



OUR 2025 IMPACT

WE SUPPORT AND ENHANCE THE
QUALITY OF LIFE OF VULNERABLE AND
UNDERSERVED OLDER ADULTS
RESIDING IN PHILADELPHIA COUNTY.

From the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Partners of The Sarah Ralston Foundation,

What a remarkable year 2025 has been! Thanks to your commitment, collaboration, and belief in our mission, we've made significant strides in supporting and enhancing the quality of life for underserved older adults in Philadelphia.



This year we invested \$815,000 in General Operating Support across 41 nonprofit organizations whose work directly uplifts older adults in Philadelphia County.

We launched our Emergency Grant Program, providing rapid-response funding of \$124,000 to help nonprofit partners navigate sudden funding losses, facility breakdowns, or other crises.

Our Innovative Project Support grantees tackled the urgent issues of food security, housing, accessibility, legal access, and isolation. We invested \$915,000 in single-year and multi-year awards towards this groundbreaking work.

We expanded our Stronger Together Nonprofit Learning Series, offering strategic networking and learning opportunities that go beyond the grant cycle—because we know that impact grows when we collaborate as a sector.

In every one of these efforts, we see the power of relationships—between our grantee partners, the older adults they serve, and our broader community.

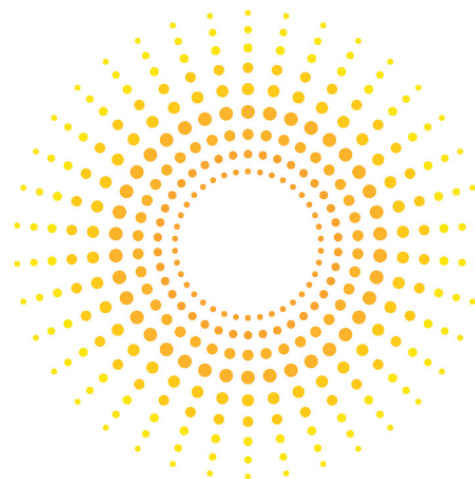
As we turn toward 2026, we carry forward the same spirit of radical hope and purpose. We're committed to listening, learning, and collaborating so that every older adult in Philadelphia feels seen, valued, and empowered.

Thank you for being part of this journey. With your continued trust and engagement, the possibilities ahead are bright.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Heather Finnegan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Executive Director
The Sarah Ralston Foundation



Looking Ahead

As we celebrate a year of meaningful impact, we are also eagerly preparing for what comes next. In 2026, The Sarah Ralston Foundation will embark on a comprehensive Strategic Planning process—an opportunity to reflect, listen deeply to our partners and community, and chart a bold, thoughtful path for the years ahead. This effort will help ensure that our work continues to meet the evolving needs of Philadelphia’s older adults with clarity, purpose, and long-term vision.

We will also continue our Emergency Grant Program, providing rapid, flexible support to organizations facing unexpected challenges. This fund has proven to be an essential lifeline for nonprofit partners, and we remain committed to offering stability when it’s needed most.

And building on the momentum of this past year, we will expand our Stronger Together Series—creating more opportunities for nonprofit leaders to learn, connect, and strengthen the ecosystem of care surrounding older adults. From peer-learning forums to volunteer and giving expos, we’re excited to deepen the relationships that make our collective impact possible.

Together, we look forward to a year of possibilities for renewed impact in ensuring every older Philadelphian can thrive.

Meet the Team:



Heather Finnegan
Executive Director

Behind every grant awarded, convening hosted, and partnership strengthened is a small but powerful team. Heather Finnegan (Executive Director), Allison Cooper (Grants and Financial Manager), and Claire Lynch (Communications & Engagement Manager) steward the day-to-day operations of the Sarah Ralston Foundation with purpose.



Allison Cooper
Grants and Financial Manager

Together, they ensure that SRF remains responsive, equitable, and deeply rooted in community partnership. Their work is guided by one shared commitment: to improve the quality of life for Philadelphia’s most vulnerable and underserved older adults. With a combination of strategic leadership, thoughtful relationship-building, and hands-on support, the SRF team fuels the impact that unfolds across our city every day.



Claire Lynch
Communications and
Engagement Manager



Our Grantmaking Approach

The Sarah Ralston Foundation invests in organizations and ideas that strengthen the lives of vulnerable and underserved older adults in Philadelphia. Through three complementary funding streams — General Operating Support, Innovative Project Support, and Emergency Grants — we aim to meet partners where they are, fuel what they do best, and respond quickly when needs arise.

General Operating Support

Supporting missions, not just programs

General Operating Support funds the essential work that keeps organizations strong — staffing, infrastructure, program delivery, community outreach, and the day-to-day operations that make everything else possible. These awards typically range from \$5,000 to \$50,000 and are granted each spring to organizations that serve older adults across Philadelphia County.

Why it matters:

Older adult-serving organizations know their communities best. By investing in missions rather than restricting funds to specific programs, we provide the flexible support partners need to meet emerging needs, strengthen operations, and pursue long-term goals with stability and confidence.

Innovative Project Support

Investing in ideas that move the field forward

Innovative Project Support funds new or expansive approaches that improve service delivery for older adults. These awards typically range from \$25,000 to \$125,000 and are granted each fall to projects that test or extend promising strategies, introduce more effective models, or seek to replace old systems with better, more equitable solutions.

Why it matters:

Innovation can be difficult to fund — especially when ideas are unproven. SRF believes that breakthrough solutions often begin with small pilots, entrepreneurial thinking, and the willingness to try something new. By supporting innovation, we help partners discover better ways to address pervasive challenges and inspire scalable change.

Emergency Grants

Rapid-response funding when timing matters most

Launched in 2025, the Emergency Grant Program provides swift, targeted support when unexpected crises threaten vital programs. This funding helps partners stabilize services in the face of sudden disruptions such as facility breakdowns, unexpected funding gaps, staffing shortages, or pauses in essential safety-net programs.

Why it matters:

When critical services falter, older adults are often the most vulnerable to harm. Emergency grants enable partners to act quickly — preventing gaps in meals, social connection, and essential supports. This rapid-turnaround funding ensures continuity of care when it matters most.

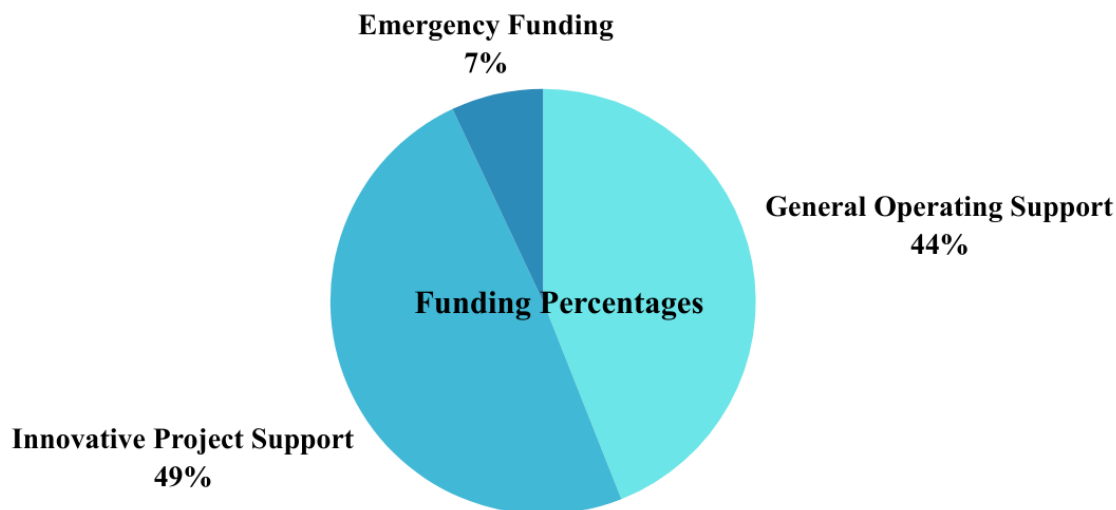
Together, these three funding streams reflect what we value most:

flexibility, innovation, and responsiveness for the organizations serving Philadelphia's older adults.



Grantees by the Numbers

Number of General Operating Support Grantees	Number of New Innovative Project Support Grantees	Number of Emergency Funding Recipients
41	7	6



Grant Overview

The Sarah Ralston Foundation funds organizations across a wide spectrum of services supporting vulnerable and underserved older adults. To help readers understand the focus of each grantee's work, we've included small icons indicating the primary area of impact. While many organizations serve older adults in multiple ways, these categories reflect the main lens through which each funded project or program supports aging Philadelphians.

Key to Icons

Centers

Organizations that operate senior centers or older-adult-focused community hubs, through socialization, meals, activities, and essential on-site supports.

Basic Needs

Organizations meeting fundamental needs such as food access, clothing, housing stability, safety, and immediate material support — the essentials that enable older adults to live with dignity.

Other Social Determinants of Health

Organizations addressing broader factors that shape wellbeing, including legal support, transportation, art creative engagement, access to technology, health navigation, and economic security.



General Operating Support Grantee Partners:

Abramson Senior Care

Provide expert geriatric care management so that seniors can remain safe and healthy in their own homes for as long as possible.

AgrotheraPA

Utilizes the practice of agro-therapy to cultivate sacred spaces where elders can reconnect with themselves, their communities, and nature

Affordable Housing Centers of Pennsylvania

Helps prevent foreclosure and rental eviction among low- to moderate-income households and communities of color by providing housing counseling, education, and advocacy.

ARTZ Philadelphia

Opens doors to people living with dementia by looking, listening, and engaging with the arts.

Broad Street Love

Helps stabilize the lives of Philadelphians living in deep poverty.

CARIE

Promotes the well-being, rights and autonomy of our Elders.

Caring for Friends

Shares food and friendship with homebound, homeless and hungry people in greater Philadelphia.

Catholic Housing and Community Services

Addresses the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of seniors through the provision of quality services and programs.

Center in the Park

Promotes positive aging and fosters community connections for older adults whose voices are critical instruments in shaping its activities and direction.

Chestnut Hill Meals on Wheels

Delivers nutritious meals and warm greetings to homebound neighbors.

Connectedly

Strengthens community support networks, reduces social isolation and improves the wellbeing of older adults.

Face to Face

Provides a safe environment and practical tools that empower individuals to overcome personal challenges.



 **Federation Housing, Inc.**

Develops, builds, and manages affordable independent housing for older adults.

 **Generations on Line**

Reduces social isolation by providing easy, free digital skills training for older adults.

 **Grand Central (Urban Affairs Coalition)**

Supports kinship caregivers through advocacy, information, grief services, and community-based programs.

 **Intergenerational Community Alliances & Program Inc.**

Focuses on improving access to palliative and hospice care in Black and Brown communities.

 **Jewish Relief Agency**

Mobilizes volunteers to deliver kosher food to thousands of low-income households each month.

 **JKPPA (Jeff Kornblau Partners for Patient Advocacy)**

Elevates the patient's voice in healthcare decision-making and strengthens self-advocacy for better outcomes.

 **Kiths Integrated and Targeted Human Services**

Serves the needs of Asian Americans, immigrants, and refugees through culturally responsive support services.

 **KleinLife**

Provides essential services that foster a healthy, multicultural, multigenerational community.

 **Love Pray Peace Project**

Offers housing and support services to homeless veterans, centered on healing and empowerment.

 **Marconi Older Adult Program / Caring People Alliance**

Enriches the lives of older adults through supportive programming and opportunities for engagement.

 **Morivivi Latino Cancer Support Group**

Supports Latina women diagnosed with breast cancer through culturally relevant care and advocacy.

 **Northern Living Center by North City Congress (PCA)**

Provides community-based services and wellness programs for older adults in North Philadelphia.

 **Northwest Mutual Aid Collective**

Coordinates grassroots support and resource-sharing for underserved communities.



 **Penn's Village**

Helps older neighbors live independently through volunteer support, services, and community programming.

 **Philadelphia Aging People in Prison Human Rights Campaign**

Advocates for the release and improved treatment of elderly incarcerated individuals.

 **Philadelphia Corporation for Aging**

Provides comprehensive services, advocacy, and resources for older Philadelphians.

 **Philadelphia Life Enrichment Corporation**

Creates inclusive Respite Care and Memory Café programs for individuals with dementia and their caregivers.

 **Philadelphia VIP, Inc.**

Delivers free civil legal services to help seniors remain in their homes and protect financial stability.

 **Philly House**

Empowers individuals through trauma-informed care and compassionate, relationship-centered programming.

 **Rebuilding Together Philadelphia**

Repairs and rehabilitates homes to ensure safe, healthy housing for older adults and low-income residents.

 **The Best Day of My Life So Far**

Combats social isolation by empowering older adults to share life stories and build meaningful connection.

 **The Center – Philadelphia**

Provides culturally affirming services for LGBTQ+ older adults to support aging with pride and dignity.

 **The Community Grocer**

Ensures access to affordable, farm-fresh, culturally relevant food while supporting healthy cooking and nutrition.

 **The Philip Jaisohn Memorial Foundation**

Provides health and human services to support the wellbeing of the Asian American community.

 **UUh Outreach Program**

Supports older adults in achieving independence, dignity, and quality of life within their communities.

 **Urban Resources and Development Corporation**

Stabilizes housing by providing critical home repair services for low-income seniors.

 **VietLead (Center for Empowered Politics Education Fund)**

Promotes leadership within the Vietnamese community while improving health and self-determination.



■ VisionLink

Supports people living with vision loss through education, services, and community connection.

■ Yoga 4 The World

Promotes peace, healing, and access to wellness through yoga and meditation.

Innovative Project Support Grantee Partners

■ Broad Street Love (BSL) — \$125,000 (one year)

BSL will launch The Wardrobe at BSL, expanding access to clean, dignified clothing for individuals experiencing poverty or housing insecurity. The initiative will double service capacity and integrate clothing distribution into BSL's holistic model of care alongside food, medical, and restorative services.

■ Chestnut Hill Meals on Wheels — \$30,000 per year for three years

Chestnut Hill MOW will partner with Allen's Lane Art Center to launch Art on Wheels, a creative aging initiative that brings art-making and art engagement to homebound older adults. Through art kits, virtual classes, and volunteer-facilitated experiences, the program will reduce isolation and promote wellbeing.

■ Legal Clinic for the Disabled (LCD) — \$50,000 (one year)

LCD will expand its Legal Assistance for Low-Income Seniors with Disabilities program by embedding legal services into healthcare settings through a medical-legal partnership model. This approach proactively addresses housing, benefits, and stability challenges that directly impact seniors' health and quality of life.

■ Ordinarie Heroes — \$79,000 (one year)

Ordinarie Heroes will pilot a senior-focused expansion of its S.O.W. Hope Mobile Pantry and Farm, delivering healthy, culturally relevant food and meaningful connection to older adults in North Philadelphia. The initiative blends food access with intergenerational engagement to foster dignity, belonging, and aging in place.

■ Penn Asian Senior Services (PASSi) — \$125,000 per year for three years

PASSi will launch PASSi Law, a linguistically and culturally attuned legal services model for immigrant and minority older adults in Philadelphia. This initiative will integrate legal education and direct assistance into PASSi's trusted community-based services to reduce legal vulnerability and promote stability.

■ Urban Resources and Development Corporation (URDC) — \$50,000 per year for three years

URDC will expand Home Strong, an innovative program helping senior homeowners preserve and transfer home equity to future generations. Through education, resources, and repair support, the program strengthens wealth retention and supports safe aging in place.

■ VisionLink — \$50,000 (one year)

VisionLink will expand its Collaborative Staff Education Project to improve how aging services organizations support older adults living with vision loss. The initiative provides hands-on training and access technology resources to advance inclusive, equitable care practices across the network.



Emergency Grant Recipients:

■ **Love Pray Peace Project (LP3)** — After an unexpected \$100,000 funding reduction from the City of Philadelphia left the organization facing an immediate rent shortfall, SRF's \$17,000 emergency grant helped stabilize operations and protect housing for homeless older adults. The funding ensured continuity of care for residents with complex health needs, preventing displacement and safeguarding a critical housing lifeline during a sudden financial crisis.

■ **Marconi Older Adult Program (Caring People Alliance)** — After a critical HVAC failure left the center's main gathering space without heating or cooling, SRF's \$25,000 emergency grant funded a full system replacement to ensure older adults could continue accessing safe, comfortable programming year-round.

■ **North City Congress** — Facing both SCSEP furlough-related staffing losses and a major air conditioning failure, SRF's \$18,000 emergency grant supported urgent building repairs and partial stipends to stabilize services for older adults.

■ **Philadelphia Aging People in Prison – Human Rights Campaign (Philly APP–HRC)** — When federal SCSEP funding was paused and three older adult staff members were furloughed, SRF provided a \$14,000 emergency grant to sustain staffing and allow time for long-term sustainability planning.

■ **Philly House** — After multiple HVAC units failed in its kitchen and dining areas during peak summer heat, SRF's \$25,000 emergency grant helped replace the systems and protect meal service and safety for older adult clients.

Beyond the Grant Cycles

At the Sarah Ralston Foundation, our commitment to Philadelphia's older adults extends far beyond our funding cycles. We strive to be a connector, convener, and catalyst — bringing partners together to share knowledge, spark collaboration, and strengthen the ecosystem of services that support aging with dignity. Through roundtables, learning sessions, panel discussions, and partner-led events, SRF creates spaces where ideas are exchanged, relationships deepen, and solutions take root. These gatherings are part of our Stronger Together Nonprofit Learning Series, an ongoing effort to equip organizations with tools, insights, and connections that enhance their impact throughout the year.



2025 Convenings: A Look Back

February

Immigrant Rights: Tools for Nonprofits

A practical workshop supporting organizations serving immigrant older adults, focused on benefits navigation and legal awareness.



April

Needs Assessment Best Practices

A hands-on learning session offering frameworks and tools for gathering meaningful community input.

June

Meet the Funders Panel

A candid conversation with local funders about priorities, funding trends, and strategies for successful partnerships.



September

Strategic Networking: Shaping Support Beyond the Grant Cycle

A facilitated networking session strengthening cross-organization ties and surfacing new collaboration opportunities.

December

Crisis Response Roundtable

A timely conversation addressing rising needs among seniors and low-income communities, focusing on shared challenges and potential collaborative responses.



Ongoing

Grant Seekers' Briefings

Informational sessions designed to support applicants in navigating SRF's funding opportunities.



Thank You to Our Partners in Learning and Collaboration

Our convenings are made possible by the thoughtful contributions of partners who share their time, expertise, and lived experience. We extend our sincere gratitude to the organizations and individuals who helped shape this year's conversations.

Host Organizations

- NewCourtland
- Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation

Foundation Partners

- Foundation for Health Equity
- Patricia Kind Family Foundation
- Friends Foundation for the Aging

Additional Appreciation

Thank you to the many individuals and organizations who contributed to our learning sessions, workshops, and conversations throughout the year. Your expertise, collaboration, and commitment to Philadelphia's older adults enriched every gathering and strengthened our shared work.

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