



Association for Washington Archaeology
Grants and Scholarships Committee
Microgrant Program "Six-Month" Report
November 2022 to June 2023

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AWA Grants and Scholarships Committee

Prepared for:

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October 7, 2023

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Summary

This report summarizes the status and activities of the AWA Microgrant Program from November 2022 to July 2023. Since the AWA Grants and Scholarships Committee's (AWA GS&C) previous report, the AWA Microgrant Program has distributed **\$4,605.00 to 31 individuals**. The majority of those supported were Washington State students or residents, though the grant has also provided financial support to many others across the Pacific Northwestern United States. The program took in approximately \$5,040.05 in donations and paid no fees, resulting in a net fundraising of \$5,040.05. Since its inception, the program has paid out \$9,505.00 and taken in \$10,764.16. As of July 2023, a total of \$1,254.17 remains.

The Microgrant Program met approximately 54 percent of the total financial need requested by applicants during this reporting period. Applicant testimonials identify a number of issues facing PNW archaeologists and heritage professionals, including a lack of support for field schools, costs associated with classes, familial care obligations, unexpected bills, equipment costs, long-term financial insecurities, and conference support. The AWA GS&C currently plans to continue their outreach and fundraising activities and has no plans to make any major changes to the program or our program-related committee activities in the immediate future.

I. Introduction

The following report satisfies the transparency and reporting requirements set forth by the Association for Washington Archaeology (AWA) Grants and Scholarships Committee (GSC) and the AWA Board of Directors (Board) for the AWA Microgrant Program. It provides details on the first six months of the operation of the program, the demographics of those who applied to it, and the program's financial state. It also describes the current goals of the AWA GSC regarding the program.

The Association for Washington Archaeology [Microgrant Program](#) was approved by the AWA Board of Directors in May 2022 and launched in June 2022. The AWA Microgrant program offers up to (U.S.) \$200 grants to archaeology students, emerging professionals, and tribal heritage-related employees in the Pacific Northwestern United States (PNW). These are "no-questions-asked" grants which can be used to support any number of things, including (but not limited to) childcare, rent, equipment, tuition, fees, car repair, or general assistance with any cash-flow problem. They're inspired by similar grants offered by Sportula and the Black Trowel Collective.

Grants are handed out once per month, with priority currently going to applicants from excluded, marginalized, or working class/low-income communities or identities, or from those

that have experienced colonialism or imperialism. That being said, all individuals are welcome to apply, and the program works to fund all applicants in time.

II. General Updates

II.A. Committee Makeup and Meetings

The AWA GSC currently consists of five members:

- David Carlson (Chair)
- Molly Carney
- Merrile Gunnier
- Tom Minichillo
- Shae McCarron

AWA Treasurer Chris Lockwood serves as a non-voting member.

The AWA GSC has met once between November 2022 and June 2023. This meeting was primarily dedicated to discussing the results of the AWA Executive Board's review of the microgrant program. Points of discussion included potential tax issues, additional outreach and support to microgrant recipients, and strategies for microgrant outreach and funding. Non-microgrant affairs were also discussed.

Critical work continues to be conducted each month outside of formal meetings. Committee members spent time each week responding to new applications and applicant emails. Initial applications were verified by email and limited background research (typically involving looking up universities to ensure that they were in or likely to have people working in the Pacific Northwest). Applicants were rank ordered according to established criteria, and those rankings were approved either via Zoom meetings or via email correspondence. Once approved, the AWA Treasurer dispersed monies via PayPal or physical mail.

II.B Grant Operations Updates

AWA Microgrant procedures remain relatively unchanged since our last six-month report, save for an update to grant ranking requested by the AWA Board of Directors. The AWA Board requested that grant applications be additionally ranked based on the number of prior applications, with those with fewer prior applications being ranked higher than those with more. This was done to further "spread the wealth" of the AWA Microgrant and to ease concerns AWA Board Members had about the availability of funds for new applicants.

As before, once applications are received, AWA GSC members first confirm that the applicants did, indeed, apply for the grant (Figure 1). In addition, any lingering qualification issues—typically due to someone forgetting to fill in a required field—are resolved. Occasionally, a light

amount of background research is done to confirm that the applicant qualifies for the grant. Once this is complete, the applicant is considered ready for prioritization.

As part of our email responses to applicants, the AWA GSC includes links to potentially relevant funding sources, including those provided by the AWA. This is done to both support the applicant and to encourage further engagement with the AWA.

The AWA GSC works to fund all those who apply. However, when budgets are limited, the committee prioritizes those who apply based on the decision tree and prioritization scheme outlined in Figure 2. Once applicants have been ranked, the list of ranked applicants is sent to the AWA GSC for approval. At that point, changes in applicant ranking can be made depending on specific contextual or situational factors that individual members can bring up. The six basic rankings for applicants are as follows:

1. Applicants from minoritized/excluded/exploited communities or identities who (a) have applied to the Microgrant in previous months, but (b) have yet to receive an award.
2. All other applicants who (a) have applied to the Microgrant in previous months, but (b) have yet to receive an award.
3. Applicants from minoritized/excluded/exploited communities or identities who (a) have applied to the Microgrant in the current month, but (b) have yet to receive an award.
4. All other applicants who (a) have applied to the Microgrant in the current month, but (b) have yet to receive an award.
5. Applicants from minoritized/excluded/exploited communities or identities who (a) have applied to the Microgrant in the current or previous months and (b) have received an award.
6. All other applicants who (a) have applied to the Microgrant in the current or previous months and (b) have received an award.

Within these categories, applicants are additionally ranked based on the number of awards they've received. Note that there is currently no limit on the number of awards an individual can receive per year, in order to maximize the grant's ability to support individual applicants. As such, if sufficient funds are available, then individuals with potentially multiple previous awards will still be awarded.

II.C Ensuring New Applicants Have Access to Funds

One concern voiced by some members of the Board of Directors during the Microgrant Program's previous six-month review was that, due to repeated applicants, new applicants might not be able to access funds at some future point. The AWA GS&C wish to address those concerns here by listed the various policies and procedures which ensure that there will be money available to new applicants:

1. New applicants are typically ranked higher than returning ones, unless there is a severe, immediate, unique need.
2. Returning applicants are further ranked by how many times they've been funded. The more they've been funded, the lower the rank.
3. If we cannot fund all applicants in a given month, they are given priority next month. Thus, new applicants that are not funded will be first priority in the following month.
4. The AWA Microgrant Program currently brings in a regular \$100.00 per month. We regularly send fundraising emails requesting more recurring donations. This, in combination with the above ranking system, ensures that new applicants have a chance for money.
5. Finally, when the Microgrant Program does not have enough money to cover an entire month, the AWA GSC reaches out to the membership for one-time and recurring donations. So far, this has proved a successful means of funding applicants during shortfalls.

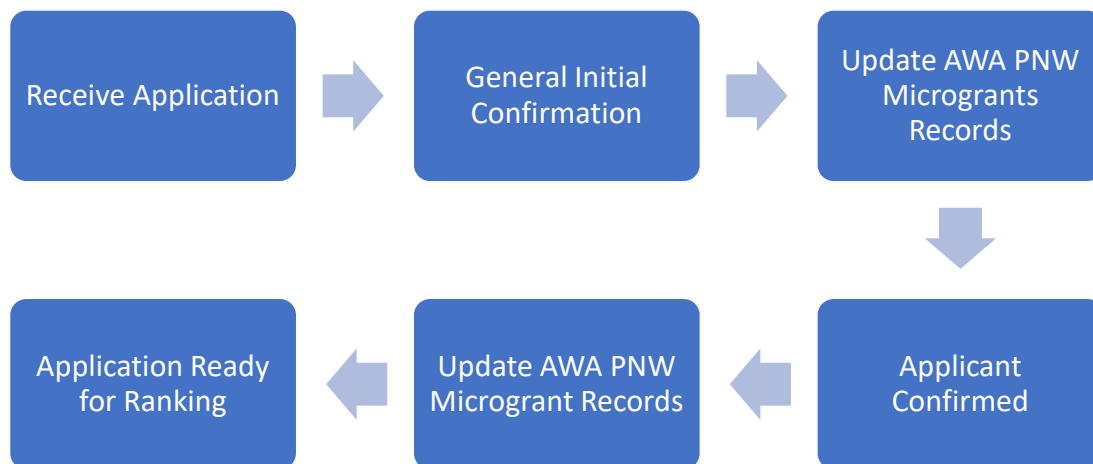


Figure 1. Workflow for handling initial applications.

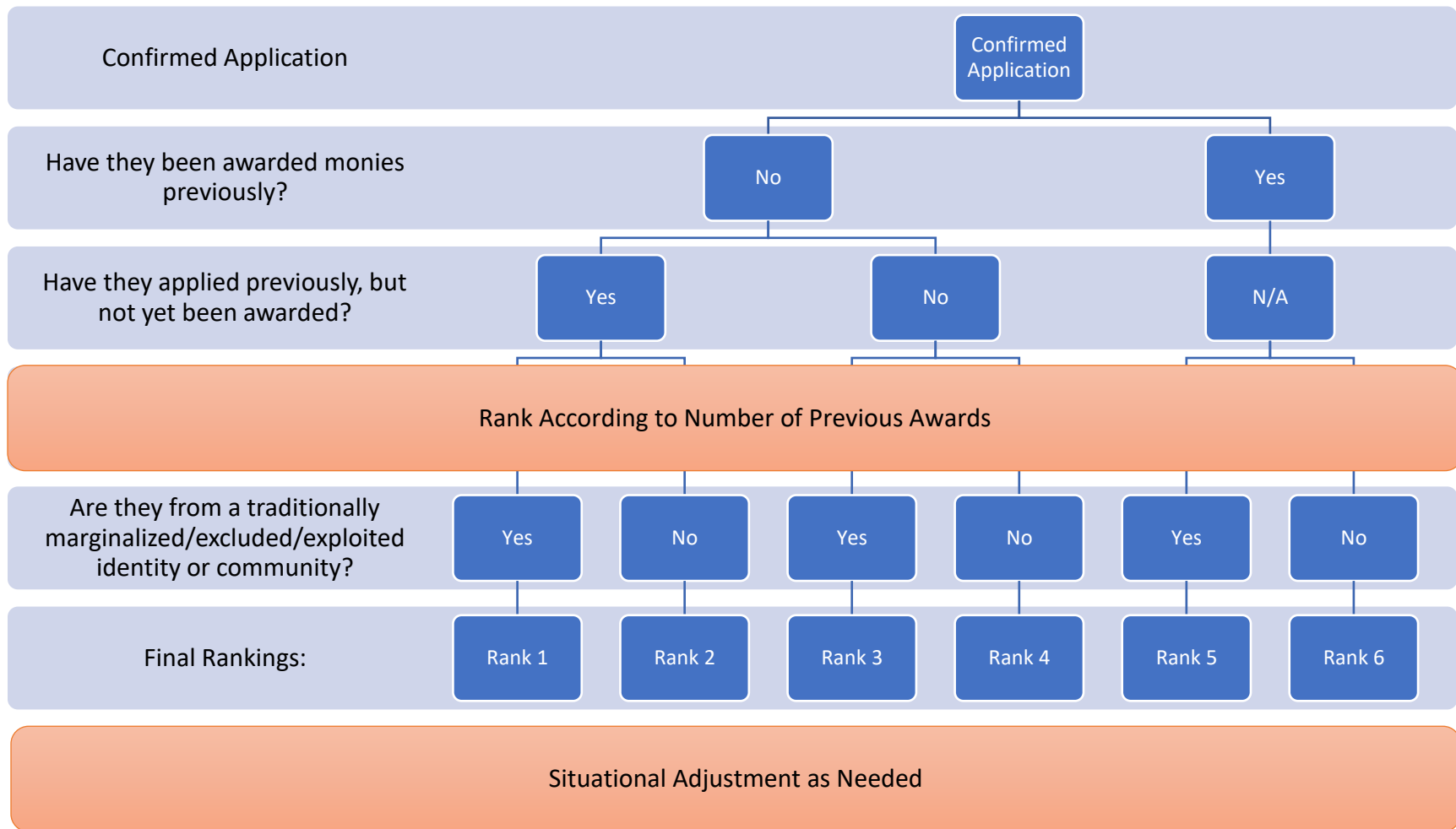


Figure 2. Visual representation of decision-tree for ranking applicants.

III. Applicants

III.A. Applicant Demographics

Between November 2022 and June 2023, the AWA Microgrant Program has received a total of 43 applications from 31 applicants. Of these, 41 applications have been funded. The remaining two applications were not funded due to the candidates living internationally, which disqualified them. Of the 31 applicants, 18 were first-time applicants to the program. The remaining 13 had applied previously.

In terms of total grant applications over the life of the grant, the AWA Microgrant Program has received a total of 100 applications from 76 applicants, of which 89 have been funded. The remaining nine applications were not funded. Generally, this was due to a mix of not being qualified or not providing sufficient information to confirm their qualifications.

Applicant demographics are summarized in Tables 1 through 4. All told, most applicants were students. Most students were enrolled in a Washington State higher education program. The remaining students were enrolled in higher education programs in Oregon, California, and national/international remote degree programs. The greatest number of student applications came from Western Washington and Washington State University. As with students, most applications from emerging professionals and tribal heritage-related employees were from those who worked primarily in Washington.

Table 1. Breakdown of applications, per fiscal period, by applicant status

Applicant Status	11.22-06.23		06.22-10.22		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Student	25	61	30	63	56	63
Student and Emerging Professional	4	10	7	15	11	12
Emerging Professional	9	22	8	17	17	19
Emerging Professional and Tribal Heritage-Related Employee	0	0	1	2	1	1
Student, Emerging Professional, and Tribal Heritage-Related Employee	1	2	0	0	1	1
Tribal Heritage-Related Employee	2	5	1	2	3	3
Other	0	0	1	2	1	1
Total	41		48		89	

Table 2. Breakdown of student applications, per fiscal period, by state*

State Enrolled	11.22-06.23		06.22-10.22		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Washington	26	85	24	63	50	71
Oregon	2	6	4	10	6	9
California	1	3	1	3	2	3
Nevada	0	0	8	21	8	12
New Hampshire	0	0	1	3	1	1
Other	2	6	0	0	3	4
Total	31		38		69	

*This includes all individuals who indicated they were students, regardless of what else they indicated.

Table 3. Breakdown of student applications, per fiscal period, by college*

College	11.22-06.23		06.22-10.22		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Western Washington University	8	25	10	26	18	26
Washington State University	11	34	8	21	19	27
Central Washington University	1	3	3	8	4	6
University of Washington	3	9	2	5	5	7
Edmonds College	0	0	1	2.6	1	1
Peninsula Community College	1	3	0	0	1	1
Oregon State University	0	0	2	5	2	3
University of Oregon	0	0	1	2.6	1	1
Portland State University	0	0	1	2.6	1	1
University of Nevada-Reno	0	0	7	18	7	10
University of California-Santa Cruz	1	3	1	2.6	2	3
University of New Mexico	0	0	1	2.6	1	1
Southern New Hampshire University	0	0	1	2.6	1	1
Other	6	22	0	0	6	10
Total	31		38		69	

*This includes all individuals who indicated they were students, regardless of what else they indicated.

Table 4. Breakdown of emerging professional and tribal-heritage related employee applications, per fiscal period, by state.

	11.22-06.23		06.22-10.22		Total	
State of Primary Work	N	%	N	%	N	%
Washington	9	82	4	40	13	62
Oregon	0	0	1	10	1	5
California	1	9	2	20	3	14
California and Idaho	0	0	1	10	1	5
General PNW	1	9	2	20	3	14
Total	11		10		21	

III.B. Applicant Testimonials

We asked for permission to share the stories of the applicants. Some did not wish to be disclosed at all, while others were okay with disclosure. Regardless, some of the following testimonials have been slightly edited to reduce the likelihood of an applicant being identified. All told, they paint a picture of the kinds of impediments and struggles facing students, emerging professionals, and tribal employees in Pacific Northwestern archaeology. Applicants spoke of a variety of issues, including, but not limited to, the need for help for basic field equipment, financial support in school, car repair, needing to pay rent, attending conferences and field schools, and even facing issues of food insecurity.

- “I am a nonbinary, mixed race (Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, and white) emerging professional who was recently hired for their first field technician job. I have struggled financially growing up, having to work since I was old enough to legally do so to help make ends meet, and still struggle to make ends meet to this day. I sustained a knee injury a couple years ago that still gives me trouble and made me think I had no chance of getting into the field until now. This micro grant would greatly assist me with purchasing starting equipment necessary to work in the field with my first field technician job. It would also help me procure equipment necessary to assist my knee such as a knee brace and a hiking pole so that I may work in the field without risk of reinjury and hopefully without pain.”
- “I’m in a difficult situation rn [right now] and I can’t afford my Groceries and some other bills in the house. Please any assistance would be greatly appreciated.”
- “I was so surprised and pleased to hear about this grant. Thank you for offering assistance to students and emerging professionals. I am grateful to the community for

respecting and embracing me as a queer and trans individual and for supporting underrepresented and otherwise marginalized folks in this field of work.”

- “I am a first-generation, "non-traditional" undergraduate who comes from a blue-collar background, working my way through college, intending to begin graduate school sometime next year. The money that AWA has supplied in the past has done incredible things to help with the food insecurity that my family & I face every month. All the help that you fine people provide is MUCH appreciated. Thanks so much!”
- “I am a female student starting my first paid work as an archaeology tech this month. This grant would help me greatly with obtaining gear.”
- “Hi! Thanks for this opportunity. I plan to use these funds to attend the SAA Conference in Portland at the end of February.”
- “I'm currently a grad student with two (soon to be 3) jobs and since September I have become the sole earner for my partner and I. I've been short on hours the last few weeks because I have been limited by my chronic pain in the cold weather and it's left us tight on rent for March.”

IV. Financial Information

The AWA Microgrant Program has brought in a total of \$5,040.05 between November 2022 and June 2023 (Table 5). Approximately \$4,240.05 of that came in the form of individual donations (Table 6). The AWA itself contributed \$400.00 to the program in its 2023-2024 budget. The remaining monies from the AWA Crisis Relief fund, totaling \$3,002.39, were transferred to the Microgrant Fund in April 2023. These monies represent the remaining individually donated funds from the Crisis Relief Fund (unlike the previous monies, which were AWA-donated funds) and donor permission was required before they could be transferred. Finally, \$837.66 was donated by individual donors. The remaining monies—a total of \$800.00—came from monthly, recurring donations. The program incurred no administrative costs during this time, for a net fundraising total of \$5,040.05.

A total of \$4,605.00 was dispersed between November 2022 and June 2023 (Table 7). A total of \$8,475.00 was requested during this period, meaning that the program met approximately 54% of the total need. The periods with the highest proportion of dispersals were November 2022 and March to May 2023. Consistent with the AWA GSC’s goals of “spreading the wealth” as much as possible, the vast majority of dispersals (n=35) were for \$100.00. Two dispersals were for specific amounts between \$100.00 and \$200.00, and three were for \$200.00. Of the 31 applicants, 19 were first-time applicants. The remaining 13 were returning applicants. A total of

25 of the 31 applicants received one award during this period. Four received two awards, one received three, and one received six. While applicants who had been awarded before were ranked lower based on how many awards they received, the AWA Microgrant Fund had sufficient funds to fund everyone who applied and qualified during this period.

Overall, the AWA Microgrant Program has taken in \$10,764.16 since its inception (Table 5). It has paid \$4.99 in PayPal fees since that time, for a net fundraising total of \$10,759.17. It has dispersed \$9,505.00 during that period, leaving approximately \$1,254.17 remaining as of July 2023.

Table 5. Fundraising and Dispersal Overview

	Current Six-Month	Previous Total	Current Total
Fundraising Gross	\$5,040.05	\$5,724.11	\$10,764.16
Costs	\$0.00	\$4.99	\$4.99
Fundraising Net	\$5,040.05	\$5,719.12	\$10,759.17
Total Dispersed	\$4,605.00	\$4,900	\$9,505.00
Account Balance	\$435.05	\$819.12	\$1,254.17

Table 6. Breakdown of Donations by Type

Type	Source	Total Amounts		
		<i>Current Six-Month</i>	<i>Previous Total</i>	<i>Current Total</i>
One-Time	AWA	\$400.00	\$800.00	\$1,200.00
	AWA Crisis Relief	\$3,002.39	\$3,000.00	\$6,002.39
	Private	\$837.66	\$1,524.11	\$2,361.77
Recurring (Totals)	Monthly	\$800.00	\$400.00	\$1,200.00
	Yearly	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals		\$5,040.00	\$5,724.11	\$10,764.16

Table 7. Breakdown of Dispersals*, Current Six-Month Review Period

Award Month	Dispersal Month	Total Dispersals		Amount per Dispersal			
		Amount	Number	\$100	\$150	\$155	\$200
November	December	\$700	6	5	0	0	1
December	January	\$400	4	4	0	0	0
January	February	\$200	2	2	0	0	0
February	March	\$550	4	3	1	0	0
March	April	\$700	7	7	0	0	0
April	May	\$700	7	7	0	0	0
May	June	\$700	6	5	0	0	1
June	July	\$655	5	3	0	1	1
Six-Month Total		\$4,605	41	35	1	1	3
<i>Total Previous</i>		\$4,900**	48	47	1	0	1
Current Total		\$9,405	89	82	2	1	4

*Note: Since awards are dispersed in the following month, award months are one month delayed from dispersal months.

**We accidentally misreported our September 2022 payouts in our previous report. We paid out \$1,300, not \$1,200. The proper total is represented here.

V. Outreach and Awareness Raising

Outreach is of critical importance to the Microgrant Program. The AWA GSC has continued to advertise the Microgrant Program at regular intervals on social media and via the AWA mailing list. They also emailed all Tribes listed on the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation’s Tribal Contact list directly to notify them of the grant. Going forward, the AWA GSC plans to advertise the microgrant three to four times per year on those platforms, plus a one time per year “email blast” to local Tribal cultural resource offices, Washington university/college Anthropology departments, and known Washington State Anthropology clubs and organizations.

VI. Future Plans

In addition to the aforementioned outreach schedule, the AWA GSC will issue periodic calls for donations, both one-time and monthly, to the AWA membership and on social media. Beyond that, the AWA GS&C has no plans to do any major adjustments to the granting program in the immediate future. There are several reasons for this. For one, the GSC wish to avoid creating long waitlists for program applicants, particularly since those may impact the ability of new

applicants to get funds in a timely manner. Beyond that, the AWA GSC's labor and time is limited, and there are other grants which need the committee's attention.

IV. Conclusion

To summarize, the AWA Microgrant Program has distributed \$4,605.00 over the past eight months. The majority of those supported were Washington State residents and/or students, though the grant has also provided financial aid to many other individuals within the Pacific Northwest. The Microgrant Program was able to meet 54 percent of the total amount requested by applicants. **There is clearly continuing financial need among PNW archaeologists and heritage professionals**, with many identifying a lack of support for field schools, familial care obligations, unexpected bills, equipment costs, long-term financial insecurities, school fees and costs, and conference support as sources of struggle. As we continue to adapt the program to meet current and future challenges and needs, we look forward to working with the Board and the AWA to support the next generation of archaeologists.