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Final Grant Paper

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Executive Summary:

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is a state agency within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which helps to promote and enhance education for all levels, including higher education institutions and universities throughout the state (*About PDE,* 2022). One of the greatest and most substantial ways the PDE does this is through their grant funding efforts and programs they make available to eligible institutions and organizations. While they offer a variety of different grant opportunities to help students and learners throughout the state, the particular grants that the researchers focused on for review and analysis are the following: "It's On Us" Grant, The PA Smart Grant in STEM Education, and the Career and Technical Education Grant.

The Pennsylvania Council on The Arts (PCA) is a government agency within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which helps foster, promote, and enhance the arts communities, programs, and organizations throughout the state (*Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Agency Overview,* 2022). Their mission is based on growing the culture within the arts community, as well as expanding arts opportunities across all the counties (*Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Agency Overview,* 2022). While they too offer a variety of grants to eligible programs and organizations, the researchers focused specifically on their largest grant funding effort, the Arts Organizations and Arts Programs (AOAP) grant. Through the duration of this semester, the researchers reviewed and analyzed both grant funding efforts and grant equity among multiple agencies within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The primary research focused on reviewing agencies' grant funding processes and the different grants each agency offers to different organizations and programs within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Researchers also

examined the grant processes in relation to promoting equity and diversity within the distribution of funds. Researchers were assigned to review The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA), and the Pennsylvania Department of Veterans and Military Affairs (DMVA). The Department of Education consisted of three grants: It's on Us, PA Smart in Stem education, and Pa Career in Technical Education. Researchers analyzed the Veterans Trust Fund through The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and The Arts Organizations and Arts Programs for the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. Each agency provided an in-depth understanding of their missions, along with the support they aim to provide to a variety of diverse causes through the different grants they distribute within eligible organizations and programs. Through this, the researchers were able to see how grant funding within Pennsylvania aims to assist people throughout both rural and urban counties. After analyzing grant funding efforts, conclusions and policy recommendations, researchers developed an array of alternatives government agencies can use to promote diversity and inclusion through their funding efforts.

The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) is a government agency within Pennsylvania, which through different grant funding efforts supports veterans across the state (DMVA offices, 2022). They provide funding for a variety of programs, and the researchers focus on the Veterans Trust Fund Grant which helps support organizations such as: the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, American Veterans, and the Vietnam Veterans of America (DMVA offices, 2022).

Once the researchers received the necessary data from each of the agencies, analysis was able to take place, and valuable conclusions and recommendations for each agency were able to be made. After receiving mapping data from each agency, the researcher was able to determine how much grant was distributed across the counties within the state. For the PDE grants, the data was able to display which universities and institutions were involved with the It's On Us initiative, as well as the amount of funding each university received. Additionally, the PDE data was able to share participating "It's on Us' ' institutions and schools throughout the state and what they received in grant funding. Data also displayed the amount of funding granted to each program and organization associated with the PAsmart Grant, as well as the Career and Technical Education grant, in all the counties. Observing the funding distribution helped the researchers tie such data to the independent variables, which included variables such as poverty within counties, people of color within counties, as well as average household income per county.

Similarly, a comparable data analysis was done for the PCA's Arts Programs and Organizations (AOAP) Grant, as well as the DMVA's Veterans Trust Fund. Both agencies 'data were broken down into the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 fiscal year in relation to the independent variables. After the researchers consolidated the data they were able to see what areas and counties were receiving inadequate or substantial funding. Further analysis came to show that some of these grants were surely allocated disproportionately in certain areas, and other counties are in a much greater demand of funding based on community factors. In order to promote equity across the state, it's imperative that funds are being allocated to counties both fairly and based on county

needs. The AOAP must also consider alternatives in improving accessibility of grants throughout commonwealth counties. Information pertaining to eligibility and accessibility are crucial so that Pennsylvania arts organizations can receive funding.

Introduction

The research and analysis consisted of three organizations within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; the Department of Education, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. The research area will focus on Pennsylvania grants and how to promote equity within the funding process. Grants are funding provided by the government to help fund ideas of individuals, organizations, and businesses to provide service. It can be provided as a state funding or federal funding. A majority of visible funding is seen within educational assistance such as student loans and financial aid. These grants are provided to students who qualify for such aid regardless of race, ethnicity, gender orientation etc. (About PDE 2022). All students should be given the same opportunity to learn. The need for research pertaining to grant equity is of a necessity as it examines ways to enhance diversity throughout the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The research anticipates that in order to promote grant equity, we must ensure that marginalized groups, underserved communities, and diverse populations are treated fairly.

Department of Education

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is responsible for overseeing the education system throughout the commonwealth. It handles a variety of tasks such as determining policies that shape education, developing learning initiatives that promote career readiness and college preparation, increasing social movements throughout higher

education institutions, and any other topic that is proposed to promote the education of

Pennsylvanian students pre-kindergarten through higher education (About PDE 2022). It

forms a better overview by promoting chances for all students to enhance themselves.

The Department of Education values focus on developing an environment that prepares

students for future opportunities (About PDE 2022). With those opportunities, the

Department of Education also disburses grants to both organizations and students,

providing individuals with resources to advance their education while encouraging them

to participate in community initiatives (About PDE 2022). Typical services are not only

learning communities and career readiness, but financial access as well. One of the many

opportunities given to commonwealth students is federal funding for education, career

training, and public accommodations through financial assistance (About PDE 2022).

One of the greatest known contributors is financial aid (FAFSA). It is a federal student

aid application to determine eligibility for financial funding. It's a resource that is eligible

for students to continue furthering their studies. There are other forms of funding, which

go to community initiatives such as SOAR, Career Ready PA, and Career One Stop

(About PDE 2022). The Department of Education also uses the appropriate funding to

enhance the education systems and contribute to organizations by providing funding for

expansion. According to the congressional research service "Any aggregation of federal

funding provided for educational purposes across agencies or accounts requires

judgments about which activities should be counted" (in whole or in part)" and about

how such activities should be grouped (e.g., higher education, K-12, etc)"(Congressional

Research Service, 2016). Not all funding provided by the state and federal are granted.

There are others that grant certain funds due to the proposals presented and the

requirements that make them eligible. The following examples of the state funds are the It's On Us grant, PAsmart for STEM Education and computer science grant, and the Career and Technical Education Grants (School Grants 2022).

<div align="center">IT'S on Us</div>

The Its on Us is a social movement was designed to raise awareness and advocate for students who are victims of sexual assault on college campuses (It's On Us PA 2022). According to research findings, campus sexual assault is increasing among commonwealth campuses. This campaign started with the Obama Administration and was then supported on a state level in Pennsylvania By Governor Tom Wolf in 2016-2017 (It's On Us PA 2022). Governor Wolf signed into law Act 16 of 2019, requiring postsecondary institutions to offer online, anonymous options for reporting sexual assault and to protect students who report assault from being disciplined for violating campus drug or alcohol policies (It's On Us PA 2022). This initiative is a community need that must be addressed and requires every individual to be a part of the higher education system to participate in making progressive change. The It's on Us initiative encourages students to "Take the Pledge", a commitment to keeping our college campuses safe and to advocate for victims of sexual assault (It's On Us PA 2022). This action was a way to make students more involved by creating a safe place for students to speak openly regarding accidents they may have encountered or witnessed. It provides a sense of closeness within the community. According to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, students make an oath to their communities to " *recognize that non-consensual sex is sexual assault, identify situations in which sexual assault may occur, and intervene in situations where consent has not or cannot be given, create an environment in which*

sexual assault is unacceptable and survivors are supported''(It's On Us PA 2022). This allows the community to feel supported by each other knowing everyone is fighting against the same cause without any exclusion.

Grant Purpose

The "It's on Us" grant was created to provide funding for organizations and initiatives that develop methods of reporting sexual assaults (It's On Us PA 2022). This organization was designed to put attention to incidents that are occurring within universities. The goal was to make students feel safe and open in reporting accidents, but it was also designed to make students acknowledge when sexual assault is in action. This initiative advanced university actions to be taken toward responding to sexual assault, establishing support systems and resources for survivors, and developing safeguards for students in utilizing the anonymous reporting process (It's On Us PA 2022).

Funding

Since 2016, the Wolf Administration has awarded 184 "It's on Us" PA grants totaling nearly $6 million dollars to post-secondary institutions, including both public and private two-year and four-year colleges and universities (It's On Us PA 2022). The 2021 - 2022 state budget for the "It's on Us" campaign included a 1 million dollar Grant Program, allowing up to $30,000 per institution (It's On Us PA 2022). With this disbursement provided it is a tool to utilize and create activities to make students aware of what is occurring within the universities. There is a grantee Award List that indicates the name of the institution and the amount requested per each institution across the state. In 2021 - 2022 there was a total of $928,616.50 grantee awards provided to all 34 Colleges combined within the State of Pennsylvania (It's On Us PA 2022).

PAsmart in Stem Education

The PAsmart initiative was launched by Governor Tom Wolf with the focus being set on helping students develop the necessary skills to apply directly into the workforce (Your Guide To Working and Learning in PA 2021). With a strong concentration on development of learning in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and computer science, the PAsmart initiative provides the necessary support, training, and education for post high-school learners to continue to sharpen their skills for these high-need employment areas. The goals of the PAsmart initiative and program also seek to raise the amount of Pennsylvania citizens with a certification or degree to 60 percent (60%) by 2025 (Your Guide To Working and Learning in PA 2021).

PAsmart grants provide funding to eligible schools, institutions and programs to better prepare Pennsylvania learners to be ready to join the workforce, while achieving a degree or certification. PAsmart grants principles and funding priorities include elements such as "data-driven innovation", which include plans that will solve problems and increase opportunities for Pennsylvania learners while also emphasizing "equity, diversity and inclusion"(Your Guide To Working and Learning in PA 2021). This opportunity opens doors to all students without restrictions giving individuals equal opportunity to utilize the same tools. "The Center for Social Organizations of Schools at John Hopkins University developed a teacher support model to improve academic services, address the lack of material, and better prepare teachers in science curriculum throughout underserved communities in Philadelphia"(Ruby, 2002). With the strain of barriers there are alternatives to better assist the community. The PAsmart initiative

prioritizes working alongside applicants to provide better service to underrepresented students, schools and communities through educational apprenticeships and instruction (What Does PAsmart Mean to You? 2020). These grants and opportunities helped Pennsylvania's current and future learners become better equipped and more applicable. With future careers tied to STEM and computer science always increasing, PAsmart aims to see the state's students ready to propel into some of the highest paying careers.

<div align="center">Funding</div>

The Pennsylvania Department of Education has expressed that roughly $60 million dollars has been secured since 2018 by the Wolf Administration to back and support the PAsmart initiative set forth (PAsmart Targeted and Advancing Grants) . These funds have been invested and allocated into helping eligible schools and programs grow in educational efforts as well as workforce development as it relates to STEM education and computer science learning. Two different PAsmart grant structures exist, targeted grants and advancing grants. Both these grants serve to help advance STEM and computer science programs. Targeted PAsmart grants, which can be up to $35,000 in funding, while advancing grants offer much more funding as these grants can be up to $500,000 dollars to eligible schools and programs (PAsmart Targeted and Advancing Grants 2022).

<div align="center">Career and Technical Education</div>

The Pennsylvania Department of Education offers grant funding in the area of Career and Technical Education (CTE). With over 80 career and technical education centers throughout Pennsylvania, both the competitive equipment grants and the

supplemental equipment grants help to provide these centers with the necessary resources to see students succeed (Career and Technical Education 2022). Many students voluntarily enroll into these centers, also known as vocational technical schools, because they wish to learn and master trades as well as other technical skills that will propel them immediately into the workforce. The programs and initiatives within the CTE track that help students prepare and achieve career readiness include the SOAR (Students Occupationally and Academically Ready) program, Career One Stop, and Career Ready PA (Career and Technical Education 2022). Developing career and education initiatives that apply to select student populations ensures a fair opportunity for all students based upon their capabilities and interests. These resources help guide students to achieve technical skills and abilities that upon completion can be immediately applied to the workforce, all while decreasing costs for students who would typically be pursuing a post-secondary degree or certification (Career and Technical Education 2022). Career Ready PA focuses on the elements of the PA Career Education and Work Standard. These elements include career awareness and preparation, job application and retention, as well as entrepreneurship (PA Career Standards 2022). While advancing into higher education systems is a common goal for many, not every student is interested in academia. Workforce initiatives such as SOAR, Career One Stop, and Career Ready PA establish a productive environment for students with different measures of purpose in workforce readiness and trades fields.

Funding

Since the 2015 fiscal year, Governor Wolf and his administration has prioritized the enhancement and acceleration of the opportunities within Career and Technical

Education (Career & Technical Education 2022). A Primary goal of the Career and

Technical Education initiative was to have 650,000 additional Pennsylvania residents

achieve a college degree or certification in a field line of careers by 2025 (Career &

Technical Education, 2022). This would indicate if the use of technical education was

making an impact in the education system. The Governor's budget is allocated to three

primary grant programs: the Career and Technology Education Innovation Grant, the

Career and Technical Education Equipment Grant, and the Career Counseling Grant

(Career & Technical Education 2022). In regards to the equipment grants, which are

essential to Career and Technical education and its schools and centers, the Competitive

and Supplemental equipment grant helps the centers purchase equipment for training and

instruction (CTE Grants 2022).

Pennsylvania Council On The Arts (PCA)

The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA) is a state agency, which aids in the

advancement and promotion of art, culture, and educational opportunities within the arts

communities and programs of Pennsylvania (Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Agency

Overview 2022). Goals of the agency include: strengthening Pennsylvania communities

through art and art opportunities, connecting and increasing access to learning through

art, and to raise awareness and appreciation for the arts throughout Pennsylvania

(Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Agency Overview 2022). The PCA's grant funding

efforts began back in 1968, and since have been able to grow to support many

educational and promotional efforts set forth for arts organizations and programs of all

types (Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Agency Overview 2022).

Arts Programs and Arts Organizations (AOAP)

The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts offers the Arts Programs and Arts Organizations (AOAP grant), the agency's largest funding effort for qualified applicants. These applicants typically are arts programs and organizations across the state that provides arts services or education (AOAP Track 2022). To receive funding, the organizations must meet the AOAP requirements track or are transitioning to meet its guidelines. Organizations must be non-profit organizations, tax-exempt corporations, and school districts to be eligible for funding (AOAP Track 2022). PCA focuses their funding efforts towards two separate funding tiers through the AOAP funding. These efforts provide resources to both rural and non-rural organizations and seeks to aid in promoting diversity and inclusion so all who are eligible can receive funding and opportunity (AOAP Track 2022). The PCA currently has a current grants budget of $9,590,000, with the AOAP grant being their largest total grant amount being awarded each year for eligible arts organizations and programs throughout the state (Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Agency Overview 2022).

Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA)

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is a government agency that advocates for Pennsylvanian veterans and their families, and they also provide a variety of services to support the Pennsylvania Army National Guard (DMVA Offices 2022). The primary purpose within the Military and Veteran affairs is to assist as many veterans as possible in transitioning back to everyday life. The grant examined through the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is the Veterans Trust Fund. The primary focus of this grant program is to provide funding to non-profit and public service organizations that help military members, veterans, and their families in areas such as temporary financial

assistance, housing services, mental health services, substance abuse and recovery services, as well as college planning and career readiness programs (Veterans' Trust Fund 2022). This opportunity helps service members and their families gain access to resource assistance ensuring them an ongoing support through the Department of Military and Veterans affairs. This grant was passed through legislative funding, meaning there are a variety of channels to make donations to veterans and their families, such as getting a specialized bumper sticker at the Department of Motor Vehicle, or directly donating to government entities to the veterans trust funds directly (Veterans' Trust Fund 2022). These profits provided by citizens display a support system towards veterans as a sign of good faith regarding the services they provide to the country. All of the funds that are raised and gathered through donations go directly and totally to The Veterans Trust Fund (Veterans' Trust Fund 2022). Multiple organizations are supported through the Veterans Trust Fund, such as: Disabled American Veterans, American Veterans Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, The American Legion, and Vietnam Veterans (Act 66 reports 2022). This assistance from the DMVA as well as citizens within the commonwealth is critical to help provide our veterans and service members with the services and support they need to ensure an improved quality of life post service.

<div align="center">

Goals and Objectives

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1. Goal: To gain an overall understanding of the current grant process in certain Pennsylvania agencies

    1.1) <u>Objectives:</u> Obtain information from websites and materials to determine how these particular agencies run their organizations.

2. Goal: To determine ways the grant process can be more equitable and identify methods to promote equity throughout the grant process.

2.1) Objective: To identify common themes among agencies that were approved for funding and determine what organizations or groups are not being granted funding.

2.2) Objective: Create a database of current grantees and their characteristics

2.3) Objective: To determine what barriers there are for a specific organization entering the process.

3. Goal: How can the grant process be streamlined in order to guarantee equitable funds.

3.1) Objective: Keep track of the amount of grants provided to each organization throughout counties.

3.2) Objective: Explore further agencies and causes that may be of need for funding within the State of Pennsylvania.

3.3) Objective: Increase the number of Grant Funding provided throughout the State of Pennsylvania.

Methodology

The independent variable we would be examining is the Counties within Pennsylvania and the amount of funding received. Our independent variables would focus on the following categories

- The percentage of minorities

- Rural vs. Urban

- Percentage of people below poverty

- Percentage of population of people with disabilities

- Percentage of people with Internet access

- Percentage of people without Internet access

- Percentage of households with salaries from income

- Percentage of households with income from public assistance

During this process we would have to research to determine if funds are being (equally distributed amongst all agencies and programs no matter the multicultural backgrounds of organizations and people within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We feel that in order to promote grant equity, we must be ensuring that marginalized groups, underserved communities, and diverse populations are being fairly treated.

RESULTS

FIGURE 1

People of Color by Pennsylvania County, 2020

Figure 1 Expresses people of color by percentage of population in counties throughout Pennsylvania. The overall average people of color as a percent of the population in Pennsylvania were 26.5 % in 2020. Many counties in Pennsylvania have less than 10 percent people of color in their population, and the lowest percentages are in Bedford with (4.6%), as well as Armstrong (4.9%), Elk (4.9%), and Jefferson (4.9%), counties who all have less than 5%. There are also many counties who see 10 to 19.9 percent people of color in their population with the lowest in this range being Fayette (10.5%) as well as Cambria and Huntingdon who both have (10.6%). The highest percentage in this range belongs to Bucks County with (19.3%), as well as Erie (19.1%). Ten counties apply to the range of 20 to 29.9% people of color by population, with the lowest percentage in this range belonging to York (20.0%) and Lancaster (20.3%), while the highest percentages belong to Northampton (27.0%) and Montgomery (27.8%). Six counties see over 30% of their population being people of color, with the lowest percentage in this group being Berks (32.1%), and the highest percentage is Philadelphia with (65.7%).
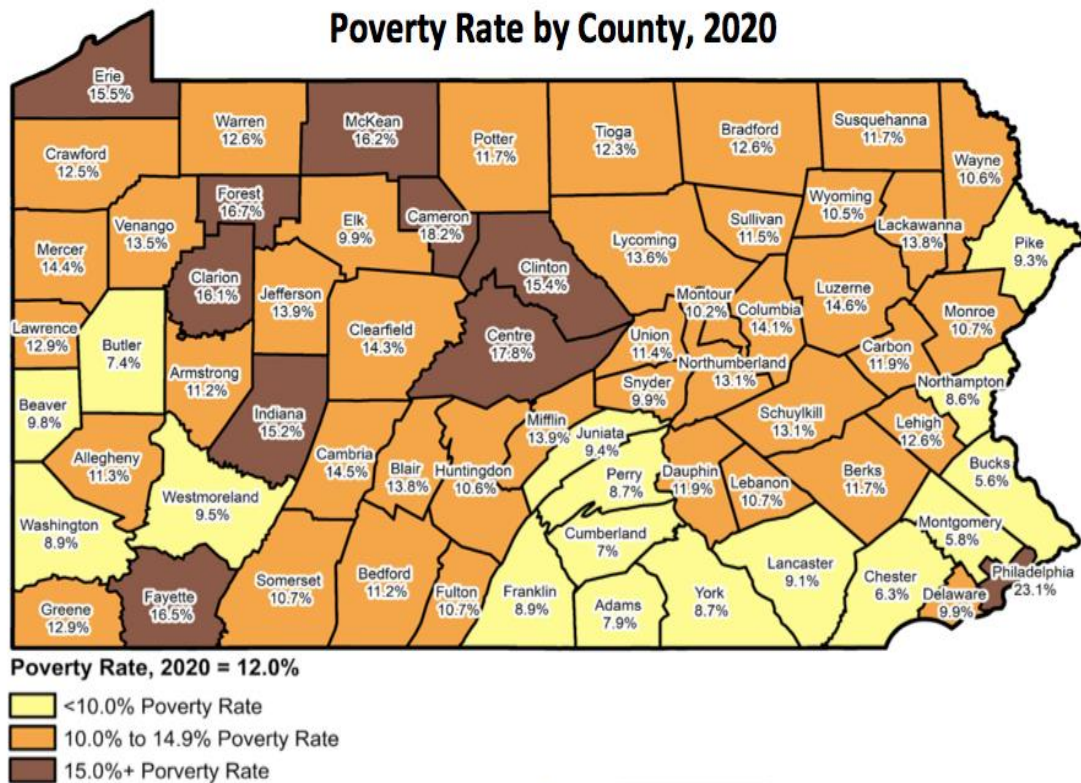
FIGURE 2

Figure 2 expresses the poverty rates by county throughout Pennsylvania. In 2020, there

was an overall average poverty rate of 12 percent in Pennsylvania. 16 counties in

Pennsylvania have lower than a 10 percent poverty rate, with the lowest poverty rates

belonging to Bucks county (5.6%) and Montgomery county (5.8%). The majority of the

counties in Pennsylvania fall into the range of having 10.0% to 14.9% poverty rate. The

lowest percentage in this range is Montour (10.2%), while the highest in this range is

Luzerne (14.6%). Lastly, there are 10 counties in Pennsylvania with a poverty rate of 15

percent or greater. The lowest percentage in this range is Indiana (15.2%) and the greatest

poverty rate within the state is in Philadelphia (23.1%).
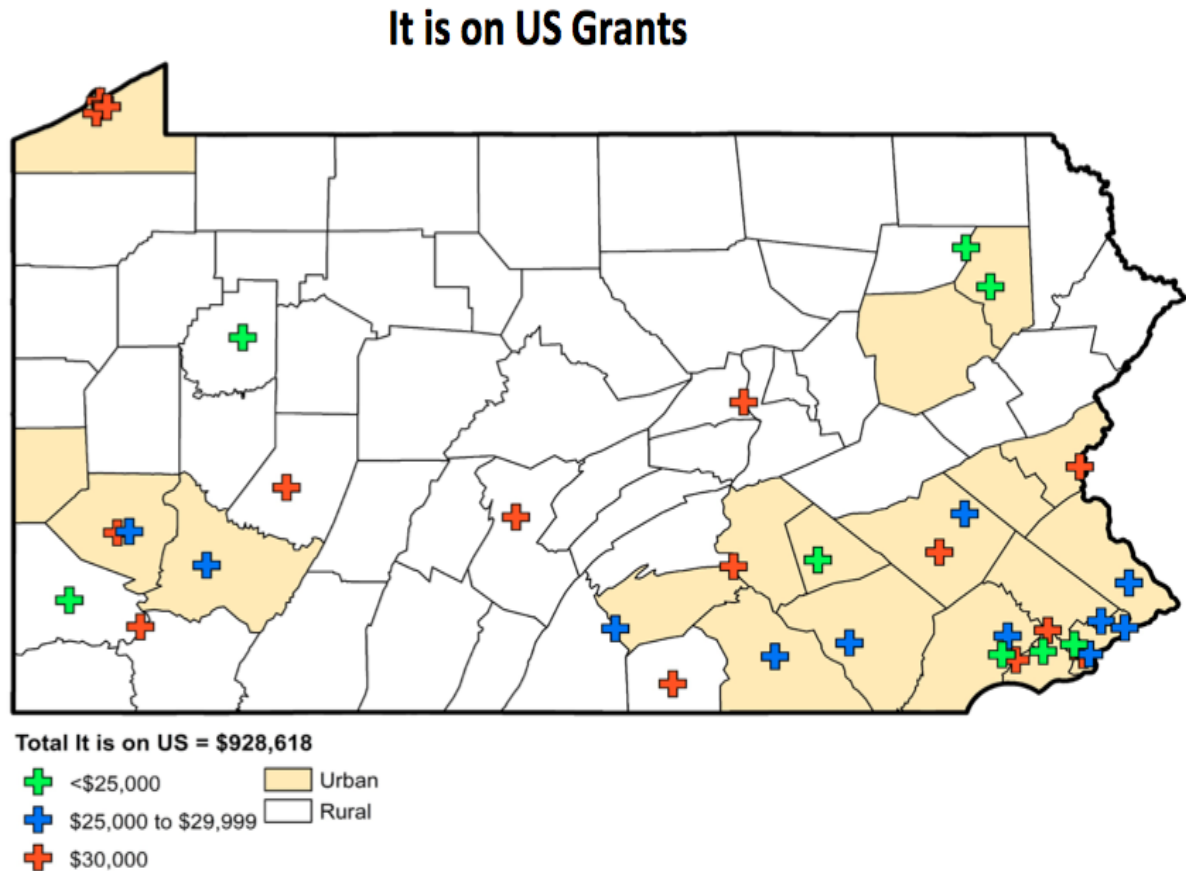

FIGURE 3

It is on US Grants

Total It is on US = $928,618

➕ <$25,000   ▢ Urban
➕ $25,000 to $29,999 ▢ Rural
➕ $30,000

Figure 3 exhibits the funding amounts for the first PDE grant "It's on Us", as well as

relative locations within the Pennsylvania counties. The total amount of grants that were

awarded to universities and institutions in partnership with the "It's on Us" initiative was

a statewide total of $928,618, with the total grant amount for urban counties being

$720,587 and the total grant amount for rural counties being $208,030. The average

grants amount for urban areas was $27,715, while rural areas were $26,004.

Areas within figure 3 that have the green cross symbol represent counties that

received grants of $25,000 or less. Areas with the blue cross symbol represent the

counties that received $25,000 to $29,999. Lastly, areas with the Red Cross symbol

represent the counties that received a full $30,000 dollar grant. Figure 3 also shows all

the areas and counties where there is currently no grant funding effort associated with the

"It's on Us" initiative.

FIGURE 4
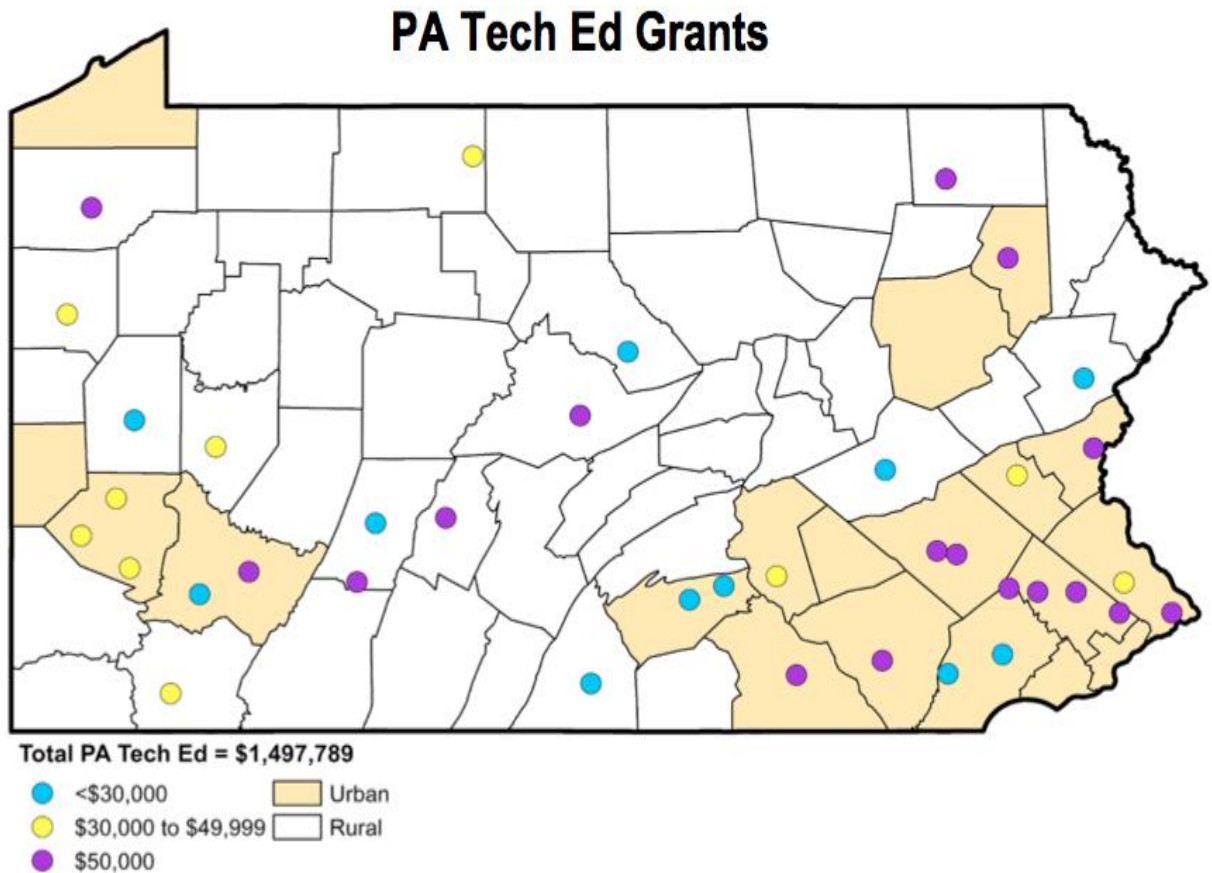
Figure 4 exhibits how the PA Career and Technical Education (CTE) grants were

disbursed to CTE schools and programs statewide. In total, $1,497,789 was allocated to

CTE programs across the state, with the average grant amount being $38,404.85. Figure 4

shows both rural and urban counties, as well as grant amount per grant. Areas with the

light blue dot symbolize the counties with CTE programs that received one or multiple

CTE grants of $30,000 or less. Areas with the yellow dot symbolize the counties with

CTE programs that received one or more grants with the amounts $30,000 to $49,999.

Lastly, areas with a purple dot symbolize the counties with CTE programs that received

one or more grants with the amount of $50,000. Urban counties such as Montgomery

and Berks received multiple grants of $50,000, whereas rural counties like Potter and

Clinton received grants of up to only $30,000. Also expressed in Figure 4 are all the

counties who are currently not receiving any grant funding in relation to CTE grants.

FIGURE 5
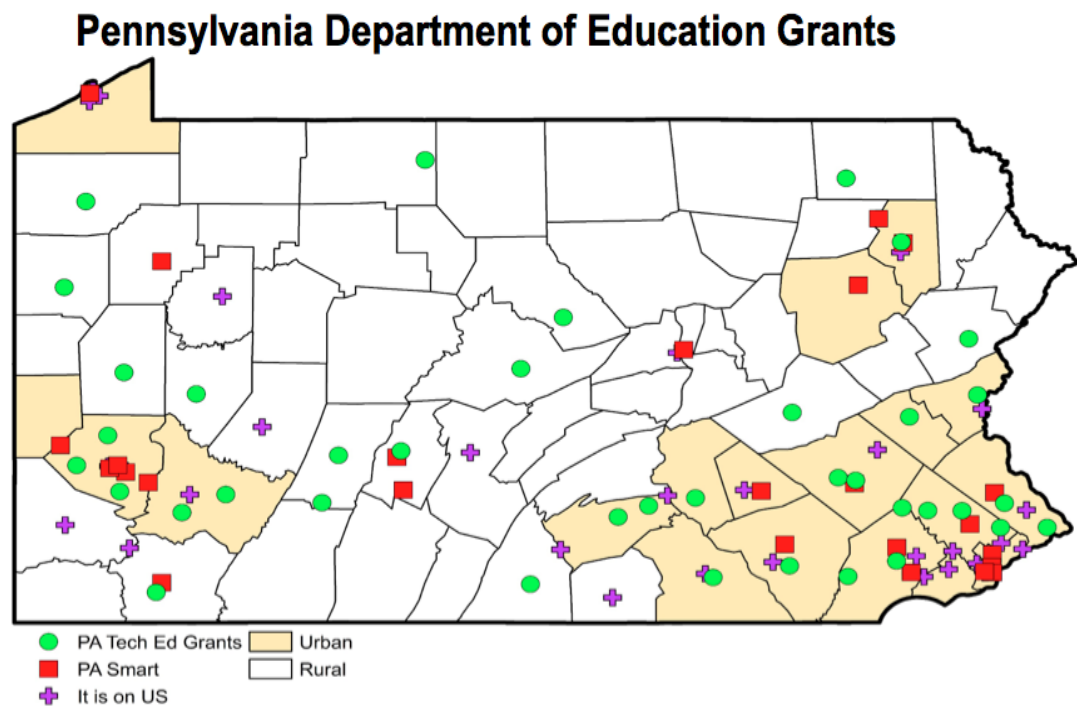
Figure 5 exhibits the distribution of all three of the Pennsylvania Department of

Education grants that have been reviewed across Pennsylvania counties, both urban and

rural. In Figure 5, the green dot across the map symbolizes the areas and counties in

which the Pennsylvania Career and Technology grants were distributed. Red squares

across the map recognize the areas, both urban and rural counties that received funding

through the PAsmart grant funding programs. Lastly, the purple crosses across the map

within Figure 5 recognize the counties that received grant funding for the "It's on Us"

initiative statewide. In particular, Figure 5 can show just where the PAsmart grants were

distributed, and in accordance with the reviewed data, it can be expressed that the average

grant amount was $417,462.08 for PAsmart grants, though counties such as Allegheny

received $494,421.33. Counties such as Clinton, Centre, and McKean however, received

little to no grant funding related to the PAsmart initiative.

FIGURE 6

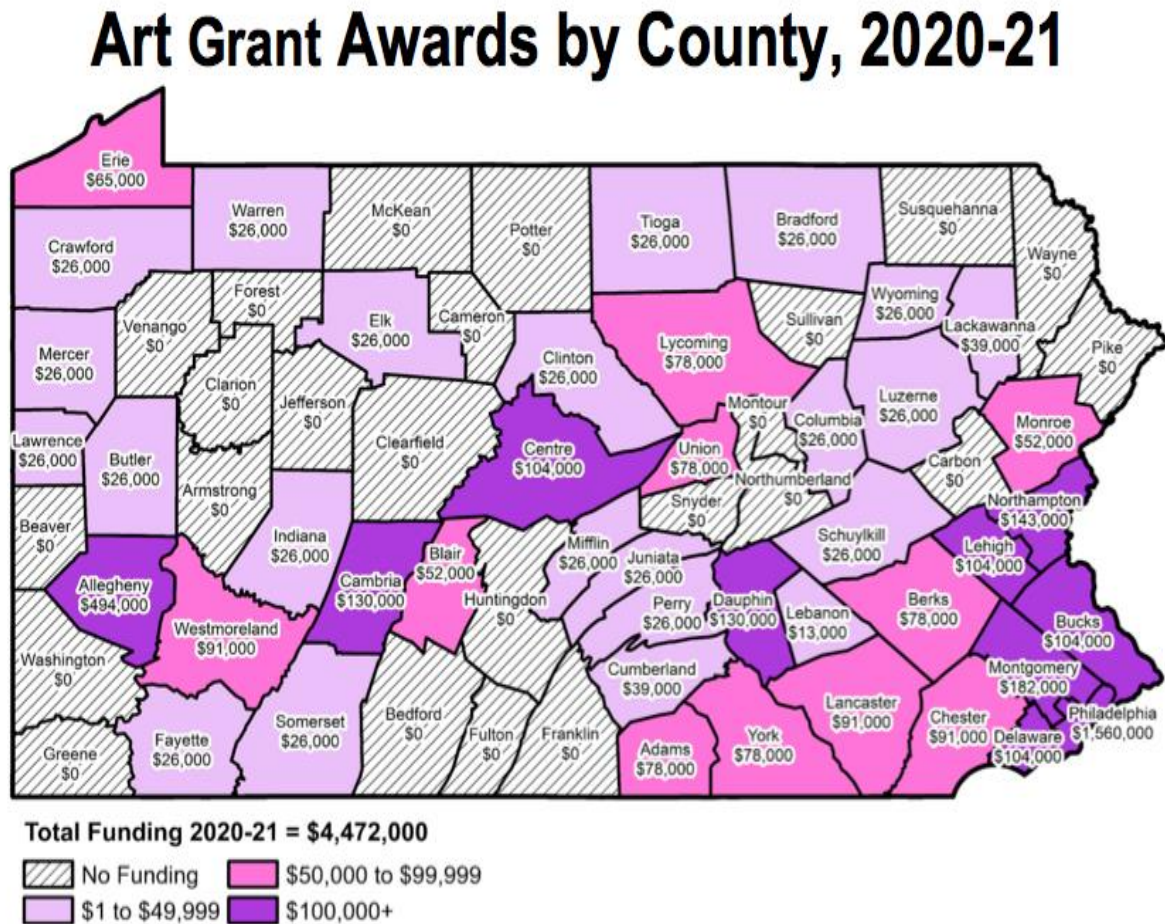

Art Grant Awards by County, 2019-20

FIGURE 7

Figure 7 expresses the PCA's AOAP grant funding totals by county in 2020-2021. The total amount of grant funding that was allocated throughout AOAP eligible programs in Pennsylvania was $4,472,000 in 2020-2021. Philadelphia County received the greatest amount of AOAP funding in 2020-2021 with $1,560,000. Allegheny received the second most funding among all counties in 2020-2021 with $494,000. Figure 7, also shows the many counties in Pennsylvania that receive no AOAP grant funding.

There were 282 grants totaling $4,287,605 was awarded to AOAP eligible arts programs and organizations across the state. In 2020-2021 the total amount awarded to

programs and organizations was $4,511,000 from 289 total grant awarded. After

examining the disbursement of such funds we can see in both years that much of the

funding went to both Philadelphia and Allegheny counties, with Philadelphia receiving

106 grants in both 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, with totals of $1,960,323 in 2019-2020,

and $1,560,000 in 2020-2021. For Allegheny County, programs received a total of 37

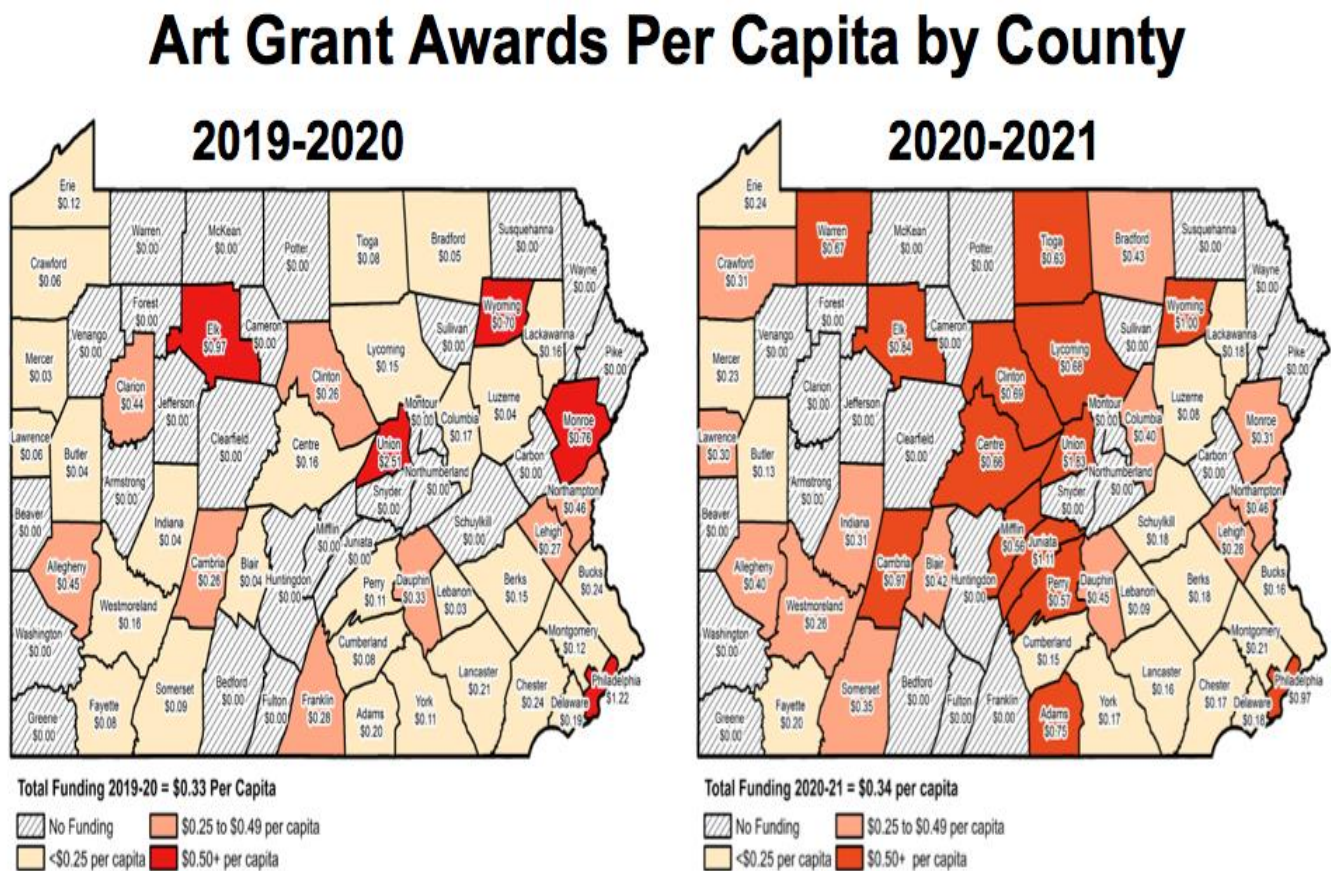grants totaling $563,979 in 2019-2020, and 38 grants totaling $494,000 in 2020-2021.

FIGURE 8

Figure 8 expresses the PCA's AOAP Art Grant awards per capita by county for the years

2019-2020 as well as 2020-2021. Total funding per capita for all counties in

Pennsylvania was an average of $0.33 per capita in 2019-2020, and $0.34 for 2020-2021.

The county with the greatest amount of funding per capita in 2019-2020 was Union ($2.51), followed by Philadelphia ($1.22). The county with the greatest amount of funding per capita in 2020-2021 was once again Union ($1.83), followed by Juniata ($1.11).

FIGURE 9

Number of Art Grant Awards by County

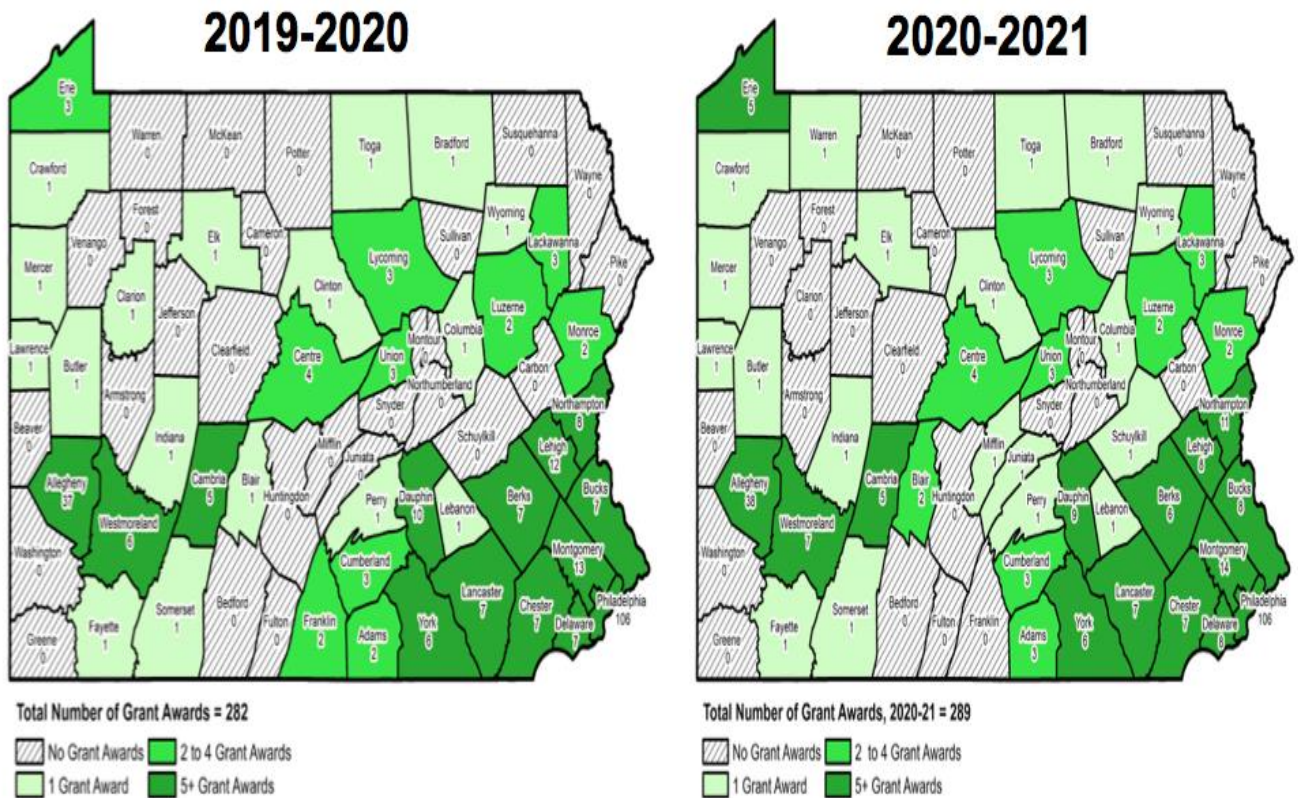Figure 9 exhibits the total amount of AOAP arts grants that were awarded and distributed to eligible arts organizations and programs across all Pennsylvania counties in both 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. 282 AOAP grants were awarded in total in 2019-2020, and 289 AOAP grants were awarded in 2020-2021. Many counties in Pennsylvania see little to no grants being awarded especially in rural areas over both years. Counties that received 5 or

more AOAP arts grants are expressed in the darkest shade of green on Figure 9, with

Philadelphia and Allegheny both receiving a much greater amount of grants than any

other county. Philadelphia received the highest total amount of awarded grants with 106

arts grants in both 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, while Allegheny received the second most

in both years with 37 in 2019-2020 and 38 in 2020-2021.

FIGURE 10

Figure 10 exhibits the number of veterans by county throughout Pennsylvania. In 2020,

the total number of veterans statewide was 731,441. There are many counties that have

less than 5,000 veterans, and the county with the least number of veterans is Cameron

(419). Among the counties that have 5,000 to 9,999 veterans, the least number of veterans

in this range are in Carbon (5,040) and the greatest numbers of veterans in this range are

in Blair (9,396). Counties with 10,000 to 14,999 veterans see that the least number of

veterans in this range are in Schuylkill (10,086), while the greatest number in this range

belongs to Washington (13,498). Lastly, counties with 15,000 or more veterans see the

lowest number in this range to be in Dauphin (16,511) and the county with the greatest
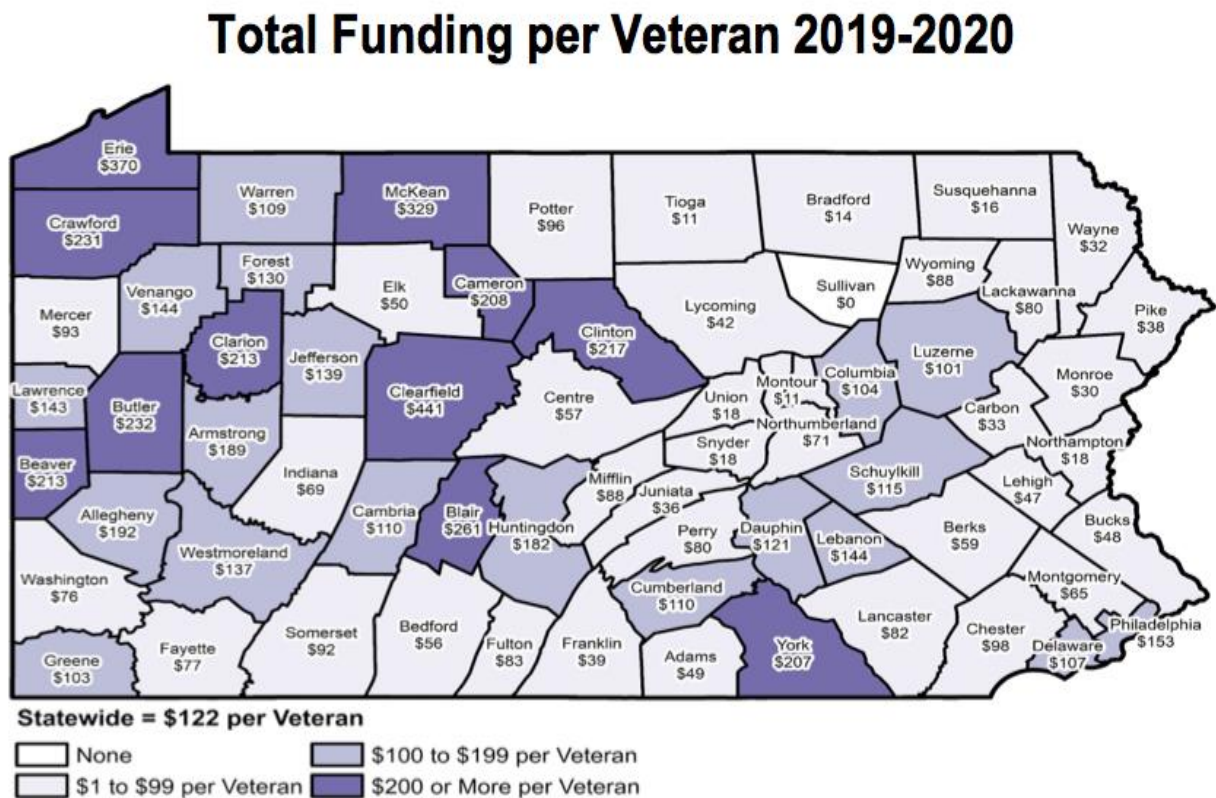
number of veterans is Allegheny (69,856).

FIGURE 11

Total Funding per Veteran 2019-2020

Statewide = $122 per Veteran

- [ ] None
- [ ] $1 to $99 per Veteran
- [ ] $100 to $199 per Veteran
- [ ] $200 or More per Veteran

Figure 11 expresses the total funding per veteran throughout each county in

Pennsylvania. In 2019-2020, the average funding per veteran statewide was $122 per

veteran. There is only one county where there is no funding for veterans, and that is

Sullivan. In the range of $1 to 99$ per veteran, the lowest amount of funding in this range

is in both Tioga and Montour counties with $11 per veteran, and the greatest amount in

this range is in Chester with $98 per veteran.

In the range of $100 to $199 funding per veteran, the lowest in this range is in Luzerne County with $101 per veteran, while the highest in this range belongs to Allegheny with $192 per veteran. Lastly there are counties that provide $200 or more per veteran in funding, with York being the lowest in this range with $207 per veteran, and the county with the greatest funding per veteran is Clearfield with $441 per veterans, which is more than one hundred dollars greater than the second highest McKean, who funds $329 per veteran.

Conclusions

(PDE): After thorough review of the grants, data sets and analysis, there are multiple conclusions that can be drawn regarding grant funding and equity amongst the Pennsylvania state agencies being researched. Each agency applied their granted funds to programs to assist the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in various positive causes. Within the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the "It's on Us' ' initiative the data indicates that there is a significant amount of funding being distributed to urban areas while rural areas have received little to no funding at all comparatively. Average grant amounts for rural county areas was $26,004, while the average grant amount for urban county areas was $27,715. Counties such as Berks, Delaware, and Philadelphia received grant amounts of $30,000 or more, whereas rural counties like Potter, Clearfield, and Clarion received no funding whatsoever. It can be concluded through these results that there is somewhat of an undermining and undervaluing of the safety of students within institutions in rural county areas. Without further initiative outreach to the institutions and a great effort from the institutions themselves within these counties, an issue lies that these institutions will run the risk of seeing an increasing number or sexual assaults, many of which may not be

reported correctly if reported at all. Such an initiative is necessary among all commonwealth campuses so that students have increased resources for combatting and reporting sexual assaults and violence.

Another conclusion and correlation that can be made after analysis of the data is that the total amounts of grants are being excessively distributed to urban areas in comparison to rural areas. The total grant amount received for urban areas was $720,587 whereas the total grant amount for rural areas was 208,030. This shows a $512,557 difference between both types of counties in the commonwealth. Counties such as Delaware, Berks, and Chester received several grants, typically of the full amount, where many rural counties received little to no funding. This uneven distribution will surely create a lack of community awareness in rural universities, and will prevent students from educating themselves on how to remain safe and properly report situations where sexual assault and violence may occur. It can be concluded that a greater amount of promotion for the "It's on Us" initiative, as well as allocation for funding, should be designated towards these campuses in rural county areas.

After examining the PAsmart grant data for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and computer science education, the research findings can help conclude that there is a much greater amount of funds being distributed to urban counties in comparison to rural counties in relation to this grant as well. In accordance with the figures above and the analyzed data, it can be seen that urban counties such as Philadelphia, Allegheny, and Chester received significantly greater funds than rural counties such as Tioga, Potter, and McKean. There has been a difference of $76,959.25 worth of funds being disbursed to the urban county areas when compared to rural county

areas. This informs the audience that overall, urban county areas are getting a greater advantage when it comes to the implementation of this curriculum and style of education, as well as preparation for career readiness and advancement in these areas where jobs are continuing to grow. It can be concluded that The Pennsylvania Department of Education should consider alternatives to equally distribute the funding's efforts set forth through the PAsmart grant and its initiatives, to ensure equal opportunity for learners across the state. Data analysis related to this initiative also concluded an indication where there is a correlation between poverty rates and the distribution of the PAsmart grant. Clinton, Centre, and McKean counties all have poverty rates at 15% or higher, and received little to no funding for the PAsmart grant. This concluded that counties with higher poverty rates are receiving more grant funding to help promote and excel this STEM and computer science education, in comparison to PA citizens that live within middle class poverty, or low poverty.

Within the PA Career and Technical Education grants, the amount of funding is similarly greater distributed to urban areas in comparison to rural areas. It is not as substantial of a difference as the other PDE grants under review, the data shows a difference of $20,000 of distributed funds being provided in greater amounts to urban areas. According to the analyzed data, the average grant amount was $38,404.85. However, urban counties such as Montgomery and Berks received multiple grants of $50,000 or more, whereas rural counties like Potter and Clinton received grants of up to only $30,000. Rural counties such as Potter and Clinton have poverty rates of 15% or higher, and it can be concluded that the outreach and promotion of grant funding assistance in these areas should be increased and improved. It can also be concluded that

these grants and programs related to CTE education are fundamental in the development

of learners across the state for preparation in careers in the trades as well as other

industries, and help to promote career readiness in these industries while helping learners

who may not have adequate funds save money. With this being known, it is crucial for

students in these counties to receive improved funding efforts related to these CTE

initiatives to ensure they are being better equipped and prepared for their future in the

workforce.

      (PCA:) The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA) grant that we observed was

the Arts Organizations and Arts Programs (AOAP) grant, which gets disbursed to eligible

arts programs and organizations of all types throughout the state. It was concluded that

this is the PCA's largest grant in terms of total amounts awarded, and after examining the

disbursement of such funds it can be concluded that in both years much of the funding

went to two urban counties, Philadelphia and Allegheny. Philadelphia received 106

grants in both 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, with totals of $1,960,323 in 2019-2020, and

$1,560,000 in 2020-2021. For Allegheny County, programs received a total of 37 grants

totaling $563,979 in 2019-2020, and 38 grants totaling $494,000 in 2020-2021. From this

data, it can be concluded that these counties contain many arts programs within the cities

of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, which is why much of the funding is being allocated to

these counties. Other counties where we saw 5 or more grants, as well as $50,000 or

more in funding awarded in both years include counties that surround Philadelphia (such

as: Montgomery, Delaware, Lancaster, York, Chester, Bucks, Berks, Lehigh,

Northampton, and Dauphin counties). Similarly we saw the same with counties

surrounding Allegheny County, such as Westmoreland and Cambria both receiving over

5 grants each year, and each received over $90,000 in funding for AOAP eligible arts

programs in 2020-2021. Erie also received 5 grants in 2020-2021.

Additional conclusions that can be drawn from the PCA data related to AOAP funding is

that there are many rural counties receiving little to no funding in each year, whether this

be that there are little to no arts organizations and programs in these areas or they have

not yet become AOAP grant eligible. Such counties receiving absolutely no grants

or funding in both 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 include: Susquehanna, Wayne, Pike,

Sullivan, Carbon, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Huntingdon, Fulton, Bedford,

Greene, Washington, Beaver, Armstrong, Clearfield, Jefferson, Venango, Forest,

Cameron, Potter and McKean counties. It can be concluded that the greatest amount of

funding is being allocated within and around the counties close to larger cities of

Pennsylvania, where more arts organizations and programs exist, and very little to no

funding exists in rural areas where there are no arts organizations or programs, or if there

are they are not taking advantage of the assistance the AOAP eligibility and grant funding

can bring to their areas. It can also be concluded that the PCA needs to push for more

outreach and promotion for the arts in these areas where it is lacking or non-existent.

      (DMVA): Initial conclusions that can be drawn from The Department of Military

and Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Trust Fund grant data, was that there were some

significant problems in their data and accuracy of allocation of this grants funding. This

made determining conclusions difficult, and presented inaccurate information of how

funds are being distributed throughout the state. It can be concluded that new methods for

the generation and sharing of data should be implemented to improve decision making

for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The Department of Military and

Veterans Affairs primarily disbursed funds through the Veterans Trust Fund to five

organizations; Vietnam Veterans of America, American Legion, Disabled American

Veterans, American Veterans Association, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. Another

conclusion drawn from the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and Veterans

Trust Fund data, is that there are a significant amount of claims being made by all

counties in the commonwealth in comparison to the amount of actual funding being

disbursed. With this being expressed, it can be concluded that the Department of Military

and Veterans Affairs must improve in allocating the funds to the organizations tied to the

Veterans Trust Fund to all counties across Pennsylvania.

When examining the data from the DMVA, It can be concluded that among the

counties involved with the DMVA, 72.23% are rural counties, and the remaining 27.27%

of the counties are urban. For reference, the discrepancies related to claims and funds

awarded for the Veterans Trust Fund are as follows: data showed that The American

Legion organization awarded a total of $1,114,523 throughout all counties, though there

were a total number of claims of 47,072,024.00 for 2019-2020, and 17,753,303.00 for

2020-2021. In regard to the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization, it was shown in the

data that there was an awarded total of $1,104,392 throughout all the counties, and claims

totals were 24,829,300.00 for 2019-2020, and 9,001,471 for 2020-2021. For the Disabled

American Veterans organization, it was expressed that there was an awarded total of

$544,905 disbursed throughout the counties, with claims totaling 10,373,892 for 2019-

2020, and 9,302,654.00 for 2020-2021. For the American Veterans organization, the total

award disbursed to all counties was $236,840, and the total amount of claims among the

counties was 2,331,210 for 2019-2020 and 1,102,760 for 2020-2021. Lastly for the

Vietnam Veterans of America, a total awarded amount of $117,000 was granted for the

counties, and the total number of claims by the counties for 2019-2020 was 4,599,905

and 3,846,479 for 2020-2021. Clearly from this data, which breaks down the multiple

organizations associated with the Veterans Trust Fund, it can strongly be concluded that

there is a significantly higher amount of claims among both rural and urban counties in

relation to the amount of awards that are being disbursed to them from the DMVA.

Recommendation

After review of the conclusions regarding the distribution of funding, it can be

expressed that there are areas that can use improvements to enhance engagement

and involvement when it comes to receiving or being provided grant funding from all the

agencies that were reviewed. Without sufficient funds to organize these agencies, the

state is discouraging students to be involved in making a difference within the

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The following are some recommendations that can be

taken under advice when trying to expand each agency. When it comes to the Department

of Education, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and Pennsylvania Department of

Military and Veterans Affair the following would be

- Advertise campaigns amongst counties to better support Department of Education
  initiative

- Develop outreach initiatives that promote arts organizations and opportunities by
  organize and promote upcoming concerts, exhibits, shows etc. to make more
  individuals aware of the talents around the State.

- Raise awareness of AOAP grants to help organizations qualify for sufficient
  funding.

When analyzing the DMVA there were concerns regarding their compilation, organization and sharing of data. There was not sufficient information provided to draw what grants were being distributed along with the amount they provided to each organization. Without proper data keeping this can cause issues in the future.

These recommendations can help improve the expansion of each agency. It can put a scope on the It's on US movement by reduce sexual assaults from occurring within universities as well as expand the awareness. Whereas the PA council of the Arts can provide the access, tools and resources needed for students to meet the economic needs. This will assist students to expand their knowledge as well as be given the opportunity to have hands-on training to develop the skills and abilities they need to obtain quality jobs. Overall grant funding needs to be more distributed in rural areas and with these recommendations it can result in an improvement within the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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