programs. CJCC, CGI, and NCLI have a significantly lower completeness in written reports (1.5 average out of 7 questions), however written reports from the ACOR, St. Clare, and Tau grant program areas had an average of 5.3 answers for the 7 questions. As a whole written responses had an average of 3.4 answers out of 7, with a larger range of completeness varying from 1.2 to 5.4 answers. The completeness score for both types is primarily pulled down by the DEI Values question. Since this was an optional addition for FY25, it was rarely answered in either format. The 2 questions most likely to be skipped in both formats are Success Stories and DEI Values.

When analysis is limited to the four required questions - Significant Developments, Progress Toward Goals, Challenges/Lessons Learned, and How to Champion the Work Beyond Funding - Verbal Reports demonstrate an average completeness rate of 94%, compared to 63% completeness for Written Reports (see table on next page).

Verbal Vs. Written Reports continued

Both reporting formats serve distinct and valuable purposes, and each is an effective method of data collection. Offering grant partners a choice between reporting formats may better serve varying organizational capacities and strengthen grant partner - funder relationships.

Furthermore, while Verbal Reports are less traditional, the evaluation indicates that they produce richer narrative data, greater insight into organizational challenges, and more nuanced accounts of grant partner experience. Written Reports, by contrast, are efficient for tracking larger datasets but may be less effective at capturing the context, complexity, and lived realities underlying grant partner performance.

To improve overall report completeness, Allegany may wish to reconsider which evaluation questions are designated as mandatory and/or encourage grant partners to select Verbal Reports when feasible, particularly when deeper reflection and relationship-building are strategic priorities.

Outliers:

CGI: A significant portion of CGI reporting was submitted as external attachments that were not included in this evaluation. As a result, quantitative completeness scores for CGI written reports appear artificially low, contributing to a lower overall written completeness average across programs.

VERBAL VS. WRITTEN REPORT COMPLETENESS

Program	Verbal Avg (out of 7)	Written Avg (out of 7)
CJCC	5.1	1.2
CGI	4	1.4
NCLI	4	1.8
ACOR	5.1	5.2
St. Clare	5.3	5.4
Tau	5.1	5.4
Average	4.8	3.4
Average as a Percentage	68%	49%
Average Completeness (out of 4 required questions)	94%	63%



Photo above from Allegany grant partner, New Beginnings of Brunswick

C. Exciting & Significant Developments Across Programs: Core Themes

Analysis of 187 grant partner reports across six program areas revealed four consistent and interrelated themes in the responses to this question.

Theme 1: Expanded Services and Measurable Improvements in Community Well-Being

Grant partners reported substantial growth in both the scale and scope of services delivered, particularly to populations facing heightened vulnerability due to economic instability, climate events, and health inequities. Many organizations described a transition from maintaining basic operations to expanding reach, deepening service quality, and achieving more durable outcomes.

Beyond increased service volume, organizations demonstrated an ability to translate funding into outcomes that extend past immediate relief. Programs across education, health, environmental justice, and worker protections moved from awareness-raising to results-oriented interventions that produced lasting behavioral, health, or environmental improvements. This shift reflects growing organizational confidence and readiness to pursue outcomes that influence long-term community well-being rather than short-term stabilization alone.

Quotes and Examples of Theme 1 in the Data

ACOR	"The phone started ringing off the hook after Hurricane Helene."; "5 x increase in funds sent to sister organization in Haiti for monthly operational funds; "Women's therapy group... expanded their activities"; "excited by the number of patients who sought out our clinic"
CGI	Book Bus expansion from a single pilot ("4 visits/year") to 15 schools; Wimauma Opportunity Center expanding training, outreach, entrepreneurship support; Overtown Parks Group delivered 40+ events, fitness classes, mobile clinics, serving 700+ people; OYC adapting to serve more adults
CJCC	"Because of our work, nearly 4,000 construction workers will finally have access to protections that remain elusive under federal, state, and municipal laws."; "Educated more than 2,000 students statewide" "We won systemic changes to increase the tree canopy."
NCLI	"had a record year, harvesting over 25,684 pounds of produce given away to food insecure people in our community"; "proud of the progress made, particularly in expanding housing capacity"
St. Clare	"Exceeded our expectation of the number of justice-seekers equipped with voter education trainings and resources during this year; "high numbers of registrants", "over 500 attendees" "Community engagement... over 15 events - including interfaith dialogues, town halls, and workshops - reaching thousands across Florida"
Tau	"The increased session count demonstrates we are successfully scaling the program.", "Expanded our reach"

Exciting & Significant Developments Across Programs: Core Themes

Theme 2: Infrastructure, Capacity Building, and Leadership Development

Investments in organizational infrastructure emerged as one of the most significant developments across programs. Grant partners used funding to strengthen internal systems through strategic staffing, leadership development, financial management, technology upgrades, and staff wellness initiatives. These investments were particularly impactful for organizations transitioning from founder-led or informal structures to more sustainable, professionally managed institutions.

General operating support played a critical role in enabling this transformation. Rather than functioning as passive overhead coverage, flexible funding supported organizational maturation, including succession planning, compliance capacity, and financial resilience. Several organizations reported establishing reserves or endowments for the first time, positioning themselves to better withstand future economic or funding disruptions. Additionally, wellness-focused investments demonstrated that staff retention and organizational health are essential components of long-term capacity and program continuity.

Quotes and Examples of Theme 2 In the Data

ACOR	"Investment in the structure of our library."; "We opened a satellite loan center in Ellicottville."; "A new building is being constructed... the organization had outgrown the space."; "new website... is live"; "renovations... Internally... it was a vitally important year"
CGI	"We now employ 19 staff."; "We have added 25,000 sq ft of additional property."; "We launched a small endowment and strengthened our reserves."; "Leadership development has been key... I was mentored"; "strategic planning, compliance, HR guidance, team-building and culture-building workshops."
CJCC	"Hired a great worker," "This funding has amplified our capacity to build climate resilience in Hispanic/Latinx and Haitian Creole communities."; "helped recruit and train the next generation of climate activists who now are equipped with grassroots organizing skills and on the ground leadership experience."; "laid the foundation for a youth program"
NCLI	"increase in engagement, resilience, and overall workplace satisfaction."; "sense of renewed motivation and solidarity... enhancing both individual performance and team cohesion."; "Grew the organization's capacity and reach by hiring a full-time Executive Director....virtual assistant, and certified CPA."; "strategic planning retreat"; "team building, strengthening organizational culture, and improving the workplace environment"; "staff.. participate(d) in a 10-week certificate program"; "Identified and nurtured future leaders"
St. Clare	"Data system software was upgraded"; "Four case managers attended professional development conferences." "Developed and soon launching their updated strategic plan"; "professional development and IT upgrades"
Tau	"Grew capacity by hiring a full-time Executive Director."; "Implementation of a more efficient scheduling system."; "consultant... optimizing processes and delivering user-focused solutions"; "implementing efficient systems for tracking services + measuring impact."; "to purchase additional computers, a larger TV for a better view. This allows us to hold more forums and Zooms meetings"

Exciting & Significant Developments Across Programs: Core Themes

Theme 3: Deepened Community Engagement, Participation, and Volunteer Growth

A notable development across program areas was the shift toward more participatory and community-driven models. Organizations increasingly emphasized co-creation, shared leadership, and community ownership rather than service delivery alone. This approach strengthened trust, relevance, and sustainability, particularly in historically marginalized or disaster-impacted communities.

Many grant partners reported growth in volunteer participation, but with a qualitative shift in how volunteers were engaged. Programs that centered community voice and participatory decision-making saw increased volunteer commitment, leadership development, and retention. These models reframed volunteers as partners and stakeholders, rather than supplemental labor, reinforcing social cohesion and local leadership capacity.

Quotes and Examples of Theme 3 In the Data

ACOR	"The solidarity of neighbors participating"; "Our volunteer base has tripled."; "Meetings for decision-making always had effective participation." "The project involved women, young people, adolescents and children in proposing, implementing and monitoring the actions."
CGI	"Residents conducted 60+ park audits across Overtown."; "Residents advocated to reopen the pool."; "Community members requested shade coverings, playground equipment, and improved lighting."; "NPC participants 'supported one another,' sharing referrals and discussing how to better serve their communities."; "The process empowered organizations that 'know their communities best.'"
CJCC	"Utilized popular education techniques and were developed hand-in-hand with Promotores... all immigrant leaders and trusted messengers within the population we serve". ; "mobilized broad-based community support"; "collaborating with students"
NCLI	"..expanded our Volunteer Wellness Circle.. in response to ...the stress our volunteers faced... we held new appreciation events and hosted two wellness sessions to help volunteers recharge."; "recognizing our volunteers and by engaging our board"
St. Clare	"Staff worked hard at rebuilding and growing relationships with community partners since COVID", "Community engagement has also been a highlight"; "...150 participants joined... in a powerful display of civic engagement"; "organized and hosted collaborative forums"
Tau	"strengthened with the support of community leaders."; "efforts to bring the community together regardless of race, sexual orientation, political affiliation, religious affiliation or age... we gathered in the Dreamland Park and had genuine fellowship"; "we recruited and trained 30 new volunteer attorneys"

Exciting & Significant Developments Across Programs: Core Themes

Theme 4: Cross-Sector Collaboration and Systems-Level Impact

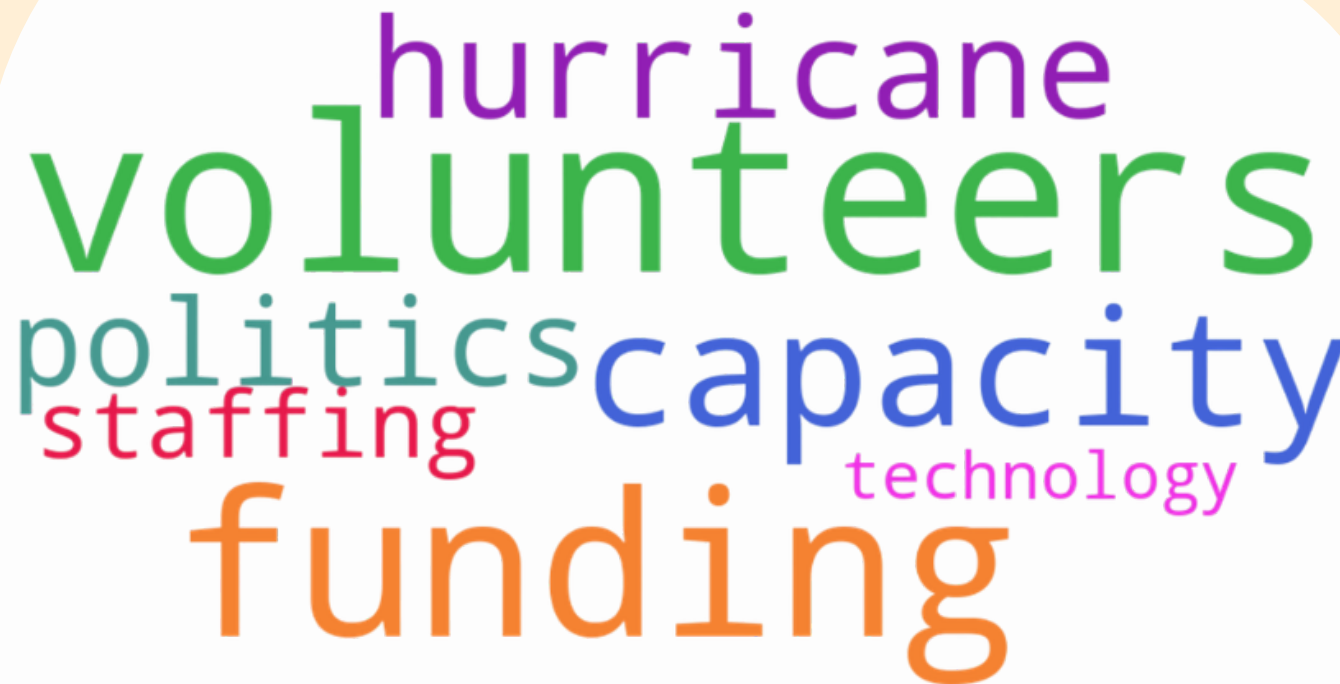
Across programs, organizations demonstrated an increased orientation toward collaboration and systems change. Rather than operating in isolation, grant partners formed partnerships with other community-based organizations, local governments, school districts, and emergency management networks. These collaborations enabled coordinated responses to complex challenges such as housing instability, disaster recovery, and climate resilience.

Several organizations assumed convening or “backbone” roles within their local ecosystems, facilitating alignment across sectors and reducing duplication of effort. This collaborative infrastructure allowed grant partners to extend the impact of their work beyond individual programs, contributing to policy shifts, institutional practices, and community-level systems that are likely to persist beyond the grant period.

Quotes and Examples of Theme 4 In the Data

ACOR	"We put aside our theological differences to focus on meeting a real need."; "The City of Olean started a task force for organizations serving the unhoused."; "We have learned to go with God's grace... to meet the needs of the people."
CGI	"Wimauma Opportunity Center partners with HCC, the school district, and CareerSource Tampa Bay." "The City waived the facility fee for community events." "Community health partners provided mobile clinics at park events." "NPC created connections to 'local leadership structures' and alumni cohorts." "Organizations 'recognized the value of connections.'"
CJCC	"As part of our coalition work, we joined the Alachua County Community Organizations Active in Disasters/ Long Term Recovery Group (COAD/LTRG) group that meets monthly, facilitated by Alachua County Emergency Management. "
NCLI	"have been invited to share their model with organizations throughout the country."; "formed partnerships with the Hillsborough County Reentry Team, Hillsborough County Probation, and several similar organizations statewide."
St. Clare	"Helpful to have statewide and national partners for analysis." "Importance of coalition building across nonprofit and for-profit sectors. By working together, we created a wraparound network of support that extended beyond the capabilities of any one organization"; "These collaborations strengthened our collective capacity"; "A widening and deepening coalition."
Tau	"Collaboration with other organizations to achieve goals."; "meet monthly with the local Council"; " able to connect with state and national organization to bring attention to legislation related to crime survivors and social justice"

D. Challenges and Lessons Learned



(Above) Challenges word cloud. Frequency Stats: Volunteers: 30 | Funding: 25 | Capacity: 15 | Hurricane: 15 | Politics: 13 | Staffing: 7 | Technology: 3

Escalating Community Need Outpacing Organizational Capacity

Across all six program areas, organizations reported that the scale of community need continues to grow faster than their internal capacity. Many partners are being asked to respond simultaneously to immediate crises - such as food insecurity, housing instability, hurricanes, and unmet clinical care needs - while also pursuing longer-term systems change. This tension frequently requires organizations to pivot toward emergency response, diverting staff time and resources away from strategic initiatives and multi-year goals.

D. Challenges and Lessons Learned continued

Infrastructure Constraints: Staffing and Technology as Critical Bottlenecks

Staffing and technology emerged as the most persistent infrastructure challenges. Several partners identified themselves as founder-led organizations that are in the midst of transitioning from entrepreneurial, start up models to more sustainable structures. This transition is often strained by limited administrative capacity. As grant sizes and reporting requirements increase, organizations report a growing need for specialized staff and/or contractors to support in areas such as finance, data management, compliance, and evaluation. Without these investments, partners risk overburdening existing staff and slowing programmatic growth.

Organizational Capacity and Workforce Sustainability

Heavy reliance on volunteer labor remains a defining feature of many partner organizations and presents both opportunities and risks. While volunteers expand reach and deepen community engagement, partners frequently cited compassion fatigue and burnout as significant challenges. This risk is especially pronounced when volunteers are themselves members of communities disproportionately affected by economic instability, climate events, or social inequities. Sustaining programs under these conditions requires intentional strategies for workforce support, training, wellness and retention—both for paid staff and volunteers.

External Political and Environmental Pressures

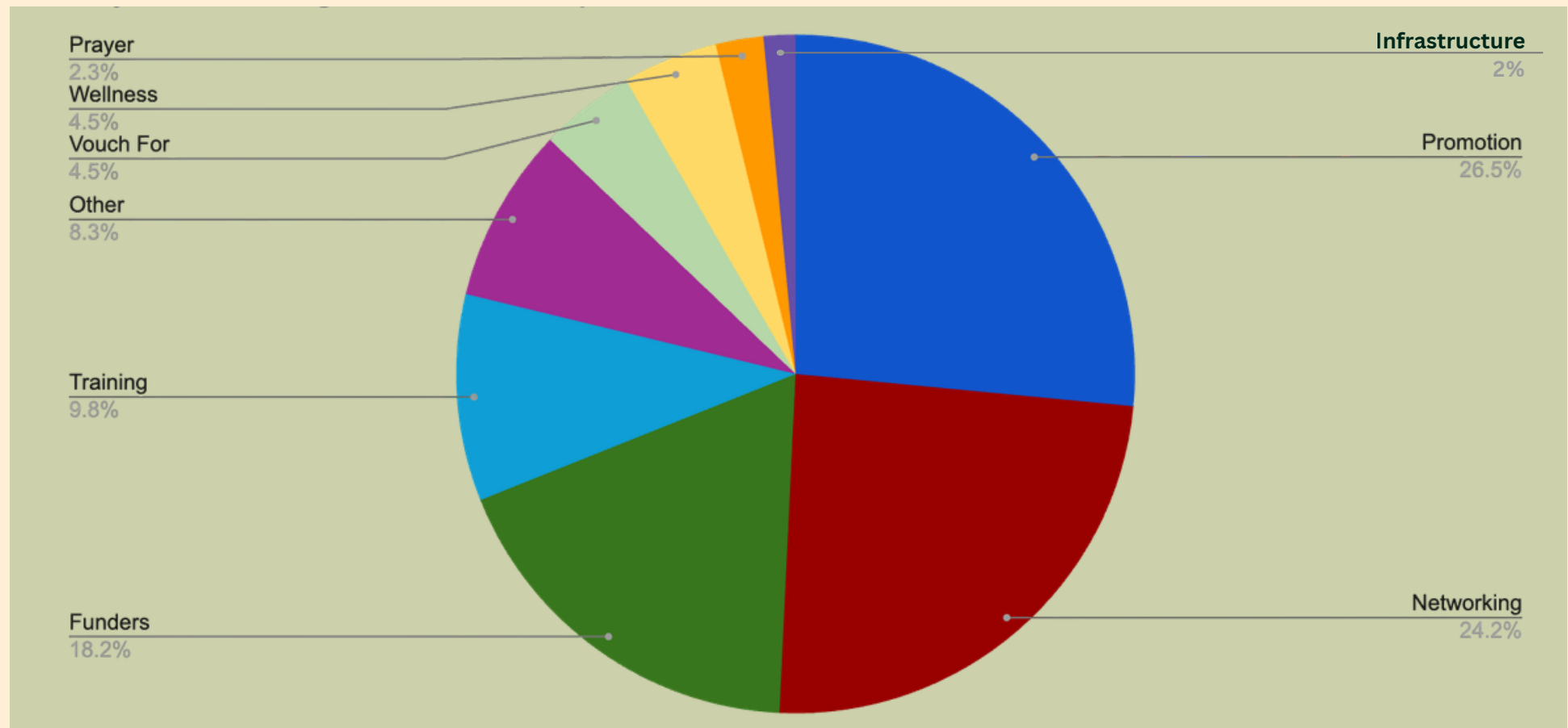
Political and environmental conditions in Florida pose substantial challenges to long-term, systems-level work. Partners noted that the state's political climate has contributed to "donor flight," as some national funders reduce or withdraw investments due to perceived instability in the state. At the same time, recurring climate-related disasters, especially 2024's hurricanes, repeatedly forced organizations to redirect resources from preventative or structural initiatives toward immediate disaster response. While this adaptability demonstrates resilience, it also disrupts momentum on long-term objectives and underscores the need for flexible funding models that can absorb external shocks.

Taken together, these findings highlight a central lesson: organizational resilience depends not only on programmatic effectiveness, but on sustained investment in infrastructure, workforce well-being, and adaptive capacity. Partners are deeply committed and highly responsive, but without strategic support for organizations' internal systems, they remain vulnerable to burnout, disruption, and mission drift.

E. How to Champion Work Beyond Funding

To identify how Allegany can best leverage its influence beyond financial investment, partner requests were analyzed and coded into nine distinct support categories: Networking, Promotion, Funders, Vouch for, Training, Wellness, Infrastructure, Prayer, and Other. These categories represent the additional support that partners seek to access through their relationship with Allegany. Generally, partners are indicating they can be helped through the use of Allegany's social capital and human capital – the themes in this area represent ways Allegany can flex its relationships, its credibility, and its people to provide further support to its partners and the community. The table on the next page synthesizes these findings, providing thematic definitions and quantifying the frequency of specific requests across the various grant portfolios.

Methodological Note: Cross-Thematic Coding - Partner responses often indicated multiple support categories simultaneously. In such cases, the response was "cross-coded" and counted toward every relevant category to ensure the full depth of the partner's needs was captured.



The pie chart above visualizes the aggregate distribution of these support themes, illustrating the relative demand for each category as a percentage of total requests across all grant programs.

How to Champion Work Beyond Funding continued

Category	Description / Examples	ACOR	CGI	CJCC	NCLI	St Clare	Tau	Total Requests
Promotion	Share their stories on social media, in your newsletter etc., invite them to speak at community events, amplify their stories, help create media/marketing to share about them	9	1	9	2	10	4	35
Networking	Connect with peers, online and in person, policy templates, shared best practices.	10	4	5	0	9	4	32
Funders	Strategic and warm intros to other aligned funders, foundations or corporate partners, increase/ continue Allegany funding, help other funders understand their need for overhead and operating expenses.	0	2	1	0	10	11	24
Training	Professional development, executive coaching, succession planning, hiring a consultant for organizational capacity building, technical assistance and technology training	7	2	0	2	1	3	13
Other	Board development, collaboration, continued support, discussion of program expansion, strategic conversations and advising,	0	0	0	3	4	4	11
Vouch For	Attending their events, signing onto letters (credibility).	2	0	0	0	3	1	6
Wellness	Retreats, wellness grants, burnout prevention.	0	2	0	1	1	2	6
Prayer	Specific requests for prayer support.	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Infrastructure	Meeting spaces, securing new office space.	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
TOTAL		32	11	15	8	38	30	134

The table above describes the identified Support Categories, and shows the frequency of occurrence in each program area.

How to Champion Work Beyond Funding continued

These support categories can be further consolidated into Core Themes to understand what grant partners are seeking.

Core Theme	Frequency	What Partners are Asking For
1. Strategic Networking & "Bridge Building" <i>(Networking and Funders)</i>	~ 42%	Partners are asking for more than just a list of contacts; they are asking for active warm introductions. <u>Local Government and Policy Influence:</u> Multiple partners noted that Allegany's "stamp of approval" opens doors at the City and County levels that are otherwise closed to grassroots organizers. <u>Connections to Other Funders:</u> They would like to be introduced to your network of funders who use a similar trust based approach to philanthropy and who value their work, and can offer more general operating support, multiyear grants and unrestricted funding, <u>Peer Collaboration:</u> Smaller organizations expressed a desire for Allegany to host "Mixers" or "Community of Practice" sessions. They want to know who else is working on similar issues (e.g., food insecurity or youth literacy) so they can share resources rather than compete for them.
2. Amplification & Advocacy <i>(Promotion + Vouch For)</i>	~ 31%	<u>Platform Sharing:</u> Many said that they would like to be featured in your social media, annual reports or newsletters as case studies. They would like to reach more clients, potential donors, and supporters. <u>Vouch For:</u> They want AGM to sign onto their letters, and attend their events as having a foundation representative present at their events signals to their community and other stakeholders that the work is significant.
3. Professional & Capacity Development <i>(Training + Wellness)</i>	~ 15%	<u>Board Development:</u> Several partners are smaller organizations with limited staff or are "founder-led" and struggling to build a sustainable board. They asked for training on Board Governance and Succession Planning. <u>Data & Tech Training:</u> Partners are requesting help with "Data Literacy." They want to know how to use the data they collect (like the numbers they give you in these reports) to tell a better story to other donors. <u>Wellness:</u> They want to continue to be offered opportunities to support staff wellness, including wellness retreats, webinars, and grants.
4. Other <i>(Infrastructure, Prayer, Other)</i>	~ 12%	<u>Safe Meeting Spaces:</u> Especially for the ACOR and Tau programs, finding professional, neutral meeting space for community workshops or board meetings is a financial burden. They see Allegany's physical office as a community asset. <u>Shared Services:</u> There were subtle hints that smaller partners would benefit from "back-office" support, such as access to legal templates, HR handbooks, or group-rate software licenses.

F. In Closing

Reflections on Trust - Based Philanthropy from Grant Partners in the “Anything Else You’d Like to Share” Section of the Report

The open-ended reflections in the optional “Anything Else” section provide a meaningful lens into how Allegany’s funding model is experienced on the ground. These responses illuminate the relational and contextual dimensions of impact that are often difficult to capture through metrics alone.

Trust-Based Philanthropy as a Force Multiplier

A dominant theme across responses was gratitude for Allegany’s flexible, partnership-oriented approach to grantmaking.

Partners consistently described Allegany’s support as extending beyond financial capital to include trust, responsiveness, and morale-building encouragement, particularly meaningful during periods of uncertainty.

This flexibility enabled organizations to adapt quickly to changing conditions, respond to emergent needs, and sustain momentum during moments of regulatory, political, or environmental stress. The data suggests that trust-based philanthropy functions not only as an operational asset, but as a stabilizing force that strengthens organizational confidence and resilience. Your grant partners express profound gratitude in your approach and for the relationships that Allegany cultivates with your grant partner organizations.

By pairing financial support with flexibility, trust, and long-term partnership, Allegany is contributing to a nonprofit ecosystem that is more resilient, more mature, and better equipped to navigate uncertainty. The voices captured in this final section consistently echo the sentiment “Thank You”.



Photo above from Allegany grant partner, ALIANZA (from alianza.org)