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## **Midcasting Toward Just Futures: Creative Youth Development's Waymaking to Systems Change Through and Beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic**

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Knowledge Generation Team

# Awardees + COVID Fund Grantees



● 2020 Awardees

● COVID Fund Grantees

▲ 2021 Awardees

● COVID Fund Applicants

# 280 Music CYD Survey Respondents



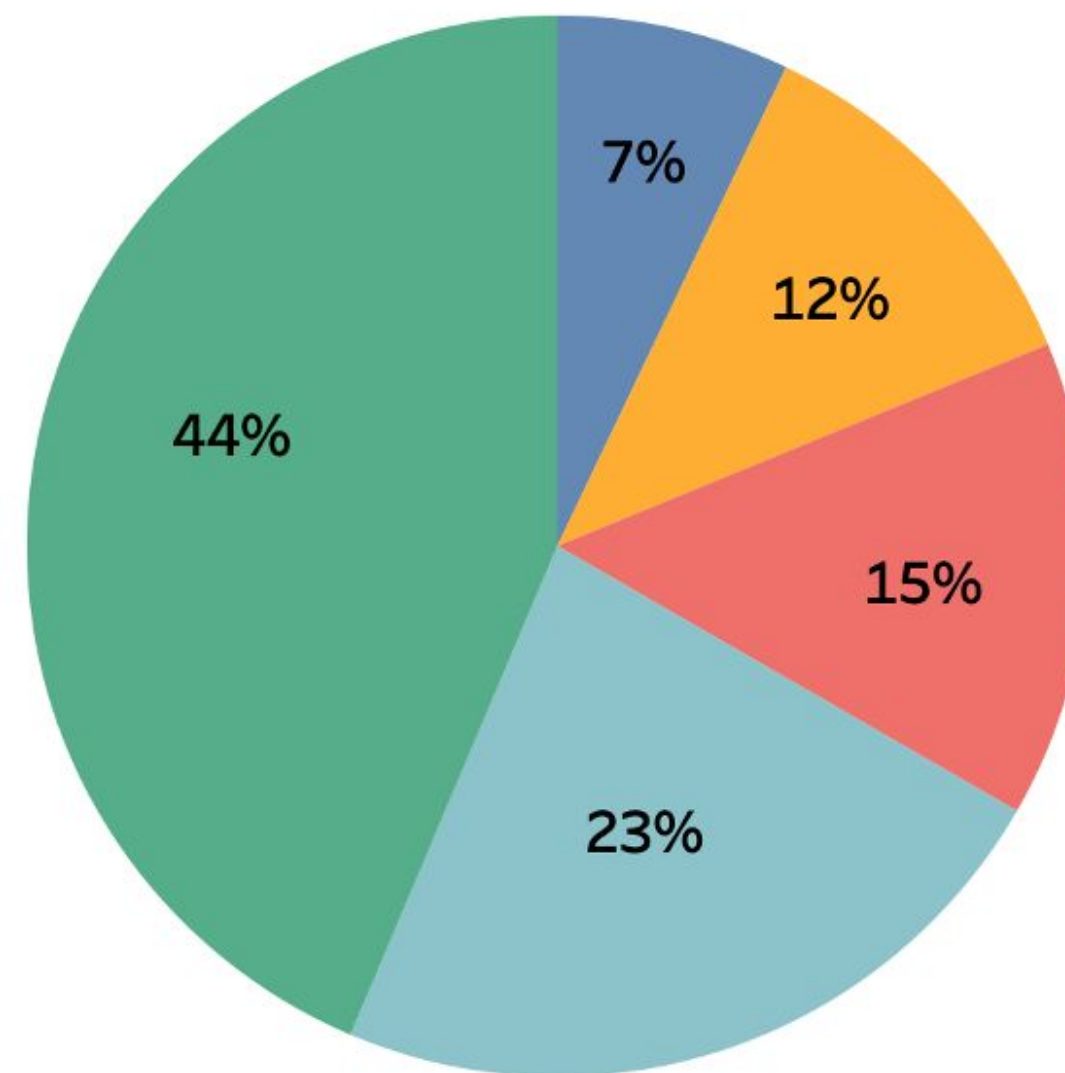
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# Youth Resource Profile

Percent of Under-Resourced Youth  
Served by CYD Organizations

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

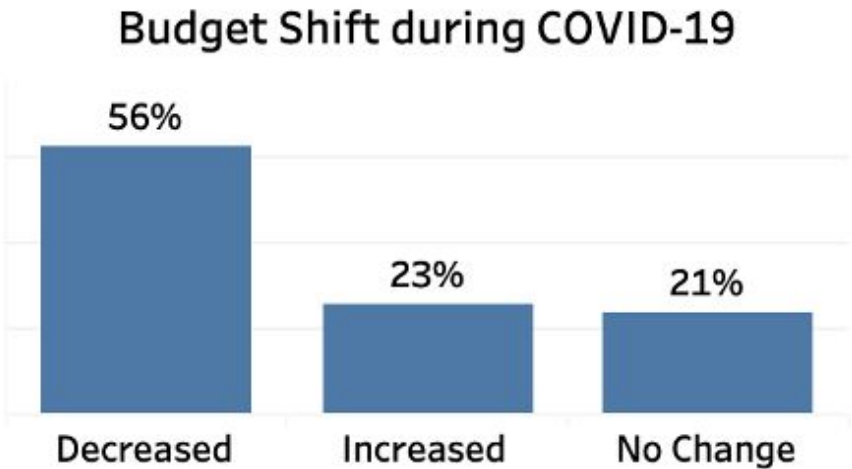
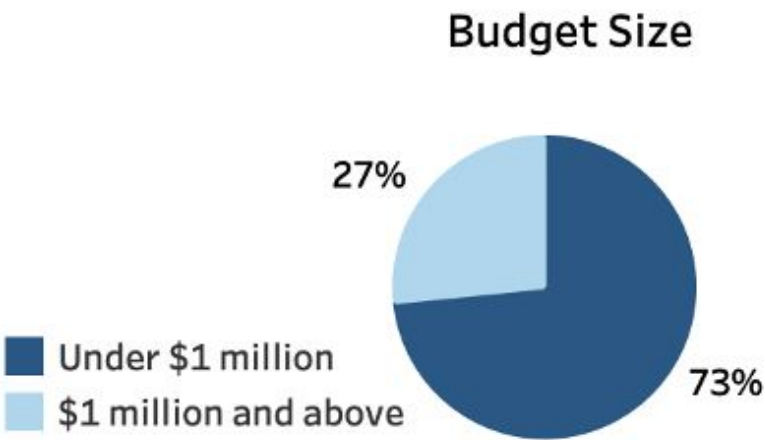


**Two-thirds of responding CYD organizations serve 61% or more youth who are from under-resourced circumstances**

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Organizational Budgets

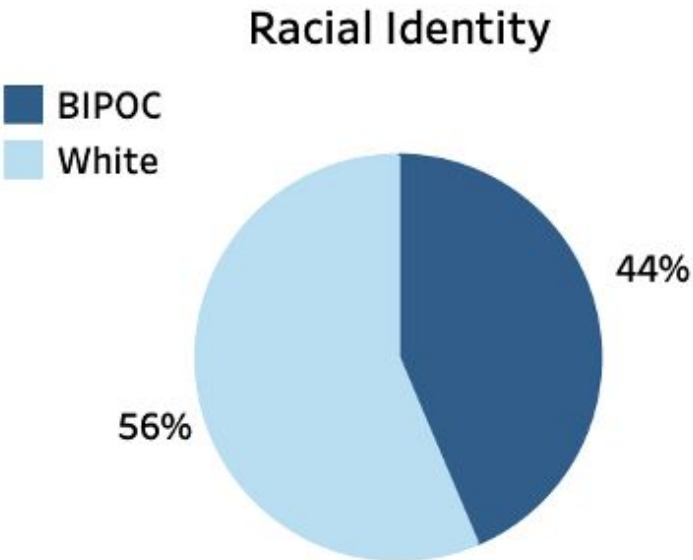


59% of LP awardees/grantees increased their budgets during the pandemic.

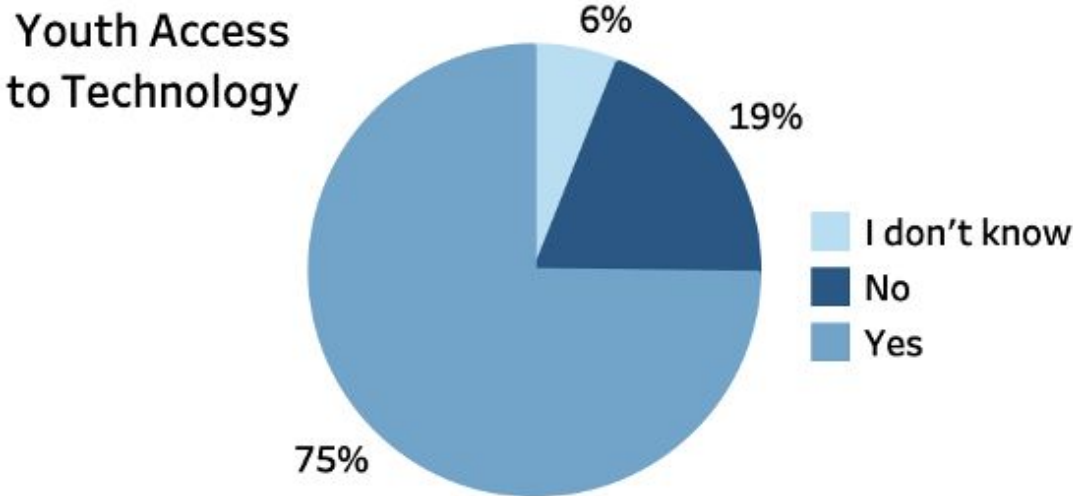
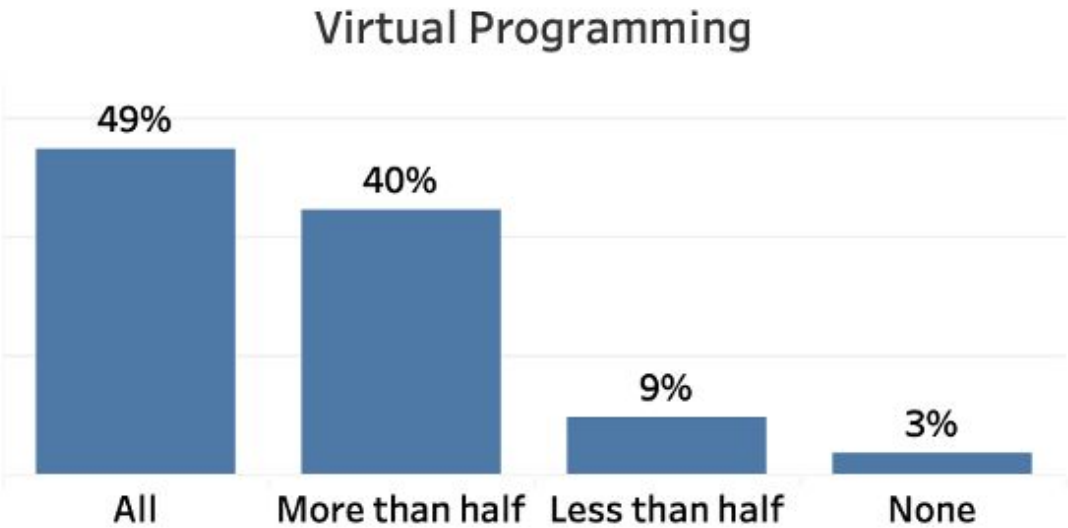
Leadership Identity

Gender Identity

Cis-gender woman	57.8%
Cis-gender man	41.1%
Gender non-conforming (non-binary)	0.7%
Trans-gender woman	0.4%



Virtual Programming & Tech Access



# Nexus of CYD Systems Change Practices



- Partnership Expansion (during the pandemic)
- Movement building support for young people
- Direct Services (pre-pandemic)
- Direct Services (during the pandemic)
- Internal Justice orientation

# Intersecting Practices of Systems Change

## Partnerships+Direct Services

- 55% - Increased Partnerships
  - 89% of these offered Direct Services
- 45% - Did not increase Partnerships
  - 78% of them offered Direct Service

## Movement Building Support\*

- 76% supported youth w/Movement Building
  - 63% of these increased Partnerships
- 81% of all BIPOC led organizations

\*182 responded to this question

## Direct Services Pre & In COVID

- 80% - Offered 1 or more pre-pandemic
- 86% - Offered 1 or more in the pandemic
  - Doubled housing, income & technology support
  - On third more offered food, mental health, & material wellbeing support

## Internal Justice Orientation

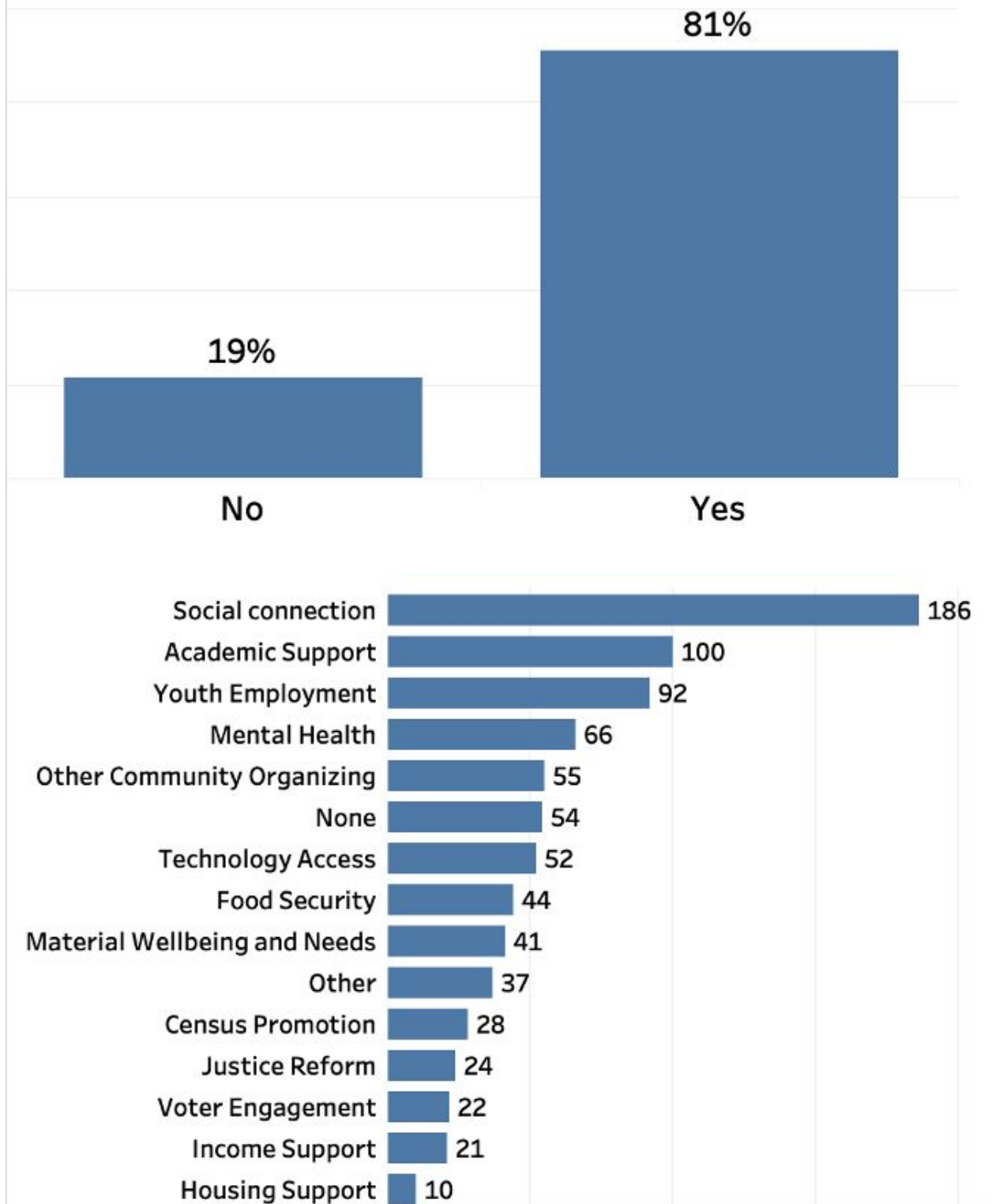
- 60% - List Youth Board Service/Community Reps

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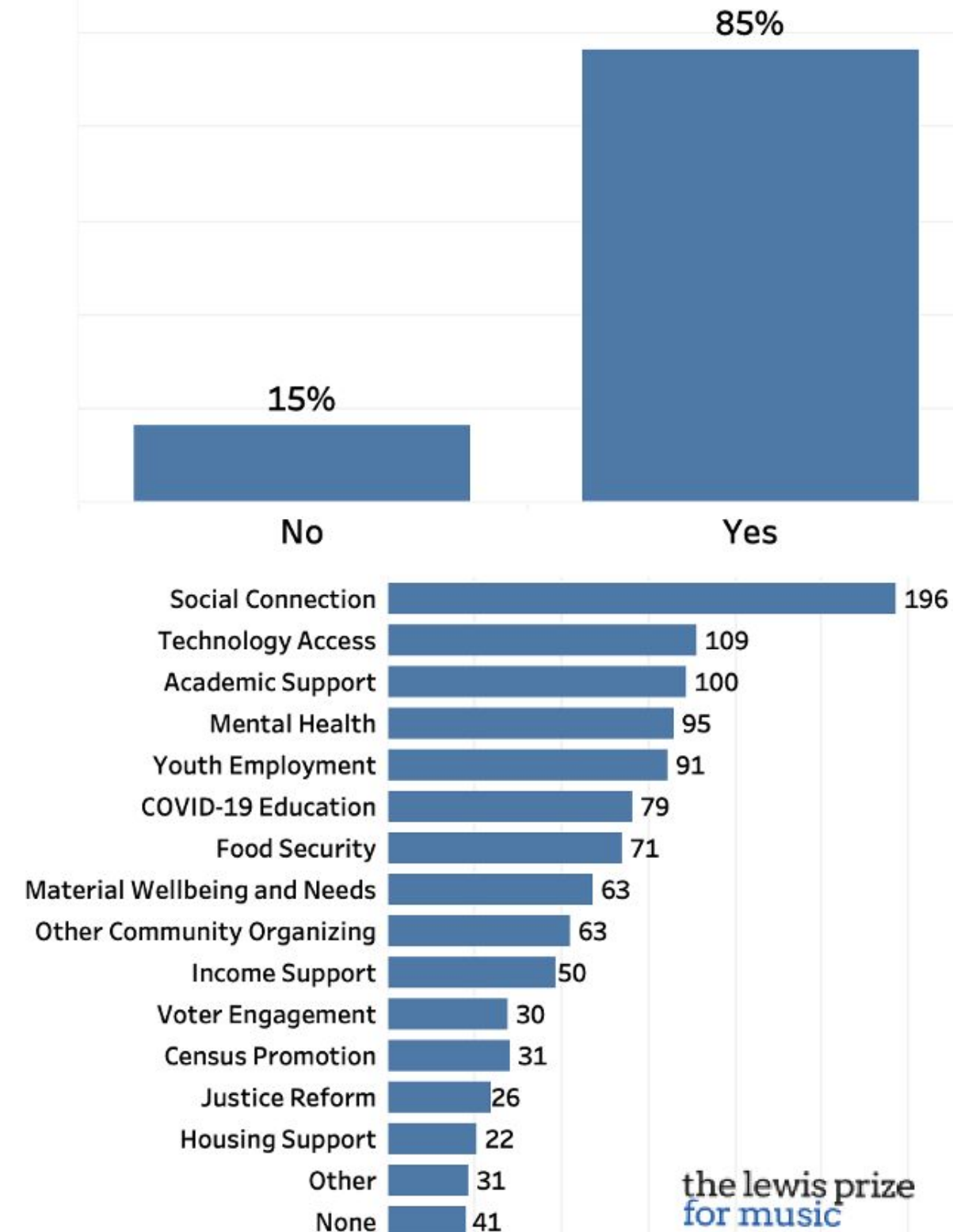
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# Direct Services

Organizations offering direct services  
before the COVID-19 Pandemic



Organizations offering direct services  
during the COVID-19 Pandemic



# BIPOC Leadership

- One third of respondents work at the nexus of systems change
  - 64% of these are BIPOC led
  - BIPOC leadership accounts for only 44% of total respondents
- 64% of BIPOC led respondents expanded partnerships
  - 55% of total respondents expanded partnerships
  - 49% of white led orgs expanded partnerships



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# Multi-Genre Music Programs

- Two thirds of respondents' youth are 61% or higher under-resourced.
  - 64% of these are multi-genre (3 or more genre) music organizations.
  - 78% of the multi-genre organizations support young people in movement work. (Remarkable considering not all respondents completed the movement work question.)
  - 93% of these multi-genre organizations ALSO provided direct services before the pandemic.
    - This far exceeds the total pool's 80%.



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# **Recommendations**

- 1. Amplify, support and fund BIPOC leaders**
- 1. Amplify, support and fund multi-genre pedagogical spaces**
- 1. Build analysis with young people, as organizations and as a field about the connections between direct service and movement building.**

# **Emergent Questions**

- 1. How can the field of music-based creative youth development center freedom and justice for all young people and their communities?**
- 1. What are the most effective practices for sharing stories about the impact of music-based CYD-led systems change?**
- 1. How do we center the stories and outreach strategies of young people as we share about the work of this field over the last year and beyond?**
- 1. In light of the depth of response to crisis from music CYD organizations in the Pandemic, and before the pandemic, how can we re-evaluate and re-consider what communal emergency preparedness is?**
- 1. In parallel, how can we systematically define emergency circumstances so CYD organizations are recognized and supported in their work to fill systemic gaps in access to equitable social connection, education, mental health support, food access, housing security, income stability, etc. that exist daily for too many young people and families?**

# **Breakout Questions**

- 1. What does all of this information mean for the equity of your own local music sector?**
- 1. What is the value of this information for arts ed advocacy?**
- 1. What is the value of this information for non-music colleagues working at the policy level?**

# THANK YOU



# Youth Waymaking in the Context of Crisis



- **Write a letter to something you miss due to COVID-related changes in your life.**
- **Compose and perform in a soundtrack that support the tone and feeling of your letter.**



# Youth Waymaking in the Context of Crisis



reflect

imagine

manifest

# The Lewis Prize for Music

[thelewisprize.org](http://thelewisprize.org)

**OUR MISSION:** The mission of the Lewis Prize is to partner with leaders who create positive change by investing in young people through music. We believe young people with access to Creative Youth Development music learning, performance, and creation opportunities will mature into thriving individuals.

**Values:** Artistic Excellence | Shared Musical Experience | Collaborative and Innovative Leadership

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We believe that thriving and vibrant communities can only be achieved through equitable systems change.

We aim to award ambitious organizations who are already strengthening young people through rigorous and diverse music programs, and influencing systems so all young people can develop greater agency over their lives and contribute positively to their communities.

Creative Youth Development (CYD) describes programs that blend excellence in artistic instruction with principles of positive youth development. More information about CYD and its growth as a field can be found at the [Creative Youth Development National Partnership](#).