

# THE ASCEND FUND

**For Immediate Release:**  
Tuesday, March 3, 2020

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## **The Ascend Fund Awards \$850,000 in Grants to Advance Gender Equity in U.S. Politics** *Grantees to focus on innovative strategies to elect women to state-level offices*

SEATTLE – Today, The Ascend Fund awarded \$850,000 in general operating grants to 10 nonpartisan, nonprofit organizations. Each organization received between \$50,000 and \$100,000 to further the goal of gender equality in elected office. See below for a list of recipients.

“For women, the pathway to elected office is often unclear, riddled with barriers and diversions, or worse, altogether inaccessible,” said Abbie Hodgson, Director of The Ascend Fund. “By investing in organizations committed to dismantling obstacles and empowering a wide-range of women to run for office, we can accelerate women’s progress toward political parity.”

Over the next year, grant partners will focus on increasing the number of women serving at the state level, where there are more than 8,000 elected offices, included 7,353 legislative seats. Partners are encouraged to implement innovative strategies to recruit women to run and enhance their ability to win elections. Some funded activities include developing culturally relevant curriculum and recruitment practices, increasing training capacity and accessibility, and developing marketing campaigns to highlight women leaders and pathways to public office.

The Ascend Fund is a collaborative fund, which to date has awarded almost \$5 million in grants. In 2018, The Ascend Fund issued \$1 million in learning grants to seven organizations that identified barriers to women’s civic engagement. In 2019, [Vote Run Lead](#) and [New American Leaders](#) were each awarded \$1.5 million over three years to support their work, training women to run and win and bringing new voices to American government.

Over the next three years, The Ascend Fund will continue to invest in organizations that align with the fund’s mission of achieving gender parity in elected office. The targeted distribution of resources will be coupled with rigorous measurement and evaluation across the portfolio to improve learning and outcomes. Additionally, The Ascend Fund will serve as a convener, bringing organizations together to collaborate, increase efficiencies, and reduce redundancies.

### **About Our Grant Recipients**

[Advance Native Political Leadership](#) (*Advance*) aims to increase the representation of Indigenous people, especially Indigenous women, in elected offices at all levels and create pathways to leadership for emerging Native candidates across the country.

[Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies](#) (APAICS) is dedicated to promoting Asian Pacific American participation and representation at all levels of the political process, from community service to elected office.

[GALvanize USA](#) is a voter empowerment program for women. The organization works to build the political knowledge, confidence, and skills to create an America that works for everyone.



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[\*Higher Heights Leadership Fund\*](#) is investing in a long-term strategy to expand and support Black women's leadership pipeline at all levels and strengthen their civic participation beyond just Election Day.

[\*IGNITE\*](#) is a national movement of women who are ready and eager to become the next generation of political leaders.

[\*LatinasRepresent\*](#) is an initiative to increase Latina participation throughout the civic engagement continuum, inspire more Latinas to seek public service opportunities, and create a more reflective democracy.

[\*LGBTQ Victory Institute\*](#) works to increase the number of LGBTQ people in public office and to provide programming, service, and other support to help ensure their success.

[\*Running Start\*](#) gives young women and girls the confidence, capabilities, and connections they need to run for public office.

[\*She Should Run\*](#) motivates women from all walks of life to explore the possibility of public office by identifying and tackling the barriers to elected leadership.

[\*Vote Mama Foundation\*](#) enables mothers to find their political voice, making it easier for them to run and win.

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## **About The Ascend Fund**

The Ascend Fund is a collaborative fund dedicated to accelerating the pace of change toward gender parity in U.S. politics. The fund pools philanthropic capital to support nonpartisan, nonprofit organizations that are working to ensure women have access to the resources and support they need to run for office, and that are breaking down the barriers that prevent women from running and winning.

For more information visit [theascendfund.org](https://theascendfund.org).

## **About Panorama Global**

The Ascend Fund is powered by Panorama Global. Panorama Global is a 501(c)(3) action tank working to solve problems by influencing people and policy. The organization partners with ambitious leaders to help strengthen their organizations and advance priority issues, and initiates projects when there are gaps that need to be filled.

For more information visit [panoramaglobal.org](https://panoramaglobal.org).

