

## 2015 Grant Recipients



### **African Communities Together**

\$20,000

Bronx, NY

African Communities Together (ACT)'s mission is to empower African immigrants to integrate socially, get ahead economically, and engage civically. ACT is a mutual aid, organizing, and civil rights organization for African immigrants and their families. ACT employs a comprehensive approach to organizing the African immigrant diaspora that combines direct services, grassroots outreach, leadership development, and self advocacy for systemic change. General support was provided as ACT carries out programs and campaigns to fight for pro-immigrant policy reform, address the crisis of unemployment and underemployment in African communities, organize African youth and students for educational equity, and combat stigma and discrimination against African immigrants related to Ebola.

### **Alliance for Appalachia**

\$20,000

Fayetteville, WV

The Alliance for Appalachia is a regional coalition with the goals of ending mountaintop removal and other destructive coal technologies and supporting a just and sustainable Appalachia. The Alliance for Appalachia helps to build bridges between communities and strategies, and mounts campaigns led by impacted citizens. General support funding was provided in order to support Appalachian citizens in influencing upcoming federal mining rules, highlighting the need to address the legacy costs of more than a century of coal mining in the region. Much of the work will be carried out through the Our Water, Our Future campaign, which links the issues of ongoing mountaintop removal, with the toxic legacy pollution left by years of mining, and the need for a healthy environment as a foundation to organize for a transition to a sustainable future.

### **Blocks Together**

\$20,000

Chicago, IL

Blocks Together (BT) is a membership based community organizing group serving the West Humboldt Park (WHP) community on Chicago's Westside. BT works to build a grassroots community infrastructure, governed from the bottom up, which provides the resources, leadership development and sustained focused efforts to achieve widespread improvements for the community and advance economic and social justice. General support funding was provided to continue to support BT's innovative community organizing which aims to change local policies around youth decriminalization, economic development, and education reform. Their local approach is beginning to be modeled not only all over Chicago, but also across the country.

### **Brandworkers International**

\$20,000

New York, NY

The mission of Brandworkers is to connect retail and food employees with concerned citizens to win justice at work and challenge corporate misconduct in the community. Through legal, organizing, and advocacy trainings and leadership development, Brandworkers empowers workers to launch and carry out their own workplace justice campaigns and create quality jobs in the retail and food industries. General support funding was provided as Brandworkers continues growing its member-led organizing to create a food industry that provides dignified jobs and a just food system for everyone. By integrating leadership development and grassroots organizing, Brandworkers will facilitate campaigns to challenge wage theft, health and safety violations, and discrimination in this indispensable, yet largely unseen, part

of New York's food system. Brandworkers currently intend to bring to victory their campaign at Amy's Bread, where management has agreed to come to the table after months of activity by organization members.

**Californians United for a Responsible Budget**

\$20,000

Oakland, CA

Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB) is a statewide coalition of over 65 grassroots organizations that works to reduce the number of people imprisoned in California jails and prisons through grassroots mobilizations, connecting pressing issues of communities of color, shifting the political landscape, and prioritizing state funding for public services and education instead of incarceration. General support funding was provided for CURB as they continue working to reduce the prison population with no net increase in jail capacity, further reduce the prison population with sentencing and parole reforms; and closing prisons, achieving substantial savings in Corrections spending while reinvesting in human services and education. CURB aims to bridge movements for environmental, social, racial, & economic justice and address the familial impact of imprisonment on communities in California and across the nation.

**Cayce United**

\$12,000

Nashville, TN

Cayce United (CU) is an organized group of residents of the Cayce Place Housing Project in Nashville which is slated for redevelopment. General support funding was provided to Cayce United as they continue to build a sustainable movement where residents are fully present in devoting their energy towards tracking and acting in the area's redevelopment process. Cayce United is committed to making sure that the redevelopment does not follow the nation-wide pattern of limiting economic mobility for residents, that no resident is forcefully displaced, and that the economic development of Cayce includes providing targeted resident hiring and employment as well as needed social services in the community.

**Center for Worker Justice of Eastern Iowa**

\$20,000

Iowa City, IA

The Center for Worker Justice of Eastern Iowa (CWJ) is a low-wage immigrant worker center and an affiliate of the national Interfaith Worker Justice Network. CWJ unites and empowers low-wage workers across race, ethnicity and immigration status to pursue social and economic justice through leadership development, issue-based organizing, and strategic alliances. General support funding was provided for CWJ's multi-pronged Jobs with Dignity campaign, which organizes low-wage and immigrant workers to combat wage theft, while launching new initiatives to achieve, defend, and enforce a local minimum wage increase. CWJ will continue work to prevent retaliation against immigrant workers who speak out, end state and county law enforcement collaboration with ICE, resist unjust deportations, and expand on recent success in achieving a new program making county-issued photo ID available to all residents regardless of immigration status.

**Central Florida Jobs with Justice**

\$20,000

Orlando, FL

Central Florida Jobs with Justice (CF-JwJ) is a coalition of community, labor, faith-based and student organizations building power in the workplaces and communities where working families live. CF-JwJ addresses the root causes of oppression, organizing support for workers treated unjustly and building an economic base that respects the dignity of the entire community. Funding was provided in support of CF-JwJ's objectives to create regional organizing tables that build alignment and a shared analysis of the intersectionality of race, gender and class in organizing low-wage workers in the south. CF-JwJ will support worker organizing campaigns that expand bargaining for workers and address living wage policies, including stronger enforcement for contractors, and inclusion of seasonal/part time employees. Ultimately, these efforts will ensure that low-income workers are positioned to drive and influence local policies that will impact them in the long haul.

**Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL)**

\$12,000

Minneapolis, MN

Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL) partners with low-wage workers to support worker-led campaigns and empowers members to work for social justice by addressing the roots of injustice through self-development and strategic campaigns for systemic change. General support funding was provided as CTUL leads the fight for change in traditionally low-wage industries through three campaigns: Campaign for Justice in Retail Cleaning, an ongoing campaign which aims to ensure the Responsible Contractor Policy (RCP) leads to permanent change and gains union recognition with workers; the Fast Food Campaign, which will build a committee of fast food workers organizing around local issues and join the national Fight for \$15 which calls for \$15 an hour and union rights; and Workplace Rights Defenders, a training program that will not only develop worker's leadership but will also research and publish a report on low-wage work in the Twin Cities to pressure for structural changes.

### **Chicago Anti-Eviction Campaign**

\$20,000

Chicago, IL

The Chicago Anti-Eviction Campaign (CAEC) is a locally based human rights organization whose mission is to enforce housing as a fundamental right. Through community organizing, leadership development, direct action, and policy advocacy the CAEC empowers those directly impacted by displacement and homelessness to de-commodify housing and affirm it as a human right. CAEC envisions a world where poor and working class communities collectively control and manage the land on which they live. General support funding was provided for CAEC to shift public policy regarding vacant, foreclosed properties. In place of the current hands-off policy, the Campaign is seeking to move local government and mortgage banks towards allowing community organizations to rehab these vacant properties to become permanent low-income housing for homeless families and workforce development opportunities for neighborhood residents. Accomplishing this goal will mark a significant milestone in the Campaign's broader mission of enforcing the human right to housing.

### **Citizens for Safety**

\$15,000

Jamaica Plain, MA

CFS mobilizes grassroots action to reduce the flow of guns to criminals while protecting the rights of lawful gun owners. LIPSTICK, a program of CFS, organizes women to prevent their daughters, friends, neighbors, etc. from buying, smuggling and storing guns for people who can't get guns legally. LIPSTICK is a groundbreaking program that empowers women to prevent peers from being exploited to buy, hide and hold crime guns. LIPSTICK conducts peer-to-peer outreach and education programs to prevent women from being used to supply crime guns responsible for the violence plaguing inner-city communities. Trained LIPSTICK leaders talk with other women in churches, beauty salons, schools, prisons, housing developments, community centers, and homeless and domestic violence shelters about the consequences of providing guns to the wrong people. Law enforcement credits LIPSTICK with a 1/3 drop in gun crimes by women.

### **Clean Air Coalition of Western New York**

\$20,000

Buffalo, NY

The Clean Air Coalition of Western New York is a grassroots, membership-based environmental health and justice organization that organizes in marginalized and overburdened communities to pass and enforce policies that protect public health, the environment and advance equity. General support funding was provided to aid the Coalition's organizing and leadership development work in four neighborhoods. These neighborhoods are working on; a just transition of the Huntley coal-burning power plant, reducing emissions from the DuPont factory, winning a community-benefit agreement from the Peace Bridge Authority to reduce diesel emissions, reducing emissions of a large concrete crusher, and the clean-up of a brownfield that is leaking PCBs. All of these polluters are located in low-income neighborhoods and many sites are located in communities of color.

### **Coalición de Derechos Humanos**

\$15,000

Tucson, AZ

Coalición de Derechos Humanos (DH) is a grassroots organization which promotes respect for human/civil rights and fights the militarization of the Southern Border region, discrimination, and human

rights abuses by federal, state, and local law enforcement officials affecting U.S. and non-U.S. citizens alike. General support funding was provided as DH promotes human rights and organizes against anti-immigrant policies. DH is working to combat criminalization and empower those most directly impacted by racial profiling and abusive border enforcement practices. Derechos Humanos' projects aim to not simply respond to individual cases of human rights abuse, but also to build local power to defend against incarcerations and deportations that break up communities.

### **Committee for a Better New Orleans**

\$15,000

New Orleans, LA

Committee for a Better New Orleans (CBNO) is a diverse community organization, a catalyst and convener that works to create equity and opportunity for all New Orleanians by developing community leaders, fostering civic engagement, and advocating for open, effective, accountable government. While community engagement has been essential to the revitalization of New Orleans, too many residents are being left out of many decisions. The People's Budgeting Project brings together individual residents and grassroots community organizations to engage, inform and empower residents to have a direct voice in city decision-making. Specifically, it connects residents directly to the city budgeting process, and informs them about it, ensuring their voices and priorities are reflected in the city government's budget choices, which in turn will focus more city resources where they are most needed.

### **Communities for Clean Water**

\$20,000

Santa Fe, NM

Communities for Clean Water (CCW) is a coalition of social and environmental justice organizations whose mission is to ensure that community waters impacted by toxic pollution from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) are kept safe for drinking, agriculture, tribal sacred ceremonies and a sustainable future. Funding was provided for CCW's Toxic Cleanup Campaign which is a public relations and community engagement campaign to pressure policymakers for a full cleanup of toxic waste dumps at LANL. The campaign will expose threats to regional waters from radionuclides, PCBs, chromium and other toxins, propose positive missions for LANL, build awareness of race and class dynamics of Northern New Mexico, enable participation in public events, increase public participation during regulatory hearings and facilitate growth and empowerment of CCW's Youth Leadership Council.

### **Connecticut Students for a DREAM**

\$20,000

Bridgeport, CT

CT Students for a Dream is a statewide network of undocumented youth and allies that seeks to fight for the rights of undocumented youth and their families and empower them through community organizing, leadership development, and advocacy. General support funding was provided for

CT Students for a DREAM to build organizational capacity to better support organizing efforts, which is instrumental to their policy, college access, and leadership work. Funding support will also help to continue work on a legislative campaign, #AffordToDREAM, for State Financial Aid for undocumented students. Through this campaign, CT Students for a DREAM are building new alliances with legislators and organizations, and have seen the result of these efforts as legislators have begun to support the work by agreeing to introduce the proposed bill which will expand financial aid access to undocumented students.

### **Contact Center**

\$10,000

Cincinnati, OH

Contact Center is a community based, membership organization that builds the leadership skills of low and moderate-income people through grassroots organizing, education and outreach, to have a voice on issues that directly impact their own lives. The Benefit Rights Advocacy Group (BRAG) is a project that develops constituent's leadership to make changes in public policy that affect them. The current campaign, "Safe and Stable Families Campaign for Kinship Care," is organizing to win better benefits for kinship caregivers - mostly grandparents who are raising their grandchildren rather than having the children placed in foster care. While kinship care represents the most desirable out-of-home placement option, there is a large disparity in what kinship caregivers receive in income support and other benefits,

compared to that which foster care providers receive. The campaign builds the skills of members to work for parity in assistance to help lift the children in their care out of poverty.

### **Critical Resistance**

\$20,000

Oakland, CA

Critical Resistance (CR) is a member-based grassroots organization dedicated to building a movement to dismantle the prison industrial complex. CR runs campaigns to stop new prison and jail construction, foster the leadership of imprisoned people, challenge racist policing practices, and advocate for alternative responses to violence. General support funding was provided for CR's next stage in their evolution with three core objectives: 1) prevent the construction of at least one jail or prison in California, with a particular focus on halting a proposed new jail in San Francisco; 2) advance the prisoner-led call to end the use of solitary confinement in California prisons; 3) implement the Oakland Power Projects, a grassroots alternatives to policing initiative that empowers residents to be more self-reliant when it comes to conflict resolution.

### **Dakota Resource Council**

\$20,000

Dickinson, ND

Dakota Resource Council (DRC) is North Dakota's only community-based organization that brings people together around energy, agricultural, and natural resources. To address concerns that affect livelihoods and quality of life, members identify issues, determine solutions, speak for the organization, and evaluate success. Dakota Resource Council is bringing together farmers, ranchers, business people and others living in western North Dakota to find ways to control oil development so that people who live there can have healthy productive lives in communities where they can shape their own future. The Build a Better Bakken effort is using a variety of communication tools and community organizing to address critical issues in the rapidly developing Bakken region and statewide. DRC is helping residents organize their communities in response to oil waste dumps, pipelines, spills, and other issues. The Build a Better Bakken Campaign will bring a stronger and larger voice to what is shaping the future of North Dakota and energy policy in the county.

### **Damayan Migrant Workers Association**

\$20,000

New York, NY

Damayan is an organization of Filipino workers, led by domestic workers that educates, organizes and mobilizes primarily women domestic workers to help fight for economic justice and human rights. Damayan contributes to the domestic workers' movement through base building, leadership development, and through their anti-trafficking campaign. General support funding was provided to help scale up their base building, develop new leaders from the ranks of survivors of human trafficking, and step up the anti-labor and human trafficking campaign. Part of this work involves the creation of an anti-trafficking task force and signing of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Philippine Consulate to secure resources, legal, financial and social service assistance for survivors. Damayan's work will also sustain local collaboration work to pursue enforcement of the NY Domestic Workers Bill of Rights, incubate a workers' cooperative to meet the need for meaningful jobs of members, and help access immigration relief resulting from President Obama's Executive Action.

### **DC Jobs With Justice**

\$20,000

Washington, DC

DC Jobs with Justice is a coalition of local community organizations, unions, student groups, and faith institutions specializing in strategy development, organizing, and training. General support was provided for the community organizing, leadership development, and coalition building work as they lead two coalition driven campaigns: DC Just Hours and DC Just Pay. Goals for the year include 1) building grassroots power with both non-union and union workers to win basic scheduling protections for workers in DC's major hospitality and retail industries; 2) implementing the recent minimum wage, paid sick and safe leave, wage theft prevention, and ban the box legislative victories by conducting broad based community know-your-rights education and working accountably with the DC Department of Employment Services on employer compliance; and 3) continuing to provide and coordinate solidarity support for their growing, diverse steering committee members.

### **Direct Action for Rights and Equality**

\$20,000

Providence, RI

Direct Action for Rights & Equality (DARE)'s mission is to organize low-income families in communities of color for social, political, and economic justice. DARE achieves this through multi-racial, multilingual base building; strategic direct action organizing campaigns; leadership development from within their base; and contributing to larger movement-building efforts. General support was provided as DARE focuses on replacing a housing system built on speculation and foreclosure, with one built on stable communities; and attempts to replace the Jim Crow system of mass incarceration with access to jobs, housing, mental health care, and stronger community support. These goals will be carried out through two major organizing campaigns; Behind the Walls which unites people inside prison with former inmates, friends and families to challenge and change unjust policies from inside, and outside, the prison system; and the Tenant/Homeowner Association campaign uniting tenants and working-class homeowners to challenge bank and government policies that result in home foreclosures, evictions, and blight.

### **Empower DC**

\$20,000

Washington, DC

Empower DC utilizes community organizing and leadership development to build the civic engagement of low- and moderate-income residents to win systemic changes that improve their quality of life, and to ensure government accountability. General support funding was provided. Currently Empower DC is focused on fighting to preserve and improve traditional public housing; enhance parent leadership in DC public schools; preserve public property for public use; and develop the civic engagement of residents directly impacted by these and other social, racial, and economic justice issues.

### **Enlace/Communities United for People**

\$20,000

Portland, OR

Enlace is a strategic alliance founded by Mexican and U.S. organizations working to promote and protect the human and labor rights of immigrants and low-wage workers. Together they focus on empowering the working poor to gain control over their lives and in their communities. The Private Prison Divestment campaign is a national campaign that works with local grassroots organizations to put pressure on major investors in the private, for-profit prison industry to end their support for mass incarceration by cutting all ties with the industry. Many of these powerful investors share lobbyists with private prison companies in addition to providing financial support. Enlace coordinates community organizing efforts to expose the for-profit prison industry, pass divestment resolutions at institutions like city governments, religious organizations and universities, and build a deeply rooted movement for racial justice and immigrant rights.

### **Ex-prisoners and Prisoners Organizing for Community Advancement (EPOCA)**

\$20,000

Worcester, MA

EPOCA is a member-led organization of ex-prisoners along with allies, friends, and family that believes social change can only be led by the people who most need the change. EPOCA works to not only win the policy changes sought, but to change the way decisions are made and power is held in communities. The Jobs Not Jails campaign is an endeavor to curb a proposed \$5 Billion to be spent by 2023 on building 10,000 new prison units. EPOCA's goals are to freeze prison construction; pass wide-ranging criminal justice reforms; and re-direct the savings into a jobs program targeting low-income, high-crime neighborhoods. The work builds on continued movement-building, coalition-organizing, and a state-wide legislative campaign.

### **Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children**

\$20,000

New Orleans, LA

Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children (FFLIC) is dedicated to ensuring every child in Louisiana has an opportunity for a better life, especially those who are involved, or at risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system. Using education, direct action organizing, and peer advocacy FFLIC's vision is to encourage a community centered model of organizing that brings clear and anti-racist structural power analysis to juvenile justice reform efforts; education, and advocacy for children and

families through campaigns that are citizen-led and citizen-focused. General support funding was provided to sustain and expand the 50/2017 Campaign which utilizes the strategies of leadership development, organizing and outreach, and advocacy to empower families to lead and work to prevent and/or reduce recidivism by demanding change of harmful school disciplinary policies that target low wealth children of color.

**Food AND Medicine, Jobs with Justice Education Fund** \$20,000

Brewer, ME

Food AND Medicine (FAM)'s mission is to educate, organize and empower workers and communities for economic and social justice. FAM believes that by working together with unions, farmers, community groups, small businesses, and faith-based organizations it is possible to create solutions and positive change for a livable region. General support funding was provided for work in building a farmer-labor movement that increases low-income access to local food and expands markets so farmers can earn a livable wage; a congregation-based organizing effort with campaigns on public transit, job training and child care; and organizing home care workers and consumers to work toward quality long-term care and quality jobs.

**Fuerza Laboral** \$20,000

Central Falls, RI

Fuerza Laboral is a Rhode Island worker center for immigrant and low-income workers who organize to end exploitation in the work place by training workers in their rights, developing community leaders, and taking direct action against injustice. General operating support was provided as Fuerza Laboral continues work on various organizing campaigns, such as the Campaign to End Wage Theft- which includes efforts to put the pressure on city council to refuse to sign contracts with developers known for abusive practices in their subcontracting of labor workers. Fuerza Laboral is also currently working with members and institutional partners to develop their Cooperative Incubator Project which is a proactive effort to create alternative, living-wage jobs for immigrant workers by constructing a network of worker-owned cooperative businesses that model a vision for economic justice and democratic workplaces. In all of Fuerza Laboral's campaigns they seek to shift the balance of power in the economy in favor of workers, by taking direct action to recover unpaid wages and improve working conditions, and by organizing to win institutional changes by pushing for legislation that will better protect against injustices.

**Gardening the Community** \$20,000

Springfield, MA

Gardening the Community (GTC) is a food justice and youth development program that focuses on creating healthy food access in the food desert community of Springfield through urban agriculture and creative partnerships, while organizing for a more equitable, healthy and sustainable local food system. General operating support was provided for GTC's food justice and youth empowerment organizing work which teaches youth about the root causes of the health disparities and food/income insecurity issues facing Springfield, while offering concrete strategies for change through growing healthy food and organizing for community transformation. Recent campaigns the youth have been involved with include efforts to bring a grocery store back to the neighborhood, and a campaign to defeat a 24-hour drive through McDonald's proposed for a residential neighborhood.

**Garment Worker Center** \$20,000

Los Angeles, CA

The Garment Worker Center (GWC) is a workers' rights organization that fights sweatshop conditions in the LA garment industry. The only center in the country dedicated exclusively to garment Workers, GWC provides a space where workers are empowered to organize collectively toward just working conditions. The Garment Worker Center addresses the systemic problems of wage theft, unhealthy and unsafe working conditions, and the abusive and inhumane treatment faced by workers on-the-job. General support funding was provided to support their peer-led model for worker empowerment, coalition based policy work, community research, and supply chain organizing.

**Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights** \$20,000

Atlanta, GA

The Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights (GLAHR) is a community organizing institution that develops state-wide grassroots leadership in Latino immigrant communities in Georgia. GLAHR currently has 18 committees in 18 cities & counties throughout the state of Georgia. Utilizing community organizing, leadership development, political education and media campaigns to develop grassroots leadership within the immigrant community in Georgia, GLAHR's works to build a network of informed and engaged community members through base-building strategies that defend and advance the civil and human rights of Latinos, immigrants and all people of color living in the Southern United States. General support funding was provided in support of GLAHR's efforts to: 1) Strengthen existing Comités Populares and establish new committees throughout Georgia to continue to develop grassroots leadership, build power and organize for social change; 2) Challenge local criminalization practices including the implementation of federal deportation programs, the implementation of discriminatory state laws, and patterns of prejudiced policing; and 3) Participate in national campaigns that move the President to further expand relief and make immigration policy more humane

**Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project**

\$10,000

Flagstaff, AZ

Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project (GCWRP) works for the reintroduction of the endangered Mexican wolf into the Grand Canyon region and thereby restoring the ecological health in the Grand Canyon region. GCWRP educates concerned citizens of all ages and backgrounds to be effective advocates. Through constituents' direct advocacy, GCWRP ensures that decision-makers hear and respond to the majority voice of support for wolves and make correct science-driven decisions for this imperiled species. General support funding was provided for GCWRP's efforts to increase participants' knowledge, skills and confidence through grassroots organizing across the Grand Canyon region.

**Greater Minnesota Worker Center**

\$20,000

St. Cloud, MN

The Greater Minnesota Worker Center (GMWC) organizes low-wage workers, especially immigrant workers and workers of color, in Central and Western Minnesota. GMWC builds coalitions to achieve policy changes from employers and the government for livable wages, better benefits, workers' rights, immigration reform, and other improvements for workers. General support funding was provided to expand organizing capacity, leadership development and membership growth of their base, especially those employed by temporary employment agencies as well as workers in retail/service jobs in the Greater St. Cloud area. GMWC will focus on resolving issues such as low wages, earned sick and safe time, stolen wages, unfair scheduling practices, and to further the organizing capacity of Somali immigrant workers, especially those employed in the meat-processing sector.

**Hearing Youth Voices**

\$12,000

New London, CT

Hearing Youth Voices (HYV) is a youth-led organization that trains young people of color to organize, fight, and deconstruct systems of oppression in their community. Youth build collective power to fight for a better quality education, while building a culture of organizing in New London, acting as a central hub and jumping off point for resistance movements in the region. General support was provided to continue the work of HYV leaders in the We Want to Graduate Campaign, which focuses on the issue of absence and tardy-based credit loss, named by the youth as a major contributor to school pushout. It also focuses on the discipline system and it's over-reliance on suspension and expulsion. Youth are calling for Restorative Justice as an alternative to this system.

**Hillsborough Organization for Progress and Equality, Inc**

\$20,000

Tampa, FL

Hillsborough Organization for Progress and Equality (HOPE) is a multi-issue, direct-action community organization of 20 multicultural and interfaith member congregations that engages and trains residents to build power and hold systems accountable for justice and fairness in Hillsborough County, FL. The HOPE for Our Children's Future project works to expand Hillsborough County and Tampa's statewide Civil Citation Programs, permitting youth to be issued a Civil Citation instead of being arrested for certain first



time misdemeanors. Research indicates that only 32 percent of the children that could receive civil citations under the State Statute actually receive them in the county. Increasing the use of Civil Citations in Hillsborough will decrease the number of children being arrested and prevent them from having the challenge of an arrest record for the rest of their lives.

### **Holyoke Neighbor to Neighbor**

\$10,000

Springfield, MA

Holyoke Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) is a progressive organization of working class, multi-racial, and multi-ethnic people working together to build political and economic power to improve the quality of life in their communities. Members lead the change themselves through education and training, issue and electoral organizing, policy advocacy, alliance building, and community-controlled economic development. Funding for Action for a Healthy Holyoke! (AHH!) will support the campaign for a just transition beyond coal and toward green jobs after N2N successfully won closure of the Mt. Tom coal plant last year. N2N members are adamant that they will not stop at closure. AHH! will continue fighting to hold plant owners responsible for cleaning up the contaminated site, caring for the workers, and transitioning to renewable energy in Holyoke. AHH! will also hold State Legislators accountable to support Holyoke through a transition beyond coal by funding job training and renewable energy.

### **Illinois People's Action**

\$20,000

Bloomington, IL

Illinois People's Action (IPA) is Illinois' largest progressive statewide community organization. IPA is multi-issue, organizing on immigrant rights, predatory lending, corporate accountability and environmental justice. Founded in 1996, IPA has urban and rural chapters across Illinois. The Stop IL Frack Attack project will build upon the successes of their 2014 campaign to stop hydraulic fracking in Illinois. Using the methodology of grassroots community organizing, IPA will conduct a multifaceted campaign to build even broader statewide grassroots' opposition to fracking, fight for stronger environmental enforcement, train grassroots leaders and challenge fracking permits, and ultimately win policy change leading toward a ban. Through their national anti-fracking leadership, IPA will assist groups in other states in their grassroots campaigns and toward renewable and sustainable energy sources.

### **Justice Committee**

\$20,000

New York, NY

The Justice Committee (JC) is a Latino/a-led grassroots organization dedicated to building a movement against police violence and systemic racism in NYC. JC's organizing strategies include multi-generational leadership development, political education, based-building, solidarity work with other immigrant and people of color-led organizations, direct action, and advocacy and service provision to meet the immediate needs of victims and their families. General support funding was provided as JC continues to strengthen their infrastructure as programming expands, provide grassroots leadership for the development and implementation of policing policy reforms, and meet the needs of their growing membership.

### **Laundry Workers Center**

\$20,000

New York City, NY

Laundry Workers Center is a member-led organization that empowers low-income minority and immigrant communities in New York City via worker justice organizing, leadership development, educational trainings, civic participation and policy advocacy initiatives. Laundry Workers Center United's approach connects community and workplace justice organizing in order to support families, grow political consciousness, and build grassroots power that is socio-economically sustainable. The work aims to combat abuses such as landlord negligence, wage theft, and hazardous and exploitative working conditions, all of which are endemic in low-income communities in New York City and New Jersey. General support funding was provided to assist the Laundry Workers Center with core programs in worker and tenant rights organizing: Workplace Justice Campaigns which provide tools to low-wage workers in the laundry and service industries to fight unscrupulous employers, win legal wages, and gain structural change; Research and Policy engages and mobilizes communities on policies with large socio-economic impacts such as civil rights, immigration, and workplace dignity; and the Progressive Block

Leadership Institute provides educational training in leadership development, civics, and organizing to any community member who wants to participate.

### **Motor City Freedom Riders**

\$20,000

Detroit, MI

In the metropolitan Detroit region, the lack of effective public transit divides communities and excludes hundreds of thousands of people from opportunity. The right to economic and political participation is contingent on the right to reliable transportation. The Motor City Freedom Riders seek to unite bus riders in grassroots organizing for the right to move, defending and expanding public transit services across the region. General support funding was provided for Motor City Freedom Riders to build their organization of metro Detroit bus riders and allies. Working together across city and county lines, bus riders themselves will lead the work for real improvement and build a movement for better public transit service in Detroit's transit-starved city and region. Utilizing organizing, education and leadership development, Motor City Freedom Riders will focus on ensuring accountability for transit improvements on two of Detroit's local bus services, the Regional Transit Authority, and elected officials across the region, while building a broad grassroots voice for transit.

### **Movement for Justice in El Barrio (Movimiento por Justicia del Barrio)**

\$20,000

New York, NY

Movimiento por Justicia del Barrio is an immigrant-led community organization dedicated to organizing the immigrants of El Barrio (East Harlem) to lead the way to social justice and building a movement for dignified living conditions and against the systematic displacement of low-income immigrants and people of color in NYC. Through door-to-door community organizing, leadership development, and political education, Movimiento is committed to self-determination, participatory democracy, and collective decision-making. General support funding was provided in support of their work which uses data from their participatory research study to pressure the NYC Dept of Housing Preservation & Development to implement community recommendations, enforce the housing code, and preserve affordable housing. Movimiento will also continue work on various actions such as; holding the owner of 51 buildings accountable to tenants calling for dignified housing; mobilizing tenants to pressure the Rent Guidelines Board to win low increases in rent of rent-regulated apartments; and continue to offer the free Community Organizing Symposium & Internship Program, helping new organizers build skills, knowledge on confronting multiple oppressions in organizing.

### **Music and Culture Coalition of New Orleans**

\$20,000

New Orleans, LA

Music and Culture Coalition of New Orleans (MaCCNO) works at the intersection of culture and policy, organizing and engaging the cultural community of New Orleans to develop and implement permanent solutions to long standing structural problems that adversely impact their ability to practice their art form and/or make a living. General support funding was provided to continue MaCCNO's organizing, advocacy and capacity building work to ensure culture workers have a voice on issues that threaten the historic music culture of the city. The work this year involves bringing to a close the first of two major campaigns-ensuring a new Zoning Ordinance supports the culture of the City, and shepherding the passage of a culture and music friendly Noise Ordinance.

### **New Settlement Apartments**

\$10,000

Bronx, NY

The Parent Action Committee (PAC) is a multicultural organization of families fighting for educational justice in the Bronx. PAC educates families about their rights, develops grassroots parent leadership, and leads campaigns to end the school-to-prison pipeline and improve neighborhood public schools. General support for PAC was provided to help hire an organizer, who will help expand PAC's District 9 Campaign which addresses persistent educational failure in this District of the Bronx - where just 12% of students are reading on grade-level. This campaign aims to implement critical reforms that will address the root causes of struggling schools, engage parents as full stakeholders and make the District a model of community-driven school transformation.

### **Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance**

\$14,000

Gloucester, MA

The Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance (NAMA)'s mission is to enhance and maintain healthy marine ecosystems by organizing a decentralized network of community-based fishermen, fishworkers and allies to influence policy to make the case for supporting small and medium scale, community-based fishers. This vision is achieved by working with coastal communities on markets and policy alternatives that protect the marine environment while strengthening local communities that depend on fishing. General support funding was provided as NAMA builds the leadership capacity of the next generation of fishermen, fishing community advocates, food system change leaders and organizers by developing opportunities for strong connectivity between young leaders from across food sectors who are interested and ready to explore fisheries as part of their work. Activities include: Skills training in fisheries and food policies; cross campaigning and collaboration between land and sea based food movements; and opportunities for creativity in action, communication, organizing and engagement.

### **Ohio Community Rights Network**

\$10,000

Broadview Heights, OH

The Ohio Community Rights Network (OHCRN) is a growing network of community members and grassroots groups who are working to advance, secure and protect the rights of all Ohioans to democratic, local self governance, to sustainable food, energy and economic systems, and the rights of nature to exist and flourish throughout Ohio. The Stop Fracking Now program is supporting communities across the state, who are organizing to stop fracking and related activities. OHCRN are partnering with grassroots groups to codify community rights to clean air and pure water, the rights of nature to exist and thrive, and ban fracking activities as a violation of those rights.

OHCRN supports grassroots organizing efforts by helping community groups develop "community rights" campaigns, develop education materials, hold trainings and workshops, and provide legal assistance to communities.

### **One Step a la Vez**

\$20,000

Fillmore, CA

The mission of the One Step a la Vez (OSALV) Program is to develop informed, empowered youth who are equipped with the tools to lead, cultivate cultural awareness, bridge the gap of inequality and advocate for fair, just and healthy individuals and community. One Step a la Vez youth are trained in leadership and community organizing strategies, including power and root cause analysis, to conduct grass roots campaigns in order to improve their neglected and often abused communities. From the base of a youth directed community center (One Step Center), the youth advocate for systemic change on issues identified by them. General support funding was provided to assist OSALV on several projects such as; demand for a public transit system to vibrant communities with better job opportunities, ensuring no development on a toxic waste superfund site, addressing issues surrounding youth in the juvenile justice system, and also working with the local council to increase the number of adequate low-income housing units in the area.

### **OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon**

\$20,000

Portland, OR

OPAL (Organizing People, Activating Leaders) organizes low-income communities and people of color to achieve a safe and healthy environment in Portland. OPAL works at the intersection of transportation, housing and health, fighting for greater self-determination, equal protection and access to opportunity. OPAL builds coalitions to create opportunities for meaningful participation in decision-making and to build power to address root causes of environmental racism and oppression. General support funding was provided in support of their work on (1) transportation justice, through the Bus Riders Unite program and the Transportation Justice Alliance coalition; (2) youth empowerment, through their Organizers-in-Training and Youth Environmental Justice Alliance programs and the Lents Youth Initiative; (3) anti-displacement, through OPAL's inclusionary housing coalition and organizing; and (4) climate justice, working with culturally-specific and indigenous rights groups to foster community resiliency.

### **Pan Left Productions**

\$20,000

South Tucson, AZ

Pan Left is a media collective making grassroots media for social/environmental justice and social change. Pan Left's mission is to amplify progressive stories and voices with free media access and training for people working to impact the community, promoting equity in media and boosting disenfranchised perspectives. General support funding was provided in support of Pan Left's technical assistance and media resources access to grassroots activists that are educating and agitating to bring about radical social change. Working with indigenous and Latino youth, women of color, migrant families, LGBTQ people, formerly homeless, and formerly incarcerated, Pan Left unites those living in Tucson barrios and both Pascua Yaqui and Tohono O'odham nations to make media in support of grassroots change.

### **Parent Voices Oakland**

\$10,000

Oakland, CA

Parent Voices Oakland (PVO), is a parent-led, grassroots organization that advocates for affordable, accessible, quality child care. PVO organizes and empowers low-wealth families to build political power and effective campaigns toward economic and educational justice, with the goal to advance initiatives that will expand child care subsidies to those who need them most. Child care subsidies have been cut statewide in California by over \$1 billion dollars since 2008. In the City of Oakland over 5,000 children are waiting for care. There is a disproportionate number of women of color waiting for the opportunity to work, maintain employment, and increase mobility with a child care subsidy. General support funding was provided to strengthen the membership base of low-income parents in the City of Oakland through grassroots fundraising and a membership drive. In addition to increasing the number of members, PVO will enhance their leadership development program and provide meaningful opportunities for parents to impact the legislative process.

### **Pennsylvania Immigration & Citizenship Coalition**

\$20,000

Philadelphia, PA

PICC is a statewide coalition of over 50 member organizations, including community groups, social, health and legal service providers, advocacy organizations, labor unions, faith communities, and hundreds of immigrant community members and allies. PICC's mission is to advance immigrants' rights and promote immigrants' full integration into society by advocating with a unified voice for greater public understanding and welcoming public policies throughout Pennsylvania. PICC plays a unique role as the only organization in Pennsylvania that brings together organizations and individuals representing different ethnicities, immigration statuses, faiths, and other backgrounds, to work collectively on immigrant rights in Pennsylvania. The Immigrant Youth Leadership project will meet the need for strengthened leadership among immigrant communities by helping immigrant and refugee youth become grassroots organizers and leaders of immigrant rights campaigns. PICC will develop youth-led committees that will participate in local, state and national advocacy work. Based on priorities identified by the youth and PICC's membership, PICC will encourage youth to take on leadership roles in advocacy campaigns on tuition equity, administrative relief, fair education funding, access to driver's licenses and raising the minimum wage.

### **People Acting for Community Together**

\$20,000

Miami, FL

People Acting for Community Together (PACT) unites, organizes and trains leaders from diverse congregations and schools to build a powerful community voice. PACT individually and collectively, empowers themselves, holds officials accountable, achieves systemic change, and promotes fairness, justice and democracy in Miami-Dade County. The Keeping Our Children in School project will train 150 community leaders to address the problem of children being arrested and suspended for minor infractions in Miami Dade instead of addressing and preventing future problems. Trained leaders will work on changing policy to connect youth to prevention programs instead of giving them arrest records for second time nonviolent juvenile offenses. PACT leaders will also work to establish policy that creates a formal referral program for students who are suspended out of school for more serious infractions, to automatically be referred to the County's prevention programs.

### **Pilsen Alliance**

\$17,000

Chicago, IL

Pilsen Alliance is a multi-issue social justice organization committed to developing grassroots leadership in Pilsen and neighboring working class, immigrant communities in Chicago's Lower West Side. Pilsen Alliance works for quality public education, affordable housing, government accountability and healthy communities. The Fisk redevelopment project continues to engage Pilsen residents in the planning and repurposing of the decommissioned Fisk coal plant site, in order to ensure that the outcome lines up with the goals drafted by the community. The goals of the redevelopment are to provide open space, access to the river for recreation, local green job opportunities and increased community capacity for sustainable planning. To achieve these objectives, the Engagement Council will continue developing the community leadership to inform and influence long-term sustainable development in Pilsen, and to provide an institutional space for community residents and stakeholders to participate in a meaningful way.

### **Pioneer Valley Workers Center**

\$15,000

Northampton, MA

Pioneer Valley Workers Center (PVWC) provides a space for low-wage and immigrant workers to develop leadership and creative organizing campaigns to address their most pressing problems at work and in society. They organize and develop leadership among working class constituencies in communities across Western Massachusetts. General support was provided for PVWC's food system organizing work. Building on the strength of the farm-to-table movement, PVWC's efforts aim to develop worker leaders, to organize those most impacted to take collective action to raise labor standards throughout the local food system, and to make sure that regional and statewide sustainable food system initiatives include a commitment to creating sustainable jobs and protecting labor rights.

### **Power U Center for Social Change**

\$20,000

Miami, FL

Power U is a grassroots membership organization that works with low-income residents and women of color to organize for social change. Power U's mission is to organize low-income communities directly impacted by institutional oppression by utilizing leadership development, promoting self-determination, and building community power to create an equitable and just society. General operating support was provided as Power U continues programming to resist state violence and advance alternative community building models such as restorative justice. Funding will help pay for staff, policy research, direct actions, workshops and training, and communications infrastructure. Their model emphasizes developing the leadership of young people to resist institutional oppression and advance transformative solutions.

### **Press Pass TV**

\$17,000

Boston, MA

Press Pass TV is an award-winning organization that uses advocacy journalism to tell the stories of communities working for change. Using media arts and storytelling as a tool for cultural organizing, Press provides meaningful employment and education for youth living in low-income neighborhoods. They offer creative outlets for self-affirmation, teach life sustaining skills and empower communities with the resilience to thrive, while providing pipelines to action. Funding was provided for the Community Connect training portion of the Media Leadership Institute. During this program, youth gain skills in media production and campaign messaging by providing pro-bono messaging support to racial, social and economic justice groups. Youth gain important analysis about issues impacting their community, directly contribute to the success of movements for change, and grow their skills to gain employment and interrupt the cycle of poverty and violence.

### **Right 2 Dream Too**

\$20,000

Portland, OR

Started a houseless-led direct action, Right 2 Dream Too (R2DToo) is a peer-led, volunteer-run organization that provides refuge and a safe place for Portland's houseless community to rest or sleep undisturbed. From this place of safety, R2DToo engages members, the broader houseless community, and allies, in the struggle for systemic change. Open to all adults experiencing houselessness, members learn how to fight for their and other oppressed peoples' rights by educating the broader community

about the criminalization of survival activities, the importance of safe sleep, and the lack of affordable housing in Portland. Leaders become engaged in coalitions and organizing activities aimed at dismantling the oppression's that affect them including discrimination, affordable housing, and the criminalization of survival behaviors.

### **Rights for All People**

\$20,000

Aurora, CO

Rights for All People (RAP) is an individual membership, immigrant-rights organization whose mission is to bring the voices of immigrant leaders and their allies to the struggle for equality, mutual respect and social justice through community organizing, leadership development and civic engagement. General support funding was provided to develop the work of building power and developing the leadership skills of members, 90% of whom are immigrants in Aurora and Colorado. RAP believes in immigrants leading the way for the whole community and their goal is to mobilize the grassroots power to ensure their full participation in the economic, political and social fabric of Aurora. RAP's work focuses on passing comprehensive immigration reform with a path to citizenship, fight for a statewide detainer policy prohibiting law enforcement officials from honoring unconstitutional ICE holds, and, through the Unite Aurora campaign, ensure public transportation is accessible and affordable for all community residents.

### **Southern Maine Workers' Center**

\$15,000

Portland, ME

Southern Maine Workers' Center (SMWC) is a member-based organization made up of people who believe that working and poor people need to unite and organize to ensure that their basic human rights are met. Through their committees, SMWC organizes for dignity in workplaces and the right to health care. The Southern Maine Workers' Center is joining the Vermont Workers' Center and several other states in using a human rights framework to build power among a statewide coalition of organizations, workers, and low-income Mainers in order to demand and win a universal, publicly funded health care system in Maine. SMWC views the Health Care is a Human Right campaign as an important first step toward building an inclusive membership organization led by working-class and poor Mainers that can help to grow a broad-based movement for racial and economic justice in Maine.

### **Springfield No One Leaves**

\$20,000

Springfield, MA

Springfield No One Leaves (SNOL) is a grassroots, member-led housing justice organization. Through direct action, leadership development and political education SNOL organizes residents impacted by the housing crisis to build collective power, defend against displacement and win long-term community control over land and housing. Springfield No One Leaves received support for their Springfield Tenants Organizing Project (STOP), which organizes renters to defend against displacement and expand renter's rights in the city of Springfield. Members will lead campaigns to defend against eviction and rising rents, teach know-your-rights trainings, draft and lobby the city to adopt a Renters Bill of Rights, host a Renter Nation Assembly as a forum from which to launch regional housing justice campaigns, participate in ongoing leadership training and political education through our Movement Leaders Academy. The STOP will broaden SNOL's work to organize thousands of low-income renters to win victories that can serve as a model for the housing justice movement nationally.

### **Street Vendor Project**

\$20,000

New York, NY

The Street Vendor Project (SVP) is a grassroots, vendor-led organization that works to advance economic opportunity and social justice for thousands of street vendors, predominantly immigrants of color and some US military veterans, in New York City. The heart of SVP's work is to organize their community in campaigns for justice, while educating the public about the systemic problems street vendors face. General support funding was provided as SVP continues their campaign to increase the number of permits available for street vending in New York City. SVP will also engage in related organizational development work, including outreach to prospective members, and organizing and leadership development training for current members. SVP provides know-your-rights education, legal assistance, and other support to members, as well works to expand and deepen their coalition and

movement building efforts, in support of building a truly grassroots worker justice movement in New York City.

### **Student Immigrant Movement**

\$20,000

Boston, MA

Student Immigrant Movement (SIM) is a statewide immigrant youth-led organization based in Massachusetts. SIM creates a space for and by undocumented young people to lead campaigns, act together to transform their communities and improve their lives through public narrative, relational building, and hands on issue organizing. SIM identifies, recruits and develops leaders in local cities and towns who are invested in ending discrimination and roadblocks for immigrants, creating pathways to higher education for undocumented students, and improving their communities through leadership development, electoral organizing and using both strategic and motivational campaigns that build a movement. SIM's Dare to DREAM campaign will continue building bridges to higher education for undocumented students by passing an In-State tuition and State Aid bill in 2015, which will make college education more achievable, and transforming Massachusetts high schools and colleges into institutions invested in the success of undocumented immigrant youth.

### **Teachers Unite**

\$20,000

New York, NY

Teachers Unite (TU) is growing and sustaining a movement of educators who collaborate with young people and parents in the struggle for social and economic justice. TU organizes teachers around human rights issues that impact New York City public school communities, and offers collaborative leadership training for educators, parents and youth. TU believes that a strong organization of activist teachers, working in coalition with parents and students, will transform the city, and its schools, to best serve all New Yorkers. General support funding was provided as Teachers Unite continues to organize educators in the struggle against mass incarceration and the school-to-prison pipeline using school partnerships, transformative justice trainings, and skill-shares to grow their base. TU will engage members as allies in the youth-led Dignity in Schools Campaign (DSC) which locally aims to reform the NYC discipline code and collaborate with the NYC Department of Education (DOE) to start a Restorative Schools Pilot Program. TU will also support site-based models for growing restorative justice in schools.

### **The People's Alliance Fund**

\$20,000

You Can Vote!

1011 Minerva Ave, Durham, NC

People's Alliance Fund is diverse, multi-issue civic engagement organization that promotes social and economic justice through community engagement in the political process. The You Can Vote! (YCV) project works with community organizations to protect and extend the electoral franchise by training, empowering and supporting community coalitions to educate, register and mobilize voters targeted for suppression (low-income, young, and people of color) through registration drives, voter education, canvassing and phonebanking by YCV volunteers partnered with network volunteers in their communities. YCV builds capacity for long-term social change through civic engagement using best practices in outreach, mobilization and volunteer retention.

### **Tompkins County Workers Center**

\$20,000

Ithaca, NY

The Tompkins County Workers' Center is a member-driven community organization created to stand up with and empower workers treated unfairly at work and to build leadership among low-wage workers. TCWC organizes against wage theft, other employer abuses and toward achieving a living wage for all workers. The Minimum Wage Campaign is a grass-roots effort to establish the Tompkins County Living Wage as the statutory Minimum Wage applicable to all employers in the County. Strategies include mobilizing and empowering low-wage workers to take leadership roles; mounting a door-to-door petition drive seeking 10,000 supportive signatures; developing a coalition of community, business, labor, faith-based and political organizations; organizing rallies, direct action, community education and other events; and the creative use of social and print media.

## **Transnational Institute for Grassroots Research and Action (TIGRA)**

\$20,000

Oakland, CA

TIGRA is a movement center that promotes transnational economic justice. TIGRA engages in strategies that leverage the economic power of transnational families to set economic justice and human rights standards in the policies and practices of industries that depend on their money and their labor—making migration an option and not a necessity for economic survival for millions. TIGRA seeks to promote the practice of “Economic Citizenship” by making every economic choice matter and upholding values of: solidarity, cooperation, and empowerment. The Divest in Detention, Invest in Communities is a project of TIGRA with strategic partners in United We Dream, the largest network of undocumented students in the country. The goal of the campaign is to force campus Administrations to end their "Campus Card Program" contract with Wells Fargo Bank and choose a local financial institution (i.e. credit union) to administer the program to benefit students and its surrounding communities. Wells Fargo invests heavily in for-profit detention centers that benefit from the separation of immigrant families. TIGRA wishes to see the multi-billion dollar industry serve local development priorities instead.

## **United Workers**

\$20,000

Baltimore, MD

The United Workers is a human rights organization led by the poor to end poverty. The work is run by low-wage workers, who develop leaders and organize for systemic change through community-driven accountability campaigns altering power structures, and impacting workers' lives. United Workers build membership across multiple issues and barriers, to transform economic development in Baltimore from a failed trickle down approach to a Fair Development model. General support funding was provided for ongoing work of the Fair Development Campaign, which works to reset the political agenda and how we think about economic development, building a grassroots effort to transform public policies, with public resources going to secure affordable housing, renewable energy solutions and zero waste projects, and Work with Dignity.

## **Urban Youth Collaborative**

\$20,000

New York, NY

Led by students, the Urban Youth Collaborative (UYC) brings together New York City students to fight for real education reform that puts students first. UYC demands a high quality education for all students, as young people struggle for social, economic, and racial justice in their schools and communities. UYC believes in the transformative power of youth organizing, in movement building to heal communities, and in the power of young people to shift structural systems and policy. General support funding was provided for UYC as youth mobilizes to address critical challenges facing NYC public schools, including: the school to prison pipeline, rampant school closings and new school openings, increased emphasis on standardized testing, and the lack of systematic attention to support students through the complex college application process.

## **Vermont Interfaith Action**

\$15,000

Burlington, VT

Vermont Interfaith Action (VIA) is a faith-based, grassroots coalition of congregations that transforms ordinary people into empowered and engaged citizens, capable of creating systemic change on issues that are barriers to equitable opportunities for all. General support was provided for grassroots community organizing around the issues of corrections reform, education improvements, and a movement toward a moral economy. These are issues identified and researched by leaders within VIA's member congregations and among the marginalized parents and youth of Burlington and Winooski high schools, including recent immigrants and those living in generational poverty, so that they may effect systemic change around issues that are important to them.

## **Western North Carolina Workers' Center**

\$15,000

Marion, NC

The mission of Western North Carolina Workers' Center (WNCWC) is to develop leadership among workers through organizing and education to resolve issues of labor rights and promote fair working conditions in Western North Carolina. General support funding was provided to expand on the significant



impact WNCWC has had in building individual and collective organizing capacity for low-wage immigrant workers in rural Western North Carolina. WNCWC focuses on educating workers around their rights, developing leadership skills, and promoting organizing in order for workers to resolve issues and promote fair conditions. The ongoing campaigns WNCWC focus on are: workplace health/safety, wage theft, and the Women Fighting for Justice Campaign.

### **Wind of the Spirit**

\$20,000

Morristown, NJ

Wind of the Spirit (WotS) is a New Jersey-based grassroots, interfaith organization of immigrants from various parts of Latin America and some non-immigrants working in collaboration to organize and empower the community for social change, based on a vision of human rights and justice for all. Wind of the Spirit educates the community about their rights and develops the leadership of directly affected community members to be at the forefront of the movement to see an end to family separation and worker exploitation. General support funding was provided for their efforts to pass specific state-level policies that will expand the rights of immigrants, including legislation for driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants and for access to state financial aid for undocumented students.

### **Worcester Anti-Foreclosure Team**

\$18,000

Worcester, MA

The Worcester Anti-Foreclosure Team (WAFT) is a grassroots, volunteer-led organization committed to educating homeowners and renters of the Greater Worcester Community about their rights. WAFT brings impacted residents together to stop foreclosures through mutual support and joint leadership, change public perception, and reverse previously illegal foreclosures and the far-reaching harm they have created. This project will focus on work with community partners to stop all evictions in Worcester and create an "Auction-free Zone".

### **Worcester Green Low Income Housing Coalition**

\$15,000

Worcester, MA

Worcester Green Low Income Housing Coalition (WGLIHC) is a new coalition of low-income housing residents and their allies and advocates working for energy reforms that will result in equity in energy programs for low-income people. These reforms will open the door for carbon neutral housing and energy savings utilized for programs and housing. Inner city housing is under-represented in energy policy, and that this policy has multiple impacts on the lives of low-income people. Funding was provided to help support a paid organizer for work on the coalition agenda and in building leadership among the low-income housing community of Worcester. While Massachusetts ranks first nationally in energy programs, much of the benefits accrued are not in urban areas. WGLIHC aims to redress this through work on expanding energy programs for low-income housing providers who are currently unable to participate, and are blocked by the oil industry, by creating a low-income housing credit with the utilities, and widening the scope of low-income eligibility.

### **Workers Center for Racial Justice**

\$20,000

Chicago, IL

The Workers Center for Racial Justice (WCRJ) is a grassroots organization founded by a group of unemployed and formerly incarcerated Black workers. The mission of the WCRJ is to eliminate structural barriers to sustainable and living wage employment for Black workers, help advance a radical agenda that will lead to economic equity for all workers, strengthen economic security for Black families, and play a pivotal role in dismantling the system of structural racialization that permeates every aspect of society. WCRJ organizes unemployed, low-wage and formerly incarcerated Black workers to fight for higher wages, better working conditions, and equitable access to sustainable and living wage jobs. A general operating support grant was provided in support of their work to create pathways to good jobs for marginalized Black workers, reduce over-criminalization and unaccountable policing in the Black community, and educate low-wage Black workers around the issues of Wage Theft, discrimination and workplace safety.

### **Workers' Center of Central New York**

\$20,000

Syracuse, NY

The Workers' Center of Central New York is a Syracuse-based grassroots organization focused on workplace and economic justice and aimed at educating, organizing, and mobilizing low-wage and predominantly immigrant workers to combat workplace abuses and improve wages and working conditions. Through community organizing, leadership development, popular education and policy advocacy, the Workers' Center of Central New York aims to empower marginalized workers. General support funding was provided so the Workers' Center of Central New York can increase their organizational capacity, build membership, and develop more robust organizing campaigns, particularly our Dairy Worker Organizing Campaign, led by a dynamic group of immigrant dairy workers who call themselves the "May 1st Committee."

### **Workers' Dignity Project / Dignidad Obrera**

\$16,500

Nashville, TN

Workers' Dignity Project (WDP) is a worker-led workers' center acting collectively for economic justice. WDP develops concrete solutions to wage theft, violations of health and safety, and the systemic abuse of workers by building power through relationships with fellow low-wage workers and allies. Nashville's hospitality industry is one of the largest, fastest-growing, and highest-earning sectors of the local economy. It also employs thousands of low-wage workers, making it an especially strategic target for high-impact worker organizing. General support funding was provided as WDP builds on recent wins in the Just Hospitality campaign and bring to scale their efforts to improve conditions for workers in that industry. Specifically, they intend to launch a corporate responsibility initiative focused on key chain hotels in Nashville, using a Cleaning Workers Bill of Rights, which will be an agreement presented to industry leaders, hotel owners, the two major trade associations, and city government to ensure systemic improvements in the rights and dignity of all cleaning workers, backed by a city-wide workers movement.

### **Young Voices**

\$18,000

Providence, RI

Young Voices (YV) trains low-income youth of color across RI to become effective organizers who push for education equity at the school, district and state level. YV ensures that youth, the main constituents of the education system, have the power to impact the root causes of educational inequity. General operating support was provided to allow YV to build on successes from last year. Youth will continue to push for state-level policies that impact education, from high-stakes testing to equitable funding to fighting the School to Prison pipeline. They will also continue their work at the school and district level, pushing for change in discipline policies and school climate.

### **Young Workers United**

\$20,000

San Francisco, CA

Young Workers United (YWU) is a multiracial membership organization dedicated to improving the quality of jobs for young and immigrant workers. YWU raises standards in low wage jobs in San Francisco through worker and student organizing, advocacy, leadership development, and public education. Funding was provided for the Empower Retail work YWU is doing to include retail workers in outreach and leadership development. YWU aims to organize young workers and older working adults that are having trouble surviving in the city due to the instability of hours and the low pay in retail the sector, creating stress when combined with skyrocketing San Francisco rents. YWU will build worker committees from two malls and incorporate them into the leadership development work which is currently underway with restaurant workers. YWU intends to unite these two industries and form a stronger organization with voices from both industries involved in raising the standards in low wage jobs across San Francisco.

### **Youth Justice and Power Union**

\$10,000

Boston, MA

Youth Justice and Power Union (YJPU) is a grassroots youth of color-led organizing group in Boston leading a campaign to increase youth jobs funding and youth employment. YJPU works to (1) develop young people as leaders, organizers and decision-makers around issues that affect them; (2) to organize for increased funding for youth jobs, both summer and school year, in Boston; and (3) to develop and organize around a multi-issue platform for youth justice in the city. Funding was provided for the fourth

year of long-standing campaign to increase employment for young people of color in Boston, particularly those who are systematically excluded from employment -- LGBTQ youth people of color, court involved youth, etc.

**Youth Organizing Institute**

\$20,000

Durham, NC

The Youth Organizing Institute (YOI) is grounded in a commitment to understanding and dismantling systems that prohibit working class youth and their families from fully participating in a democratic society. YOI's theory of change is rooted in building a shared understanding of systems of oppression, power, and organizing for change with those affected by those systems. General support funding was provided as YOI continues to build youth power by supporting youth-led and multi-generational organizing, and works to stop racism and school re-segregation, challenge the school-to-prison-pipeline through restorative justice programs, and to make schools safe for LGBTQ youth.