



FUND FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM ANNUAL REPORT

2019

SUPPORTING JOURNALISTS FOR GROUNDBREAKING INVESTIGATIVE STORIES

During 2019, The Fund for Investigative Journalism awarded grants to nearly 40 investigative projects whose nonpartisan investigative work broke new ground.

Digging at issues such as the unfair treatment of Native American drivers in Washington State, discriminatory practices against Black farmers by the Department of Agriculture, and the recruitment of police officers around the country by anti-government and white supremacist groups, our grantees' work left an indelible impact on local communities and public policy.



 We awarded grants to nearly 40 investigative journalists!

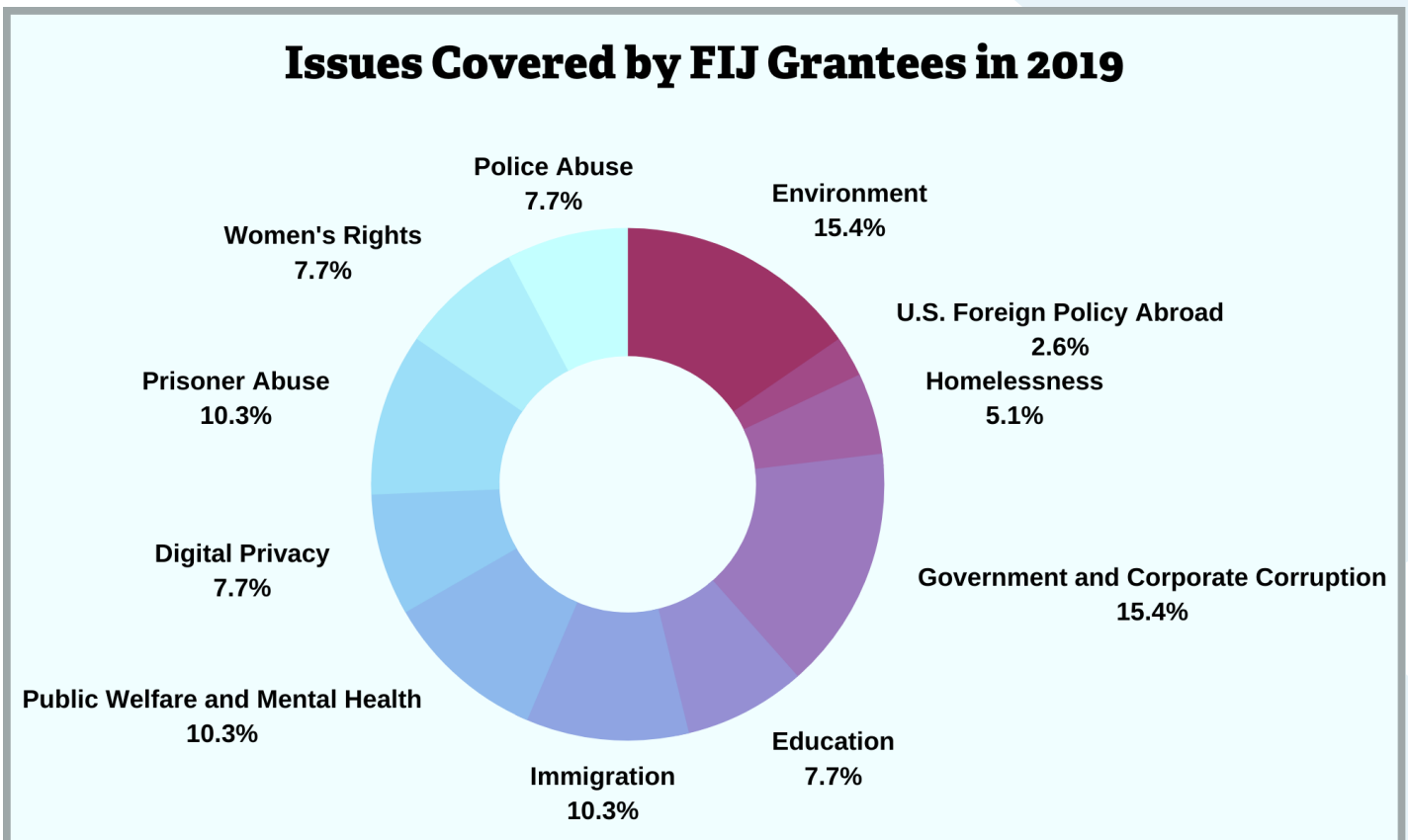




WHAT OUR GRANTEES COVERED

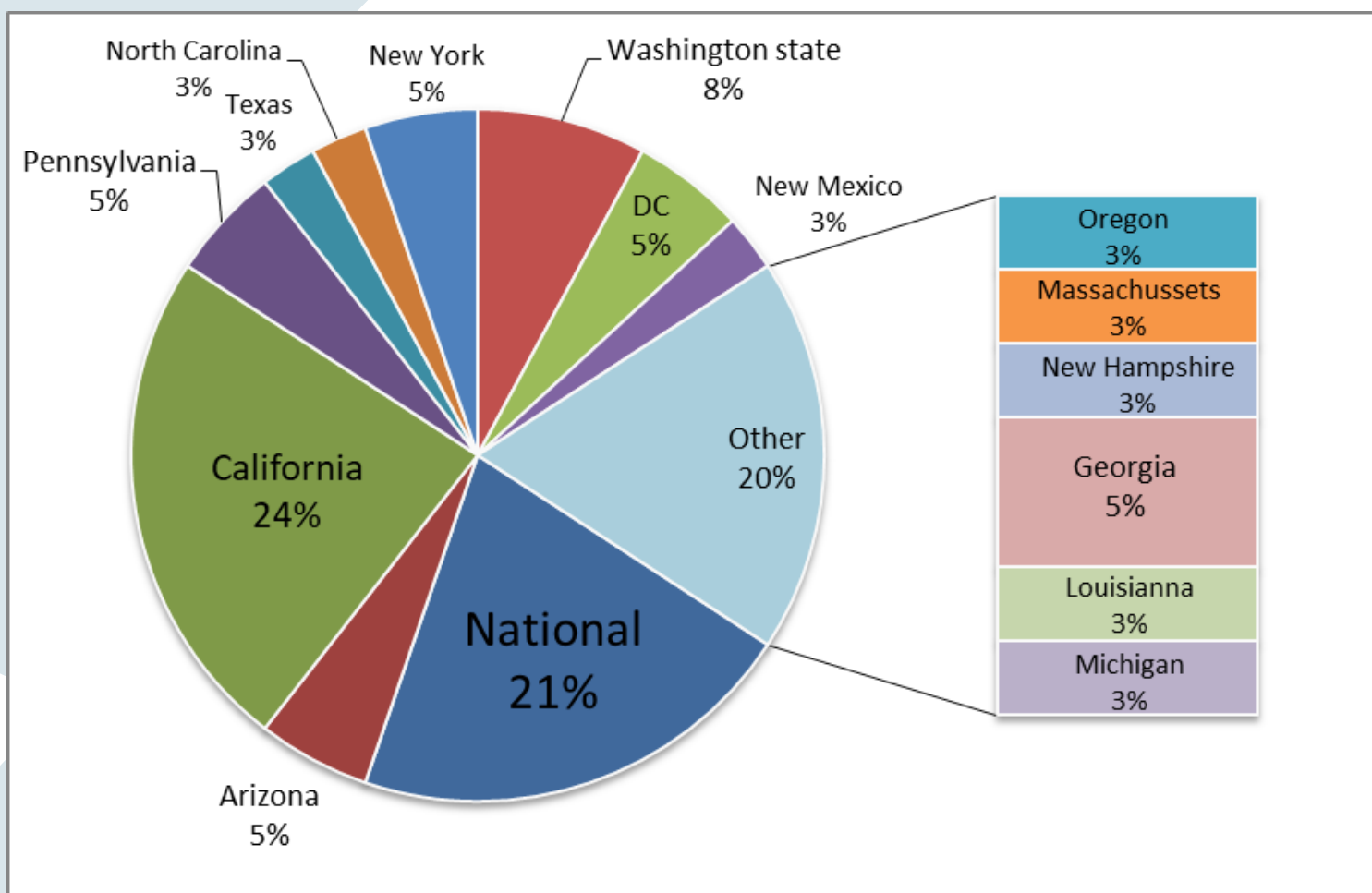
It all starts with our grantees – the reporters and investigative journalists who commit their lives to uncovering, unraveling and documenting the stories that impact the world most. From migrant abuse at the border to the Flint, Michigan, water crisis and beyond, our grantees reported on a diverse array of issues in 2019.

Issues Covered by FIJ Grantees in 2019



WHERE WE PUBLISHED

In 2019, we continued efforts to reach more states to support local investigative journalists affected by a deteriorating journalism industry. Here's where our grantees' stories were told in 2019.





A GLIMPSE AT OUR GRANTEES' IMPACT IN 2019

GRANTEE STORY LEADS TO NEW POLICY IMPROVING HOMELESS SHELTERS

Six months after grantee Rina Palta's story found unsafe and unsanitary conditions at homeless shelters across Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed an ordinance creating universal health and operating standards for homeless shelters. The ordinance included funding for several new staff members to monitor compliance and help enforce the new standards.

GRANTEE STORY ON TRAFFICKING USED TO TRAIN THOUSANDS OF OFFICIALS

An investigative report by grantees from the UC Berkeley Investigative Reporting Program and PBS FRONTLINE exposed a criminal network that exploits undocumented minors and the companies that profit from forced labor. The report also showed that the U.S. government actually delivered some of the trafficked minors directly to the people who were later charged with trafficking them. The U.S. Department of Justice is now using the 55-minute story as a training tool in its Anti-Human Trafficking Program for thousands of law enforcement officials and prosecutors.

GRANTEE'S REPORT LEADS TO TRANSPARENCY IN PITTSBURGH CITY CONTRACTS

Grantee J. Dale Shoemaker's report uncovered a troubling use of government "piggybacking," when approving contracts in Pittsburgh's Allegheny County. Piggybacking contracts allows governments to bypass the sometimes protracted steps of negotiation and approvals, but, as Shoemaker found, with fewer checks and balances built in, these contracts make it difficult to know if local governments are getting good deals. His report led to the passage of new legislation in Pittsburgh that gives residents easily available information on bids before they're approved.

You can find more stories of our grantees' impact at fij.org/impact

SUPPORTING JOURNALISTS OF COLOR



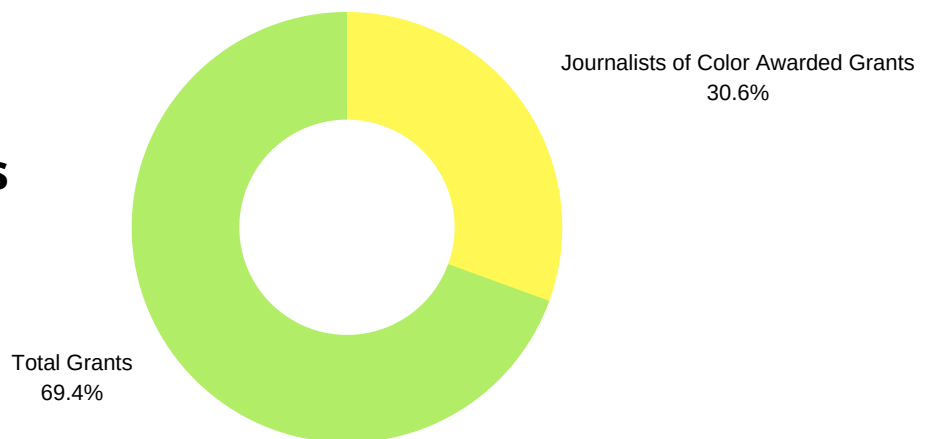
"There is a lack of diversity in investigative journalism -- of opportunities for black journalists and POC. How are we going to approach this more than just a statement? How are we going to help this cause?"

Board Member Lottie Joiner

At FIJ, we take seriously the mission of creating more opportunities for people of color in journalism in order to help tell the stories that need to be told.

Partnerships with the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, the National Association of Black Journalists, Asian American Journalist Association, and the Native American Journalists Association, as well as a renewed diversity fellowship program, has helped us in our mission to support journalists of color and the stories they can uncover.

In 2019, we awarded 11 grants to journalists of color.



LINKS TO STORIES PUBLISHED BY OUR GRANTEEES

Below are links to every story published by our grantees in 2019.

[Reporter dodges restrictions to interview former Syrian Kurdish fighters](#)

[Trump, “small” businesses drive road through Alaskan refuge](#)

[Questions about Buffet son’s activities along U.S. – Mexico border](#)

[Of FEMA, maps and Maine](#)

[47,000 convictions dismissed so far in Massachusetts drug lab scandal](#)

[Rats, roaches, bedbugs lead to Golden Mike Award](#)

[Business districts target the homeless in Denver](#)

[Stories of sexual assault by CBP agents against migrants](#)

[Sweeping group home reform falters in California](#)

[New investigations look deeper into deaths at ICE lockups](#)

[Trafficking documentary a finalist for Goldsmith Prize](#)

[In California, new legislation may disrupt the disruptors](#)

ALL OF OUR GRANTEEES' STORIES PUBLISHED IN 2019

[Texas has a big dam problem](#)

[Seeking Conviction: Justice elusive for NC sexual assault survivors](#)

[Head Count: How many people died during Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico?](#)

[Guards and Medics Prey on Women Prisoners at LA County Jail](#)

[Is New York State's Justice Center Just?](#)

[California won't prosecute all violators of data-privacy law](#)

[The Impact of Fracking Boom in Ohio: Who's Listening](#)

[First Amendment and Open-Records Laws May Limit California's New Privacy Law](#)

[Poisons in Washington State's Puget Sound](#)

[The Power Brokers](#)

[We Know Female Genital Mutilation Has Been Happening in the US](#)

[Poisons in Washington State's Puget Sound](#)
[Grantee John Stang, for Cascadia Magazine](#)



ALL OF OUR GRANTEEES' STORIES PUBLISHED IN 2019

[Danger in the Ground: Lead Contaminates Neighborhood](#)

[A Murder in New Orleans and a Wrong Conviction](#)

[How a Georgia Jail Doctor Made a Fortune on Prisoners](#)

[Spiraling Immigration Costs Under Trump Put a Strain on Migrant Families](#)

[Efforts to Stave off Detroit Foreclosures Leaves Many Residents Deeper in Debt](#)

[White Supremacist Groups Recruitment in Police Departments](#)

[How Washington, D.C. Charter Schools Outmaneuvered Local Scrutiny](#)

[“An Unbelievable Story of Rape” Made Into a Netflix Series](#)

[Flint’s Deadly Water](#)

[Rape of Alaska Native Women High; Police Investigations Low](#)

[One African American Family’s Struggle With the Mental Health Care System](#)

[Teachers and School Officials Get Off Easy on Sexual Assaults in Southern California](#)

[Local Communities Fight Oil and Gas Projects in the Pacific Northwest](#)

[Race, Land and Justice](#)

[Half the Judges in Venezuela are Linked to the Ruling Party](#)

[Suicide Hidden in Colleges in Massachusetts](#)

[Should Civilians Investigate Police-Related Shootings in New Hampshire?](#)

[California Foundation Created to Help Fire Victims More Interested in Lobbying for PG&E](#)

THANKS TO OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

Our work would not be possible without the generous support of our partners. Thank you!

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