

Grant Applicant Survey - Funded and Un-Funded Applicants

Allegany Franciscan Ministries

Compilation Report

September 2018

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Introduction

Allegany Franciscan Ministries works continuously to improve their partnership with community organizations and to improve their processes. As part of that effort, the foundation asked all organizations that applied for an ACOR, All Region Fund, Major, St. Clare, or Tau grant in the prior 12 months to complete a brief online survey to provide feedback. Just less than half of the respondents (46%) were from organizations whose applications were approved for funding during 2017-2018. Foundation staff sent an email introducing the survey to applicants and then provided a list of email addresses to an independent evaluator. The evaluator sent the survey invitation and two reminders. Every organization that completed a survey by the due date was entered into a drawing to receive a \$250 donation; entries to the drawing were separated from responses by the independent evaluator. The survey had a 52% response rate. Invitations were sent to 231 organizations that had completed an application in the prior 12 months. The evaluation consultant and Allegany Franciscan Ministries staff worked together to prepare this report. This compilation will be reviewed by Allegany Franciscan Ministries to identify areas for improvement; the document will also be shared with survey respondents.

Aggregate survey results, by question

What were the characteristics of respondents?

Figure 1: What geographic area does your organization serve?

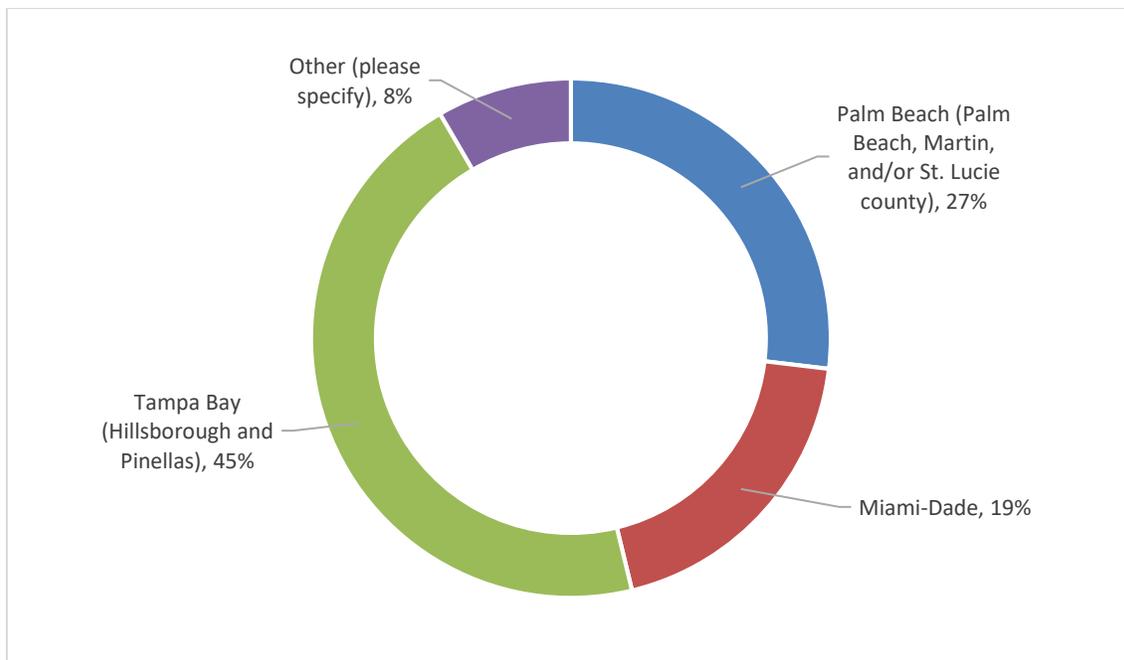


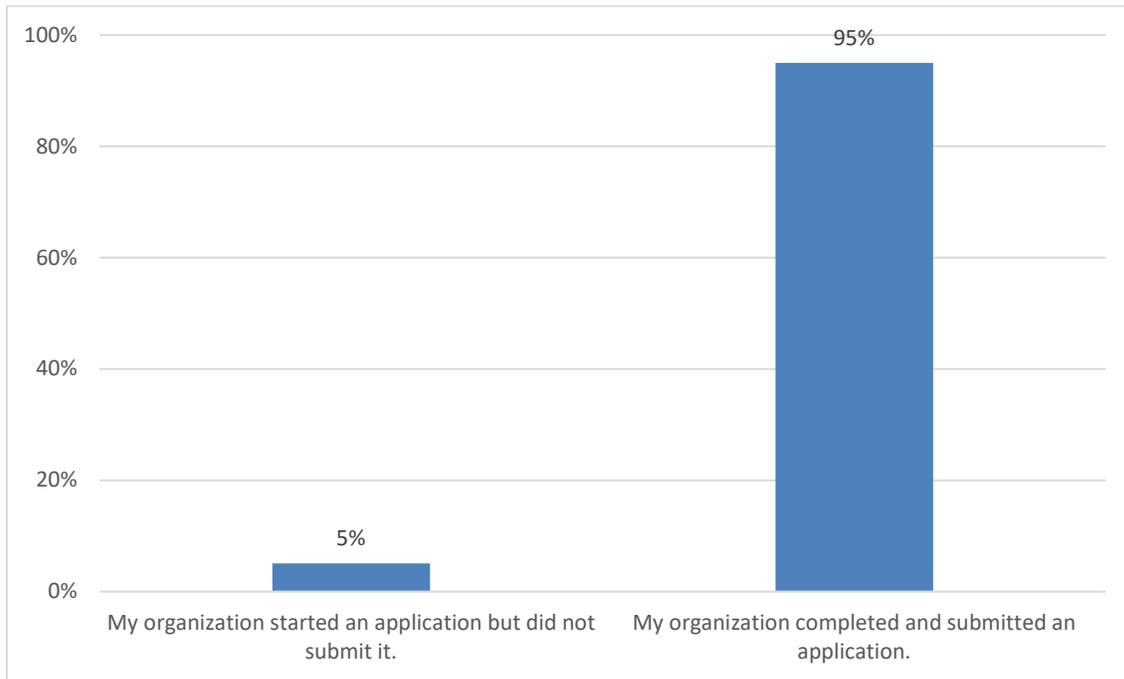
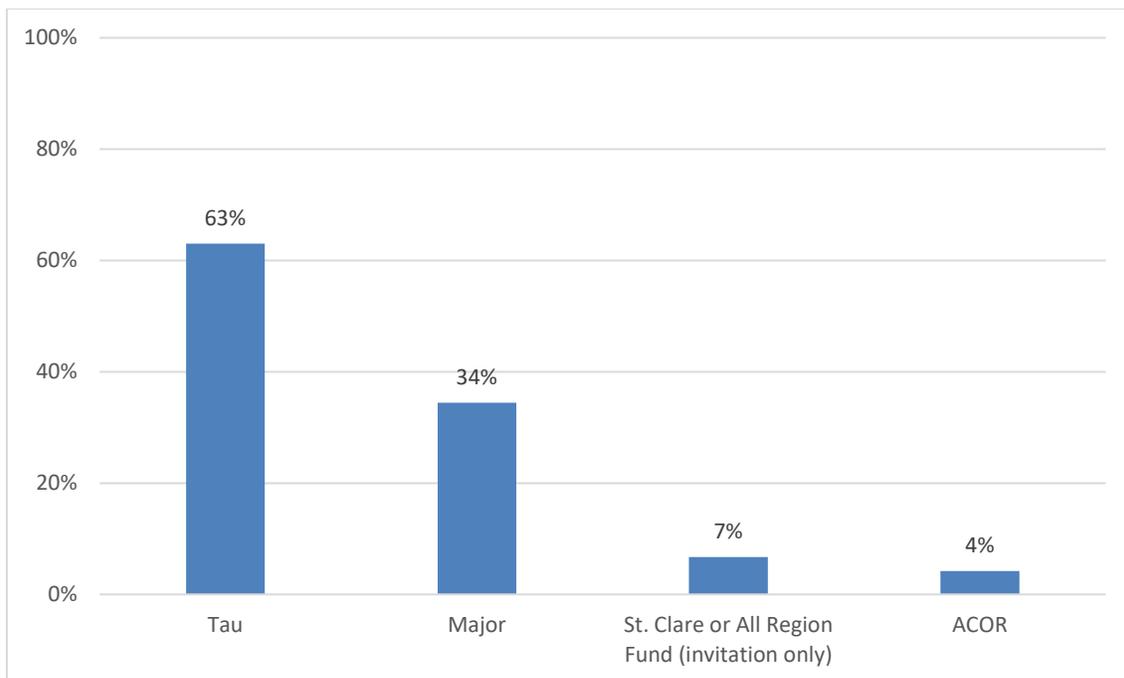
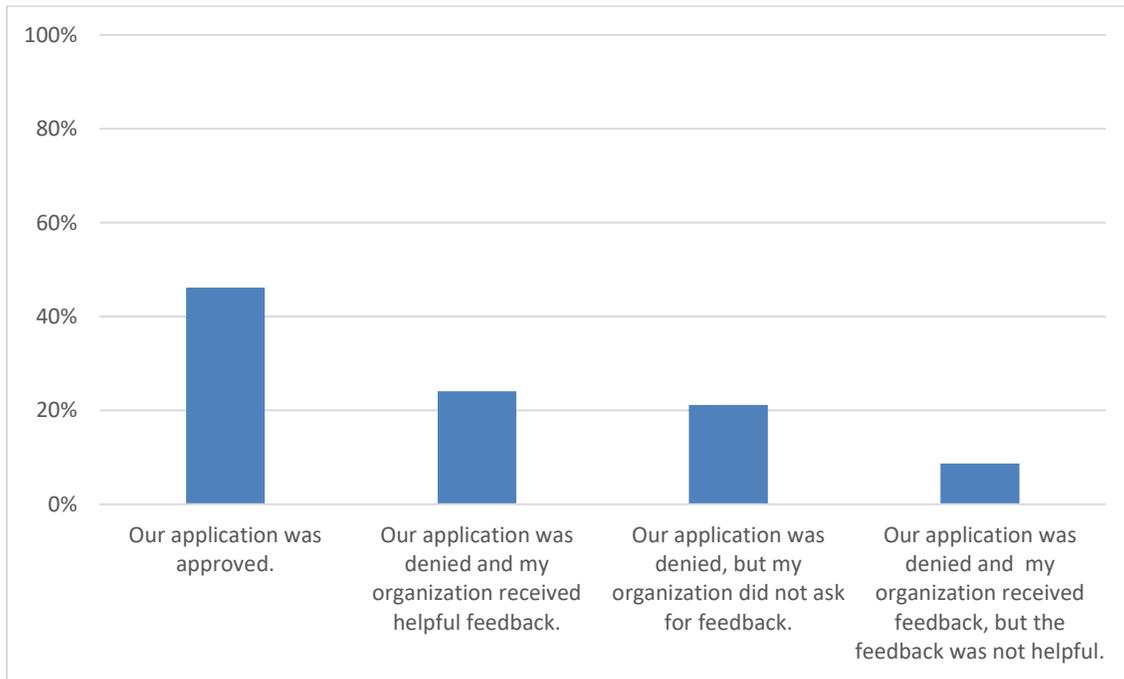
Figure 2: Did your organization submit an application this year?**Figure 3: Which grant program did you apply for – or begin an application for – between July 2017 and June 2018? Check all that apply.**

Figure 4: Please choose the statement that best reflects your experience.



How do respondents communicate?

Figure 4 summarizes how respondents heard about the grant opportunity. Please note that responses exceed 100% as respondents could check all that applied. *Other* responses included having applied/been awarded a grant in the past (six respondents).

Figure 5: How did you learn about this grant opportunity? Check all that apply.

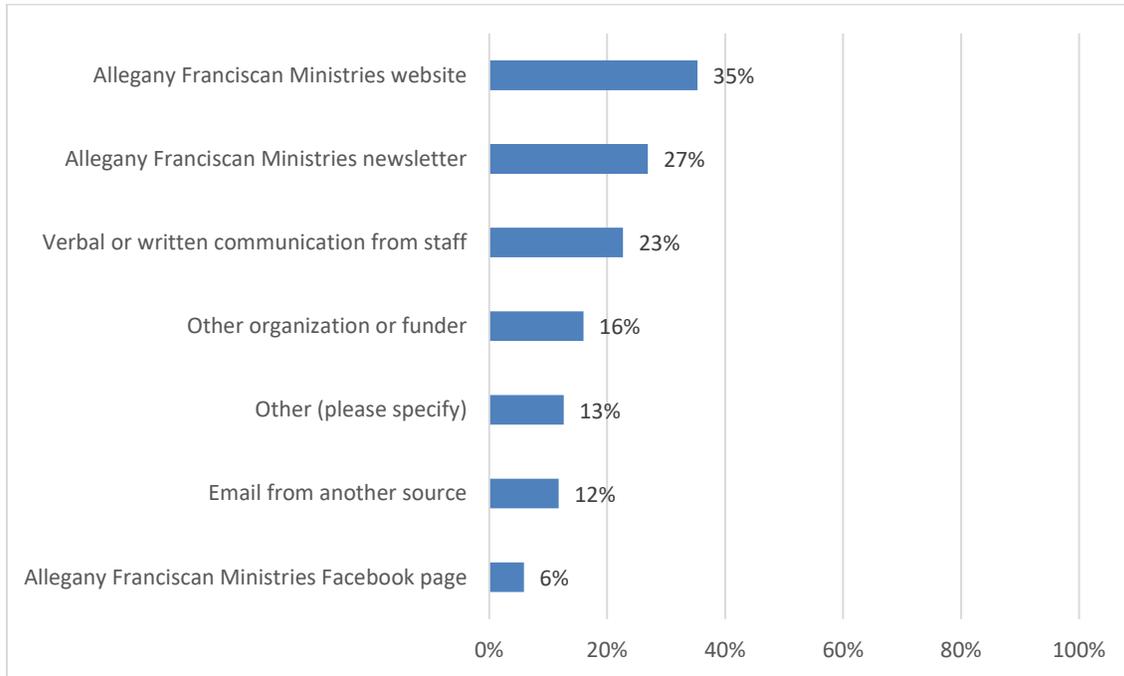
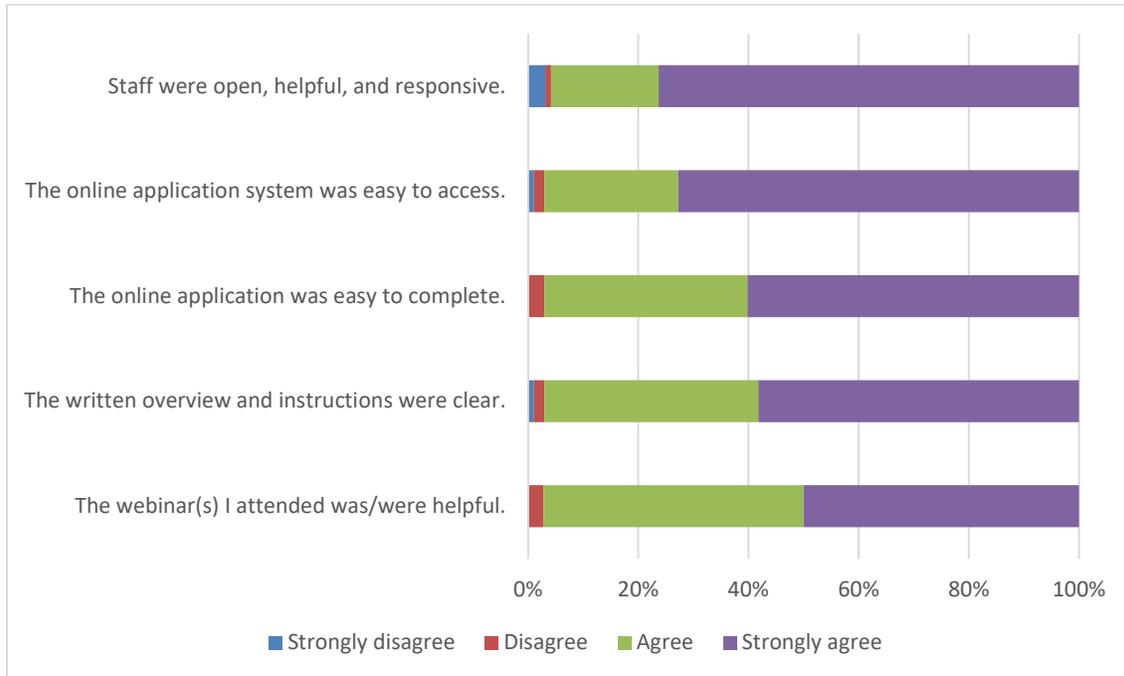


Figure 6: Does your organization use social media? Do you and/or your organization follow Allegany Franciscan Ministries on Facebook and/or LinkedIn?

	Yes	No
Use social media	94%	6%
Follow Allegany Franciscan Ministries on Facebook	51%	49%
Follow Allegany Franciscan Ministries on LinkedIn	17%	83%

What was the feedback on the application process?

Figure 7: Feedback on the application process.

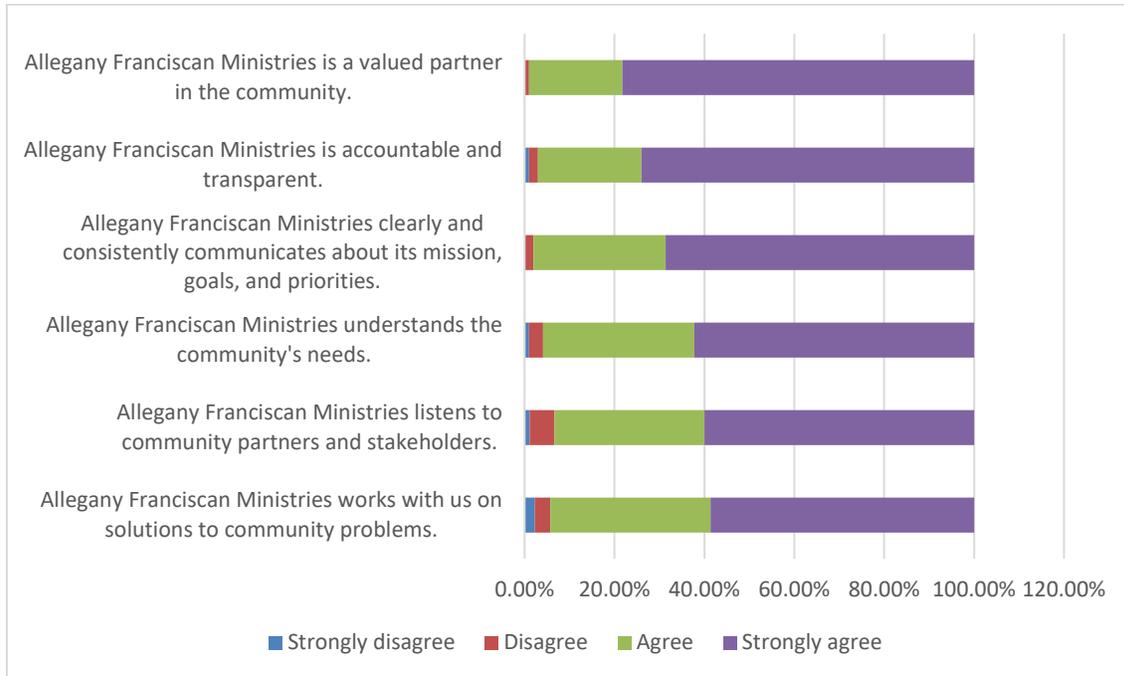


The total percentage of *agree* and *strongly agree* responses was similar among applicants from organizations with applications approved for funding and those whose applications were not were similar. Those with approved applications, however, were more likely to choose *strongly agree*.

Seventy respondents were asked if they faced any challenges in the application process. Of those, 40 wrote “none” or “n/a” or complimented the application process. Thirty applicants (25% of total respondents) described a challenge. No challenges were mentioned consistently across applicants, however, the most prevalent were that the applicant was denied despite receiving prior feedback or the applicant was denied but felt there was a fit (six respondents). For example, one respondent reported “We have difficulty finding alignment with Allegany, although we think we have a lot of overlap in vision, values, and who we want to serve.”

What was the feedback on Allegany Franciscan Ministries?

Figure 8: Opinions about Allegany Franciscan Ministries.



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Respondents were also asked for feedback on the overall grantmaking process; one-third provided comments and of those, two-thirds were compliments or positive aspects of the process. The most prevalent was the helpfulness/openness of staff. One respondent reported, “Staff were readily available to answer any questions and were very helpful.” Another said, “We so appreciate the forthright conversations we had with Allegany reviewers. It made us feel as though we were being listened to and had a partner in addressing our concerns.” Only 10 respondents provided suggestions for improvement, and no suggestions were mentioned consistently.