



**For Immediate Release:**

Tuesday, March 9, 2020

**For More Information:**

Abbie Hodgson, (785) 917-0220

## **The Ascend Fund Awards Half a Million Dollars in Grants to Accelerate Gender Parity in U.S. Politics**

### ***Grant recipients to focus on innovative strategies to elect women to state legislatures***

SEATTLE – Today, The Ascend Fund awarded \$550,000 in grants to four nonpartisan, nonprofit organizations to further the goal of gender parity in elected office. Organizations that received grants include Advance Native Political Leadership Education Fund, Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS), IGNITE, and LGBTQ Victory Institute.

Each organization, which previously received funding from The Ascend Fund, will receive a two-year, general operating support grant between \$100,000 and \$200,000. Funded activities include developing culturally relevant curriculum and recruitment practices, increasing training capacity and accessibility, and the development of mentorship programs.

“The Ascend Fund is committed to realizing a truly representative democracy, in which our elected leaders reflect the diversity of the population,” said Abbie Hodgson, Director of The Ascend Fund, “To build a pathway to elected office that is inclusive of women from all communities, we are investing in organizations that employ tailored strategies to train and empower a diverse range of women to run for office.”

The Ascend Fund is a collaborative fund, which to date has awarded nearly \$6 million in grants, including nearly \$500,000 in emergency funding during the COVID-19 crisis. Ascend invests in transformative strategies, provides multi-year, general operating grants to support the long-term stability of organizations, and funds fewer organizations at a higher level to allow leadership to focus on big picture solutions.

In 2020, The Ascend Fund’s 12 partners trained more than 36,000 women to run for office, and more than 500 trainees stepped up and ran in 2020. Women who were trained by Ascend partner organizations and ran for office in 2020 had a 70% win rate in their primaries and 62% win rate in their general elections – nearly double the national average for women candidates.

### **About Our Grant Recipients**

[\*Advance Native Political Leadership\*](#) 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. Over the next two years, Advance will focus on implementing national power building strategies for Indigenous women and peoples living in urban, rural, and tribal communities 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. In 2021, APAICS plans to create dedicated training spaces specifically for AAPI women to create a support network and begin planning their run for office by scaling their Women's Collective-specific program in the areas of training, outreach, and community building.

[\*IGNITE\*](#) is a movement of women who are ready and eager to become the next generation of political leaders. As the largest and most diverse young women's political organization in the country, over the next two years, IGNITE will dramatically expand the number of women they are training to flex their political power as voters, activists, policymakers, campaign operatives, commissioners, and candidates.

[\*LGBTQ Victory Institute\*](#) works to increase the number of LGBTQ people in public office and to provide programming, services, and other support to help ensure their success. In 2021, Victory Institute will develop and modify existing programs and marketing strategies to better prepare LGBTQ women to run through mentorship, fundraising support, and training.

A full list of our current partners is available on our [website](#).

# # #

### **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 Seattle-based 501(c)(3) organization that serves as a platform for social change to solve problems by influencing people and policy and through innovative partnerships.

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