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2022 National Grassroots Organizing Grant Recipients

#### 350 New Hampshire

#### Dover, NH

350NH is a multigenerational grassroots movement fighting to end the use of fossil fuels and for a just transition to 100% percent renewable energy through a mobilization of people power and community organizing. 350NH's Youth Climate Organizing Program brings together a powerful cohort of high school students to fight for climate justice. Students from across NH participate in in-person trainings and retreats and meet digitally to develop organizing strategy, plan direct actions and increase voter turnout. Participants gain dynamic grassroots organizing and movement building skills. The program is youth-led by a team of fellows who receive stipends for their leadership roles. The program includes a Sept-June Fellowship program and a July-August paid summer internship program.

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350NH is running a regional campaign to shut down the last coal plant in New England, in Bow, NH. They are also hosting a retreat to teach activists the skills to run non-violent direct actions, as well as hiring a team of fellows to increase voter turnout and will be working with a national coalition to pressure the federal government to stop the extraction of fossil fuels.

### ABLE NH (Advocates Building Lasting Equality in NH)

### Concord, NH

ABLE NH is a member-driven disability justice organization that works locally through chapter-based organizing where members decide on the local disability issues they want to work on changing; and at the state level through Task Forces that work on larger, systemic issues. ABLE supports local leaders with and without disabilities by providing: free trainings on leadership skill-building and community organizing, technical skills, networking, and building an effective issue campaign. Via contact lists, social media, and tabling at a variety of cultural/issue events ABLE builds intersectional coalition across justice issues and within the disability community. ABLE centers the voices of people with developmental and intellectual disabilities by providing leadership skill-building and staff support for these leaders to manifest ABLE's commitment to "nothing about us without us" when calling for systemic change.

Four times in 2022 ABLE will again run its free 4-part community organizing weekly training series covering: Ableism & Disability Justice; Understanding Power & Self-Interest; 1:1 Meetings; and Building a Strategic Campaign. ABLE staff and local chapter members will conduct outreach within the network of disability partners and partners working on racial justice, homophobia, voting rights and economic justice.

# About Face: Veterans Against the War

### Arvada, CO

About Face: Veterans Against the War works to build a post 9/11 service member and veteran-led movement by organizing to end a foreign policy of permanent war and the use of military weapons, tactics, and values in communities across the country. In response to a rapidly expanding "War on

\$30,000

\$20,000

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Founded in 2021, ACT 4 SA is the first community grassroots organization created to address inequality and injustice in San Antonio related to policing and criminal justice advocacy. Made up of community organizers and volunteers, and led by black women, ACT 4 SA won a 10-day rule for the release of body camera footage for excessive force and deaths in custody in their first year of

Pentagon budget and ending the Bush-era Authorization for the Use of Military Force.

Campaign goals for the coming year include: 1) Reducing timeline for release of SAPD body camera footage and stronger discipline for body camera infractions; 2) Creating an Independent Office of Civilian Oversight for San Antonio; 3) Amend TX state statutes that govern city police department's contracts through ballot initiatives. This would allow removal of many of the problematic disciplinary barriers that currently exist in the police contract; 4) Continuing the fight to create and implement nonpolice alternative responder teams for mental health crisis calls; and 5) Create system for voting at the county jail. Most inmates at the county jail are eligible to vote, but are unable to do so, due to being incarcerated.

Terror", About Face evolved from a focus on individual theaters of US military operations to looking at root causes underlying U.S. military incursions abroad and the community violence perpetrated by security forces at home. Through their Drop the MIC (Military-Industrial Complex) campaign, About

awareness and political education about militarism and the MIC; leveraging popular awareness and knowledge toward systemic wins (policy and culture change); developing cultural, economic, and political "just transition" and; cultivating partnerships including the Poor People's Campaign,

In 2022, About Face will reinvigorate their Drop the MIC (Military-Industrial Complex) campaign to expose corporations that fund endless war around the world. The campaign's goal is to interrupt the power of these companies in Congress, shrink the Department of Defense budget, and redirect funds towards humanitarian aid, climate change, and public healthcare. About Face will: Shape the public narrative on US war spending; Do direct action at corporations that engage in war profiteering; Organize grassroots communities that want to build a regenerative economy by removing military installations and operations; and Work in coalitions to attain policy goals such as reducing the

Face is working to change the way the US public looks at militarism by raising mass popular

Grassroots Global Justice Alliance and Highlander Center.

# Adelante Student Voices

# Poughkeepsie, NY

ACT4SA

organizing.

San Antonio, TX

Adelante Student Voices is a network of undocumented youth activists across New York State that brings together students, their families, educators, and other allies using a popular education model that centralizes the experience of undocumented youth from small towns and rural areas when identifying issues and solutions. Young people become members as high school or GED students when they participate in Adelante's intensive Summer Program. Adelante not only offers support to students when seeking access to higher education, but also provides the space and tools for the members to make social change through participation in campaigns and coalitions.

Funding was provided in support of Adelante's transition to direct organizing, including hiring a part time Youth Organizer. In the past, they have participated in grassroots coalitions. Now, the youth want to take on leadership roles as youth organizers in direct organizing. They are preparing a campaign aimed at discrimination against immigrants students within K-12 school systems.

# \$20,000

# Alianza Agricola

### Geneseo, NY

Founded in 2016, the Alianza Agrícola is New York State's only worker-founded, worker-led organized group of undocumented immigrant farmworkers who seek to improve on-farm living and working conditions by changing the structures that have systematically oppressed them. Alianza is membership-based and all members and leaders are directly affected undocumented workers who have committed to build power together to effect change. Members make all decisions, engage in education and training, choose leaders, identify key issues to address, design strategies, tactics and methods, and select targets. Mostly immigrants from Mexico, members live and work in isolation and poverty year-round on farms in 5 Western New York counties: Genesee, Ontario, Livingston, Wyoming and Orleans. To build power and effect change, Alianza members lead organizing, advocacy and community outreach campaigns and engage in leadership development programs to grow their membership base and collaborate with ally groups and individuals who support them in achieving their goals.

In 2022-2023 Alianza will: Increase their membership base by 50 percent through a Member ID program and at least ten events and programs; Participate in campaigns to pass three pieces of legislation - New York for All, which would further protect undocumented immigrants from deportation; Coverage for All would provide health insurance coverage for undocumented residents, who are currently ineligible; and Comprehensive Immigration Reform - will continue advocacy to pass the broadest immigration reform possible with a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrant workers; Add two new members to the Gabinete leadership team and engage in ten leadership development trainings throughout the year; and Engage over 800 allies and reach out to new ally groups.

# Alliance For Congregational Transformation Influencing Our Neighborhoods \$30,000 Youngstown, OH

Alliance For Congregational Transformation Influencing Our Neighborhoods (ACTION) is an affiliate of the Gamaliel Network that unites faith groups, schools, neighborhood organizations, tenant councils, and other non-profits to work for social justice. With 31 member organizations, ACTION members participate in four issues task forces: Housing, Health Care, Food Security, and Economic Development.

Two of ACTION's priorities for the year are addressing disparities in healthcare and housing stability. Mahoning County has the highest black infant mortality rate in the nation. ACTION is working with local health officials, young mothers, and the healthcare system to radically change the DEI training received by front line, maternal and infant providers. They believe this training will also alleviate regarding emergency room services particularly from senior persons of color. Youngstown has experienced a plethora of slum landlords that prey on low-income families. ACTION is working with tenant councils to change eviction procedures, instate rental caps, and update code enforcement policy to stabilize housing.

# Alliance of the Southeast

### Chicago, IL

Alliance of the SouthEast (ASE) is a multicultural, interfaith, intergenerational coalition of community groups, churches, schools, and youth working on issues facing southeast Chicago. ASE addresses racial and economic justice by empowering residents to address and take action on issues they have identified. ASE organizes a resident-led Coalition and a Citywide Roundtable for equitable development and environmental justice, tenants around health/safety issues, and youth around mental health resources in police-free schools. ASE develops grassroots leaders who carry out

organizing campaigns for community and social change. Adult and youth leaders have: successfully stopped General Iron, a toxic development from locating to Chicago's southeast side - an environmental justice community, developed recommendations for alternatives to police in schools that were adopted by the City of Chicago, and won a pilot program that reduced fares by 50% on the local commuter rail line.

ASE's current programs include: 1) South Side Anti-Violence Endeavor (SSAVE) – to develop youth and adult leaders around decreasing area violence. Leader-defined priorities include more mental health and educational resources in schools, police-free schools, utilizing restorative justice practices, and community-building events. SSAVE includes the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) and Germano Millgate tenants organized to address health/safety issues. 2) Empowered Together, Displacement Never - to empower residents to negotiate Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs), written agreements w/developers to ensure developments benefits area residents. Resident priorities include local employment/training opportunities, affordable housing, and environmental sustainability. ASE organizes Citywide Roundtable on city and state equitable development policies.3) Combatting environmental racism by strengthening residents' efforts to challenge city policies that concentrate toxic developments on Chicago's southeast side.

# Arkansas Community Organizations

# Little Rock, AR

Arkansas Community Organizations (ACO) is a membership organization of low to moderate income people dedicated to winning changes that benefit their communities in Arkansas – most of which are black and people of color. ACO engages in building strong neighborhood organizations in Little Rock communities (Southeast, Southwest, Central), Pine Bluff, Southeast Arkansas, and Northwest Arkansas. Members push for community investment, government reform, and neighborhood improvement.

Through their Make Medicaid Better Campaign, ACO works to improve access to Medicaid and services offered by Arkansas's Medicaid program. They bring together Medicaid recipients to take direct action, share their stories, and engage with DHS officials to push for changes in Medicaid application process and service delivery. Through their Housing & Renters Rights campaigns, ACO works with local renters supporting their fights for safe, healthy, and affordable housing and founded the first statewide renters' organization in Arkansas - Arkansas Renters United - which is organizing for changes to Arkansas's eviction laws.

# Asian American Resource Workshop

# Dorchester, MA

The Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW) is a pan-Asian member-based organization that organizes the Asian American community of Greater Boston, particularly young adults, around issues of displacement: housing & gentrification, deportation, and criminalization & surveillance. AARW's work is done through political education, cultural organizing, leadership development, and policy/issue-based campaigns that get at the root causes of displacement and lift up those most marginalized within the Asian American community.

AARW 's anti-displacement organizing work in 2022 includes three campaigns:

1) Housing Justice - as part of city and statewide coalitions, AARW organizes for equitable neighborhood planning, rent control and other housing stabilization policies. They also organize Vietnamese tenants in Dorchester around housing issues.

### \$10,000

2) Deportation Defense - AARW builds out local, state, and national campaigns to support Southeast Asian refugees facing deportation due to criminal convictions

Criminalization & Surveillance - AARW works as part of a citywide coalition to defund the police and create political education tools about abolition

# Asian Solidarity Collective

### Los Angeles, CA

Asian Solidarity Collective (ASC) is a non-hierarchical grassroots organization in San Diego that activates social justice consciousness and builds solidarity cross-racially and with all oppressed communities. ASC is composed of core, active, base, and two staff members. Their membership includes a diverse range of Asian and Asian American people who approach liberation work from an intersectional lens. They build power through a transformative leadership model where relationship building is foundational to their practice through one on one meetings, role progression processes where members scale up in their learning of the fundamentals, reading circles, bi-weekly Organizer Trainings, and critical concept courses.

ASC builds community power through programming, campaigns, and advocacy work - including redistricting work, advocating for a justified city budget, developing the C.A.R.E. program to protect Asian and vulnerable communities, and turning out for rapid response actions in solidarity with sibling organizations. In Spring of 2022 ASC will launch a free Organizing Fellowship Training program on how to organize and build power. It incorporates training on campaign development, base-building, direct action, coalition building, advocacy, critical concepts, community building, and wellness practices.

# **BAY-Peace: Better Alternatives for Youth**

### Oakland, CA

BAY-Peace is a BIPOC, youth-led, Oakland-based organization which focuses on combating systemic violence and militarization through community-based arts, education, community organizing, and healing justice. BAY-Peace partners with multiple organizations, organizers, educators, and artists across Oakland and the greater Bay Area to lead grassroots organizing efforts, host ongoing youth development programs, facilitate youth-led workshops, and produce community-based artworks. Their Youth ARTS (Addressing Real Traumas and Solutions) Initiative aims to create healing-centered solutions to violence. It includes Healing ARTS Circulos, organizing efforts informed by Participatory Action Research and a community based art project centering stories of impacted community members.

In the coming year, BAY-Peace will continue support for the Safety Implementation Plan of the Police Free Schools Campaign and the policy working group of the Racial Justice and Healing Task force of the Oakland Unified School District. Ultimately, they aim to institute and implement more accessible avenues for healing and personal transformation with at-risk youth and community members impacted by violence.

# **Black Hills Clean Water Alliance**

### Rapid City, SD

Black Hills Clean Water Alliance (BHCWA) is a membership-based grassroots alliance that protects the region's water by opposing new large-scale uranium, lithium, gold and rare earth mining in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming. Native and women-led, BHCWA focuses on environmental

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\$25,000

\$15,000

justice, especially for indigenous people, both within and outside the organization, and is one of the few multi-racial organizations in an area that is deeply divided by race.

BHCWA utilizes direct action, training and mentorship efforts, organizing around environmental review processes, legal cases, coalition-building, social media, public events, and media outreach, to fight environmentally destructive mining proposals.

### Black Workers Matter--Chicago West Side

### Chicago, IL

Black Workers Matter (BWM) is an independent group of workers fighting discrimination/segregation in hiring and on the job in Chicago West Side industrial districts. Black Workers Matter is a movement made up of and governed by worker-members that targets the "Segregationist Employment Model", a strategy to suppress wages by dividing workers--isolating and exploiting immigrant workers while practicing other discrimination against U.S.-born and Black workers. BWM gives attention to the discrimination against Black workers, while being committed to Solidarity—uniting workers of all identities—as the key to power. In the long term, BLM aims to end management domination by organizing cooperative control.

BWM's grassroots organizing plans for the coming year are two-fold: 1) Take advantage of tight labor markets to build workplace organizing committees to escalate demands, win victories and confidence, and solidify power for change--with a special focus on transforming anti-Black practices and cultures; and 2) Help develop the fledgling "solidarity unionism" model for BWM's Amazon worker/driver-members on Chicago's West Side that builds on existing shopfloor organizing by BWM and allies--and that combines with community organizing to hold Amazon accountable to local neighborhoods and consumers.

# **Boston Education Justice Alliance (BEJA)**

### Boston, MA

The Boston Education Justice Alliance (BEJA) brings parents, students, and educators together for a better Boston Public Schools (BPS) system. BEJA works to build parent and student leadership to ensure public education resources and decisions are being made equitably and through an anti-racist lens. BEJA is made up of both organizational and individual members who develop multi-dimensional organizing campaigns that address the needs of school communities and broader systemic policies. BEJA provides school budgeting education to families and leadership development to school site councils, where parents have a vote on their school budgets.

BEJA has active campaigns focused on equitable and transparent school building decisions, fighting off state receivership threats, and electoral work around getting an elected school committee. Boston is the only city in the state that has an appointed committee. All of BEJA's campaigns are centered on fighting racism and on parent and student leadership.

# BRIDGE MARYLAND INCORPORATED

#### Baltimore, MD

BRIDGE Maryland is a statewide, faith-based, grassroots organization that works to change the conditions that perpetuate inequities in the treatment of people who are marginalized and overlooked. An affiliate of the Gamaliel Network, BRIDGE Maryland uses intentional relationship building, organizing and intensive leadership development in order to strengthen congregations and faith leaders to demonstrate and advance justice in the world. Those who have a stake in the outcome, drive the work of BRIDGE Maryland whose membership and Board of Directors is primarily people of

\$30,000

\$30,000

color and low-income. Issues they are currently working on include inadequate housing, unreliable and inadequate transportation systems for low-income inner city residents, an under-funded and inequitable education system, and discrimination in the criminal "justice" system. They are expanding their membership while engaging in town hall meetings, and gathering expert testimonies among members in order to introduce legislation.

Issues BRIDGE are currently working on include:

- Inadequate housing BRIDGE will work to pass an inclusionary housing bill in Baltimore City so that low and moderate income residents will not be displaced when developers build new housing units.
- Unreliable and inadequate transportation systems for low-income inner city residents BRIDGE will engage public transportation-dependent residents to have a voice in the changes made to the Maryland Transit Authority bus schedules.
- 3) Under-funded and inequitable education system BRIDGE is working to strengthen this system in Baltimore County by helping to advance the community schools model there. BRIDGE will use faith-based community organizing and leadership development to help designated low-income and under served communities to better meet the needs of students in "underserved schools."

Discrimination in the criminal "justice" system - BRIDGE will continue to monitor the enforcement of the Child Protection Interrogation Act which we worked to get passed this legislative session.

# **Brockton Workers Alliance**

### Brockton, MA

The Brockton Workers Alliance (BWA) is an alliance of Cape Verdean, Haitian, and Latinx workers based in Brockton, MA that operates as a multi-racial, multi-lingual worker center built on a foundation of solidarity, collaboration, and self-agency. The Brockton Workers Alliance is working to build the power of immigrant workers in the city and state and at their workplaces.

In 2022, BWA is in a critical window to engage their many new members -- who connected with them for the first time during COVID -- in their organizing work. Their priority is bringing workers into their training and leadership programs, helping them organize at their workplace and join immigrant and workers' rights advocacy campaigns. BWA also aims to support their board and staff team, all immigrant women of color from the community, in building their power and leadership, and to continue deepening the community partnerships formed during the pandemic.

# **Broward Organized Leaders Doing Justice**

# Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Broward Organized Leaders Doing Justice (BOLD Justice), a member of the DART organizing network, is an interfaith, base-building organization comprised of 25 racially, economically and religiously diverse congregations working to address community issues in Broward County, FL. Working as a collective, BOLD Justice takes direct action by working on commonly identified issues of concern that affect their members and community at large.

BOLD Justice goals and objectives for the upcoming year are centered around their three major areas: (1) Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) – working to ensure the \$1.5M won last year is used as intended and to push for more dedicated funding for PSH in the county; (2) Criminal Justice Reform – working to ensure that an effective system for pre-arrest diversions for adults is implemented and to make sure that driving offenses are eligible for the program; and (3) Extreme

\$25,000

8

Heat – recognizing that extreme heat is a health and safety issue for everyone living in Southern Florida and a financial issue for people living at the poverty line, BOLD Justice has launched a campaign to expand the tree canopy, especially in low-income communities where excessive concrete infrastructure and a lack of shade increases the ambient temperatures.

# Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement (CAIC)

# New York City, NY

Led by survivors of solitary confinement, family members, and others in the human rights, health, and faith communities, the Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement (CAIC) is a broad-based statewide campaign in New York State, with over 400 organizational supporters. The campaign engages in education, organizing, leadership development and advocacy to end the torture of solitary confinement and challenge the incarceration system as a whole. CAIC worked to pass the Humane Alternatives to Long Term (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act in New York State.

CAIC will carry out grassroots organizing in New York City and across New York State regarding the horrors of solitary confinement, the protections of the recently enacted HALT Solitary Confinement Act and the need for effective implementation, the need to go further to fully end solitary in New York City and beyond, and the need to dismantle the incarceration system as a whole.

# Capital Area Justice Ministry, Inc.

Tallahassee, FL

The Capital Area Justice Ministry (CAJM), an affiliate of the DART Network, is a growing coalition of 17 racially, economically, and religiously diverse congregations working to build a powerful community voice to hold local officials accountable to resolve social injustices in Tallahassee, Leon County, and other communities across the Big Bend of Florida.

In 2023, CAJM will continue to focus its campaigns on two social justice crises: (1) 13,500 very-low income families paying more than 50% of their income for rent and (2) 300 shootings since 2019.CAJM is marshaling congregation members and allies to press city commissioners to (a) establish and finance a Very-Low Income Rental Housing Trust Fund, (b) uphold commitments to appropriate up to \$1 million a year for 5 years for gun violence interruption programs, and (c) hold law enforcement officials accountable for maximizing use of civil citations to keep children out of the criminal justice system.

# Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores

# New Bedford, MA

Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores (CCT) is a grassroots, workers' center serving immigrant and low--wage workers in New Bedford, Massachusetts, and the surrounding region, founded, staffed, and governed entirely by immigrant workers. CCT empowers workers so they can obtain dignity and justice at work and in the community. Their multi- faceted approach addresses individual workers' complaints; focuses on specific workplaces with a history of exploitative, unsafe conditions; and targets temporary agencies as local businesses increasingly use them to hide their reliance upon undocumented workers. CCT takes a three-pronged approach to creating - educating workers about their rights, helping them organize, and empowering them to take action, both legal and direct.

An industry-wide worker-led campaign, Pescando Justicia (Fishing for Justice or PJ) is CCT's key focus. Seafood processing is the largest regional industry, employing over 3000 Central Americans. PJ proposes systemic solutions to exploitative conditions by asking employers to sign onto a Code of Conduct (COC) developed by fish house workers. Plans for 2022 include: updating the COC,

\$25,000

\$30,000

particularly in light of the pandemic, expansion of committees, leadership training for organizers, and developing a strategy to secure employer buy-in -- while continuing to support workers in other industries.

# City Wide Tenant Union of Rochester

### Rochester, NY

The City-Wide Tenant Union (CWTU-R) of Rochester is a membership-based tenant union made up mostly of tenants who live (or have lived) in slum conditions and had the need to see change in the system. CWTU-R is a grassroots housing justice movement working to elevate housing to a human right and secure community control over land and housing by building tenant power and expanding the rights of all tenants. By bringing to light poor conditions, CWTU-R holds landlords and the City of Rochester accountable and promotes the narrative that Housing is a Human Right through the Evict Our Slumlord Organizing Program and the Stabilize Rochester Campaign.

The CWTU-R facilitates the design and promotion of tenant-centered policies, and organizes to bring housing under community control. The organizing strategies and activities employed by the CWTU-R are centered around development of organic community leaders, targeted evidence-based outreach and canvassing to bring tenants together who are experiencing the same problems, strategic use of direct action and public protest, facilitation of grassroots policy development and advocacy, tenant storytelling for narrative shift, and interdependent team building through the Snowflake Model. The CWTU-R is increasing its focus on membership drives and distributed fundraising, and grassroots communications strategies including a tenant voices newsletter zine.

# Clean Water for North Carolina

#### Asheville, NC

Clean Water for North Carolina (CWFNC) is a science-based Environmental Justice nonprofit organization, focusing on threats to community environmental health, quality of life, and social justice. CWFNC works with overburdened rural, low-wealth, and BIPOC communities via strategic and technical assistance, policy advocacy, and grassroots community organizing to protect and improve health, water, and air quality. CWFNC uses a multi-pronged grassroots organizing approach. Their campaigns for the coming year are: 1) Community Empowerment - Empowering Community Voices with Storybank and Community Toolkit; 2) Polluter Accountability - Fight against CAFOs, greenwashed animal Waste-to-Energy, and Coal Ash; and 3) Water Justice - Well User Protections & Equitable Water Utilities.

# **Columbia County Sanctuary Movement**

### Hudson, NY

Columbia County Sanctuary Movement (CCSM) is a membership-based organization building power with immigrants and allies in New York's Upper Hudson Valley and Capital Region. CCSM utilizes a service to organizing model that provides survival services to meet the immediate needs of their members and engages them in campaigning for systemic change. CCSM works for long-term, transformative change that comes from bottom-up organizing, leadership from directly impacted members, and relationships of solidarity and mutual aid. Their main program areas are: community organizing and civic engagement; legal support; deportation defense; and accompaniment and community building. CCSM is the go-to organization to represent the capital region in the statewide immigrant rights movement.

CCSM current campaigns include: 1) Excluded No More in NY, the nation's first excluded workers unemployment insurance program; 2) their Language Justice (LJ) campaign has evolved into an

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\$30,000

intersectional campaign for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in schools throughout the twin-counties. They are building power with immigrant, BIPOC and LGBTQ youth and their parents for racial and linguistic justice in education.

### **Common Good Missoula**

#### Missoula, MT

Common Good Missoula (CGM) is a grassroots, constituent-led coalition of 5,000 to 7,000 Missoulians and over 35 community organizations, united to address social challenges in the community. Using broad-based community organizing strategies CGM trains leaders and challenges the community to examine upstream root causes of health equity outcomes in their neighborhoods, shift public understanding around racism and systemic discrimination, influence policy changes, and work together to affect positive change in the community.

Funding will provide continued support their indigenous community organizer, a formerly incarcerated, indigenous person himself, works with Welcome Back, a group supporting people who are returning from incarceration. He will also lead the work partnering with indiginous community health clinic, All Nations Health Clinic. This past year, CGM created a curriculum educating the white community about colonization called "Wrestling with the Truth of Colonization", as a way to repair relationships. Currently, BIPOC community members, specifically Indigenous peoples, face the greatest discrimination and poverty in Missoula. Funds will also support efforts to listen, train, and educate people around this topic to act powerfully to address social determinant of health issues disproportionately impacting Indigenous families.

### **Congregation Action Network (CAN)**

#### Washington, DC

The Congregation Action Network (CAN) is a network of 60 plus faith communities in the Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia region (DMV). CAN was launched in March 2017 as a regional organizing project of LA RED, the Immigration Program of the Faith in Action Network. Member congregations commit to using a leader-led intentional process of community organizing aimed at bringing together directly impacted immigrant families with those who strive to be allies; they share a common commitment to build power to effectively fight to stop criminalization of immigrants and increase access to citizenship.

In 2022, CAN plans to continue to focus on immigration reform through its partnership in the "We are Home Campaign". Their leaders will focus on issues of mass detention and mass incarceration, and continue fighting against mass deportation, ending local collaboration between local law enforcement agencies and ICE, and securing local and state protection for undocumented families. CAN is requesting funding to support the expansion of its organizing work in the Greater Washington DC area (DMV).

# **Contact Center**

#### Cincinnati, OH

Contact Center is a community-based, membership organization, located in the Cincinnati inner-city neighborhood of Over-the-Rhine, that strives to uphold the rights of all people. Contact Center builds the leadership skills of its primarily low-income and Black members to organize for economic and social justice. They organize on issues that directly impact our members and provide monthly leadership and organizing skills training to build members' participation in working for social,

\$25,000

\$10,000

economic, racial, and gender justice. Contact Center's issue campaigns focus on health care, income security, kinship care, child care, affordable housing, and voting rights.

In 2022, Contact Center's top three issue campaigns are organizing for comprehensive health care and Medicaid improvements; safe and affordable housing in Cincinnati; and safe, quality and affordable child care. Organizationally, they plan to recruit a minimum of 50 new members who are personally affected by health care, housing and child care issues. They will be prioritizing recruitment of young people 35 and younger to join.

### Decarcerate Sacramento

### Sacramento, CA

Decarcerate Sacramento (DS) is an abolitionist coalition working to prevent jail expansions, decrease jail populations, and shift county funds away from policing and incarceration towards communitybased systems of care that promote community safety and health. DS works to build a membership base of people currently incarcerated inside Sacramento County jails alongside a network of organizers on the outside. Their membership consists both of individuals who are directly impacted by incarceration and their allies.

In the coming year, Decarcerate Sacramento will organize to confront the return of a jail expansion project that they successfully cancelled in 2021. Despite the board voting to cancel the plan, county staff plan to bring back the jail expansion proposal in fall of 2022. DS will continue organizing for jail population reduction through base-building, public education, centering incarcerated voices, coalition-building, and community mobilizing around advocacy for specific policy and budget demands in Sacramento County.

# Dignidad Inmigrante de Athens

# Athens, GA

DIA is a grassroots immigrant rights organization of first- and second-generation immigrants who organize around the following issues: the U.S. stop the criminalization of undocumented immigrants and their families, that undocumented Immigrants be treated as refugees and not as criminals or terrorists, that the U.S. recognize the social, economic and cultural contributions that undocumented immigrants have made to U.S. society, that discriminatory laws be struck down and replaced with immigration reform that includes permanent protection for all undocumented immigrants, and that the rights to education, work, housing and family (love) be restored to all human beings regardless of their immigration status, religion, social class, race or gender. DIA works in partnership with other organizations at the local, state and national level to achieve their goals.

Their Driving without Fear campaign seeks change in local policy to prevent the arrest of immigrants without a license and state policy to obtain driver's licenses for all. In Athens, DIA organizes to prevent the evictions of vulnerable tenants and to demand safe and secure housing. DIA celebrates the contributions and culture of immigrants by organizing an annual Latinx Fest and is developing a youth soccer league.

# **Downwinders at Risk Education Fund**

# Dallas, TX

Downwinders at Risk is a 28-year-old grassroots clean air and environmental justice group based in Dallas-Fort Worth and administered by a majority BIPOC board including representatives from communities with which they are campaign partners. Since 2017, Downwinders at Risk has focused on the reduction and elimination of Particulate Matter pollution, which disproportionately harms

\$10,000

\$25.000

Communities of Color. Besides their program work, they also sponsor a five month-long seminar course on community organizing techniques and history called "The College of Constructive Hell-Raising."

Funding was provided in support of the Neighborhood Self-Defense Project which provides urban planning and community organizing expertise to neighborhoods seeking to reverse the kind of racist zoning that places their homes next door to industrial polluters. Downwinders assists residents in drawing-up their own new, greener neighborhood zoning plans, tract-by-tract, to replace the ones written by segregationists. When adopted by City Hall, these resident-led plans can oust polluters through zoning "noncomformity." Dallas is incorporating these resident plans into a new comprehensive land use map. Downwinders is mobilizing Dallas frontline Black and Brown neighborhoods to use this citywide re-mapping opportunity to significantly decrease their exposure to harmful air pollution and improve public health.

# **Education for Liberation Minnesota**

### Minneapolis, MN

Education for Liberation Minnesota (EdLibMN) is a network of educators, activists, youth workers, youth, parents, and allies from across Minnesota. EdLibMN works to connect people to people, people to knowledge, and people to resources, organizing their network and communities for educational justice. They build collective knowledge and power in the state of MN, especially among teachers, to contend with the status quo of colonial education that prioritizes Eurocentric curricula, predominantly white educators and administrators, and a persistent attack on the power of communities to be self-determined.

In 2023, EdLibMN's grassroots organizing plans will continue efforts to implement Ethnic Studies (ES) across Minnesota. ES is an interdisciplinary educational approach that centers those who have been historically erased from curricula due to persistent racism, patriarchy, xenophobia, and linguistic imperialism. EdLibMN is also addressing the urgent need to counter the growing and very real threats from CRT opponents to shut down any efforts at implementing a comprehensive and historically accurate curriculum in the public schools.

# Felony Murder Elimination Project

# Concord, CA

Felony Murder Elimination Project (FMEP) is a grassroots organization led by formerly incarcerated people and family members of individuals suffering under extreme criminal sentencing. FMEP are committed to ending the felony murder rule in California, an egregious form of sentencing which imposes life without parole and death penalty sentences on individuals for the actions of others. FMEP has created an advocacy pipeline between individuals currently serving extreme sentences and those seeking to end extreme sentencing on the outside. Their campaign seeks to educate the general public on the extremely disturbing racial disparities in extreme sentencing, the misshapen laws that have lead to the punishment of survivors of domestic abuse and the way in which these laws trap young people in endless punishment.

In 2023, FMEP will continue to outreach, orient and include family members of individuals serving extreme sentences in the statewide campaign to end draconian punishment. They will utilize their broad cohort of directly impacted people to educate the public on the horrifying consequences of felony murder sentencing. FMEP will put pressure on state institutions, including District Attorney's offices, the CDCR, and the Board of Parole Hearings through grassroots organizing. Finally, they will continue promoting the leadership of directly impacted people by participating in broad coalitional justice reform work.

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# Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and Ecology (FUSEE)

# Eugene, OR

Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and Ecology (FUSEE) is a grassroots organization with a regional focus and a national impact whose members include current and former wildland firefighters; fire scientists, managers, and practitioners; Indigenous cultural burners; fire educators and students; forest conservationists and other interested citizens who support Ecological Fire Management. FUSEE offers an independent, progressive voice within the wildland fire community that can speak freely with policymakers and reporters to promote safe, ethical, ecological fire management on public lands. FUSEE is an active partner with local grassroots groups and national organizations in the forest defense and climate justice movements and provides allyship with Indigenous fire practitioners and promotes cultural burning to protect Native American heritage sites from firefighting damage. They are one of the founders and lead organizers of the action-oriented Pacific Northwest Forest/Climate Alliance that represents over 100 grassroots activists.

FUSEE's media outreach/education campaign will provide reporters with fire-related information and analysis from a socially-progressive, ecologically-based perspective and which addresses the role of Indigenous cultural burning and ecological fire management as solutions to the wildfire/climate crises. Specifically, FUSEE will use their media connections to promote Indigenous fire practitioners asserting their sovereign rights to fire stewardship, and defend Native sacred sites and heritage resources from destructive fire suppression actions. This is a new face of environmental injustice that must be challenged. They will also defend fire crews forced to do futile "performative firefighting" in dangerous conditions, aid forest activists fighting destructive logging projects, and promote climate action.

# FOCUS Initiatives & IDOC Watch

# Indianapolis, IN

IDOC Watch is a prisoner-led abolition organization in Indiana operating with the conviction that in order to fight the power of the prison system, outside organizers must follow the lead of, and act in solidarity with the prisoners who are experiencing the most acute consequences of state repression and the horrors of incarceration. IDOC Watch works directly with incarcerated people who are already resisting these conditions in order to successfully combat the massive power differentials that exist inside the prison walls.

In 2022 IDOC Watch are building the Green Star Families Initiative (GSF) and FOCUS Re-entry Circles (FRC), the principal social bases for the Mass Release Now! (MRN) campaign. FRC's are spaces for mutual aid and collective struggle organized by formerly incarcerated people. GSF organizes families of the currently incarcerated. MRN pressures the Indiana government to free the aging and sick, those held due to revocation of "good time" and those held on technical parole violations. Another principal focus is advancing the work of the Prison Legal Support Network (PLSN), in line with the goals of the MRN. Funding will help support their first paid organizer, a formerly incarcerated man who had organized for better conditions while on the inside.

# Fossil Free California

### Oakland, CA

Fossil Free California (FFCA) is the only organization focused on getting California's huge state pension funds - the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) and the California Public Employee Retirement System (CalPERS) - with combined assets of over \$650 billion - to divest from fossil fuels. FFCA's hard-hitting campaigns call on California's state pension funds to divest \$50 billion of teachers and public employees' retirement funds currently invested in destructive,

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non-regenerative extraction industries. Fossil Free California works to end financial support for climate-damaging fossil fuels and promotes the transition to a socially just and environmentally sustainable society. FFCA consists of a Board of Directors, Coordinating Committee, small staff and volunteers. FFCA's active California audience is 8000+ activists, students, and retirees. FFCA envisions California powered by renewable energy.

In the coming year, Fossil Free California will continue to build out their campaigns to divest CalSTRS and CalPERS from fossil fuels; work with alliances, including pension fund stakeholders, environmental justice activists and organizations; unions representing CalSTRS and CalPERS members; and coalitions such as the Last Chance Alliance, a state-wide organization of thousands of activists from 750+ organizations pressuring politicians, corporations, and policymakers to take action on divestment. In 2022, FFCA is co-sponsoring a divestment bill in the state legislature that would require CalSTRS and CalPERS to divest, and building grassroots pressure to hold the pensions accountable by attending board meetings, organizing street actions, and advocating for the financial, environmental, and moral case for divestment from fossil fuels and reinvestment in sustainable solutions.

# Fund for Empowerment

### Phoenix, AZ

The Fund for Empowerment is a social advocacy, civil justice, and leadership development organization which primarily works with homeless persons to decriminalize homelessness, as well as advocate for social services and more accountability. Fund for Empowerment mobilizes marginalized people to speak on their own behalf in public forums and are working to ensure constitutional rights are not violated by the Phoenix Police Department. They conduct civic demonstrations, meet with officials, and are collecting testimonies with which to pursue justice such as the Department of Justice's investigation into the Phoenix Police Department, as well as other legal strategies. Fund for Empowerment are stopping 4th, 8th, and 14th Amendment rights violations.

In the coming year Fund for Empowerment intends to host creative media demonstrations, mobilize people experiencing homelessness to speak in public forums for themselves, collaborate with the Department of Justice investigation of the Phoenix PD over destruction of property in violation of the 4th Amendment, and sue the City of Phoenix over loss of property and a variety of other abusive behaviors.

### **Gig Workers Collective**

### Menlo Park, CA

Gig Workers Collective (GWC) is a grassroots movement of worker-led, worker organizing that fights for economic justice, improved working conditions, and federal reclassification for gig workers. With a membership base of over 13,000 gig workers from across the country, GWC organizes this precarious workforce to combat the exploitative practices of multi-billion dollar gig companies. GWC, in coalition with workers from Amazon, Whole Foods, Target, and FedEx, organize and advocate for the rights and protections of essential workers. Through their organizing efforts, thousands of workers have walked off their jobs to protest unfair and unsafe conditions. The coalition and GWC remain committed to continued worker-led advocacy and organizing of workers.

GWC's grassroots organizing plans for 2022 are to: Expand workplace organizing victories on increasing wages, reinstatement of tips, and addressing health and safety complaints at Instacart, Shipt, and restaurant delivery gig apps; Establish local GWC Chapters in initial cities of Los Angeles, San Francisco Bay area, and Dallas to further workplace organizing in those population centers; and

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Organize gig workers to assist state legislators in writing new legislation to protect gig workers and fight against anti-worker legislation. GWC are currently working in WI, MA, NJ, and CA.

### **Greater Spokane Progress**

#### Spokane, WA

Greater Spokane Progress (GSP) is a permanent alliance of over 40 organizations united to build political strength and equity in communities that have historically been disenfranchised and marginalized. GSP connects, coordinates, and supports diverse organizations using an intersectional racial equity lens in all of its work to drive progressive change, advocate for equitable policies, and organize to amplify the voices of people who have traditionally been silenced. In 2018, GSP launched the Spokane Progress Plan, jointly developed by 30 local organizations. The Plan focuses on the priorities of housing justice, immigrant rights, and smart (criminal) justice, issues that daily impact the region's most marginalized populations. Specific city and county-level policy goals are identified, along with associated organizing strategies and action steps.

In 2022 GSP will continue to support BIPOC-led issue organizing, and engage GSP members in their main areas of focus based on issues and needs identified by BIPOC leaders: Equitable COVID response and recovery; Spokane Progress Plan (SPP) and Platform for Change goals including police accountability and reform, housing justice, immigrant rights, smart justice, civil rights & equity; and responding to critical and emergent community issues.

# Homes For All St. Louis

#### St. Louis, MO

Homes For All St. Louis (HFASTL) convenes housing adjacent organizations together to create a more renter-friendly environment in policy, housing quality and economic stability. HFASTL organizes tenants, builds tenant associations, provides free legal and advocacy through their Renter Hotline, and advocates for renter-friendly policy. Tenant leader(s) are the primary organizers in their buildings, and receive training in campaign and strategy development, power analysis, etc. Once tenant associations are built and formalized, they act as an accountability mechanism for the landlord and can wage a comprehensive campaign to improve living conditions.

HFASTL's current ongoing organizing and campaign efforts are organizing four apartment complexes (Odin properties) on the west side of the City of St. Louis experiencing poor housing conditions, illegal evictions and gentrification pressures, and passing a tenants bill of rights (TBOR) ordinance in the City of St. Louis.

### **Housekeys Action Network Denver**

#### Denver, CO

Housekeys Action Network Denver (HAND) is a new, member-based organization that was created by long time organizers and people without housing to build the fight for housing from the priorities of houseless people. HAND fights as and with people who are, were, and may become houseless in the Denver community. HAND members do direct outreach to the houseless community where they gather priorities, share information, and engage people without housing across the city in this work.

HAND will soon release their initial report with the findings of their first housing survey of houseless people and begin building towards specific campaigns for housing for all. HAND's organizing methods are grounded in outreach to and with people without housing. As they move from their initial information and priority survey work, they will continue to gather direction on specific housing campaigns, get people involved, and share information. They will also be digging deeper into the

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research they have started on public housing to begin building the movement for Housing for All by engaging directly affected people in the work through outreach, education, and action.

# Human Rights Coalition

### Philadelphia, PA

The Human Rights Coalition (HRC) was founded and is led by currently and formerly incarcerated people, their families, and supporters. It was formed to support families in coping with the stress and hardships created by having a loved one incarcerated, as well as to challenge the punitive, retributive nature of the penal system and to work to transform that to a model of rehabilitation and successful reintegration to society. HRC organizes to shut down toxic prisons, abolish solitary confinement, establish voting rights for incarcerated citizens, and to release of aging and elderly people in prisons.

### I Have A Future

Dorchester, MA

I Have A Future (IHAF) is a coalition of youth organizers and allies based in Boston, building power across the state for full youth employment and to end youth criminalization through transformational leadership development, direct public action, and policy change.

This year, IHAF will work to build the coalition by adding more organizational members and expand Coalition building throughout the state by convening and collaborating in more strategic ways beyond their Annual Youth Justice Rally, including furthering training and youth development to youth organizations across the state. They plan to focus on key legislators and target legislative districts.

# **IMPACT**

### Charlottesville, VA

The Interfaith Movement Promoting Action by Congregations Together (IMPACT) is a coalition of racially, economically and religiously diverse congregations who work together to address the root causes of community problems in Charlottesville and Albemarle County, Virginia. IMPACT provides a way for diverse groups of people to respond to needs in their own community through direct action that holds local officials accountable to resolve injustices and inequities.

In 2022, IMPACT will continue their campaigns for dedicated funding to build more affordable housing and a reduction in bus wait times to be at most 15 minutes. IMPACT's organizing efforts in the coming year are focused on two key areas: continuing to build power with Spanish speaking congregations; and focusing on drawing in new congregations in the rural parts of Albemarle County which are disproportionately low-income and people of color and have long been overlooked and underfunded.

# Indigenous Peoples Power Project, IP3

### Portland, OR

Indigenous People's Power Project, (IP3) is a nonviolent direct-action training and support network. IP3 responds to training requests from Indigenous communities that are experiencing extraction of their natural resources, threats to their sovereignty, pollution of their waterways and air. Threats that are rooted in colonialism and white supremacy and are intersectional with race, class and socioeconomic standing. IP3's curriculum is Indigenous centered, taught by Indigenous trainers and tailored to the needs and traditions of Indigenous communities that request support. Their work is focused on decolonization and empowerment of Indigenous communities ability to determine and build their own futures. IP3 provides nonviolent direct action training, campaign support, and

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community organizing tools to support indigenous communities taking action in defense of their homelands.

In 2022, IP3 will be finalizing their Indigenous centered curriculum, develop their leadership and provide outreach to the communities they serve. Over the past year, IP3 has completed a Creative Resistance guide, a Creative Resistance Training 4 Trainers (T4T) guide, a Blockades guide in draft, Non-Violent Direct Action (NVDA) 101 in draft and a first of its kind Know Your Indigenous Rights and Risks guide in draft form which they hope to finish by September 2022. IP3 will continue and be more consistent in the trainings, workshops and speakers series offered virtually and will develop and plan a Climbing Training for Trainers event as well as a Climb training for BIPOC women and femmes. They also plan to work with an outside organization to help with new evaluation tools for their current programming and be able to perform a community assessment tool to make sure that they are focused on the needs of Indigenous communities.

### Jackson People's Assemblies (JXN-PAs)

#### Jackson, MS

The Jackson People's Assemblies (JXN-PAs) serve as a vehicle for political education, community self-determination and autonomous political authority of oppressed peoples. The Assemblies were organized as expressions of participatory or engaged democracy and have been in continuous operation since 2005, the model is focused on building an ongoing process, an enduring base of sustainable power, and on launching community-controlled institutions that have social weight and engage the experiences and needs of community members by centering their voices as well as their ideas and strategies. After the election of Mayor Chokwe Lumumba (the elder), the People's Assembly was launched as a city-wide effort to inform the governing process by empowering community members to engage in decision-making. The People's Assembly continues to provide a space for all residents (including but not limited to persons barred from voting due to their criminal history, immigration status, or age/youth) to make both large and small decisions on how their communities are governed.

In 2022, JXN-PA hosted over 100 youth representing all 7 wards for a PA. The goal was to provide youth (ages 14-24) a space to discuss the issues affecting them and offer a safe space to develop solutions. Youth in Jackson have been the subject of conversations on violence but their voices have been left out of the strategies for creating solutions. Out of the Youth PA, young people decided to create a citywide youth organizing council to facilitate monthly PAs for youth. This grant will support organizing efforts and youth stipends for making this wish a reality for youth in Jackson MS.

### Junta Comunitaria del Casco Urbano de Rio Piedras

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#### San Juan, PR

Junta Comunitaria (Junta Comunitaria) del Casco Urbano de Rio Piedras is a grassroot organization composed of 22 representatives of four sectors of community: residents, business, religious and college students. Through community assemblies each sector elect their representatives and decisions are made regarding the development and rehabilitation plans of their historically underresourced neighborhood. The organization meets four times per year, but committees meet and work weekly to follow up on issues and to keep constituents informed. They talk about the issues, reach a consensus on the topics of interest and establish the collective guidelines that the Board of Directors will present before the government officials, other agencies or institutions.

Funding was provided in support of Junta Comunitaria's campaign to strengthen community leadership, increase the visibility of the organization and the resident engagement opportunities it represents, and improve communication by creating bridges with the internal and external community.

#### **Justice For All Coalition**

#### Astoria, NY

Justice For All Coalition (JFAC) brings together residents, faith communities, labor organizations, and community groups to assure that coming development actually benefits the current residents of Astoria / Long Island City. JFAC is particularly focused on the development pressures facing public housing developments including NYCHA's Astoria, Ravenswood, Queensbridge and Woodside Houses. Justice for All has a proactive commitment to provide the facts and necessary information needed to make informed decisions to their community, specifically related to the rezoning process.

JFAC's organizing plans for the coming year are to educate, energize, and mobilize NYCHA tenants, residents and the youth of Astoria/Long Island City to be at the forefront to speak up, speak out and demand action against social injustices (housing crisis, homelessness, food inequality, mental and physical health, etc.) against their communities. This includes research, developing surveys, door knocking, phone banking, tabling, flyering, postcards, social media, outreach at faith-based services and community events and hosting community meetings and forums.

#### Justice For Housing, Inc

#### Jamaica Plain, MA

Justice 4 Housing (J4H) is part of a movement of formerly incarcerated, black women-led organizations that collectively organize to end the incarceration of women and girls. J4H is committed to ending housing insecurity, discrimination and homelessness in justice involved individuals and their families. J4H's goal is to create circumstances that allow justice-involved individuals access to homes, wealth, and resources, funded and supported by the community and stakeholders while dismantling barriers to stability. They operate from a people-led process of directly affected BIPOC and LBGTQ+ people who experience homelessness and incarceration to organize and advocate for abolishing discriminatory federal, state, and local housing policies. Justice 4 Housing builds coalitions within communities across the state by educating constituents on the legislative process, and inviting them to advocate in their communities to pass legislation that will expand housing opportunities for formerly incarcerated people. J4H are developing a network of allied organizations that will be trained in their Hands On Defense (HOD) Model to disrupt the discriminatory screening process Public Housing Authorities (PHA) use to exclude the justice-involved; and ensure fair and just housing decisions for formerly incarcerated individuals and their families.

#### **Lift Every Voice Philly**

#### Philadelphia, PA

Lift Every Voice Philly (LEV) is a new, Black-led membership organization building multi-racial parent power to transform public schools and advance citywide racial, economic, and education justice. Founded in 2021, LEV is working to reclaim the power of parents and move towards a city where strong public schools are the rule, not the exception. Their organizing is rooted in members' lived experiences, often over multiple generations, in Philadelphia public schools. An organization by parents, for parents, LEV's membership determines strategy, makes collective decisions, and shares power.

Over the next year, Lift Every Voice plans to continue growing their flagship parent chapter at William C. Bryant School, establish two additional parent chapters in predominantly Black, low-income neighborhoods, build an allied, multi-neighborhood chapter of parents, and host a citywide parent convening and training opportunity for parents committed to systemic change in Philadelphia schools.

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# Long Beach Residents Empowered (LiBRE)

Calabasas, CA

Long Beach Residents Empowered (LiBRE) is a resident-led organization working to build tenant power among low-income, senior, immigrant, and HUD tenants and organize them for the creation and preservation of affordable housing, renter protections and community economic development. LiBRE collaborates with other social justice organizations to improve housing stability by organizing in Long Beach, the second largest city in Los Angeles County, which is home to nearly 500,000 residents, 60% of whom are renters.

LiBRE will further build the base to create a City-wide Tenants' Association, with an emphasis on Latinx, Cambodian, and Filipino tenants through traditional and digital organizing and empowerment mechanisms and with the organizing efforts of two HUD bilingual organizers who will engage, organize, and politicize the above populations specifically in senior and HUD buildings and build relationships with low-income tenants in market rate buildings. LiBRE integrates their tenant-led data collection activities into their organizing work.

### Look2Justice

#### Seattle, WA

Look2Justice (L2J) is a grassroots organization comprised of criminal punishment system-impacted organizers that operates on an inside-out organizing model. Look2Justice is led by currently incarcerated organizers working in concert with outside organizers who are primarily formerly incarcerated and/or have incarcerated loved ones. L2J centers the voices and experiences of Black and Indigenous People of Color who are disproportionately targeted by the criminal punishment system.

Next year L2J will launch their inside-out civic education and empowerment program, a peer-led curriculum developed collectively by inside and outside organizers that will help further develop innate leadership skills in cohorts of activists by demystifying the processes of proposing and enacting legislative, policy, and administrative code changes, as well as movement building. In addition, L2J will continue their Chance Campaign for Youth Justice, which advocates for decarceration focused legislation that leads with racial justice, and will hold a symposium and workshops to support this effort.

# LOUD For Tomorrow

#### Delano, CA

LOUD For Tomorrow (LOUD) is a youth-founded, youth-led grassroots organization that builds youth power to transform their communities, increase civic engagement, and sustain community healing in the small farmworking communities of rural Kern and Tulare Counties. Youth leaders are children of low-income farmworkers, immigrants and refugees.

In 2022, LOUD will organize two complementary campaigns at the city and school district level to use city cannabis tax revenue to fund youth and community health programs. There is a timely opportunity to influence policy creation as the progressive City Council gets close to approving an ordinance to allow the sale of cannabis. This campaign will advocate that the City allocate at least 50% of the new cannabis tax to fund youth and health programs, specifically, mental health programs. In an effort to increase transparency, LOUD will organize for the creation of a cannabis tax committee inclusive of directly impacted voices and youth.

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# Lynn Canal Conservation

Haines, AK

For 50 years, Lynn Canal Conservation (LCC) has been largely volunteer-led and committed to grassroots community organizing to protect the Upper Lynn Canal in northern Southeast Alaska. LCC works to stop projects that could degrade the integrity of local ecosystems in these salmon-dependent communities and to envision healthier alternatives. LCC builds coalitions with other concerned groups and strives to increase community awareness of environmental issues. Recognizing that they work within the boundaries of unceded Tlingit Territory, and honor the thousands of years of good land stewardship by the Tlingit people, LCC conducts their work mindful of tribal sovereignty, the impacts of colonization, and the ongoing place-based knowledge of the Chilkat and Chilkoot tribes.

The Chikat Valley is currently facing one of its biggest challenges yet, and LCC is fighting to protect its clean water and healthy food supply in defense against a proposed massive sulfide mine that could poison these pristine rivers, the Palmer Project. LCC helps local people, including tribal citizens, stand up against the misinformation put out by the mining company and the plans to industrialize this valley with a new mine and a haul route for ore concentrates. They are also fighting a proposed ore port and old-growth logging sales that would sell the ancient forests for pulp.

### Maine Youth Power

Swanville, ME

Maine Youth Power (MYP) is a youth-led statewide movement running local issue campaigns in rural Maine communities and building power statewide for long-term change. MYP is directed by a core team of multi-racial youth leaders from across Maine. To achieve their goals, MYP focuses on building leadership among high school and college-aged people across the state through their fellowship programs and by engaging more young people in coalition. In order to build a state where all will thrive, MYP believes that centering the needs and voices of young people in Maine is critical because it's the oldest average-aged state in the country. Maine Youth Power is building deep progressive change in Maine by organizing their people year round, with mobilization during key moments of strategic leverage. MYP focuses on creating the conditions for local wins on critical issues identified by communities themselves, then turning them into statewide victories.

MYP will launch a new round of fellowships in winter 2022, expand their rural youth base, then mobilize youth turnout in the 2022 midterm elections.

### Matahari Women Workers' Center

#### Boston, MA

Matahari is a grassroots organization working to end the exploitation of women and femme workers through labor organizing of domestic workers (and restaurant workers since 2021). It has grown into the largest non-union community organization representing women workers in Massachusetts. Matahari is membership-based and led by working Black, Indigenous, and migrant women who seek to dismantle the racist legacy of subminimum wages, recognizing that its history is a sequel to slavery that aimed to exploit recently freed people, particularly Black women in service industries. Through popular education and leadership development, they work with their multilingual members, leaders, and coalition partners to conduct outreach, develop campaigns, and mobilize constituents and allies to attend events, hearings, contact public officials, and speak to the media about the issues impacting their community. Matahari's unique labor and community organizing model is multilingual, multiracial, and integrates a gender justice lens. They also bring a trauma informed approach to organizing which is rooted in an understanding that healing themselves and their collective body are essential to sustaining themselves and transforming the movement.

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2022 will be a pivotal year as Matahari transitions into a worker self-directed non-profit in preparation for the succession of their executive director in May 2023. Organizers are in the process of launching Matahari's first steering committee made up of leaders, organizers, and allies; and piloting a new distributed organizing model to deepen leadership and empowerment across their three main language groups: English, Haitian Creole, and Spanish. Matahari are additionally re-evaluating their theory of change in order to update core values, and identify and prioritize issues for the seasons ahead. Among the options being explored is the possibility of incubating worker cooperatives for industries represented by their constituents. Matahari envisions the role of healing and transformative justice to be at the center of their organizing model through the launch of Community Fellows, Campaign Governance, and Language Team spaces.

### Merrimack Valley Project

#### Lawrence, MA

The Merrimack Valley Project (MVP) is a community-driven social justice organization that builds regional power through historic labor-based organizing principles combined with modern movementbuilding techniques. As an organization of organizations, MVP unites religious, labor and community organizations in campaigns to expand economic opportunities and good jobs, save and create affordable housing, and to address other issues related to the welfare of the Merrimack Valley region, and through these campaigns to develop the leadership skills of Valley residents, particularly those who are under-represented in public life.

In 2023, MVP plans to continue its focus on civic engagement and to launch an environmental justice Committee. They will assess the success of their 2022 integregated voter engagement campaign, conducting a listening campaign to determine what work and areas they need to focus on to increase voter turnout especially among immigrants, and begin identifying and researching environmental justice issues for a new campaign.

### Mississippi Prison Reform Coalition

#### Jackson, MS

Mississippi Prison Reform Coalition (MPRC) works to end mass incarceration and continuing inequalities for black, brown, and poor white people within the criminal justice system in the state of MS, a state with the second-highest rates of incarceration in the country. As a membership-based coalition, MPRC organizes incarcerated individuals, their families, and stakeholders in the effort to end the harms of mass criminalization and mass incarceration in their communities. Since forming in 2018, MPRC has pushed levers of change on policy and legislative work, organizing and grassroots advocacy, legal assistance, humanitarian aid for neglected incarcerated folks and their families, and narrative shifting.

MPRC's "Behind the Wall" Fellowship is an organizing fellowship that centers the leadership and experiences of currently incarcerated individuals. This stipended fellowship program trains and supports incarcerated individuals in leading organizing efforts in the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) prisons. Organizing Fellows have mobilized and informed allied organizing efforts on overcrowding, medical neglect, unsanitary conditions, sentencing, and on a number of unusual deaths and suicides in MDOC facilities. MPRC has two fellows, one at Parchman Prison a maximum security facility notorious for human and civil rights violations, and one at Central MS, the state women's prison. Funding was provided to support the expansion of the fellowship program into all five MDOC prisons.

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# Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty

### Kansas City, MO

Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (MADP) is a statewide organization working to repeal the death penalty in Missouri by educating and informing citizens and decision-makers about the systemic costs and consequences of capital punishment. As a grassroots, constituent-led movement, MADP uses community organizing and base-building strategies to accomplish their goals.

MADP works intersectionally by aligning strategies and uplifting the advocacy efforts of those most impacted by unjust systems. The U.S. death penalty is intertwined with the nation's original sin of slavery, its legacy of lynching, and the fear and racism that shaped and continue to burden the criminal legal system.

Grassroots organizing efforts to keep new executions and death sentences low include: Tarnishing the brand of the death penalty through legislative strategies, communications efforts, and prosecutor outreach; Educational programming to support legislative efforts and promote repeal; and Work to highlight racial bias drawing connections between racial terror lynchings and the application of the death penalty, mobilizing leaders of color, and collaborating with others while trying to influence and educate local prosecutors about systemic racism and the death penalty.

### **MORE Justice**

# Columbia, SC

MORE Justice is a diverse interfaith network of 35 local congregations (49% are African American and 51% White congregations) with nearly 600 individual members who share values of justice and compassion. Members work together to address the root of community-wide problems through direct action and hold local systems accountable to provide fair practices for all people. Most members are directly impacted by the problems they seek to address. An affiliate of the Direct Action Research Training network (DART), MORE Justice creates a more just Columbia area by organizing large numbers of people to identify and research community problems, conduct public education, and press for policy-level changes.

In 2022, MORE Justice will stay focused on their three ongoing community issues (gun violence, housing, mental health), and begin to explore the problem of Environmental Justice. Network members will learn strategies at leadership trainings and put direct action tactics into practice focusing on these issues.

### Muslim Justice League

#### Boston, MA

Muslim Justice League (MJL) organizes with communities targeted by the national security complex, predominantly Muslim, Black, and immigrant communities in greater Boston. MJL focus on dismantling the policing and surveillance of communities deemed suspect, by tackling federal programs, local law enforcement, and institutions that create these policies. MJL uses political education, community organizing, and policy advocacy to shift power from racist and Islamophobic institutions to communities. Their membership model supports leadership development engaging constituents in campaigns, workshops, and events and focus mostly on Boston and Massachusetts but also lead some national efforts. MJL is led by Muslims and works to bring justice for ALL communities.

Muslim Justice League plans to continue their ongoing campaigns and coalitions including: local abolitionist organizing in greater Boston, the national StopCVE (Countering Violent Extremism) campaign, and the Unmasking Fidelity campaign which is pushing Fidelity Charitable to end

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philanthropic funding for white supremacist and fascist organizations. MJL will be developing new ways to get their growing membership base involved across all campaigns and to build leadership of impacted people. They also plan to release a number of new resources and data from their extensive research to build grassroots knowledge of policing issues.

#### Native American House Alliance

#### Philadelphia, PA

The Native American House Alliance's (NAHA) mission is to foster, preserve, and promote an accurate understanding of the Native American experience, history, and culture while working to promote racial, economic, and health justice for Native American people in Pennsylvania. NAHA's voting membership is representative of the diversity of Native American nations who have made Philadelphia into their home, including tribal members of the Lenni-Lenape, Lumbee, Haliwa-Saponi, and Nanticoke. Consistent with Native American culture, NAHA works as a multicultural collective for structural change on behalf of the next seven generations. In 2022, NAHA organized their first annual regional Powwow. The Powwows will continue to serve as a keystone organizing event to promote their goals. NAHA's priority advocacy campaigns are to secure government approvals for the first ever City and State Native American Affairs Commissions in Pennsylvania by engaging in educational advocacy campaigns, letter writing, artistic celebrations and nonviolent direct action events.

#### North Bay Jobs with Justice

#### Santa Rosa, CA

North Bay Jobs with Justice (NBJwJ) is a coalition of labor, community, student, and faith-based organizations building an intersectional labor movement led by low-wage workers, immigrants, people of color, youth and women. NBJwJ supports workers to build deep democracies in their workplaces and communities in order to shift the balance of power and ensure economic, racial and climate justice for all.

Continued funding will strengthen and expand NBJwJ's worker-led campaigns for a just transition in the face of climate change fueled wildfires. NBJwJ will grow their organizing with the workers who work on the land, including farmworker, landscapers, disaster restoration workers, and resilience workers. Their campaigns seek to improve the current jobs of the most wildfire impacted workers while at the same time creating good jobs doing the climate adaptation and mitigation work that is necessary to make the community more fire resilient.

# **Operation Liberation**

#### Kansas City, MO

Operation Liberation (OL) is a Black-led, Black-centered and volunteer-led nonprofit, rooted in abolition and liberation work from a Black Queer Feminist lens. OL works to end cash bail, and abolish the surveillance state, pretrial detention and the prison industrial complex. Their organizing and campaign work is designed to defund and dismantle all systems of oppression, particularly those related to the criminal (in)justice and carceral systems, which disproportionately impact the Black community. This work is carried out by their members, in coaltion with other Black-led grassroots organizations, and creates pathways for impacted community to guide, inform, and engage in the work.

OL launched #CageFreeKC to raise awareness, accountability, and transparency for the excessive criminalization and prosecution of the Black community and are organizing within larger community to expose the inhumane conditions of the county jail (significantly worsened by Covid-19), to defund/close the facility - subject of decades of litigation regarding civil rights violations and

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overcrowding, and to stop the construction of a new, larger jail, and reinvest those funds in community resources. Additionally, over 100 families living at the Heart Village mobile community are being displaced by the new jail, most of whom face housing insecurity, are disabled and low income.

### People's Budget Birmingham

### Birmingham, AL

People's Budget Birmingham (PBB) is a volunteer-led coalition laboring to implement participatory budgeting in the city's budget-making process. People's Budget Birmingham believes governments should be accountable, accessible, and transparent to the people they represent and that a budget for the public should be apportioned by the public. PBB practices deep canvassing to generate solutions directly from the constituents, popular education to invite constituents to create knowledge together, data analysis to bring rigor to make the case for participatory budgeting, and political advocacy to give residents a say in how their tax dollars are spent in their communities. Through 2025, PBB is canvassing constituents, collecting data on their budget priorities, and inviting them to advocate for these priorities directly with their elected representatives. This base building and mobilization effort is meant to culminate in a city-wide referendum implementing participatory budgeting so that the people have a say in how their tax dollars are invested.

### Philadelphia Area Jobs with Justice

Philadelphia, PA

Philadelphia Jobs With Justice (Philly Jw/J) is a coalition of unions and community organizations, led by and for working people. They are an autonomous chapter of a national network of local coalitions. In addition to their mission of building solidarity between unions and community organizations to win bigger victories, the Board of Directors, composed of representatives of member organizations, develops strategic campaigns that build power for working people, particularly working people of color.

In 2022, Philly Jw/J launched a campaign to pass legislation for new health and safety protections for warehouse and logistics workers in Philadelphia. In 2023, they will continue building a base of Amazon worker leaders and develop a coalition of labor leaders to support the passage of this legislation. Subsequently, Philly Jw/J will leverage both their worker base and their legislative victory to establish committees of organized workers in Amazon facilities throughout Philadelphia, culminating in market-disrupting city-wide worker actions. Funding will support stage one of the long-term organizing plan.

# Pittsburghers for Public Transit

# Pittsburgh, PA

Pittsburghers for Public Transit (PPT) is a grassroots, member-based organization of transit riders, workers, and residents who defend and expand public transit. PPT keeps the public in public transit by mobilizing communities to advocate for equitable, affordable, and sustainable transportation systems. PPT is committed to winning the PPT Transit Bill of Rights for all residents of Allegheny County, which defines transit as a critical issue at the center of racial, economic, labor, and environmental justice.

In 2022, PPT will organize grassroots campaigns on the following: Equitable transit infrastructure and service, which includes the fight for expanded dedicated bus-only corridors, and for accessible and dignified public transit over venture-backed private micro mobility; #FairFares, with a focus on fare relief for low-income riders: Renewed, dedicated transit funding, as key PA transit funding legislation

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reaches its sunset date in 2022: Integrated zoning and land use policy at City and County levels to ensure that low-income residents have access to high-quality transit.

### Pleasant Street Neighborhood Network Center

### Worcester, MA

The Pleasant Street Neighborhood Network Center (PSNNC) is a community-based, resident-led non-profit that builds power and pursues action for change in the diverse Pleasant-Piedmont neighborhood of Worcester which has among the highest poverty rates in Massachusetts. Community members identify needs and organize for collective action. Having recently hired a new Lead Organizer, PSNNC is now being reorganized and revitalized sustainably. In 2023, PSNNC will undertake a year-long community-centered and culturally responsive community needs assessment; hold a series of community dialogues to share findings, explore their validity/acceptability, seek clarification, and build local power for collective action. PSNNC are also collaborating with residents, city and state officials, and NGOs in the Transformative Development Initiative (TDI), an economic revitalization initiative for which the state designated the neighborhood; PSNNC seeks to ensure that residents' voices, strengths, needs, and wishes are centered throughout the TDI.

# Providence Student Union

### Providence, RI

Providence Student Union (PSU) is a youth-led organization that is building the collective power of high school students across Providence, Rhode Island. Their members are youth leaders who advocate for safe, healthy, and equitable schools.

In 2022, PSU will continue advancing their Student Bill of Rights (SBOR) campaign and partnering with community organizations to advance their 'Counselors not Cops' (CNC) campaign. Developed by youth leaders, the SBOR is a living document made up of 23 articles that would secure a safe, healthy, and engaging school environment for students. PSU are demanding that public officials in Providence adopt the SBOR to guarantee the rights that students deserve, including the right to an education and the right to express their identity. Through their CNC campaign, PSU aims to address the school-to-prison pipeline and create truly safe and supportive schools by removing school resource officers from Providence schools and replacing them with counselors, social workers, and nurses. As a youth-led organization, PSU are always developing new campaigns based on students' concerns, such as supporting the CROWN Act, which would ban natural hair discrimination.

# Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts - PHENOM

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# Worcester, MA

The Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts (PHENOM) is a grassroots, member-led organization that organizes for well-funded, affordable, accessible, well-staffed and democratically governed public higher education in Massachusetts. Uniting key stakeholders, including students, families, staff, faculty, alumni, and community members, PHENOM advances its goals with research, education, coalition-building, direct action, and advocacy. The first big success of this coalition was the 2011 effort to earmark a portion of projected casino revenue for higher education, at an estimated \$20 million per year. Now, PHENOM is positioning itself again as a national leader for its Debt-Free Future campaign which will guarantee free public higher education as a right to all Massachusetts residents.

In 2022, PHENOM launched a new regional-hub model anchored at 29 public campuses. Student organizers leading the Debt Free Future campaign will: Participate in state-wide planning that orients the direction of the campaign; Lead regional workshops and education sessions, recruit students from

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similarly-regioned campuses, and build coalitions with the broader off-campus community; and Take charge of campus/municipal actions necessary to pursue the member-decided regional and statewide goals. This campaign is supported with legislation by State Rep. Natalie Higgins and State Sen. Jamie Eldridge.

### **Quad Cities Interfaith**

#### Davenport, IA

Quad Cities Interfaith (QCI) is an affiliate of the Gamaliel Network that works to address social and economic problems through faith-based community organizing in the Eastern Iowa/Western Illinois area. QCI is membership-based with 26 institutional members and have opened up their membership to individuals and have a board member that represents those individual members. QCI primarily organizes the immigrant and low-income communities and is currently focused on community identified issues including: Community ID, Relatonal Voter Program, Tenants Associations, The Clean Equitable Jobs Act in Illinois, Relational Voter Program in prison, and Pre-trial Fairness.

# **Regeneration - Pajaro Valley Climate Action**

# Watsonville, CA

Regeneración is a grassroots community-based organization dedicated to engaging the community in a coordinated response to climate change and ensuring local adaptation and strategic plans include addressing impacts on the socially vulnerable farmworker communities. It is the only nonprofit organization of its kind on the Central Coast. Regeneración works in partnership with many other organizations and agencies in the Valley.

In 2022 Regeneración will: Host 12 meetings for young environmental and social justice activists to network and provide mutual support; Expand their volunteer Advocacy Committee and conduct public education campaign about locally relevant EJ issues; Host the fourth Climate of Hope forum; Mentor 12 student interns through their pathways to leadership project; Conduct 5 initial interviews and hold a convening of stakeholders to explore forming a Monterey Bay Climate, Health and Justice network; Table at 10 events; Speak to 10 diverse audiences; and Convene 12 Frontline Allies affinity group meetings.

### **Return Strong!**

### Las Vegas, NV

Return Strong is a grassroots movement founded by families in Nevada impacted by mass incarceration. Through a team of family and community activists, Return Strong centers the voices of black, brown, and low-income people who are currently or formerly incarcerated. Using correspondence methods with their incarcerated membership base, Return Strong empowers those inside to be part of their decision-making processes. The information they provide directly translates to the priority campaigns. Return Strong simultaneously mobilizes the formerly incarcerated and those impacted by incarceration, providing political education and leadership development, building leaders that can use their lived experience to revolutionize a system that oppressed them.

In 2023 Return Strong will continue to apply pressure to win a prison oversight panel to ensure that incarceration in NV is humane and honors the dignity of the incarcerated. In addition, they are fighting to eliminate the cost of incarceration: ending predatory financial practices, room and board charges, and medical copays and debt. They will use a participatory defense team to build alternatives to incarceration, further releasing the hold of mass incarceration. Finally, they will work with Unlock The Box and the ACLU to end all forms of solitary in Nevada, including de facto solitary that is over-utilized post-COVID.

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#### Rochester Alliance of Communities Transforming Society Rochester, NY

The Rochester Alliance of Communities Transforming Society (RocACTS) is a multi-ethnic, multiracial, interfaith community organization working to transform the community for the common good by addressing the issues that impact quality of life. A member federation of the Faith in Action Network, RocACTS connects, recruits, trains, organizes, collaborates and supports Greater Rochester Area faith communities and residents on mutual social justice initiatives to positively impact people with a special emphasis on dismantling systemic racism.

The school to prison pipeline may begin as early as preschool. Research shows that the intersection of being a boy, a child of color and having a disability, puts that child at risk 10x more for removal from the preK setting. Data on exclusionary practices with preschool children of color is available in other cities, but is not available in Rochester, NY. There is also no requirement that Preschool providers receive training and use alternative practices that work. RocACTS will partner with The Children's Agenda, a local advocacy organization, to reduce the use of exclusionary discipline practices and to use proven interventions that keep children in the school setting.

### Smash the Slumlords

#### Miami, FL

Through organizing, power-building, leadership development, and innovative housing solutions, SMASH the Slumlords (SMASH) is working to build a just and equitable housing future in Miami through community-designed and owned housing projects. SMASH is a member-led community land trust (CLT) developer created by BIPOCs affected by slumlords, gentrification, and climate change in Miami. Understanding that housing a human right as defined by the Right to the City/Homes for All Pledge, starting with buildings, ending with societies, SMASH fights for the 68% of Miami's renters that are rent cost-burdened, and the 31% that live in substandard housing by building their power, equipping them with real-estate development (RED) skills, and having them design and own their housing. SMASH created the first CLT in Miami in 2018.

The Miami Housing Justice Agenda is a platform of values and policy proposals that if adopted, would fulfill SMASH's vision for a Miami where housing is a human right and everyone has a home. The Agenda's values and policies are the product of four years of community engagement, research and best practices developed by a coalition of different community organizations and policy experts. SMASH builds power for this goal through five strategies consisting of tenant organizing, popular education, research and development of new construction technologies (including 3D printing of homes), Community Land Trusts and policy change.

### Students Deserve

### Los Angeles, CA

Students Deserve (SD) is a grassroots, member-led organization made up of students, parents and teachers in Los Angeles who are building a movement to struggle against institutional oppressions such as class and race inequities that exist in the school system and in broader society. SD works to contribute to the student movement, the movement for Black lives, and the movement for public education by organizing, movement-building with other organizations, creative direct actions, and deep youth leadership development. In July 2020 SD achieved a victory when LAUSD cut \$25 million from LA school police and reinvested \$100 million into the Black Student Achievement Program.

In 2022, Students Deserve will create space for students to share stories, develop alternatives, and further organize their communities. They will hold town halls and listening sessions to hear from

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youth, build consensus with community partners, and pressure LAUSD to change its policies to achieve a full defund of the Los Angeles School Police Department.

# Take Action Mon Valley (TAMV)/Take Action Advocacy Group (TAAG)\$20,000

# McKeesport, PA

Take Action Mon Valley (TAMV/TAAG) is a social justice organization located in the Greater Pittsburgh region. TAMV/TAAG programming is designed to promote social change as well as Black liberation in smaller communities via victim advocacy, community education, community organizing, and coalition building. TAMV/TAAG's grassroots organizing work is done through chapters, coalitions and social justice initiatives. Chapters are comprised of residents who organize around issues that directly affect them. They complete trainings on organizing and community action plans. TAMV/TAAG founded Policing In Allegheny County (PACC) a coalition that focuses on moving toward a county less dependent on the police. Tactics utilized are canvassing, on-line petitions, voter registration, civic engagement/political education, advocacy training, data management, marketing, actions, virtual/inperson town halls and coalition support.

# Temp Worker Union Alliance Project

### Chicago, IL

The Temp Worker Union Alliance Project (TWUAP) is a coalition of allies dedicated to organizing for accountability and reform within the temporary staffing industry and to end the widespread practice of maintaining workers as "permatemps" within manufacturing and warehouse industries. Temp workers are rarely unionized and often unaware of their rights. Moreover, temp workers typically perform the same job duties as direct hires without benefits and for less pay. TWUAP strives to challenge corporate greed through organizing efforts to bring stable wages and improved working conditions across the low-wage workforce through partnerships with local unions to promote wall-to-wall unionization.

In 2022, TWUAP plans to establish worker health and safety committees at a minimum of five workplaces. Those committees will serve as safe spaces to communicate with the worker base and build power through workers' rights education and resources. TWUAP will incorporate the voices of these worker committees into expansion of existing outreach programs.

# The Every Voice Coalition

### Bedford, MA

Founded by students and survivors, The Every Voice Coalition (Every Voice) brings together survivors, students, young alums, and advocates to combat campus sexual violence by empowering survivors and students to lead on-the-ground efforts to advocate for student-written, survivor-centered legislation at the state level around the country.

With movements in 12 states, The Every Voice Coalitin will continue its work passing laws in nine states, implementing our laws in five states, and expanding into three new states this summer. Where state laws have not yet passed, over the next year, students will continue honing bill language, organizing their peers, meeting with legislators and community partners, and working with institutions in order to pass their bills. Where laws have passed, their ever-growing movement is ensuring that institutions implement these laws successfully, and is ready to continue to push for future reform if necessary. The work done to date lays a critical foundation for the Every Voice Coalition's work across the country, and the successful passage of future bills will continue to pave a path for wide-sweeping change across all 50 states.

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#### The FANG Collective

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The FANG Collective is an intersectional, abolitionist, direct action organization and movement support hub that leads grassroots campaigns and provides capacity to local and regional social justice efforts. FANG organizes campaigns to resist ICE, and hosts an interlocking array of projects including a community bail fund, a direct action campaign that is confronting the military industrial complex, and a long term Just Transition initiative. FANG also leads community oriented trainings covering the tactics of direct action. FANG believes in a diversity of nonviolent tactics from community organizing and coalition building to escalated direct action, while prioritizing building real, lasting relationships with people and organizers across different communities and movements.

The FANG Community Bail Fund is organizing towards a mass bail-out action where they will post bail for as many people as possible who are held in local jails, connect them with post-release resources, and welcome them back into the community. They are hoping to provide stipends for formerly incarcerated people to organize and support this effort. The Shut Down ICE campaign is focused on ending an ICE contract held by a local private prison. FANG aims to continue to apply pressure to the prison's investors and to the prison itself, until it closes for good. The Just Transition for Burrillville initiative is focused on closing a toxic power plant, deepening relationships with the Nipmuc tribe, and supporting food sovereignty in the region. Resist and Abolish the Military Industrial Complex will continue carrying out direct actions targeting Raytheon and other major weapons corporations. They also plan to host a regional convergence of groups and individuals working towards demilitarization.

### The Womxn's Village

#### Seattle, WA

The Womxn's Village is a newly formed, statewide grassroots community of women, trans and nonbinary people who have been incarcerated inside Washington state's women's prisons. It is a peer support, leadership, and advocacy organization, utilizing a successful organizing model/structure that women deployed while inside Washington Corrections Center for Women to advocate for their needs and create supportive community. The Womxn's Village is a peer support community for postincarceration challenges that these women uniquely understand, and works to lead and advocate for system changes to dismantle post-incarceration barriers that stand in the way of healing, civic and political participation, and economic success.

Having established priorities and a leadership/organizational structure, the Womxn's Village is now ramping up to begin: Statewide outreach to formerly incarcerated women; Workshops inside the two women's prisons; Training and on-boarding for leaders and members; and Positioning themselves for policy/advocacy work on priority issues through coalitions, community education, and legislative advocacy.

### Transformative In-Prison Workgroup

#### Richmond, CA

The Transformative In-Prison Workgroup (TPW) organizes formerly incarcerated leaders and community-based organizations (CBO) to divest funds from the California and New York prison systems and invest them in healing, leadership training, and holistic restoration. TPW's statewide membership-based coalitions promote decarceration through access to community-run restorative/transformative justice programs. By demonstrating restorative/transformative models of accountability that do not rely on mass criminalization, the TPW offers a path away from punitive responses to harm and toward a community healing paradigm.

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In 2022 TPW will continue to organize around its 1% Campaign which is working to move 1% of CA prison budget into healing; Mobilize system-impacted people; Develop a chapter toolkit and spark national movement to divest from corrections and invest in healing; Grow coalition membership by 30%; Establish inaugural TPW NY Leadership Team; Increase healing in New York prisons; Provide organizing training and coaching to formerly incarcerated members and staff; and Convene members to set priorities.

### **Tranzmission**

### Asheville, NC

Tranzmission is an NC-based organization dedicated to making the lives of transgender and nonbinary people happier, healthier, and safer since 2001. They build resilience for trans/nb people in Western NC and the Southeast through education, advocacy, and support. While their focus is on trans/nb people - who are widely maligned and targeted in today's political landscape - Tranzmission also pursues justice on issues of racism, ableism, labor rights, food insecurity, and discrimination in general. As a transgender-focused organization in the state that passed HB2 in 2015, and a region whose US representative is Madison Cawthorne, Tranzmission understands trans/nb rights to be in danger. NC currently has a "Don't Say Gay" bill pending in legislature. Tranzmission are experienced in mobilizing against this kind of institutionalized harm. By first listening to their community and responding to identified needs, they build momentum towards desired action, calling people together for rallies, protests, marches, education, reaching out to elected officials, and other forms of civic engagement, and collaborating with partner/ally organizations to build stronger movements.

# United Latinos, Promoviendo Accion Civica

### Sacramento, CA

United Latinos (UL) is a nonpartisan, volunteer-led organization investing in the Greater Sacramento area. In order to remain an independent voice for the poor and marginalized, UL is a dues-paying organization formed by individual and organizational members. Each member is connected to the community s/he serves in a mutual quest to create meaningful and dignified participation in civic life for low-income, people of color. Fifty-one percent of their governing board is low-income, and are encouraged to develop their leadership skills through a UL position, workshop, or project. Projects include the South Sacramento Green Team - a grassroots air quality monitoring campaign centered in one of Sacramento's most polluted neighborhoods.

Over the next year, UL will conduct vehicle emissions air quality monitoring in underserved communities correlating health issues to the detected emissions by providing education and empowerment to grow community coalitions where members will provide mitigation strategies and policy recommendations. Additionally, UL will work on increasing Latino voting participation for the general elections by training canvassers who will be traveling through low voter turnout neighborhoods empowering participation in the electoral process.

# United Women of Color

### Capshaw, AL

United Women of Color (UWOC) is a woman of color-led community organization working to provide opportunities for advancement and equity through education, advocacy, and community outreach. UWOC prioritizes civic engagement and supports and sponsors community projects and programs that work toward social equity. As a result of the worldwide outcry against police brutality and racism, UWOC launched its Citizens Coalition for Justice Reform (CCJR) program in 2020. CCJR is a diverse group of North Alabama residents who advocate for those affected by police brutality. CCJR advocacy is campaigning to address the systemic failure of local law enforcement to provide public

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access to police records, including standard operating procedures and bodycam footage. Marginalized communities are particularly affected by this lack of accessibility to information.

In 2022, CCJR will continue working with local officials and a review board consisting of community members, to establish reasonable and transparent guidelines for obtaining police records. In addition to seeking legal counsel, CCJR will primarily focus on building community awareness and activism to address the issue.

#### Venceremos

Fayetteville, AR

Venceremos is a poultry worker-led organization which is spearheading adaptation of the Workerdriven Social Responsibility (WSR) model to the poultry supply chain, beginning in Arkansas. Successful implementation of WSR will address longstanding abuses faced by low-wage, predominantly immigrant, female workers in otherwise isolated poultry processing plants. With technical and strategic support from the Worker-driven Social Responsibility Network staff and members, including the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), the Fair Food Standards Council (FFSC), and Partners for Dignity and Rights, Venceremos is the first organization to apply the Worker-driven Social Responsibility model to the poultry industry.

### **VietRISE**

# Garden Grove, CA

Founded in 2018, VietRISE is a community organizing, power building, narrative change, and systems change non-profit organization based in Orange County, CA. VietRISE organizes Vietnamese people in Orange County--home to the largest community of Vietnamese people outside of Viet Nam--to become activists, advocates, organizers, and leaders for systemic change and social justice within the county's schools, institutions, and governance. VietRISE focuses on advancing immigrant and housing justice through strategic policy and advocacy campaigns, youth organizing and leadership development programs, civic and electoral engagement, and cultural empowerment programming.

In 2022, VietRISE plans to establish two in-person membership programs to formalize their volunteer base and provide a consistent space to network and contribute more to decision-making for their campaigns and ongoing organizing work. One membership program will be for youth ages 14-18 and the other for community members ages 18 and up. VietRISE's ongoing campaigns are to end the prison to deportation pipeline in CA, defend community members from deportation, and advance housing justice policies in Little Saigon. And they are co-building a local network of advocacy, organizing, and policy organizations that work together on those campaigns.

### Voter Choice Arizona

### Peoria, AZ

Voter Choice Arizona is a non-partisan volunteer-based organization founded in 2019. Their focus is to improve the outcomes of the election system by bringing Ranked Choice Voting to Arizona. Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) ensures the winner has majority support, reduces negative campaigning, and increases the influence of an individual's vote. RCV increases the participation and representation of women and under represented minorities in the electoral process. Voter Choice Arizona is accomplishing this goal by building a movement to support Ranked Choice Voting in Arizona through the education of Arizona citizens and development an enactment campaign. They are doing this by canvassing at events, speaking to groups and organizations, and holding meetings and events of their own to educate voters and attract volunteers, endorsements and donations.

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#### **Voter Empowerment Project**

#### Albany, NY

The Voter Empowerment Project (VEP) is a largely volunteer-led, technical assistance organization that builds the capacity of small state and local grassroots organizations that mobilize communities of color, first-time voters, new Americans, youth, rural communities, returning citizens, and others facing barriers to voting. VEP promotes civic participation by creating meaningful opportunities for volunteer service based on one's skills, talents, and interests. Volunteer experts provide remote technical assistance on tasks that include communications, content writing, graphic design, data analysis, marketing, fundraising, research, social media, video, volunteer recruitment, web design, and more. VEP is piloting a just, low-cost model for building grassroots capacity that has great potential to scale.

Funding will support VEPs efforts to recruit and manage 300 high-skill volunteers in support of 44 onthe-ground voter engagement organizations that are working to mobilize historically marginalized and disenfranchised communities in 2023, the 2024 Presidential election, and beyond. Their front-line voting rights partners ("Partners") report that VEP provides critical capacity that they would not otherwise have. Grassroots organizations know best what they need to engage their community members as voters. VEP works to transfer skills to their Partners to enable them to continue their capacity building in the future.

#### Women Against Mass Incarceration

#### Bridgeport, CT

Women Against Mass Incarceration (WAMI) empowers women and girls working in a prison abolitionist framework through engagement in community organizing, Participatory Defense, Clemency campaigns, Court Watch and political education training. Incorporated in 2020, WAMI is the only organization in Connecticut that frames women's rights as human rights for formerly incarcerated women and girls. WAMI's focus is women's empowerment, prison abolition, community and family engagement, and hyper-local work in the community to end incarceration of women and girls. WAMI holds District Attorneys, the Governor's office, the Board of Pardon and Parole, prosecutors, and the courts accountable for their excessive policing. They also look for policy and community structures to make systemic changes.

WAMI's work includes policy and local organizing campaigns focused on statewide coalition building, hyper-policing standards, e-carceration, ending money bail, and drone surveillance. WAMI conducts outreach and engagement with system-impacted women in three local housing projects and contacts women inside the prisons to send in resources, information on how to organize and information on the work WAMI is doing outside. WAMI also hosts weekly Healing Circles to encourage women in the community to understand the range of trauma that impacts them.

### YA-YA Network

#### New York, NY

The YA-YA Network (Youth Activists-Youth Allies) advances youth organizing as a strategy for youth development and social transformation. Participants are low-income youth of color and New York City school students ages 15 -19 from a diverse mix of racial and ethnic backgrounds, immigration status, gender identity, and sexual orientation. Youth arrive at YA-YA with a passion for social justice but little to no experience with activism. YA-YA provides them with the financial resources, political education, organizing experience, and mentorship to influence policy, improve institutions, and change systems that directly impact youth, their families, and the communities they live in.

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This year YA-YA will be expanding their presence and impact at both direct actions and policy advocacy oppportunities to end the School-to-Prison Pipeline. By organizing both from the top down and bottom up YA-YA applies pressure to retain the changes their efforts have earned and secure not only further changes but also the budgetary changes necessary to ensure that the absence of police presence in schools is accompanied by redistribution of resources toward social workers and other professionals who will be able to address the needs of students.

### Youth Justice and Power Union

#### Boston, MA

Youth Justice and Power Union (YJPU) is an organization led by Black and Brown youth in Boston. Youth leaders and members lead basebuilding, political education, and multi-issue campaigns to confront systemic injustice through organizing and direct action. YJPU has campaigned to defund the Boston police and fund youth jobs. YJPU joins with partners to build a movement to dismantle systematic disinvestment and violence against Black and Brown people -- and to fight white supremacy, anti-Black racism, economic exploitation, patriarchy, and cisheterosexism.

In 2022, YJPU will work with partners to update and win demands to decrease policing and police funding, invest in Black and Brown communities, expand youth jobs, and invest in additional budget priorities identified by youth and community members. YJPU will support current youth and recruit new leaders, members with high and medium engagement, and allies; train youth deeply in strategy, policy and research, basebuilding, and direct action. Through events and outreach, they will build community support for reimagining community safety; divesting from racism, oppression, and policing; and investing in communities.

### Youth Vs Apocalypse

### Oakland, CA

Youth Vs. Apocalypse (YVA) is a diverse group of young climate justice activists, supported by adult allies, working together to lift the voices of youth, in particular youth of color and working class youth. YVA builds a base through school-based organizing, educates and supports young people with training programs, engages in strategic, youth-led campaigns, leads mass actions, and changes the narrative around climate justice through Hip Hop. YVA sees climate breakdown as a symptom of a system that treats some people and communities as disposable. YVA meets frontline young people where they are and supports their leadership development. Their model is based on deep community organizing and popular education to provide pathways into organizing. Through YVA, youth leaders have the support to work collaboratively and in community, building the broad coalition needed to achieve system-wide change. Over the past 5 years, tens of thousands of young people have participated in YVA-led actions.

In the coming year, YVA will refine and expand their base-building programs, such as school based organizing and Hip Hop and Climate Justice, based on learning from the last year of in-person organizing. They will continue to bring more youth into the movement for collective liberation and climate justice, while focusing their strategies to win meaningful change. Specifically, YVA plan to focus on further developing their leadership pathways, so that youth can move effectively from class presentations and school clubs, to actions and campaigns, and into regional leadership. They plan to build on the momentum of their campaigns and their strategic actions, as well as to develop their collaborations with allies statewide, to organize for wins from fossil fuels divestment, to protecting frontline communities, to building the public narrative and understanding of climate justice as a personal and urgent cause that intersectional, collective action has the potential to address.

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