



# International Grantmaking to Help Underserved and Marginalized Communities: A Review of Principles and Strategies for Funders

## SUMMARY

In 2023, the Chief Evaluation Office (CEO), in partnership with the [Bureau of International Labor Affairs \(ILAB\)](#), contracted with Westat Insight to explore approaches to measure and increase program provision to underserved and marginalized communities through ILAB's discretionary grantmaking programs.

This study sought to identify these approaches through a review of publicly available materials from funders (federal departments and agencies, U.S. philanthropic institutions, and multilateral organizations) and academic literature as well as through in-depth interviews with representatives of funders. This study identified the efforts organizations have made to include underserved and marginalized populations in their pre- and post-award project phases as well as documented the challenges encountered when helping these populations in an international context while identifying proposed solutions.

This Department of Labor-funded study contributes to the labor evidence-base to inform [data, methods, and tools](#); [international labor issues](#); and [equity](#) programs and policies as well as addresses Departmental strategic goals and priorities.

This report defines and describes strategies for funders to reach underserved and marginalized communities, as well as incorporate diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) principles in international grantmaking. The report provides emerging practices that increase the incorporation of underserved and marginalized communities throughout the grantmaking process, including the preaward and application stages, project design and implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. Examples of such practices include simplifying applications processes, training local data collectors, and requiring reporting indicators that are useful for grantees to assess and further their work.

[SEE FULL STUDY](#)

**TIMEFRAME:** 2023-2024  
**SUBMITTED BY:** Westat  
**DATE PREPARED:** October 2024

**PARTNER AGENCY:** Bureau of International Labor Affairs  
**SPONSOR:** Chief Evaluation Office  
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