

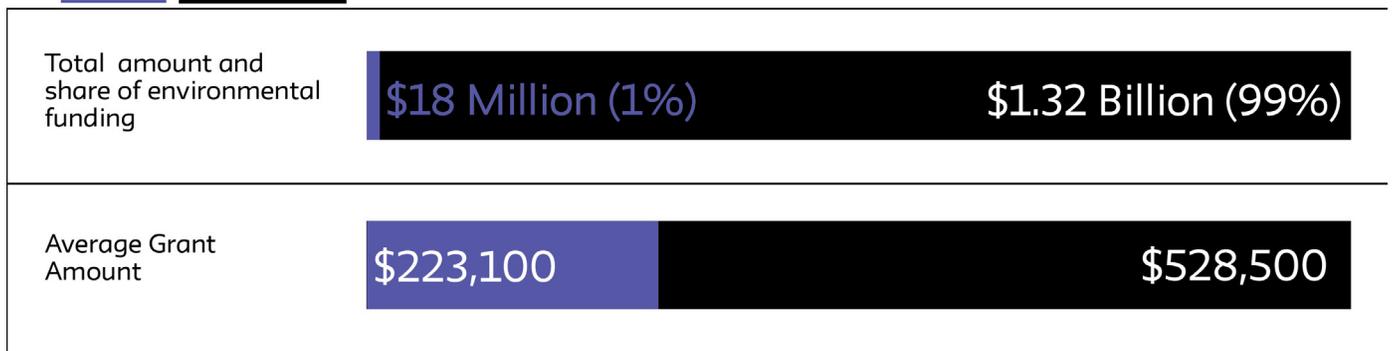
# Environmental Justice and Philanthropy: Funding Disparity

In 2020, the BEA collaborated with the Tishman Environment and Design Center at the New School to conduct a landscape assessment on the misalignment between the EJ and philanthropic sectors and to find areas of opportunity to build greater alignment over time. One clear measure of alignment between the goals of environmental funders and EJ organizations is the funding granted to EJ groups in comparison to other groups, like mainstream environmental organizations. The literature demonstrates philanthropic funding disparities exist between mainstream environmental groups and EJ organizations, and this study confirmed this pattern among the funders studied both nationally and in the two target regions. The relative amounts of funding flowing to EJ groups reflects something about the value and prioritization that philanthropy places on the work of EJ groups. In order to assess the funding priorities of the philanthropic sector in relation to EJ organizations, a snapshot of the most recent annual grantmaking awards from 2016-2017 was compiled using the Foundation Directory database of grants.

## NATIONAL FUNDERS

- The 12 national foundations in this study awarded a total of **\$1.34 billion of environmental grantmaking dollars to environmental organizations and about 1.3 percent (18 million) of this was awarded to EJ organizations.**
- Of the EJ “activities” dollars, **9 percent (\$930,000) went to EJ organizations and 91 percent (\$9,994,000) went to non-EJ organizations.**
- only an estimated \$18 million of grants from the 12 national funders made it to 25 EJ organizations and 18 EJ intermediaries while the remaining \$1.32 billion went to approximately 1,230 non-EJ organizations.
- of the one percent of grant dollars going to EJ organizations, **36 percent went to intermediaries.**

EJ Orgs. Non-EJ Orgs.



## REGIONAL FUNDERS

- In the Midwest, of the \$134 million in environmental grant dollars given, approximately \$1 million went to EJ organizations, with about half of that going to EJ groups in the region.
- In the Gulf South, six foundations awarded approximately \$12 million total in 2016-2017, with an estimated \$155,000 allocated to EJ organizations of which almost all stayed in the Gulf South.

EJ Orgs. Non-EJ Orgs. Midwest Gulf South

