

# Introduction

This is the second Evaluation Report issued in connection with the Arcus Social Justice Program’s strategy adopted by the Foundation’s board at the end of 2017. The strategy was implemented in mid-2019 after a year of transition funding and the issuance of a wide-ranging request for concepts.

In the first report, covering 2018–19, we focused on documenting our baseline measures, summarizing learnings to date, and issuing a list of recommendations for strategy adjustments and follow-up.

This report covers grant data and outcomes from Q4 of 2019 through Q3 of 2020, with a few more recent updates where relevant. Since grant reports are a prime source of data and information for Social Justice Program evaluations, there is a natural lag time between the awarding of a grant, the completion of the grant period (or its first year in the case of multiyear grants), and the submission of a report, which is due to Arcus 30 days after the grant period ends. Thus, for example, grants awarded in Q4 of 2020 (i.e., in December) would be active during calendar 2021 with reports due January 31, 2022.

This report presents an update of progress against the goals and objectives laid out in the Social Justice strategy. In 2023, the Social Justice Program will release a so-called “deep dive” report that will examine each indicator (i.e., measure of progress) against baselines to assess progress over the first five years of the strategy (2018–22).

The following information is included in this annual evaluation report:

- An overview of the program’s theory of change at the goal level and across goals
- An exploration of key strategy implementation questions
- An analysis of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Social Justice grantees and the communities in which they work
- Two in-depth analyses of the strategy at work: Mexico in the international portfolio and Arizona and Georgia in the U.S. portfolio
- A summary of outcomes in the remaining regions, countries, and U.S. states within each goal area
- An analysis of grant data in 2020
- Findings, learnings, and recommendations.