

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Impacts of funding and policy changes on STEM equity efforts across the United States



National Girls
Collaborative
Project

During May and June, the National Girls Collaborative surveyed programs and organizations across the United States working to increase equity in STEM education to assess the impact of recent funding and policy changes on their efforts. This is what we learned.

RESPONDENTS

143

professionals responded to the NGCP Program Survey, representing a variety of organizations including K-12 Education, Community-Based or Nonprofit, Higher Education, Afterschool/Out-of-School Time, and Museum/Science Centers.



Respondents represent **28 states** + programs that serve multiple states



98% of respondents focus on equity in STEM



80% of respondents directly serve K-12 youth

IMPACT

To what extent do you feel your program/organization is secure related to continuing to engage in STEM equity work (e.g. serving girls and historically excluded youth in STEM)?



>> While it is encouraging that almost half of respondents report feeling very or somewhat secure, **41% of respondents report feeling somewhat or very insecure** in their efforts to continue to engage in STEM equity work.

To what extent is your program/organization being impacted by the following?

(Percentages = 'somewhat' and 'very much' responses)



Changes in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)-related policies at the federal, state, or local level (77%)



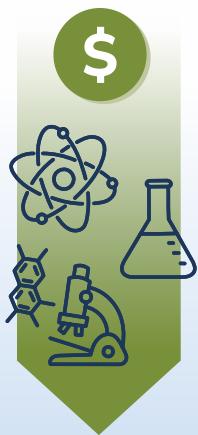
Changes and/or uncertainty in federal, state, or local funding opportunities (82%)



Changes and/or uncertainty in capacity of federal, state, or local agencies (74%)



Potential ripple effects from (85%)



An overwhelming majority of programs and organizations report being impacted by shifts in the policy and funding landscape and these impacts are having serious consequences across the STEM education community.

- Respondents have lost funding from many different sources at the federal, state, and local levels.
- Loss of funding is resulting in decreased programming and opportunities for youth, loss of jobs for staff, and decreased organizational capacity to do this work.
- Respondents WANT to keep doing this work but are being significantly limited by funding and policies.

NEEDS

What would be helpful for you/your program/organization related to your STEM equity efforts at this time?

Funding
(81%)



Advocacy
(46%)



Access to Resources
(40%)



Being part of a community focused on STEM equity
(37%)



Professional development
(24%)



52%

of programs/organizations have adjusted their messaging or offerings as a result of the above.

CALL TO ACTION

In these uncertain times, it is critical for K-12 and higher education, community-based organizations, researchers, industry, funders, and others invested in STEM equity to work together, support each other, and find the best way forward to engage youth from under-resourced communities who have historically been excluded in STEM.

Working with our vast network of partners, NGCP commits to the following:

1

Convene a wide range of funders to identify new funding sources and increase the fundraising capacity of programs.

2

Develop and regularly update a webpage of resources to help programs and organizations understand the current landscape and continue to do their work.

3

Host webinars specifically focused on the current landscape of equity policies and funding.

4

Provide unique opportunities for professionals in the field to connect with, support, and learn from one another.

Now more than ever, educators and other professionals need support to continue their vital work inspiring the next generation in STEM. Join us in making a difference!