

## 2020 National Grant Recipients



### 350 New Hampshire

\$18,000

350NH Youth Climate Organizing Team: The next generation of activists and leaders

Dover, NH

350NH is a grassroots movement fighting for a just transition to 100% percent renewable energy through a mass mobilization of people power and creative community organizing. Their multigenerational membership across the state reflects diverse constituencies in NH.

350NH's Youth Climate Organizing Program brings together a cohort of high school students to fight for climate justice. Students from across NH participate in trainings and retreats and meet digitally to develop organizing strategy and to plan direct actions and voter turnout drives. Participants gain dynamic grassroots organizing and movement building skills. The program is youth-led and select participants receive stipends for their leadership roles. 350NH's youth organizer mentors and supports these burgeoning student leaders.

### 350Vermont

\$16,000

COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Burlington, VT

350Vermont (350VT) is the largest grassroots non-profit in Vermont specifically focused on climate change, a convener of climate action coalitions, and a bridge between the climate and social justice movements. 350VT organizes, educates, and supports people in Vermont to work together for climate justice – resisting fossil fuels, building momentum for alternatives, and transforming communities toward justice and resilience. 350VT counters the power of the fossil fuel industry with the power of the people and advocates for a just, sustainable future.

The connections between the COVID-19 pandemic, racial injustice, and the climate crisis are undeniable. Many of the same communities are worst impacted by these overlapping crises, and for deeply interconnected reasons. Some connections reveal possibility: the response to coronavirus serves as a test run for dealing with future crises; these current crises call for a regenerative, just transition; our ever-shifting realities have shown some of the beautiful and transformative cultural change that's possible.

“As organizers, we find ourselves in uncharted waters. For the first time in 350VT's history, our spring actions—in this case, marking the 50th anniversary of Earth Day—were almost entirely virtual. Instead of planting trees together, we gave away hundreds of young nut trees for families to plant in their yards. We hosted webinars on divestment, regenerative agriculture, and forest management. We are committed to offering a variety of ways for people to engage in this work ranging from fully virtual to outdoor, distanced organizing events, such as Critical Mass Rides. We have spearheaded several community mural and photo collages. We also recently launched the first issue of a 'zine on the connections between COVID-19 and the climate crisis and plan to release a second issue next month. Importantly, we're working to center the work of taking apart systems of oppression in all of our campaigns, projects, operations, and groups including through our training, How Are Racial Justice and Climate Justice Connected?, which digs into the roots of the climate crisis and explores how working for climate justice necessitates transforming white supremacy culture.

Current work: Launch Rewild Vermont, a campaign to plant 100,000 native and food trees across the state by 2022; Organize events promoting regenerative agriculture as a climate solution that restores ecosystems, contributes to economic and food justice, and sequesters carbon; Mobilize people statewide through local node groups, our Mother Up! program, and our climate justice writing group; Engage in actions of solidarity with the Movement for Black Lives; Collaborate with labor and movement

organizations to push for a VT Green New Deal; Guide and empower local organizers in Rutland, Monkton and across the state to protect their communities from fracked gas infrastructure; Act in solidarity with Migrant Justice to strengthen Fair and Impartial Policing Policies, and support groups pressuring the fossil-fuel-giant TC energy to abandon plans for the Coastal GasLink and Keystone XL pipelines that cut through Indigenous territory; Train and support activists throughout the northeast in nonviolent direct action as part of our work with “No Coal No Gas,” a powerful resistance campaign to end the use of fossil fuels and build community, unity, and leadership in the movement for climate justice.”

**About Face: Veterans Against the War**  
COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

\$20,000

New York, NY

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 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 Face is working to change the way the US public looks at militarism by raising mass popular 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, Grassroots Global Justice Alliance and Highlander Center.

“The onset of the pandemic immediately required that we shift our focus to caring for community, both internally and externally. We began holding a weekly virtual gathering in addition to our bi-weekly organizing calls, and began raising funds for what we now hope will be a rapid-response reserve, always available to members (beyond this pandemic) in emergency situations and in need of immediate support. We used our bi-weekly calls as a space to share lessons learned, values around mutual aid, and more. We’re coordinating regional virtual events focused on skill-building and training, equipping our members to address the potential for militarized and military-based COVID response, publishing a framework based on veterans’ knowledge and experience with so-called “disaster response” and pivoting to the topic of Militarization in the Time of Pandemic. We reached hundreds of thousands of viewers, drawing the connections between militarism and our society’s inability to care for our communities.

Overall, this crisis has re-oriented our work towards prioritizing care both for our immediate community and for our movement. This has served us not only in response to COVID, but also as we turn-out in solidarity during the uprisings for Black Lives this summer and in the election build-up this fall. We just launched a crisis response hotline led by our community care team, who take turns responding to messages and connecting our members to therapists, peers, and other trained care workers available to support them.”

**Acequia & Aquifer Water Watchers**  
COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

\$5,000

La Madera, NM

Acequia & Aquifer Water Watchers (AAWW) is a volunteer-led organization of residents which strives to ensure a clean, safe water supply that is fairly and legally distributed and utilized by working to protect the traditional acequia culture of Northern New Mexico. Acequias are gravity chutes, similar in concept to flumes, that provide the primary water source for farming in NM, the oldest of which were established over 400 years ago. They are governed by Acequia Associations, which follow a "one farmer, one vote" system that has been referred to as a form of "water democracy". By working to build skills and organize constituents to rally for their rights, protest attacks on water at the State level, and develop a core of advocates in coalition with like-minded organizations, AAWW is vigilant against those seeking to change or usurp water laws to benefit themselves, at the expense of the traditional agricultural communities of Northern NM.

“AAWW remains steadfast in its organizing goals and mission as the community adjusts to the pandemic. AAWW is responding to the community’s emergent needs for self-reliance, food security, economic stability, mental health, and recovery planning by providing resources, adjusting services and developing individual and community capacity through adaptive programming. 1) Water Harvesting: Planned as Popular Education campaign to collect and store water for agriculture and firefighting, the project is evolving as constituents come forward with ideas and skills (welding/carpentry), offering to construct components that can be later merged. 2) Food Security: Leveraging farmers’ expertise, we’re disseminating info on hoop greenhouses, heirloom seeds and best agricultural and irrigation practices. 3) PSA Droplets/Youth Leadership: Students, home from school, are excited to reconnect and resume workshops, while brainstorming how to also document the local impact of coronavirus. 4) Technology Divide: Many don’t have Internet/personal computer/technological resources. Community is asking AAWW to open resource center for public computer use and training to address this emergent need. We hope to hire IT staff.”

**AGUA Coalition (Asociacion de Gente Unida por el Agua)**

\$25,000

**COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

Visalia, CA

Asociación de Gente Unida por el Agua (AGUA), or the Association of People United for Water, is a grassroots coalition of 388 members and supporters from 30 low-income and people of color communities, including youth, private well owners from nearby communities, 13 community-based organizations and 13 nonprofit allies, dedicated to securing safe, clean and affordable drinking water in California's San Joaquin Valley. AGUA organizes communities to combat pollution from various sources and contaminants, including nitrates and pesticides, which are degrading California’s water resources. They are working to clean up existing water contamination, and advocating for its future protection. “During the COVID-19 pandemic we have transitioned to 100% digital organizing (online, phone or text) including coalition meetings, providing technology resources and training to members to allow for virtual advocacy participation. We are developing or enhancing the infrastructure needed to adapt AGUA’s work in this environment and minimize disruption to our campaigns and work; Engaging and empowering members to talk with the media to lift up potential COVID-19 safe and affordable water impacts to vulnerable communities and tie those impacts to proposed solutions, such as statewide Low-Income Rate Payers Assistance Program and greater protections for water shutoffs; Mobilizing members in advocating for policies to protect access to safe water for vulnerable communities during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the victory on 4/2/2020 of the statewide moratorium on water shutoffs; and Being a source of information and staying connected and responsive to AGUA members and member communities to support maintaining access to safe and affordable water for vulnerable communities during the pandemic. In addition, we touch base with AGUA members weekly to check-in, ask how they are doing, share resources and updates and discover member concerns around drinking water access (e.g. no water in stores, no running water, water and electric bill concerns). We have shifted our monthly meetings to one-hour phone calls, shortening the agenda down to one hour (from two). Many members do not have internet access, computers and/or smart phones needed to do online or video meetings. We are working to get members access to technology and will be providing reimbursements for phone data usage to participate in meetings and digital advocacy. AGUA members continue to participate in key stakeholder meetings remotely.”

**The Alliance for Appalachia**

\$15,000

**General Support**

London, KY

The Alliance for Appalachia is a regional coalition of grassroots non-profit organizations working to end mountaintop removal coal mining, put a halt to destructive coal technologies and support a sustainable, just Appalachia. General Support funding was provided in support of their efforts to coordinate and support grassroots organizing across the region to address pollution and hold corporations accountable for water pollution and its impacts on their communities. Alliance members coordinate regional and federal work to advocate for and defend key water and land protections and collaborate around economic transition efforts that address the toxic legacy of coal. The Alliance hosts trainings to improve

member knowledge and leadership skills, coordinates regional strategy sessions, and coordinates dedicated working teams and governing committees focused on building skills and networks to address land and water issues such as acid mine drainage, remediation and reclamation, land use and ownership, and strengthening community partnerships. The Alliance also helps lead a national coalition working to pass the RECLAIM Act, a policy that would commit \$1 billion to clean up dangerous and polluting abandoned coal mine lands to spur immediate job creation.

### Alliance for Community Transit - Los Angeles (ACT-LA)

\$23,000

#### General Support

Los Angeles, CA

The Alliance for Community Transit-Los Angeles (ACT-LA) is a coalition of community centered, base-building organizations from across LA working to create a more sustainable city that works for ALL by focusing on the linked development issues of Equitable Community Planning, Transit Justice, Affordable Housing, Environmental Sustainability, and Good Jobs. ACT-LA works to ensure that the interests of low-income communities and communities of color are placed first in all development decisions. ACT-LA provides organizing support and coordination to grassroots organizations through an organizing committee made up of community organizing staff and resident leaders from various organizations. The coalition draws upon their members' collective expertise to develop policies that address their core issues. LA faces an unprecedented opportunity to greatly improve the bus system and make public transit free in the County. In addition to continuing the coalition's work for housing justice, ACT-LA will convene base-building groups, transit riders, organizers, advocates and researchers to launch a campaign to transform the public transit system, increase ridership, improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create more quality jobs for local residents.

### Apalachicola Riverkeeper

\$7,500

#### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Apalachicola, FL

The mission of Apalachicola Riverkeeper (AR) is to provide stewardship for the protection of the Apalachicola River and Bay. They work to improve and maintain its environmental integrity and to preserve the natural, recreational, cultural, and commercial fishing character of these waterways. AR mobilizes constituents and allies and builds coalitions at local and regional levels to demand the protection of the Apalachicola River on a myriad of threats to the watershed. AR trains volunteers, the river ambassadors, through a grassroots volunteer leadership development program. These volunteers work within their respective communities growing support and awareness for AR's work. "Apalachicola Riverkeeper's essential work of advocacy, education and outreach, and collaborative research continues, despite COVID-19 even as the pandemic has impacted how we conduct community organization efforts, the core of our advocacy work. In-person meetings have shifted to virtual and phone meetings, Likewise, our small rural counties' government meetings have moved to virtual meetings. The dedicated, adaptive staff of Apalachicola Riverkeeper are working remotely. Staff communicate regularly via phone and video conferencing with key volunteers, community leaders and board members".

### Arriba Las Vegas Worker Center

\$15,000

#### General Support

Las Vegas, NV

Arriba Las Vegas Worker Center is a grassroots, membership-led organization that unites day laborers, domestic workers, low-wage migrant workers and their families to defend their rights, fight for dignity and win justice for all. Arriba Las Vegas facilitates efforts for immigrants and low-income workers to raise up their collective voice and fight for equality, economic justice and social and political inclusion. Arriba Las Vegas organizes structural campaign efforts driven by their member committees. The Dignity At Work Campaign aims to eliminate wage theft against day laborers and domestic workers by applying strategic pressure on the office of the labor commissioner and the governor to implement policy changes developed by impacted worker members. The ICE out of POLICE campaign aims to dismantle police-ICE collaboration including the 287g program, detainer compliance and ICE notifications in Las Vegas. The TPS Justice campaign locally is engaged in collaborative national strategies to win residency.

## [Awood Center](#)

\$20,000

### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Minneapolis, MN

The Awood (the Somali word for “power”) Center is a worker-led organization that creates a culturally and linguistically relevant space to build unity and develop the next generation of leaders in Minnesota’s diverse East African communities. The Center seeks to empower East African workers through community outreach, education, leadership training, and support for direct action mobilization. East African workers face racism, anti-immigration sentiment, and for Muslims, Islamophobia in their workplaces, especially at Amazon’s Minnesota warehouses. With The Awood Center’s coordination and support, Minnesota Amazon workers have led direct actions celebrated in major news outlets and garnered attention at a national and international level.

“Early on, Amazon workers were able to advocate for safety measures, including hazard pay. However, the pay, along with overtime pay, was instituted only through April, yet between April and May, close to 100 workers at nearby centers were diagnosed with COVID-19. Our organizing goals and programs have been significantly impacted by the pandemic. Organizing has had to shift from direct engagement to virtual engagement. This is challenging workers who are recent immigrants uneasy with technology. The pandemic is being used as a pretext by Amazon to monitor workers within work centers. This infringement on workers’ freedom of movement adds another level of pressure and toxic surveillance. Workers are discouraged from taking time off or are nervous about loss of pay when taking sick leave. The region and country is devastated by millions in job losses and profound economic toll, and workers are scared to not rock the boat with their advocacy for health and safety. Coupled with the surge of online orders, workers are left with few choices but to work despite possibly being sick and/or experiencing burn out. In direct response, The Awood Center established a Worker Recovery Fund where we collected and disbursed close to \$50,000 to those impacted by loss of work in the Twin Cities area. To accommodate changes to the way we organize, The Awood Center now provides additional assistance to workers in navigating the meeting technology; identifies worker leaders who can assist others with participating in coordination meetings; and mobilizes workers via phone and text messaging, while pursuing new and more accessible platforms to engage with everyone.”

## [BAY-Peace: Better Alternatives for Youth](#)

\$10,000

### General Support

Oakland, CA

BAY-Peace is an Oakland based youth-led organization that facilitates leadership development programs for youth impacted by violence. Our programs provide vital opportunities for growth and transformation in community organizing, arts, education, and professionalism.

BAY-Peace supports and empowers Bay Area youth to transform militarism and other forms of violence through youth organizing and artistic resistance. We offer a holistic youth leadership program that integrates vocational development, artistic expression, socio-political education, community organizing, healing and personal transformation.

BAY-Peace is a youth-led organization whose mission is to support and empower youth to transform structural violence and militarism. Their holistic leadership programs integrate socio-political education, community organizing, liberation arts, vocational training and personal healing/transformation. General Support was provided to help sustain their campaigns to create “Better Alternatives for Youth” in Oakland. Funds will be used to support the Youth Organizer youth staff position, who will organize youth for three campaigns: the existing Drop the MIC (Military Industrial Complex) and two emerging campaigns, Expand the Vote and Ending the Militarization of Oakland Police Department.

## [Berkshire Interfaith Organizing, Inc.](#)

\$15,000

### Together for Justice: Immigrant Leaders Leading the Way

Pittsfield, MA

Berkshire Interfaith Organizing (BIO) is a congregation-based membership organization organizes with struggling residents and their allies to gain a voice in decisions affecting their lives in a region marked by a strong contrast between the lives of full-time residents and second-home owners while standing up for the entire county, neglected in state politics. General support funding was provided to support staff

salaries, stipends for leaders, training and interpretation to build on their progress working for immigrant and racial justice and equity. BIO will expand their capacity to do bilingual outreach to their immigrant and Latino communities and assemble a Latino Leadership Caucus that will guide their goals and strategies for policy change in the immigration system. As they engage these new immigrant leaders, they will train current leaders in practicing cultural humility and equity as they engage a diverse community.

### Best Practices Policy Project

\$20,000

#### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Morristown, NJ

The Best Practices Policy Project (BPPP) BPPP is a sex worker-led organization dedicated to supporting organizations and advocates working with sex workers, people in the sex trade and related communities of people also affected by anti-prostitution policies (such as transgender people, youth, low-income people of color and immigrants) in the United States. They produce materials for policy environments, address research and academic concerns and provide organizations and advocates with technical assistance. Everything they do is guided by principles that protect the rights of people who engage in commercial sex in all its forms. This project is done in partnership with New Jersey Red Umbrella Alliance (NJRUA), a working alliance of activists and allies who are dedicated to promoting, defending, and advocating for the human rights of sex workers in the state of New Jersey. This alliance is committed to the belief that people of all genders have the autonomy and right to decide for themselves whether or not to be in this line of work.

Every epidemic has led to the blaming and exclusion of sex workers, drug users, LGBT communities and immigrants, and very early on in the effects of COVID-19, we found ourselves shut out. Our right to health includes acknowledgement that we the marginalized are not the risk but that governments should have strengthened public health systems long ago, worked with us to provide trainings for frontline workers including sex workers, provided testing to those who wish to have it for coronavirus and released our community from rights violating incarceration.

We had an ambitious agenda for 2020 all of which has been cancelled or profoundly delayed. We continue to meet weekly for our NJ organizing over Zoom. BPPP has convened an online space for UN work every two weeks as well and has offered \$25 per person per call to defray costs. We have established mutual aid resources and services to our members and we have altered our support strategies to try to keep trans community members in housing, often by pooling resources with other groups so our support makes a difference. We have updated our human rights statements to explain the impact of COVID-19, racism and police brutality against our communities, shared this with global policy makers and met with two permanent missions to attempt to get light shone on what is happening inside the US during the UPR of the US on November 9.”

### Beyond Toxics

\$20,000

#### General Support for Intersectionality in Environmental Justice

Eugene, OR

Beyond Toxics builds an environmental justice movement by taking on its root causes – environmental racism and injustice – and activating the people who are most affected by pollution and on the frontlines of disparities in health, wealth and work. Beyond Toxics works to advance the power of Oregon’s most vulnerable and marginalized groups who are exposed to a disproportionate share of environmental health burdens. They challenge the causes of toxic trespass in Oregon and empower communities to call out issues stemming from injustice and lack of privilege. BTs strong environmental justice advocacy and strategic use of “citizen science” and toxics "right-to-know" builds community knowledge, power and the ability to take effective action. Funding was provided to expand their statewide work at the intersection of social justice and environmental health. Beyond Toxics is building partnerships and co-leading statewide environmental justice work that is intersectional and challenges environmental and carbon pollution shaped by racial and economic injustices. Beyond Toxics uses an environmental justice lens to solve top Oregon environmental issues now impacting frontline communities: pesticide drift (which poisons drinking water and air), air toxics and carbon pollution, and addressing climate impacts with community resiliency.

### **Brave Heart Society**

\$20,000

#### **COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

Lake Andes, SD

Brave Heart is a revived Native Dakota Traditional Society (since 1994) that preserves, enhances and restores the cultural identity of the Dakota people of the Seven Council Fires through building community organizing skills with youth and other Indigenous groups. Brave Heart shares culturally grounded practices and collaborates across communities, advancing their impact towards cultural preservation, food sovereignty, health, environmental protection and racial justice. They recognize that in order for social change to occur, Native people must have an active role in the redesign of structurally privileged violent systems that control their lives.

“Our organization is attempting to respond to the needs of our community by applying to several Covid specific grants that will assist our people with food, medical access to supplies, elder food needs, cleaning and sanitizing needs and sewing hundreds of cloth masks; and working with the local tribe. We are resorting to utilizing Zoom quite often for our meetings, communications, projects, including our important “water talks” and fighting water intrusions like the KXL pipeline. However not everyone has access to computers so we are trying to find funding for Chrome Books which would put people on line at a low cost. We did have to cancel our NOKXL MOTHER EARTH TINY HOUSE SOLARIZED EDUCATION TOUR which was going to visit five tribal communities to oppose dangerous mancamps. This coming summer we will be able to continue our work to produce a database of Indigenous cultural sites/hydroscape of the Missouri River Basin to create a baseline to integrate Indigenous knowledge in water policy. We will continue our survey work, field work, mapping, research and data analysis through social distancing and technology. It has allowed us to zero in more extensively in specific areas. We appreciate the time to do that and to honor safety for all. The food chain has been interrupted on tribal reservations. Meats, fruits, vegetables, and food in general is a need. Potatoes and egg costs have gone sky high. Santizing materials and toilet paper are in shortage. A new positive development due to the Covid threat is that Brave Heart has responded to over 50 requests for community gardens in our small communities. Prior to US governmental intrusion, our people were excellent gardeners and now this looming threat has pushed us into a renaissance of gardening. Resources of course are always needed for that for tilling equipment, gardening tools, seeds and planter starters; and the cost of water.”

### **Broward Organized Leaders Doing Justice**

\$20,000

#### **Combating Chronic Homelessness among mentally ill individuals**

Ft. Lauderdale, FL

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. Funding was provided in support of their efforts to push for an expansion of permanent supportive housing for individuals affected by mental illness. Broward has the second largest homeless population in Florida and its chronically homeless population has continually increased over the last three years. Twenty five percent of homeless individuals suffer from mental illness and the percentage is even higher for chronically homeless. Without the basic necessity of housing, people cycle in and out of our jails and hospitals. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), which provides rental assistance and supportive services to people with mental health issues who have experienced homelessness, has been proven to have incredible results in reducing incarcerations and hospitalizations. The goal is to get the county commission to bring forth a proposal that would fund at least 200 additional PSH beds to keep those with mental illness out of jails and hospitals and stably housed.

### **California Coalition for Women Prisoners**

\$20,000

#### **DROP LWOP Campaign**

Oakland, CA

CCWP is a social justice organization with members inside and outside prison, and chapters in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area, committed to challenging extreme sentencing and the institutional violence imposed on women, transgender people, and communities of color in California's

prisons. CCWP's DROP LWOP (Life Without Parole) campaign seeks commutation to parole-eligible terms for all 5,000 people sentenced to LWOP in California, and removal of LWOP sentencing from the state penal code. They are building a unified statewide coalition of families of LWOP-sentenced people, formerly-incarcerated people and LWOP survivors, along with religious, civil rights, and prison reform organizations. This coalition will change public opinion about people sentenced to LWOP, and advocate for legislative relief and policy change through grassroots outreach and organizing.

### **Californians United for a Responsible Budget**

\$24,000

#### **General Support**

Los Angeles, CA

Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB) is a statewide coalition of over 80 grassroots organizations working to reduce the number of people imprisoned; reduce the number of prisons and jails; and shift state and local spending from corrections and policing to human services. General support funding was provided to support their statewide campaigns including joining with communities to stop prison and jail expansion across the state, which includes the continuing fight against the LA County jail plan; challenging extreme forms of sentencing such as Life Without Parole (LWOP); advancing legislation aimed to promote re-enfranchisement, decarceration and divestment from jails and prisons, and the diversion of those funds to community-based resources; and radically transforming LA County's pretrial system.

### **Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement (CAIC)**

\$23,000

#### **General Support**

New York City, NY

Led by survivors of solitary confinement, family members, and other advocates in the human rights, health, and faith communities, throughout New York State, the New York Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement (CAIC) is a broad-based coalition of 250 organizations that aims to end the torture of solitary, create more humane and effective alternatives, and build on these changes to dismantle the racial injustices and punishment paradigm that underpin the incarceration system. CAIC is working to pass the Humane Alternatives to Long Term (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act in New York State. General support funding will support their organizing and advocacy efforts including: a) teach-ins, town halls, and other public education and organizing forums to raise consciousness and mobilize people to actively push for change; b) trainings and leadership development for solitary survivors, family members, and others; c) rallies, actions, and media/social media to pressure policy-makers; and d) policy advocacy.

### **Center for Worker Justice of Eastern Iowa**

\$20,000

#### **General Support**

Iowa City, IA

CWJ empowers low-wage workers and immigrants to improve their communities and workplaces through leadership development, issue campaigns and strategic alliances. Current CWJ priorities include preserving affordable housing, combating wage theft, raising wages and preventing unjust deportations. General Support funding was provided as CWJ continues to focus on improving low-wage workers' standard of living and defending immigrant rights by encouraging local businesses to support Johnson County's \$10.10 minimum wage; fighting tax fraud through investigation of wage theft complaints; organizing to preserve affordable housing; instituting new programs to include resident voices in all major redevelopment projects; resisting unjust deportations; working to improve local law enforcement policies; and creating a social enterprise cafe to provide income and experience for low-wage, underrepresented and immigrant workers.

### **Centro de Trabajadores Unidos: Immigrant Workers' Project**

\$20,000

#### **General Operating Support**

Chicago, IL

Centro de Trabajadores Unidos (CTU) is a member-led worker center serving Chicago's southeast side



and south suburbs. It works at the intersection of immigration and labor rights; employing a grassroots, community organizing model to advance social, economic and racial justice.

CTU educates workers on their rights, develops leadership within the immigrant community, supports and organizes all workers as they fight for their rights in the workplace, and for changing policies that increase standards for immigrant workers.

“Racial and economic injustices on the Southeast Side of Chicago and the South Suburbs have only been exacerbated by COVID-19. While CTU’s offices may currently be closed, our entire team is working hard to ensure that our community has access to much needed resources right now. As a result of the health crisis, we have heard in the last four weeks from hundreds of our community leaders in South Chicago and South Suburbs about their immediate needs. CTU created the Community Action Fund as a response to support our members and their families during this difficult time. Our goal is to provide \$500 in assistance to at least 100 families in our community.

We continue to organize for stronger workplace protections for ALL workers, that do not exclude undocumented workers and their families. We continue to stay engaged with parents in local schools to increase health and safety information in our community. We are organizing against ongoing ICE raids and immigrant detention centers that threaten our public health. We are developing long-term responses to the economic hardships faced by worker-owned cooperatives locally.”

### **Charleston Area Justice Ministry**

\$15,000

#### **General Support**

North Charleston, SC

The Charleston Area Justice Ministry, CAJM, is a network of Congregations who are culturally, economically, geographically and religiously diverse – coming together to make the Charleston area a more just place to live. Member congregations work together to empower marginalized people in their communities. Members conduct research, educate the public, and publically address the root causes of, and solutions to, poverty and injustice in the Charleston area. CAJM is an affiliate of the DART alliance, whose approach uses faith-based organizing to transform the systems that cause suffering by holding local officials accountable for resolving these inequities and injustices through direct action. Continued funding will help CAJM advance social justice issues of racial profiling in policing practices, affordable housing, PBIS and Restorative Practices in schools, and transportation for those who are transit dependent. Changes will affect over 200,000 individuals impacted by unjust city, county, and school policies, which primarily include those living in poverty.

### **Chicago Housing Initiative**

\$20,000

#### **COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

Chicago, IL

The Chicago Housing Initiative (CHI) is Chicago's citywide grassroots housing rights coalition, comprised of 10 diverse community-based organizations across Chicago. CHI's mission is to amplify the power of low-income renters to improve, preserve, and expand low-cost rental housing, stabilize communities facing displacement, and advance racial and economic equity and inclusion across all of Chicago. Through direct action organizing, leadership development, policy-advocacy, and media, CHI combats the root causes that limit access to affordable housing and fuel gentrification and segregation. They are working to build a society that treats housing – like education – as a fundamental economic and social right for all, not a commodity for the privileged.

In the context of COVID-19, the Housing Crisis also becomes a Public Health Crisis. In Illinois, currently, three-quarters of a million renters are unable to make their rental payments. The CHI Coalition has played an anchoring role in helping mobilize thousands of people to advocate for a moratorium on eviction filings and freeze of the courts to help people retain the housing they currently have, as well as push the Chicago Housing Authority to immediately lease several thousand vacant public housing units to enable medically-vulnerable people to move out of unsafe congregate settings where COVID-19 is spreading like wildfire (such as homeless shelters, detention facilities and nursing homes), into a home of their own where they can safely shelter-in-place. “In response to the pandemic, we have had to shift our means of organizing to make greater use of virtual technology and online organizing and mobilization tools. This has necessitated extensive trainings of grassroots community leaders and organizers alike. We also have evolved our coalition to form new partnerships with medical professionals and public

health advocacy networks to more effectively communicate how essential affordable, accessible, stable housing is as an intervention to mitigate and contain this public health crisis.”

### Citizens For Safe Water Around Badger (CSWAB)

\$20,000

COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Merrimac, WI

CSWAB works to support, unify and strengthen citizens concerned for the safety of water resources in and around the Badger Army Ammunition Plant; to effect expedient cleanup of any contamination caused by negligent handling of toxic waste; and to exercise means to guarantee water resources are totally free of toxic contamination for current residents and the generations to follow. CSWAB also works nationally with other communities dealing with the toxic legacy of military industrial facilities and is actively organizing to end the practice of open burning military waste through the CEASEFIRE campaign, and most recently, to test for, clean up and end the use of the persistent and highly toxic PFAS category of chemicals.

Emerging scientific studies affirm the positive association between long-term exposure to environmental pollution and severity of COVID-19 infection. Moreover, the federal and state governments have worked to weaken and even abandon environmental protections. Organizing strong public participation, garnering media attention, and raising public awareness of these policy changes has been more difficult due to the pandemic. This year, the Department of Defense reported that more than 600 military sites and surrounding communities could be contaminated with PFAS – far more installations than have been previously disclosed by Pentagon officials. CSWAB has organized grassroots resistance and petitioned the U.S. EPA to block the U.S. military from using open air burning for treating explosives and other materials containing PFAS at active military bases. Because PFAS do not burn, open air burning of PFAS-contaminated wastes produces an uncontrolled release of these chemicals directly to the surrounding environment where it quickly migrates to groundwater impacting entire communities.

In Wisconsin, CSWAB is leading a statewide campaign for PFAS testing as part of the "Safer-at-Home" response to COVID-19. Of the more than 11,000 public drinking water systems tested in Wisconsin, only 90 have been tested for PFAS. Without CSWAB, less powerful communities continue to be placed at greater risk because information about the degree of exposure and risk is minimized or withheld altogether.

“We are focused on engaging people through actions that can be achieved remotely. Social media, direct mail, publications, editorials, online discussions, blogs, etc. are important but we also dedicate time to personal contact thru telephone calls and other direct personal outreach. Leaders located in rural communities feel particularly isolated so this has been an important time to work on collaborating and strategic planning. We have organized virtual committee and board meetings to keep people informed and connected but “Zoom fatigue” is a reality. We have found that personal connections are critical. Finally, expanding our networking and strategic planning with folks working on a wide diversity of social and environmental justice issues makes all our work stronger and more effective. More than ever, people need to feel connected and hopeful.”

### CLEAN Carwash Campaign

\$20,000

COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Los Angeles, CA

Community Labor Environmental Action Network (CLEAN), an immigrant worker-led organization, organizes car wash workers to transform the exploitative car wash industry. CLEAN educates and activates 5,000 immigrant car wash workers to stand up for their rights in the workplace, increase worker power, and ensure that car wash workers secure a stable future for their families. CLEAN's growing membership body of 740 workers and over 100 worker-leaders lead their campaigns to raise wages, improve working conditions, and effectively enforce overtime, rest breaks, and anti-discrimination laws. The COVID-19 pandemic caused us to immediately pivot our work towards the immediate needs of our car wash worker members. Car washes were closed as non-essential businesses and all of our members lost their source of employment from one day to the next. We continue to do outreach by phone and video-conference, focusing on existing members and car wash workers with whom we have had previous contact. In May, CLEAN started a direct-support emergency fund for workers that do not qualify for Unemployment Insurance and other pandemic-related assistance, and will ultimately distribute

\$485,000 in emergency relief to our members and other undocumented low-wage workers. Our outreach is focused on meeting workers' immediate needs, including gift cards for food, direct financial assistance, and referrals to housing legal assistance. We have used our social media platforms to share critical information with our members and supporters about how car wash workers have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, including live videos of car wash workers sharing their experiences. We have found other creative ways to advocate for our workers' needs, including a recent vehicle caravan protest to demand that the state provide direct financial assistance for workers excluded from federal stimulus programs. Just two days later, the Governor announced a new financial assistance program for undocumented workers! We have also been using our social media platforms to organize support for an eviction moratorium in Los Angeles and other emergency response in light of the pandemic. We foresee that much of CLEAN's policy work this year will be related to the COVID-19 pandemic and to make sure that low-wage immigrant workers are included in any new policies or assistance programs.

Phase 2 of the economic re-opening process has allowed for car washes to re-open. We will begin to monitor car washes again, with a particular focus on the provision of Personal Protective Equipment for car wash workers. We also continue to work with state enforcement agencies. Despite the pandemic, our worker leaders remain committed to launching the car wash worker cooperative this year. In fact, the shutdown gave them more time to meet on a weekly basis in order to research and engage in the essential planning for the co-op. Workers are now more motivated than ever and see the co-op as the vehicle to become the change that the car wash industry needs.

### **CLOUT**

\$25,000

#### **COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

Louisville, KY

Citizens of Louisville Organized and United Together (CLOUT) is an ecumenical, multi-racial community organization made up of 19 religious congregations situated in low- to moderate-income areas of Louisville Metro, KY, which works to address local issues of injustice and to solve critical community problems at the systemic level.

"Because CLOUT's work is based on in-person leadership development and training at the grassroots level, and in-person engagement of public decision-makers, the pandemic has significantly impacted our work. We are using Zoom, phone, and other means of staying in touch, conducting meetings, trainings and practicing skills virtually. As for the impact on our issue work, the biggest impact so far has been the cancellation of our largest direct action assembly of the year, the Nehemiah Action Assembly, which had been scheduled for Mar. 24. We had expected approximately 1200 persons from our membership to attend and several public officials were prepared to make significant public commitments on four different issue campaigns. In lieu of holding that assembly, we are engaging each of the officials through other means in order to solidify and record their commitments. Officials on our issue campaign regarding decriminalizing mental illness and addiction, and our campaign to implement restorative practices in our public schools, have committed to provide a video stating their commitments, which we will be able to share with our membership and other stakeholders. In the meantime, in March, it became clear that, due to the coronavirus outbreak, there was an emerging need for a large public day shelter (or perhaps several smaller ones), to address difficulties being created for members of our homeless community, as well as the faith-based and non-profit agencies that provide daily services to this community. CLOUT called upon our mayor and city council to establish, as part of the city's overall response to the crisis, such a shelter. As a result, the city coordinated with the Salvation Army to provide day and night shelter and services for the homeless. We anticipate that there will be other issues that will emerge regarding mental illness and addiction.

We are determined to ensure that any federal relief funding received by Louisville Metro government is used to address critical community problems such as the ones on which CLOUT is currently focused."

### **Coalition for Economic Justice**

\$17,000

#### **Buffalo Transit Riders United (BTRU)**

Buffalo, NY

The Coalition for Economic Justice (CEJ) is one of the longest operating social justice organizations in the Buffalo area. Founded in 1986 by a coalition of labor, faith, and community organizations, CEJ aims to create a community in which a just economy and a sustainable environment are the norms. BTRU is a

coalition of public transit riders in the Buffalo-Niagara metropolitan area, supported by CEJ. The local transit service, the Niagara Frontier Transit Authority (NFTA), fails to provide reliable service, particularly to the region's poorest areas, thereby cutting riders off from housing, employment, and community life. This failure reflects the fact that almost no NFTA board members uses public transit. We therefore demand that the state government alter the makeup of the NFTA board such that a majority of members are full-time transit riders who represent riders' interests.

### Collective Action for Safe Spaces

\$15,000

#### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Washington, DC

Collective Action for Safe Spaces (CASS) is a grassroots organization working to build safe public spaces free from public gendered harassment and assault using a survivor-centered, intersectional lens and community-led solutions. CASS works to promote the cultural norm that communities must take collective responsibility for community safety. To do so, existing policies that further enable state violence must be dismantled and new policies that use art, education, and resources to build safety for everyone must be implemented. CASS utilizes a constellation of strategies including survivor-led arts campaigns, workshops, public education and awareness campaigns, and policy advocacy that ensures that the city takes a community-centered, anti-carceral approach to violence prevention.

"Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CASS has paused about 40% of our usual programming including fee-for-service workshops, canvassing, and policy advocacy. We originally decided not to move this work to the virtual realm, as they have been impactful in the past because of the vulnerability and intimacy that takes place in-person. However, as the pandemic continues and we anticipate a potential second wave of the virus, we are assessing new methods to continue our fee-for-service workshops virtually without sacrificing our collective safety or impact. We have shifted the remaining 60% of our programming to focus on training and organizing online, adapting our in-person offerings to virtual webinars and digital resources on gender-based violence, transformative justice, and healing justice. The majority of our current requests are focused on the need for digital resources that address online harassment and conflict management, surviving harm and abuse in the home, and healing modalities and tips for managing self care. As the need for mutual aid has increased, CASS has been called on to fundraise for Black trans and non-binary survivors who are struggling financially as a result of the pandemic. CASS has also partnered with the DC Mutual Aid Network and Healers for Liberation Network to connect BIPOC survivors who are looking for items to meet their basic needs, as well as healing services to cope with the stress and trauma of the pandemic. As a grassroots organization accountable to our communities, it has been imperative that CASS respond to these direct needs of survivors who live at the margins.

Before the pandemic, CASS began incubating a Transformative Justice Hub centered around supporting survivors who are Black, indigenous, and/or a person of color (BIPOC) and identify as woman (trans and cis) and/or LGBTQ in seeking healing, safety, and accountability. Transformative justice (TJ) is a framework and strategy that seeks to address conflict and harm without repeating the harms of the current criminal injustice system. The more recent uprisings in the midst of the pandemic have elevated transformative justice and non-carceral solutions to the mainstream and brought an influx of community members, organizations, volunteers, and media outlets who have expressed new interest in CASS's work and TJ offerings. We'll immediately begin building a digital organizing strategy that incorporates this organizational shift towards a TJ framework and the demands survivors have as a result of this pandemic. We plan to host at least 3 public workshops online on the tenets of survivor safety through the lens of TJ, where survivors will have a chance to participate in story-telling and participatory budgeting. Our goal is to provide stipends for up to 15 marginalized survivors who will support with facilitation, storytelling, and/or digital strategy development."

### Communities for Clean Water

\$15,000

#### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

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. Communities for Clean Water (CCW) holds Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) accountable for legacy and ongoing pollution to the Rio Grande Watershed. CCW members include Amigos Bravos, Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety, Honor Our Pueblo Existence, the New Mexico Acequia Association, Partnership for Earth Spirituality, and Tewa Women United. CCW works to protect the downstream communities, including the tribal and land-based communities of the Espanola Valley, from LANL's toxic discharges. As part of their work, CCW also prepares young people to become leaders and champions for clean water.

"Communities for Clean Water relies on in-person visits and meetings to communicate both with each other and with the community. While we have set up phone conference options for this time, not being able to physically attend meetings with both the public and the staff at Los Alamos National Laboratory, our work has significantly slowed. Video conferencing has been helpful but not all CCW members have consistent access to video capability. In addition, in New Mexico native communities are experiencing higher rates of coronavirus infection adding stress and anxiety to all and especially to our native partners.

Many of our goals for 2020 include outreach and projects with youth. With school closed and most summer programs scaled back, we are scrambling to identify other ways to engage with kids. We are looking into video and zine outreach projects that our youth interns can implement to reach youth through social media. CCW has been advocating for micro-remediation (using fungi to clean up pollution) at LANL for several years and is hoping to implement a pilot project to demonstrate the effectiveness of using nature to remediate pollutants.

Another impact to our work is the delay in permitting decisions due to lack ability to hold public hearings. While this gives CCW some breathing room in preparing technical comments, we are worried that without an updated permit pollutants are not being adequately addressed and captured.

CCW member groups are budgeted to contribute \$27,000 in in-kind contributions in 2020 but support at this level is no longer possible during this crisis. COVID – 19 has added massive strain on Northern New Mexico communities and has exacerbated already existing community challenges. Responding to every day immediate crises and threats is taking up much of the bandwidth of CCW member groups".

### Communities United for Action

\$19,000

#### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Cincinnati, OH

Communities United For Action (CUFA) is a multi-issue, grassroots organization that brings diverse people together to affect change. CUFA develops low- and moderate-income leaders to influence public policies and improve the quality of life in Hamilton County.

"The COVID-19 crisis has brought to light the flaws in our system and has increased the urgency of our work to eradicate environmental racism and to increase affordable utilities and housing.

Before the shut-down, CUFA members were working to get our sewers fixed and to make them affordable. Over 8,000 people in our community lose access to water every year because they cannot afford their sewer bills, and hundreds of people experience sewer backups in their homes every time it rains. Now, our constituents are being asked to follow "stay at home" orders when their homes are filled with raw sewage and are making them sick. While evictions, foreclosures and utility shut-offs are halted temporarily, many CUFA members and their families have lost income, and they fear they will not be able to pay their bills when the moratoriums end. CUFA continues to pressure local, state and federal decision-makers to fix these problems now. CUFA influenced MSD to start a Customer Assistance Program (CAP) to help the most impoverished senior citizens pay their sewer bills.

During the COVID crisis, we are pushing for expansion of the CAP to serve all low-income people, and we are working for fair, affordable sewer rates for everyone. CUFA joined a statewide coalition to call for an extended moratorium on utility shut-offs, restored utilities to households that are shut off, and funding for weatherization and renewable energy to stave off the effects of the COVID-19 shut-down.

CUFA has responded to our members' concerns about affordable housing by beginning to build a housing group to address evictions and foreclosures. We are participating in local discussions about eviction moratoriums, and we are discussing what Congress and lenders can do to prevent foreclosures. CUFA has increased the number of referrals we make to help people with assistance to pay rent, mortgage or utility bills. We have begun to host webinars to provide information about how people can stay in their homes and pay their bills during and after the state of emergency.

We are using digital tools to meet with our teams via internet or telephone. We have trained our members to use web conferencing, and have mailed materials and relied on phone connections for people who do not have internet access. We have changed our planned 4,000-door field canvass to a phone canvass to talk to people about their concerns and engage them in our work. We have also increased the hours of our part-time staff to full-time to accommodate increased demand for information. We have begun to host weekly, virtual "CUFA Chats" to keep us connected to each other and to provide popular education learning opportunities."

### Connecticut Bail Fund

\$10,000

#### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

New Haven, CT

The Connecticut Bail Fund (CBF) works to build a grassroots social movement with the power to end mass criminalization and mass deportation by leveraging revolving community bail funds as an organizing tool. CBF frees individuals who are being incarcerated because they cannot afford to pay bail from both pretrial and immigration detention. Once reunited with their families and communities, CBF works with them to organize their communities and advocate for their human rights.

CBF operates two bail funds—one in the criminal system, one in the immigration system—which energize their organizing and advocacy around housing, de-carceration, and immigration enforcement. CBF runs the following programs: Criminal & immigration bail funds; Participatory Defense Hub; Prison Support Hotline; Behind The Walls" Prison Radio; Surviving Inside (commissary & phone funding); Universal Representation Pilot Program (securing counsel for people in deportation proceedings) and; "Sisters United" women of color support & advocacy collective.

Many of these programs were developed, adapted or expanded as a response to the pandemic and the Movement for Black Lives uprisings.

### Court Watch NOLA

\$15,000

#### General Support

New Orleans, LA

Court Watch NOLA (CWN) is a community-led court watching organization based in New Orleans, LA. CWN aims to increase accountability, transparency, and engagement with criminal courts while rooting out corruption and prosecutorial abuse through investigations, education and reports.

CWN works to bring community power to previously inaccessible criminal courts. Funding was provided to support their organizational work recruiting volunteers, educating community members, and increasing voter and community engagement with the criminal courts system in New Orleans. New Orleans recently restored the right to vote for many members of the formerly incarcerated community, and there is great need to ensure the formally incarcerated are empowered to vote. Through their volunteer efforts, voter education initiatives and grass roots organizing work, CWN works to empower voters to reform the criminal courts.

### Dakota Rural Action

\$20,000

#### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Brookings, SD

DRA is a grassroots membership organization, dedicated to an active, engaged and informed citizenry which works toward sustainable, healthy communities, clean water resources, renewable energy use and production, safe local food systems, and a healthy environment.

"DRA has canceled all of our face to face organizing and events through May, transitioning to digital platforms wherever possible. All of DRA's chapter and committee organizing has moved to online platforms. DRA's farmer training program, Farm Beginnings, was in the middle of it's 10 classroom sessions, which we have always held face to face- in order to finish this year's class we moved to a zoom learning environment. DRA has extended our online platform to the Sicangu Food Sovereignty Initiative on the Rosebud Reservation to continue their Food Entrepreneur Cohort training. We are developing processes to expand digital meeting spaces to map out and strategize with regional and national partners around Covid response. DRA responded to the emergency by working with our network of farmers producing food dependent on sales to local restaurants to move their delivery outlet to individuals where the demand for local food grew very quickly. In response to the expanding Covid-19

hotspot at the Smithfield hog plant in Sioux Falls, SD, DRA has worked with the union and local frontline grassroots organizations to get people to focus on the workers and how they have been treated by corporate agriculture. DRA is making connections between farm and ranch groups with immigrant labor groups and national unions representing impacted workers, organizing farmers and ranchers to stand with factory workers. DRA is leading direct funding efforts to independent family farmers and ranchers in North and South Dakota via the Farm Aid household relief fund. DRA will administer those funds. DRA continues to organize and call for moratoriums on extractive energy projects with a renewed sense of urgency in light of Covid. With Trump's administration relaxing EPA enforcement, here on the ground we are seeing bad players take advantage of the crisis to push forward KXL Pipeline build up by setting up and establishing man camps and continued movement in hard rock mining efforts in the Black Hills. Over the past year, DRA members have increased attention on gold mining exploration in the Black Hills and the impacts this exploration and the potential mining would have on the environment including the Pactola Reservoir, which is the drinking water source for Rapid City. DRA has called upon South Dakota Rural Electric Cooperatives to implement and announce policies suspending electrical disconnects during this crisis. This work is being championed by DRA's Community Energy Development Committee."

### DC Jobs With Justice

\$25,000

#### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Washington, DC

DC JwJ is a long-term coalition of diverse membership organizations including unions, community and student groups, and faith institutions, which works to protect and advance the rights of District of Columbia area workers and residents, and bridge labor to support community struggles to build a more just society. DC JwJ specializes in coalition building, strategy development, organizing, and training and is committed to the creation of living wage jobs, support of economic and social justice and maintaining pressure to demand corporate accountability.

DC JwJ's overarching goals remain the same including winning improvements in DC's communities that meet basic needs like access to housing, transit, and healthcare and strengthening the capacity of organizations and individuals to advocate, organize, and win campaigns. They continue to operate in their key program areas: convening and leading the DC Just Pay Coalition and Reclaim Rent Control campaigns, coordinating and supporting the coalition members in the DC JwJ Steering Committee, advocating on behalf of workers with union allies, and supporting communities of color to organize and meet emergent needs with the Peace Walks networks. However, DC JwJ has undertaken a pragmatic shift since the start of the pandemic by working to ensure the economic security of Excluded Workers and by winning \$5 million in public funding for undocumented workers.

"During our webinars, many people asked for solutions for those not served by the traditional unemployment system and/or who are ineligible for federal stimulus checks – that is, undocumented workers (and family members who are documented or citizens) and workers in the informal economy. DC JwJ was asked to convene and lead advocacy for this group, dubbed "excluded workers." Using social media campaigning, we organized 175 individuals and organizations, mobilized 1,400 action takers and won \$5 million in public funding for cash assistance to undocumented workers. We continue to lead in the implementation of this program and fight for more assistance".

### Denver Homeless Out Loud

\$25,000

#### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Denver, CO

Denver Homeless Out Loud (DHOL) works as, with and for people who experience homelessness, to solve the issues that arise from the experience of homelessness. About 75% of their membership are homeless or formerly homeless people. DHOL works to help protect and advocate for dignity, rights and choices for people experiencing homelessness. To these ends, they commit their efforts toward goals affirmed and raised by homeless people, within the organization and throughout the homeless community.

"Our organizing goals and programs have been greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. We have seen an increase in street homelessness as people in our community lose income and housing and are less likely to seek shelters due to overcrowding increasing the risk of contracting COVID-19. As a result,

Denver is experiencing an increase in the number of camps and their size. Our workload has increased exponentially as enforcement of sweeps of homeless encampments increase and with increased size of those encampments. While we organize to fight the sweeps, we have also had to step up our efforts to address emergency needs of those experiencing homelessness. One of the emergent needs is sanitation facilities. Our organization has responded to these needs with additional fundraising efforts for survival gear, port-a-potties for camps and collaboration with Mutual Aid Denver who are providing hand washing stations and recruiting volunteers for maintaining these facilities.”

### Direct Action for Rights and Equality (DARE)

\$20,000

#### General Support

Providence, RI

Direct Action for Rights & Equality (DARE) is a multi-racial, multilingual base-building organization which organizes and builds leadership of low-income families in communities of color for social, political, and economic justice. General support was provided for their two ongoing organizing campaigns: Behind the Walls (BtW) unites people inside prison with former inmates, their friends and families to challenge and change unjust policies that result in mass incarceration and the resulting disenfranchisement of communities of color. BtW is currently focused on The Fair Licensing Campaign aimed at improving access to occupational licensing for people with records. The Tenant & Homeowner Association (THA) unites tenants and working-class homeowners to challenge bank and government policies that result in home foreclosures, evictions, and blight through campaigns to prevent individual evictions as well as local and national campaigns to effect bank and government policies. THA is currently focused on The Rent Stabilization Campaign which will provide a mechanism for tenants to advocate for accountability from their landlords and end the displacement of people from arbitrary rent increases and landlord abuses that are causing an eviction epidemic in Providence.

### Earth Law Center

\$15,000

#### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Lafayette, CO

Founded on the belief that the ecosystems have inherent rights to exist and thrive just as people do, Earth Law Center (ELC) is building a legal movement from the ground up. ELC works with local communities around the world to help them defend the rights of Nature and to protect their environment from threats. They work with local activists who want to protect threatened ecosystems in their area by helping them advocate to have ecosystems recognized as legal persons under the law, a step that creates concrete rights for nature, and corresponding responsibilities on the part of people that can be upheld under the law. ELC recognizes that one of the most immediate pathway towards environmental justice from an "Earth-centered law" perspective is by working with Indigenous partners because their belief systems have always recognized that the natural world is more than just human property, creating a strong legal and moral backbone to ELC's work. ELC is also educating and organizing lawyers and law schools to adopt the rights of nature framework and processes in order to expand the movement. This approach is gaining traction in Latin America and around the world.

“As with many organizations, ELC has experienced some COVID-19 related setbacks. Several municipalities who we expected to move forward on new Earth-centered legal paradigms have slowed down due to budget cuts that impacted their environmental programs across the board.

Tribal partners and others see the COVID-19 crisis as being directly related to our mission because our failure to protect nature made a pandemic of this magnitude a near inevitability. We must restore balance to our relationship with nature. Our organization has significantly increased our commitment to social justice and anti-racism, both internally (e.g., our organizational policies) and externally (e.g., incorporating more social justice elements into our work plan). We are proposing to make major organizational changes, such as becoming a "worker-owned" nonprofit so that all employees and volunteers--many of diverse backgrounds--have an equal voice. We are also in the process of inviting several Native American leaders to serve on our Board of Directors, which is instrumental to the future of our organization. Providing more pro bono support to Native American communities, who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 (for example, we are working with a new Indigenous partner in Alaska to help protect native species on a pro bono basis); Creating new partnerships with other environmental and social justice organizations, such as BIPOC-led land trusts, with the goal of providing



them with resilient legal models that will strengthen their own models (e.g., ELC is developing and implementing new land trust models based on rights of nature and human environmental rights); and Pushing harder than ever for fundamental legal reform, including the Rights of Nature, during this moment of calamity—with COVID-19, raging wildfires, and social injustice underscoring a broken system. We are focusing this work in Colorado, California, Oregon, Hawaii, and Washington State, where we are leading networks of environmental advocates, supportive politicians, and others.”

### Equality for Flatbush

\$5,000

#### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Brooklyn, NY

Equality for Flatbush (E4F) is a Black/people of color-led grassroots organization which does anti-police repression, affordable housing and anti-gentrification organizing in Flatbush, East Flatbush and Brooklyn-wide. Founded in June of 2013, E4F is a Black Lives Matter group with only two goals: to end NYPD murders and to stop the displacement of low-to-middle income people from Brooklyn, NY. E4F organizes Brooklyn communities for social change and justice through street outreach, social media campaigns, political and direct action.

“In response to COVID-19 pandemic, we created the Brooklyn Shows Love Mutual Aid Project, (BKSL) which has made over 1265 deliveries of free non-perishable food and supplies, to households in 30 Brooklyn neighborhoods. We recently opened up our new BKSL Food Distribution and Delivery Center to expand our capacity and have publicly committed to feed 400 households a month until May 2021. While the COVID pandemic drastically impacted our anti-gentrification/ anti-displacement organizing as well as anti-police brutality work, it also put our tiny but mighty organization on frontlines of many struggles in 2020. We organized and supported Black Lives Matter protests and supported both jail and legal support for arrested protesters. E4F also coordinated several successful eviction defense direct actions to stop illegal evictions, especially on the behalf of women and TGNC tenants.

We are planning to hire a new Lead Organizer in order to have capacity to fight against the over 200,000 pending evictions of tenants that could start in January and to rapidly respond to police violence, developers attacks on homeowners and preventing more closures of “mom and pop” small business closures.”

### EXPO (EX-incarcerated People Organizing)

\$25,000

#### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Madison, WI

EXPO (EX-incarcerated People Organizing) is a organization led entirely by people who are directly impacted by the legal justice system with the ultimate goal to truly make communities safer by ending the carceral system as we know it. EXPO is committed to dismantling all systems that support mass incarceration and excessive supervision by training people who are directly impacted by the justice system to be effective leaders in creating programs and passing legislation that works to end mass incarceration in Wisconsin.

“Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we largely organized in person, however, our resolve that we need to safely, efficiently and quickly decarcerate WI prisons has never been more strong. Since March, we have held a series of actions to pressure the Governor to use his authority (pardons, commutation, etc.) to release people, particularly those who are elderly, immune compromised, and disabled from prisons through our “Let Our People Go” campaign. The pandemic has allowed us to shine a huge spot light on issues of mass incarceration in our state, including excessive revocation, lack of release for old law parolees, lack of compassionate release, and no commutation process set up by the Governor. We have been holding biweekly webinars coordinated, MCed and cast by formerly incarcerated people to inform the public about these issues. We have been bringing to light that the CARES Act sunsets at the end of the year, removing money for treatment and testing of COVID in prisons and for emergency aid to assist with reentry. EXPO has developed a biweekly series - "Autumn of Action" - to showcase "Reimagining Incarceration". We want people to hear from our members and realize that much incarceration is caused by trauma, substance abuse disorders and mental illness. People need to be treated, healed and not incarcerated, especially in conditions where social distancing is impossible.”

### **Faith Action for Community Equity**

\$20,000

#### **General Support**

Honolulu, HI

Faith Action for Community Equity (Faith Action, formerly known as FACE) is a grassroots, interfaith membership organization driven by a deep spiritual commitment to improving the quality of life for their members and all the people of Hawaii. Through common values and collective power, Faith Action addresses the root causes of social justice challenges facing their community by holding public officials accountable. Faith Action will continue organizing for its primary campaign goals: an increase in affordable housing especially for those living 80% of AMI and below; legislation for funding to assist those who are caregivers for parents aging at home; providing organizing support for the Living Wage Campaign; and their Organizing the Homeless project which seeks to identify and develop home-grown leaders within the homeless community who will self-determine the issues they will address and advocate for truly affordable housing and resources.

### **Faith Action for Community Equity**

\$25,000

#### **COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

Honolulu, HI

Faith Action for Community Equity (Faith Action), is a grassroots, interfaith non-profit organization whose members include eighteen faith-based organizations, Unite Here! Local 5, the State's largest Union, mission aligned nonprofits and a progressive youth group, Young Professionals Demanding Justice. Faith Action is committed to improving the quality of life for members and all the people of Hawaii by addressing the root causes of social injustice and challenges facing their community by holding public officials accountable.

"Faith Action's Legislative agenda for 2020 included the Living Wage campaign and the need for more affordable housing. After the global shutdown, this year, Hawaii experienced the highest rate of unemployment in the country and public will and interest in the Living Wage campaign evaporated as people and businesses sought desperately to stay afloat. Faith Action's Housing Now! Task force organizers lobbied legislators for legislation that would close a real estate tax loophole and bring an estimated \$60 billion in revenue. However, the legislation failed this year. Faith Action has pivoted to technology and online platforms. The Kawanui affordable housing campaign was the first use of the new digital organizing tool phone2action, funded in part by a rapid response grant from Ben and Jerry's foundation. Faith Action participated in a coalition effort in which members assembled thousands of PPE that were sent to essential workers."

### **Faith and Action for Strength Together**

\$20,000

#### **COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

St. Petersburg, FL

Faith and Action for Strength Together (FAST) is an interracial grassroots organization of 40 diverse religious congregations in Pinellas County who work together to address causes of poverty and injustice. FAST uses direct action community organizing to build and exercise power to affect systemic change.

"All of the work we do is based on gathering anywhere from 2 people to 2500 people to build relationships so they can work together to hold public officials accountable. To do this, each organizer usually has around 10 one-on-one meetings with community members each week, in addition to a handful of group meetings. All of these meetings are designed to train community members to engage their congregations in fighting for justice, and to train them how to hold public officials accountable. Because of COVID19, we are unable to do any of these in-person meetings.

we had to adjust by creating an email campaign where hundreds of our members have emailed the Secretary of the FL Dept. of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) asking her to change their system to remove "no reason given" from the options a police officer can use when they arrest a child instead of sending them to a diversion program. Instead of asking officials to make commitments in person during our Action, we sent them letters asking for their commitments and requesting a written response. This is not as effective as having our public officials stand in front of thousands of their constituents and having those constituents hear those commitments with their own ears.

A large aspect of how we get thousands of people to work together is by building relationships. We are trying to continue this work through virtual meetings. Since we didn't have the Action, we did Zoom meetings with members of our different congregations to update them on our work and check-in with each other and share about what they're experiencing right now. We are unique in that we connect thousands of people across the county so we are trying to utilize that fact to help people not feel as isolated and give them hope that our community will remain strong regardless of COVID19. Two things we are currently fighting for are more affordable housing for low-income families and improved access to mental healthcare. COVID19 has only exacerbated these problems. We are concerned that elected leaders will use this crisis to divert funds away from these needs so we are scheduling virtual meetings with our public officials”.

### **Faith in Action Alabama**

\$20,000

#### **COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

Birmingham, AL

Faith in Action Alabama is a faith-based community organizing organization that serves as a vehicle for grassroots communities to build and wield power to dismantle systemic racism at the local and state levels in Alabama. FIAA consists of over 40 congregations across race and faith lines in Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, and Montgomery.

“Due to the COVID-19 pandemic Faith in Action Alabama's (FIAA) goals have expanded and modes of enacting key community organizing have been adapted. FIAA's campaign work has expanded (not reduced), at both the local, state and organizational levels. At the state level, FIAA has developed an ad hoc clergy team, including the Alabama bishops of three African American Methodist denominations. They have published a joint op-ed piece calling on the governor to develop a COVID-19 response plan anchored in equity; met with the governor and secured over 140 clergy e-signatures for a petition calling on the governor to embrace the requests that FIAA made in their May meeting with him. The next step is a June leadership training/strategy session that will focus on helping move forward FIAA's COVID-19 Equity Response Campaign, non-partisan voter engagement work and 2021 state legislative campaign, which will focus on voting rights for formerly incarcerated individuals and addressing racialized disparities caused and highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following this leadership training, FIAA will hold a COVID-19 and racial equity town hall meeting. FIAA's expects that at least 25 new congregations will become involved in its extensive voter engagement work, which will, via phonebanking before and after the election, engage over 50,000 low-frequency African American voters. Along with raising awareness of the election and helping turnout these voters, the phonebanking teams will ask the voters how COVID-19 pandemic has/is impacting them from a health and/or financial perspective. Gathering this information will help inform the development of FIAA's 2021 state legislative platform. and update them on FIAA's voter rights restoration campaign. Following the November election, FIAA volunteers will reconnect with all the people they spoke with via phonebanking to find out how was their voting experience, update them on FIAA's state legislative platform, and invite them to become involved in FIAA's work.

In response to the COVID-19, FIAA also launched local efforts to engage local criminal justice officials in our four hub cities/counties (Birmingham/Jefferson County, Huntsville/Madison County, Mobile/Mobile County, Montgomery/Montgomery County) to urge them not to incarcerate arrested individuals who do not pose a threat to public safety and release any incarcerated individuals in local jails who also do not pose a threat to public safety.”

### **Faith in Indiana Northeast**

\$20,000

#### **COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

South Bend, IN

Faith in Indiana Northeast (FaithIN NE), a network of 47 congregational members, is a community organizing project and vehicle for marginalized peoples and faith communities to act collectively for racial and economic justice. Working in St. Joseph and Allen Counties, FaithIN NE equips people who have been left out of the community's decision-making processes to speak up and play an active role in local democracy. Faith in Indiana NE, an affiliate of the Faith in Indiana statewide organization and the Faith in Action national organizing network, builds the power of traditionally excluded communities through leadership development, amplifying the prophetic voice, awakening the electorate, and forming new

strategic partnerships. FaithIN NE is working to shift investment from punishment, vengeance, and incarceration to compassion, treatment, and opportunity.

“The pandemic has had a profound effect on our work. We quickly shifted our advocacy to demand that public officials prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable people in our communities: people in prisons and jails, immigrants, low-wage workers, essential workers, seniors, and those who are at greatest risk for the disease. Our advocacy has been extremely successful: We called on officials to free people from confinement in the early weeks of the pandemic, and they rapidly released 1,200. The number of people in jail fell 24% in St. Joseph County and 10% in Allen County. South Bend will use empty hotel rooms as isolation centers for people without homes. We won eight new testing sites located in communities of color. We have also responded to the Black Lives Matter uprising: South Bend’s Board of Public Safety unanimously passed the new disciplinary matrix. South Bend’s police department has announced a new Use of Force policy. Thanks to our work, Fort Wayne will implement mandatory body cameras. We purchased Zoom accounts for organizers and top leaders, conducted wellness check-ins with over 5,000 grassroots constituents, and organized emergency calls with clergy and community leaders to help them understand the crisis. We launched Caring Circles, in which individuals connect with ten friends online every two weeks to meet needs, build community, and plan collective action. We helped clergy reorganize their ministries online and hosted virtual “office hours” to teach priests and pastors to use digital tools to connect with their communities.”

### **Families for Justice as Healing**

\$24,000

#### General Support

Roxbury, MA

Families for Justice as Healing (FJAH), a criminal justice reform organization, is composed of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women and their children. They advocate for community wellness alternatives to incarceration, raise awareness of US prison policy and organize with the communities most affected by mass incarceration. FJAH 1) builds power with women being prosecuted and their families, 2) fights to reduce pre-trial detention and prosecutions, 3) addresses the dire conditions of confinement for women in MA, and 4) with allies expands the dialogue on the dramatic increase of women in prison and its societal consequences. FJAH works on grassroots campaigns to challenge the power of police, prosecutors, and prisons; develops and advocates for policy and practice changes in the criminal punishment system based on the experience and expertise of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women; supports and builds power with people being prosecuted and their families; leads participatory research efforts to change the narrative about communities most impacted by incarceration; and imagines and designs alternatives to the current system that will meet the needs of women, girls, and families.

### **Families for Justice as Healing**

\$15,000

#### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Roxbury, MA

Families for Justice as Healing (FJAH) is a criminal justice reform and legislative advocacy organization working from the perspective of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women and their children, advocating for community wellness alternatives to incarceration. FJAH works on grassroots campaigns to challenge the power of police, prosecutors, and prisons; develops and advocates for policy and practice changes in the criminal punishment system based on the experience and expertise of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women; supports and builds power with people being prosecuted and their families; leads participatory research efforts to change the narrative about communities most impacted by incarceration; imagines and designs alternatives to the current system that will meet the needs of women, girls, and families.

“COVID19 continues to be a humanitarian crisis in our jails and prisons. In addition, our local communities have borne the brunt of this pandemic on the outside. In response, FJAH is currently utilizing alternative organizing and communication strategies. We continue to run all our programming online. Rallies have become car caravans. And trying to gain access to the “justice” system is beyond difficult, while charging continues unabated in FJAH’s hyper-policed community, bail procedures, pretrial hearings and the right to a speedy trial are impacted.

FJAH is organizing to protect our people on the inside by demanding release from incarceration, no pre-trial detention, and an end to cash bail. With our mutual aid fund, FJAH has also been able to deliver food in the community. FJAH launched a new initiative, The People's Budget process, led by most impacted women building off the momentum of the Listening Tour. Formerly incarcerated people are also leading block by block organizing to build power with their neighbors so residents can create a vision for what they want in their own community."

### **The FANG Collective**

\$15,000

#### **COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

Pawtucket, RI

The FANG Collective is an intersectional, nonviolent direct action-focused organization that mobilizes around issues of climate and racial justice. With an emphasis on supporting frontline community groups and building solidarity across movements, FANG escalates the struggle for social justice while supporting collective healing. FANG has led various community-based campaigns, ranging from Indigenous solidarity, to stopping fracked-gas infrastructure projects. Currently, FANG is focused on resisting violent state institutions such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as well as supporting the growth of their Tooth & Nail healing justice farm and collective. In addition to leading campaigns, FANG supports frontline community groups with trainings, capacity building, and solidarity actions in order to uplift their struggles for autonomy and liberation.

"During the onset of the pandemic, we began the work of amplifying the voices of those inside local detention centers. We published letters written by people held at the Bristol County and Wyatt Detention Center that outlined the dangers people faced of contracting COVID while detained. FANG pivoted its strategy to an entirely virtual platform and launched a series of media storms, calling on elected officials to demand the release of people detained by ICE and state prisons immediately. What followed was a class action lawsuit on behalf of detainees against the Bristol County Correctional Center and a work strike by Bristol County detainees in protest. As of now, 43 people detained by ICE have been released in response to the lawsuit. At the Wyatt Detention Facility, 50 people detained by ICE went on a hunger strike, demanding their liberation from ICE custody. Since the Wyatt relies on private funding, during COVID-19, FANG has organized a media campaign to target the Wyatt's most crucial funder: Atlanta based Invesco. We seek to end their contract with ICE and close down that facility permanently. Taking our prison abolition work to a national level, FANG's Shame on Citizens campaign held an action in September demanding divestment from CoreCivic, one of the largest private prison corporations in the country.

At a regional level, our work in pressuring these detention centers to release people helped to jumpstart a solidarity coalition between groups in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island focused on targeting Bristol County. In May, FANG participated in a National Week of Action to #FreeThemALL. Together, we called on elected officials, ICE and law enforcement officials, and leaders to release those in ICE detention and jails and organized a car rally to show love and support to all those inside the Bristol County House of Corrections. We hope to keep building on this solidarity work and bring more impacted community members together across the region.

This past April, we also formally launched the FANG Community Bail Fund. We have bailed out nearly 100 people in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, primarily in counties with ICE agreements.

Recognizing that community care is just as important as our direct action work, FANG, along with other coalition organizations in the Alliance to Mobilize Our Resistance (AMOR) launched a COVID-19 mutual aid program using the FANG office space for the storage and distribution of mutual aid kits and supplies."

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

\$8,000

#### **The Fire Next Time: Defending Native Cultural Burning and Sacred Sites from Fire Suppression Impacts**

Eugene, OR

Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and Ecology (FUSEE) is a grassroots organization with a regional focus and national impact. FUSEE's members include current, former, and retired wildland firefighters; fire scientists and managers; forest activists and rural residents. FUSEE promotes safe, ethical, Ecological Fire Management on public lands. They inform, inspire, and empower fire management

workers and their citizen supporters to work toward a paradigm shift in fire management away from the historic and still dominant fire suppression ideology toward a sustainable and imminently more effective approach that they call Ecological Fire Management. This project will confront a new face of environmental racism: governmental prohibitions on Indigenous cultural burning, and the destructive impacts of modern mechanized firefighting on Native American heritage resources and sacred sites. Working in solidarity with the Karuk and other Tribes, FUSEE will produce educational materials, do media outreach, and engage in direct actions to raise public and policymaker awareness to stop repression of indigenous burning, and stop bulldozing, backfiring, and dumping toxic retardant chemicals on fire-dependent Native ancestral lands and sacred sites.

**Food AND Medicine, Jobs with Justice Education Fund**

\$20,000

**General Support**

Brewer, ME

Food AND Medicine (FAM) organizes and empowers low-income and working class people of Eastern Maine. They prioritize leadership development among those directly affected by poverty, food insecurity, a lack of adequate public transportation and affordable childcare in their effort to make lasting change. General support funding was provided to help FAM continue their work organizing strong campaigns on food justice, public transit, worker rights and civic engagement. FAM's work prioritizes collective solutions utilizing grassroots organizing methods developed by the labor movement. They plan to continue to deepen and connect these campaigns with a unified strategy to empower and strengthen their base of low-income people in Eastern Maine, in partnership with unions and faith communities. They plan to utilize the attention that Eastern Maine will receive in the 2020 electoral cycle to elevate their work into the public policy debate.

**Food AND Medicine, Jobs with Justice Education Fund**

\$20,000

**COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

Brewer, ME

Food AND Medicine (FAM) is a multi-issue, membership based, local grassroots organization which organizes and empowers low-income and working class people of Eastern Maine. FAM prioritizes leadership development and builds power among those directly affected by poverty, food insecurity, a lack of adequate public transportation and affordable childcare in an effort to work for structural change. FAM actively partners with unions and faith organizations to achieve their goals developed after listening to and planning with people directly affected. These goals focus on improving public transportation, food justice, civic engagement and worker rights.

“Our organizing goals and programs were significantly affected by the pandemic. We had to adapt to quickly ramp up our online capabilities and move to Zoom meetings, remote working, online systems and the like. This was a significant investment of resources which has brought us real benefits now and we expect will carry into the future as well. We initially paused our long-term organizing plans to focus on direct support work, utilizing our large network of members and supporters with our skills at mobilizing volunteers. We set up a phone calling network of FAM members who reached out to each other in the beginning of the lockdown, to combat the isolation that it brought and to see what resources we could direct people to, including immediate food deliveries for people who were shut in. Our Covid Solidarity Program included bringing our volunteer resources to the food bank and pantries, and raised funds to purchase food from local restaurants (who also source from local farms) to provide individually portioned meals to people. We have done a significant amount of public education around issues of safety during the pandemic, as well as food insecurity, support for public transportation and worker rights in a very contested political climate in the 2nd Congressional District of Maine.”

**Gente Organizada**

\$15,000

**General Support**

Pomona, CA

Gente Organizada (Gente) is a nonprofit organization working to create long-term systemic change through community-led organizing by empowering low-income families of color, many of them immigrants, as they identify the most pressing issues in their community and develop campaigns and initiatives to solve these challenges. General operating support was provided to advance their work in

developing Pomona's immigrant youth and parents as community leaders who will disrupt the status quo through community organizing, coalition building, stakeholder education, and campaign development, with the goal of building systemic equity.

**George Wiley Center**

\$17,500

**COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

Pawtucket, RI

The George Wiley Center is a statewide grassroots group organizing with low-income Rhode Islanders to collectively advocate for systematic social and economic justice. They push to strengthen access, affordability, democracy, and policy change in areas of basic need and dignified quality of life, with a focus on struggles to eliminate poverty. While GWC organizes around many areas of basic need, including food, shelter, jobs, and transportation, a major focus is on utility justice and stopping utility shut-offs.

"The COVID-19 pandemic threatens the lives of our members, who are among the most vulnerable populations in Rhode Island. Additionally, the digital divide, that almost 40% of our members are deeply impacted by, is an obstacle to online vehicles of public participation. We need your support to help us combat the ways both technological marginalization and social isolation is intensifying oppressive systems. We are applying for this emergency grant to transition our regular meetings onto a digital format, to strengthen our digital organizing and expand our bi-lingual organizing in order to address language and digital barriers to applying for SNAP/unemployment as well as organizing around to demand essential services at this critical moment.

At the first signs of the pandemic, the George Wiley Center swiftly called on affected community members to demand a moratorium against service terminations and emergency restoration of all regulated utilities so that those hardest hit by the pandemic would be heard. We have won these demands but they are due to expire in July. We are now calling on the governor to extend the moratorium until at least May 2021; implement a PIPP (Percentage Income Payment Plan) to ensure people pay fair and affordable rates; immediately restore power to all those without access; and use CARES funding to forgive debts and cancel bills.

We are simultaneously expanding food distribution by coordinating weekly home deliveries of food and continuing our efforts to meet people's immediate needs for unemployment assistance, utility restoration and housing/rent support. We need to hire more organizers to turn texts and emails into relationship building phone conversations. Although we recognize the need to multiply our digital organizing, we do not think that you can replace important relationship building conversations with solely online interactions. In place of our weekly face to face meetings, we are offering virtual zoom/Instagram-live/Facebook live events and forums where the public can interact via mobile devices or computers. We need extra staff to move our members who are not youth or students toward these online tactics in order to generate more public pressure. We are also boosting our bi-lingual organizing capacity to challenge gaps in social services and systemic injustice".

**Georgia Muslim Voter Project**

\$15,000

**COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

Norcross, GA

The Georgia Muslim Voter Project (GAMVP) is a non partisan organization whose mission is to engage Muslims in Georgia to register to vote, show up to the polls, and increase voter turnout in elections through voter education, registration drives, and grassroots organizing. In the midst of growing Islamophobia in the United States GAMVP empowers American Muslims to exercise their civic rights to the fullest extent possible and serves as the primary organization assisting Muslims in ensuring that their voices are heard and incorporated in the political process. Through community-based voter engagement and grassroots organizing, their work emphasizes the strength of collective Muslim participation and its ability to improve communities.

"In response to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, GAMVP has adapted all activities to adhere to social distancing requirements, while continuing to address evolving civic engagement needs in the community. At the beginning of the year until the pandemic began impacting social dynamics, GAMVP was on track to meet its goal of registering 1,500 new voters. Due to social distancing requirements, GAMVP had to switch from in-person registrations to solely digital, dramatically slowing down the pace of new

registrations to only 80 new voters in a few months. Field organizers are now registering new voters online, with more investment in phone and text banking for voter registration, census outreach, and other nonpartisan, informative programs. Despite these new challenges, GAMVP has been registering new voters at the same rate as much larger organizations with more human and financial resources. Through regular social media posts, GAMVP keeps the Muslim community informed of the many changes to voting procedures and deadlines due to the COVID-19 crisis. Incorporating more text and phone banking has allowed field organizers to have virtual conversations with Muslim voters that foster the same dialogue that in-person voter registration would normally facilitate. Program coordinators and organizers also regularly collaborate with other civic engagement organizations in the area on ways to respond to changing needs specific to the local community. Adapting to the rise of take-out and pick-up orders for food, GAMVP has connected to more local restaurants, businesses, and grocery stores to continue community outreach digitally. In response to recent events, for example, GAMVP now provides nonpartisan material and resources for people to register new voters during protests. Using new data sets and tools, GAMVP is also better able to reach Muslims specifically, particularly communities that may otherwise be neglected in the civic engagement process. GAMVP also incorporates relational organizing into outreach efforts to foster one-on-one connections with Muslim voters. Additional funds will allow us to invest in a more robust social media team to enhance our platform even further than it has this year to educate our constituents, it will help us provide more trainings and workshops for constituents to attend and learn by opting in, and it will allow us to provide more assistance with absentee ballots to assist in the application process and ensuring they receive”.

### Greater Spokane Progress

\$15,000

#### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

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 March, our network quickly mobilized to address the impact of COVID on our community. Many of the urgent needs corresponded to our network’s organizing goals in the Spokane Progress Plan. For example, the passage of a strong eviction moratorium for the City of Spokane became a model for a statewide eviction moratorium. Our Housing Justice Committee has grown this year, bringing together other leaders, organizations, and alliances to form a coalition working on both COVID emergency response, as well as long-term housing justice priorities including tenant protections and permanent affordable housing. The Smart Justice Spokane coalition pushed jail officials to reduce jail numbers and investing in smart justice alternatives to incarceration. We have been actively supporting BIPOC-led organizing to demand police reforms. We have Zoom meetings with elected officials and are getting great turn out at virtual GSP meetings. GSP’ communication tools allow us to rapidly communicate with our members and partners so we can respond quickly. Our Why Race Matters and other racial equity workshops are now all virtual and are getting rave reviews. However, we need to find new creative ways to stay connected, build relationships, and support one another during this challenging time.”

### Healing to Action

\$25,000

#### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Chicago, IL

Healing to Action uses collective healing and worker-led solutions to develop community resistance strategies against gender-based violence. Using the resilience strategies that workers already possess as a path to movement building, HTA builds power among workers so they can organize against gender violence to achieve economic and social equality. HTA enacts its mission through worker-led campaigns, leadership development, and coalition building.



“HTA's main 2020 organizing goal was to advance its Sex Ed Works campaign, fighting for economic and racial equity in access to comprehensive sexual health education for all Chicago youth. As a result of the pandemic, Chicago Public Schools are closed for the rest of the year. Our leaders who were organizing teach-ins, listening sessions and campaign events are now struggling with unemployment or dangerous working conditions. Many have become full-time caregivers. Most leaders are uninsured and many have underlying health issues. Finally, some leaders are in unhealthy relationships, feeling unsafe and unsupported at home. HTA has cancelled all of its in-person engagements, which means the physical space that leaders previously came to for support and connection is no longer available. HTA has been determined to provide this connection in spite of physical distance. Through individual phone calls, staff have worked with leaders to install Zoom on their phones, and are now using the platform for leadership and coalition meetings. Leaders are using innovative strategies to support their communities. For example, one leader is working with HTA to develop a Spanish fact sheet to combat misinformation that is chilling immigrants from leaving their homes, including advice to families about how to address tensions at home. Other leaders are connecting their neighbors to diaper and food drives. HTA is also continuing to build relationships with communities impacted by campaign demands, like the Chicago Teachers Union and Comprehensive Sex Ed Now, a youth organizing group. Youth leaders from CSEN are working with HTA to reach CPS students through social media.

Prior to the pandemic, HTA also planned to launch a second cohort of its Healing Generations Leadership Program in 2020. Recruitment efforts primarily focused on black, disability and LGBTQ communities to build a more diverse and powerful base of leaders across identity groups that disproportionately experience gender-based violence. HTA remains committed to offering Healing Generations this year, given the incredible isolation that many of the most marginalized survivors are feeling now. HTA will offer the program virtually. To recruit for the program, HTA has leveraged its partnerships with agencies that provide direct services to survivors, and deployed a nomination process to connect with potential recruits by phone. Additionally, HTA has worked over the past year to build relationships with a group of disability self-advocates who affiliate with ADAPT, and is now creating an access plan for the leadership program, navigating different systems of remote sign language interpretation and assistive technologies for participants with motor disabilities.

These strategies have generated outreach to over a dozen applicants so far, with many expressing excitement about an opportunity to connect and develop their skills to support their communities in spite of the tremendous challenges they are facing right now”.

### **I Have A Future**

\$20,000

#### **General Support**

Dorchester, MA

I Have a Future 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. Continued support was provided in support of their efforts move the juvenile justice campaign along with other juvenile justice provisions by building staff capacity and help provide more youth stipends; expanding their leadership pipeline to retain and support young people and lastly; supporting IHAF digital media work.

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

\$20,000

#### **COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

Bloomington, IL

Illinois People's Action (IPA) statewide, multi-issue, base-building organization which organizes on immigrant rights, predatory lending, corporate accountability and environmental justice and climate change. IPA has urban and rural chapters across central IL.

“Since March 12th we have focused our organizing on COVID-19 community response across central Illinois. Broadly our goals are threefold - organize and broaden our base to create and win tangible relief (decarceration, emergency housing, direct money aid), assist in mutual aid, and challenge the role of government in meeting real needs. Our demands are decarceration of county jails, direct municipal financial assistance to vulnerable people (including undocumented residents), and emergency housing for homeless and symptomatic/exposed residents.

Our IPA grassroots leaders have created a "Community Assistance Team" with over 100 volunteers providing food and medicine delivery to vulnerable residents.

To date we've forced a 44% decrease in the jail population, one vote shy of an upcoming city commitment to provide \$300,000 in direct aid, and a comprehensive housing plan.

While our public facing work is on hold, our internal organizing and strategy development continues.

We've begun to build new relationships with college professors at two institutions to engage and make online presentations to environmental science classes on climate change solutions. On our issue campaigns we are beginning to hold strategy meetings online on ways to keep our base engaged as the issues haven't gone away (e.g. climate, immigration, equity) and decision-makers will eventually return to work. Our leaders continue to participate in weekly and often daily statewide coalition calls with Fair Economy Illinois and Illinois Climate Table.

We also know that appropriate forced distancing has put many of our leaders out of work, out of money and out of relationship with family, friends and community. We are all checking in with each other and always begin our zoom meetings with blessings and challenges."

**IntegrateNYC Inc.**

\$20,000

**General Support to Integrate NYC Schools**

New York, NY

IntegrateNYC (INYC) is a youth-led, intergenerational movement that develops young leaders who repair the harms of segregation and build authentic integration and equity in New York City public schools.

INYC brings together students from segregated schools to build bridges between divided communities, design solutions, and advocate for policy change that leads to radical transformation.

INYC's citywide Youth Council brings together over 250 students from all five boroughs as experts on the impacts of segregation and inequity, designers of solutions, advocates for transformative policy, and visionaries for a more just future. They develop youth as lifelong civic leaders and community organizers who create and advocate for policy that will meaningfully integrate schools. Student leaders build annual campaigns to influence policymakers and share what they learn with their communities - bringing more students into the movement.

**Interfaith Coalition for Action, Reconciliation and Empowerment (ICARE)**

\$20,000

**COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

Jacksonville, FL

ICARE, a member of the DART Network, is an interracial, faith-based, grassroots organization focused on addressing issues related to poverty and injustice in Jacksonville. ICARE's 38 member congregations represent more than 30,000 residents who are united in solving the problems they face in their own communities.

"Due to the COVID-19 pandemic ICARE's programs and goals have been significantly impacted. We are a grassroots organization that derives its power to uphold justice for the voiceless through our people power. At our annual Nehemiah Action Assembly, the largest grassroots public gathering in Northeast Florida over 1,500 community members hold elected officials and local decision makers accountable to solving injustices in the community. This year our Nehemiah Assembly was canceled. Therefore, we were not able to publicly hold our Sheriff accountable to his promise of creating a strong Crisis Intervention Team program (C.I.T.), to follow up with our Superintendent of Schools to ask that all substitute teachers and bus drivers be trained in Safe and Civil schools, and to ask our State Attorney to work with us to reduce the amount of unnecessary adult arrest. Not only was our Nehemiah Assembly canceled but we have also had to cancel all in-person meetings. This includes our annual fund raising event, the Celebration, where ICARE would have received over 60% of its individual investments from community members. Not being able to hold our Nehemiah Assembly has caused us to lose momentum in being able to raise funds with local business so that we can meet our proposed annual budget. We have adapted to these changes by holding meetings virtually through Zoom and the telephone. Further, ICARE has always responded to the emergent needs of the community and the COVID-19 pandemic has brought those needs into the forefront.

ICARE's mental health committee was formed after listening to the community voice its concern for those with mental health illness cycling in and out of the criminal justice system. Duval County Jails have been overcrowded for years and we discovered that 40% of those in jail are there due to a low level

offense caused by their mental illness. An emergent concern is that our jails and prisons have become hotspots for spreading the virus. Moreover, cases of those experiencing a mental health crisis are increasing do to stress brought about by the pandemic. Community members do not feel safe calling the police for help because they fear more harm will be done than good. ICARE will continue to train members on how to engage elected officials like the sheriff and hold them accountable to the injustices we are facing. Specifically, we will continue to apply pressure on our sheriff's department to train infield officers in C.I.T.”

### **Jane Addams Senior Caucus**

\$25,000

#### **General Support**

Chicago, IL

Jane Addams Senior Caucus (JASC) is a multiracial, grassroots organization led by concerned seniors in the Chicago metropolitan area. They cross neighborhood, racial, religious and socio-economic lines to find common ground upon which to act on the values of social justice. Through leadership development, organizing, and popular education, JASC uses the power of collective voices to work for economic, social and racial justice for all seniors and their communities.

Their campaigns include: Keep Seniors Safe in Their Homes, Long term preservation of affordable housing, Senior Housing Bill of Rights, Homes Guarantee campaign, Improve the language assistance services for limited English proficient tenants of the Chicago Housing Authority, Medicare for All, and Guarantee universal in-home care services for every senior and person with disability.

“As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, seniors across the city faced unprecedented risk, especially those seniors living in the city's 169 densely populated senior buildings. These comprise the majority of our membership. We have had to reprioritize which campaigns we want to focus most on. The Keep Seniors Safe in Their Homes Campaign grew out of our well-being check-in calls we were doing with our members. So many of them were talking about the lack of safety measures in their buildings and people were dying. JASC members came together with Aldermen and public health professionals to craft the Keeping Seniors Safe in Their Homes campaign to protect the health and safety of seniors living in senior buildings. The goal is to pass a Senior Building Safety Plan ordinance.”

### **Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative**

\$20,000

#### **General Support**

New Orleans, LA

Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative (JPNSI) is a member-led, community land trust committed to creating sustainable, democratic, and economically-just communities. They are pursuing a dual strategy of not only building the housing their community needs, but building power in the community to change policies and laws that make it difficult for low and moderate-income residents to have housing security and resist displacement in the face of gentrification. General support funding was provided to support staffing and program costs for JPNSI's tenant organizing work. Members are currently identifying priorities for a Renters Bill of Rights, a document that will outline the policy needs of renters to meaningfully combat displacement, high housing costs, high eviction rates, and lack of quality housing. Funds will support ongoing meetings, canvassing, and outreach efforts around the Renters Bill of Rights, as well as support ongoing community eviction court monitoring. The goal is to ultimately win legal reforms to landlord/tenant laws at the state level.

### **Just Economics**

\$10,000

#### **COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

Asheville, NC

Just Economics (JE) is a regional economic justice organization with a mission to educate, advocate, and organize for a just and sustainable economy that works for all in Western North Carolina. JE focuses on three primary issues--living wages, affordable housing, and better transit—and works to center the voice of people most impacted by economic injustice to push forward systems' change through policy advocacy, living wage employer certification and grassroots education and engagement.

“Just Economics has had to significantly shift our work due to COVID-19 as each of our program areas have been impacted and we are responding to emerging needs in our community. Policy Advocacy has shifted to emergency response policy efforts through our participation in several state-wide coalitions

that are taking action at the local, state and federal level. Our Living Wage Certification work has been temporarily paused due to the unstable economic climate caused by the pandemic. We have shifted our work in this area to include support for business owners, support for workers, and new economies work including cooperative development. We have also been supporting groups of workers by sharing information about mutual aid, connecting the needs of local workers with available resources, and sharing information about policy objectives.

Finally, our grassroots education and engagement work has had to adjust to on-line engagement. Many people living on a low-income do not have equal access to technology. Our work in this area intersects with our policy work in that we have been organizing and meeting on-line with transit riders, people who do not have dependable and affordable housing, and low-wage workers about emergency response advocacy. We are currently working to create some on-line versions of our trainings. We believe that we must simultaneously be building the foundations of the political and economic environment that we hope to see on the other side of this crisis.”

### La Mujer Obrera

\$10,000

#### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

El Paso, TX

La Mujer Obrera is a local independent organization dedicated to creating thriving communities defined by women. La Mujer Obrera works to fight for environmental justice in their marginalized neighborhood, while also nurturing the creative capacity of their members to express the dignity and diversity of their Mexican heritage, in the service of economic development, community building, community health and civic engagement.

“Since the Covid crisis we can no longer hold our planning meetings and gatherings in our parks and community gardens. There has been a period of adjustment to learn and have access to technology. We have been learning how coordinate and hold meetings using zoom, and making sure everyone has access to a tablet, and feels more or less comfortable participating in this way. We have also been checking in with community residents to make sure they are OK, keep them informed of available resources or help them access those resources. We have had Zoom meetings with State representatives to ensure that they are considering the voice of immigrant communities in their decisions related to the pandemic. We have had teach-ins and meetings with other organizations and activists to inform them of the needs of our community and the specific ways that Covid-19 is affecting us.

One of the most important goals of our organization is to strengthen community cohesion, not only to defend our community against the impact of several sources of contamination and gentrification but to create alternatives through growing food, seasonal workshops, gatherings and celebrations for culturally affirming knowledge sharing. We have had to adapt or postpone many of these events. We were continuing to organize to pressure the EPISD to reopen our elementary school and continue to pressure to get rid of the diesel trucks and the metal recycling facility in our neighborhood. Due to the shut-down, we have had to respond to the crisis in the schools in a different way. Our school district has not done a good job of keeping parents informed, We have been trying to research and gather information and inform parents and work with them to formulate demands for what we think is best for our children.

Distance learning has left our children behind and parents do not trust that EPISD can keep our children safe. We have met with our Congresswoman regarding a pilot safety center for virtual/online learning for children in the Chamizal community. She mentioned that we were the first organization to offer a proposal for immigrant children’s education during the Covid crisis. We have been distributing despensas (pantry items) food and supplies, face coverings, also materials for children and youth. We have also distributed tablets and this has allowed us to adapt some of the planned activities.”

### La Resistencia

\$20,000

#### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Seattle, WA

La Resistencia is a grassroots undocumented-led movement that supports and follows the leadership of those detained at the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) in Tacoma, Washington demanding better conditions inside the NWDC, the end of the detention of immigrants, and the stop to all deportations. Originally founded as "NWDC Resistance" in 2014 to support a hunger strike launched by people detained in NDWC to protest their confinement, today, La Resistencia members support and engage

with people detained who organize for their own survival and in protest against the detention and deportation regime. They are a multi-racial, multi-status, multi-gender group that organizes across the prison barrier. La Resistencia work through an inside-outside strategy, where they connect the organizing of people inside the NWDC with media, political strategy, and support outside. La Resistencia is responsive to the conditions, events, and organizing inside the detention center, and to political openings outside.

“La Resistencia’s strategy and focus has become even more imperative with the COVID-19 Pandemic. Being in the first state which reported cases of COVID-19, we have shifted our actions and campaigns to put pressure on having all people released immediately, as ICE and GEO have placed people at great risk of being infected by not putting in place effective hygiene and social distancing practices. This effort is in alignment with the national #FreeThemAll campaign, but also with the demands and organizing with people inside NWDC. We have worked on documenting medical neglect cases for years.

With the fear of falling ill with COVID-19, and knowing that the medical care in NWDC is non-existent, people in detention have begun waves of hunger strikes. We have started caravans and “honk-in” actions outside the NWDC where people stay in their cars. We plan on continuing caravans and public pressure campaigns with all of the agencies involved at a local and state level. As the third wave of hunger strikes began in the facility, we have been coordinating to be able to publicize stories, as well as coordinate actions of support outside of the NWDC. ICE closed all detention centers to social visits so we have had to become creative in finding stories. We decided to go to TV, radio, and other mass media outlets asking families of those in detention to reach out to us and we are organizing them as we work with them to gather and document stories of conditions inside the NWDC.

To pressure authorities to have people released, locally we are targeting the City of Tacoma and the Tacoma Public Health department, as well as the local ICE Seattle Field Office. Statewide we are targeting the governor Jay Inslee, who has called for non-essential businesses to close, but has not called for the closure of NWDC, recently deemed a non-essential facility. We are targeting local congresspeople at the federal level, and we are asking for statements from the United Nations and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

We are working in coordination with other local groups that are focused on decarceration in the Department of Corrections prisons and local jails here in Washington. We continue documenting cases of medical neglect, and this year, we worked with ACLU and Northwest Immigrant Rights Project by providing them with 8 of 9 plaintiffs in a lawsuit against ICE for people at high risk of contracting COVID-19. We are still supporting hunger strikes occurring around the nation, which have escalated in response to COVID-19. We have worked in coordination with Detention Watch Network to become the support group for other states that are experiencing hunger strikes at their detention centers.

We have moved our forums and community meetings to Zoom and had to purchase a larger subscription to Zoom and have had several successful online events - for example, a webinar we initiated and facilitated that featured speakers from other Detention Watch Network member organizations about the impact of COVID-19 in the detention system and the organizing in response, and a forum for our Shutdown Campaign.

We would like to hire two more stipend organizers to alleviate the heavy amount of work, and to support some of our existing volunteers who have lost their paid work.”

### [Latinos United for a New America](#)

\$15,000

#### Bonita-24th Organizing Campaign

San Jose, CA

Latinos United for a New America (LUNA) is a grassroots organization comprised of residents of the poorest neighborhoods in San Jose. It helps residents take effective civic action on their own behalf. LUNA works within neighborhoods to help residents identify needs, form neighborhood committees, identify leaders, and develop and carry out actions that achieve desired change in their communities. LUNA works to empower poor people and immigrants to take effective action by surveying households in poor neighborhoods to understand individual needs, identifying local leaders to host small-group discussions in their homes to identify neighborhood-wide needs, and providing leadership training for emerging leaders. Emerging leaders help neighbors form an association and an action plan. Residents then execute actions, assess results and modify actions accordingly. Funding was provided in support of LUNA’s efforts to help residents of the Bonita-24th neighborhood become organized.

### Laundry Workers Center

\$20,000

#### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

New York City, NY

Laundry Workers Center provides community-based leadership development to improve the living and working conditions of low-wage, immigrant workers in the laundry, warehouse, and food service industries of New York City and New Jersey. Their approach connects community and workplace justice organizing to support families, grow political consciousness, and build grassroots power that is socio-economically sustainable. Laundry Workers Center serves over 2,100 members throughout New York City and New Jersey.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on Laundry Workers Center and our membership. We have changed our organizing goals and modified our programs to respond to the immediate needs of our members. We could not have in-person meetings, large demonstrations, or direct actions with our allies or community members. We have provided more direct aid services, as well as emphasized our educational programs through online trainings. We have been compelled to put one of our underground organizing campaigns on pause. However, we have also gained a new underground campaign in New Jersey due to our direct aid efforts in providing PPE to laundromat workers. We have had to get creative to make sure our grassroots work continues while maintaining social distance. For example, on May Day we celebrated with a car caravan in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx. We hosted rallies on social media, as well as petitions, letters, and small delegations as parts of our new strategy.”

### Long Beach Residents Empowered (LiBRE)

\$18,000

#### Base Building in the Age of Social Distancing: Advancing Housing Security In Long Beach

Calabasas, CA

Long Beach Residents Empowered (LiBRE) is a resident-led organization building tenant power to shift political dynamics through policy and institutional change for people of color and low-income communities. LiBRE advances justice in disadvantaged communities through 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. In the Coronavirus age LiBRE is working to develop new models of building tenant-led housing justice movements including: Building capacity among their core Spanish and English community leaders in low-income, senior and HUD buildings to move to technological based-information sharing via web and cell phone technology and to train others; Developing an online curriculum around tenant rights and protections, and political participation; Launching a digital engagement program to collect data, inform political officials about housing challenges, and enhance LiBRE's capacity to engage in evidence-based policy advocacy.

### Lower 9th Ward Homeownership Association (L9WHA)

\$20,000

#### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

New Orleans, LA

The Lower 9th Ward Homeownership Association (L9WHA), established in response to the needs expressed by residents trying to return home after Hurricane Katrina, is a neighborhood-based nonprofit seeking to improve the quality of life in the Lower 9th Ward through affordable homeownership and the resident-driven redevelopment of an historic community. L9WHA is devoted to achieving racial equity for African Americans and to building a diverse and thriving Lower 9th Ward community with record-setting African American homeownership rates.

“The most significant impact from COVID-19, of course, has been our inability to engage with neighborhood residents in person. As part of our new outreach efforts, we have been working to make sure residents are aware of all available COVID-19 benefits, how to apply for them, and how to reach us if they need help. In lieu of community meetings and door-knocking, we are regularly passing out information at food distribution centers and testing sites, as well as lines at the polls. We have increased our outreach to pastors, who are sharing information with their congregations at virtual services. We are spreading the word through the email lists of partner organizations and continue to call, text and email

residents with whom we have established relationships. We are also doing targeted mailings of fliers, eye-catching postcards, and, in some cases, personal notes, using data from the tax assessor's office. Finally, we are considering following up these methods with "Every Door Direct Mail" through the U.S. Postal Service in order to get information to every household in our neighborhood, whether connected to the internet or not.

The pandemic has also resulted in an immediate shift in the work we are doing. In the initial days, we worked with other community leaders to arrange food distribution centers for the neighborhood. Next our community outreach specialists began calling residents to provide support and do a needs assessment, while our Housing Advocate developed a COVID-19 Resource Manual, which she continues to update weekly in addition to planning for an expansion of services, while bringing policy issues to the attention of activists and elected officials at the local, state and federal level.

In the longer term, we are bracing for an increase in mortgage foreclosures and tax sales. We have tried to inform residents of their right to mortgage forbearance, as well as advocating for a requirement that lenders notify borrowers of this right. In addition, our long-term project to make sure homeowners have the Homestead Exemptions they're entitled to, and that their homes are fairly assessed, has become even more important during COVID-19. Even small adjustments to tax bills can be the difference between keeping your home and losing it. The policies and practices of the Orleans Parish Assessor's Office are a perfect example of how systemic racism works through apparently neutral systems to deprive African Americans of wealth."

### Massachusetts Voter Table

\$20,000

#### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Boston, MA

The Massachusetts Voter Table (MVT) advances civic access, engagement, and representation to increase resources and power for people of color and working-class people toward achieving a multiracial democracy. MVT convenes a statewide coalition of over 25 base-building organizations in communities of color in Boston and in gateway cities in Massachusetts (MA) to integrate voter engagement with grassroots organizing in service of a shared agenda for economic and racial justice. MVT provides coaching, training, and guidance on data-driven field strategies to over 25 base-building organizations in communities of color in Boston and in gateway cities in Massachusetts.

"The vast majority of our field programs take place in COVID-19 hot spots in Massachusetts, so we have worked hard to integrate virtual voter engagement not only into base-building and advocacy, but also now into mutual aid, service provision, and more. At the beginning of the pandemic, we completely reworked our plans for outreach for a complete count in the 2020 Census. Many organizations that typically run field programs had to prioritize service provision for unemployed workers and renters facing evictions over census outreach. We supported our partner organizations transition from in-person field programs to digital and phone-based outreach for the 2020 Census. MVT put together and translated a memo to all MassCounts partners about how to shift in-person outreach to phone and digital outreach. To date, MVT and our partner organizations have made 201,517 calls to residents of low-response census tracts and sent 40,085 texts since March. We began running phone banks 3-4 times per week for newer and lower capacity partner organizations to alleviate pressure on these organizations to run their own trainings and administer their own phone banks. We opened up these phone banks to individual volunteers who were sick of consuming news and were ready take action. This is the first time that MVT has run its own program for volunteers, and we've now worked with over 600 individual volunteers. Our demands have changed substantially in the face of the pandemic and the racial justice uprisings. We have advocated for and won a safe elections law, an eviction moratorium that has been extended to October 18, and the translation of the Unemployment Insurance website. MVT is still advocating for Emergency Paid Sick Time and progressive taxes. Our shifting demands have highlighted the importance of long-term issue-based coalitions.

We increasingly have tied our housing justice advocacy and organizing with our work to expand civic access for voters of color and working-class voters. We have led an aggressive voter outreach field program to ensure that voters know how to vote safely this fall and have worked with many nonprofit housing developers and tenant organizations to distribute information about voting by mail. The expiration of the eviction moratorium on October 18 - and the cuts to USPS - could threaten the right to vote of 315,000 households that owe back rent as of August 2020.

We are pushing the Raise Up Massachusetts (statewide community/labor electoral and legislative table) to include Black voices in decision-making on strategy for the progressive revenue “Invest in Our Communities” campaign. This has been a coalition with white leadership for nearly ten years. We are working with Black-led organizations to host popular education workshops to understand the perspectives of Black residents in Massachusetts and center these voices in the development of strategy and messaging for the campaign. Finally, MVT is supporting the work of our partner organizations on translocal campaigns to defund the police in Boston, Brockton, Worcester, and Springfield. We are in conversation with several partner organizations about an integrated voter engagement field plan for these campaigns.”

### [Matahari Women Workers' Center](#)

\$20,000

#### General Support

Boston, MA

Matahari is a membership-based, community organization working to end gender violence and exploitation through grassroots organizing. It has grown into the largest non-union community organization representing women workers in Massachusetts. They organize and develop the leadership of immigrant women and women of color employed in low-wage industries, particularly domestic work. 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 the understanding that healing themselves and their collective body essential to sustaining themselves and transforming the movement. General support funding was provided as Matahari organizes to raise the standard of working and living conditions for women workers through an intersectional approach that encourages members to come forward with all of their identities: women, workers, immigrants, parents, people of color, etc. Their campaign to win back wages owed to low-wage women and immigrant workers, and ultimately end the endemic practice of wage theft in low wage sectors, builds off their broader immigrant justice and domestic worker organizing.

### [Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty](#)

\$20,000

#### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Kansas City, MO

Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (MADP) is a statewide organization working to repeal the death penalty by educating and informing citizens and decision-makers about the systemic costs and consequences of capital punishment in Missouri. As a grassroots, constituent-led movement, they use community organizing and base building strategies to accomplish their goals. MADP’s work is intersectional. In order to abolish state sanctioned murder they align strategies and uplift the advocacy efforts of those most impacted by unjust systems. The American 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. The goals of MADP have not wavered during COVID-19 but their strategy and the way they work has.

“The pandemic has served to amplify the importance of our work, especially our most recent clemency campaign for Walter “Arkie” Barton. On May 19th Missouri became the first and only state to move forward with an execution during the COVID-19 pandemic. Barton’s execution received national and international attention and despite the dangers of traveling during the pandemic MADP had no choice but to proceed with our clemency campaign. A week before the execution MADP staff traveled to the capital to turn in petitions with over 5,000 signatures in collaboration with the NAACP and the Missouri Catholic Conference. On the eve of the execution MADP staff traveled to Bonne Terre where the execution took place. We hosted an online virtual vigil in collaboration with national abolitionist organization Death Penalty Action. This was the first time an abolition group used an online platform to host a vigil. Because it was virtual we were able to host speakers from around the world and bring attention to the injustices of the death penalty and the issues specific to Missouri, like judges overriding dead lock juries to impose death sentences. Over 94,000 people have viewed the vigil and we have a plan to keep new constituents engaged through calls to action around the resumption of the federal death penalty and other abolition work in Missouri.

The biggest impact to our work has been moving meetings and events to a virtual platform. MADP purchased Zoom webinars and hosted our 2020 Annual Meeting online. We had over 50 attendees from



across Missouri at our panel discussion “Do No Harm.” By hosting online we brought in speakers from across the state to talk about medical ethics and the death penalty. In addition to greater attendance at our events we have been able to collaborate with other organizations to bring focus to the need to abolish. In April we co-hosted a virtual event with Amnesty International titled: “The Death Penalty and the Closure Myth.” Our goal to uplift unique voices that are directly impacted by the system remains the same, but the method has changed and we are seeing higher attendance than before since moving to a virtual platform.

The impact of the pandemic has highlighted the importance of our racial justice work. MADP coordinates the Community Remembrance Project of Missouri (CRP-MO). We are partner with the Equal Justice Initiative to collect soil and erect historic markers for 60 lynching victims in Missouri. This is one way to confront generations of silence about the truths of our history regarding the throughline of slavery and policing, lynching and the application of the modern day death penalty. In order to fight capital punishment we work intersectionally with Black leaders and coalitions fighting for racial justice. We worked with the St. Louis Prosecutor Accountability Coalition to push for a mass release of people who are incarcerated pretrial and for low level offenses. This took precedence over other work intended to focus on death penalty policy and the upcoming DA elections.

Renewal funds from Ben and Jerry’s would assure that we have staff devoted to working specifically on racial justice issues in coalitions that bring about systemic change. Funds would be used alongside a match from the 8th Amendment Project to hire a Racial Justice Organizer. Through our work with EJI’s Community Remembrance Project (CRP) this position will do outreach in 32 counties and develop coalitions to memorialize lynching victims through truth-telling, and work towards reconciliation by identifying the present day manifestations of racial terror in their communities through public education and advocacy.”

**Movement for Justice in El Barrio (Movimiento por Justicia del Barrio)** \$25,000

**COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

New York, NY

Movement for Justice in El Barrio (Movimiento) is a multi-issue, majority-women, immigrant-led, grassroots organization founded to fight against the trend towards gentrification in East Harlem that is displacing low-income families from their homes. Members are committed to self-determination, participatory democracy, and collective decision-making, practiced at regularly-held leadership meetings where they participate in skills-building workshops and deepen their political analysis through workshops on the root causes of injustice and other locally-based social justice movements around the world. The scope of their work has expanded to address immigrant justice, in addition to housing justice, in response to the shifting political climate and rise in violations of immigrant rights in their community. “The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many shifts in the way we organize, our priorities, and our current campaign strategies and goals. We developed and implemented “Movimiento’s COVID-19 Program for Immigrants” in late March to assist and aid in the immediate needs of sick households. Activities around our immigrant justice, housing justice, gender justice and COVID-19 campaigns have been altered and moved to remote settings. However, our goals and demands across all the campaigns have stayed the same. We have added campaigns and demands in response to injustices including a new campaign to fight for the immediate freedom of immigrants who are jailed and at risk of COVID-19 in connection to the national #FreeThemAll campaign and also organizing for the divestment of ICE and CBP.”

**Music and Culture Coalition of New Orleans** \$20,000

**COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

New Orleans, LA

The Music and Culture Coalition of New Orleans (MaCCNO) is a broad-based coalition working to empower, assist, and organize New Orleans' cultural community, with a particular focus on advocating for ‘culture friendly’ laws and public policy and 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.

“The severity of the COVID-19 crisis in New Orleans has greatly influenced our work over the past several months, and the overwhelming level of need has led us to create direct assistance initiatives for

the first time. We developed our Low Barrier COVID-19 Cultural Relief grant program that simply relied on referrals. With a successful pilot process, we were able to raise, through philanthropic support and individual donations, enough funding to give out almost 300 \$250 grants, and were also invited to take part in the Family Independence Initiative Uptogether Fund and distribute an additional \$75,000 to New Orleans cultural community. To date, we have distributed roughly \$150,000. In addition to sending financial relief, we also spoke with every recipient to see what other needs they may have—assistance filling for Unemployment, need for nutritional assistance, etc—as well as directing them to any other funding opportunities that were currently available. We continue making these connections to existing support--and working with other local organizations to better coordinate relief funding to eliminate potential barriers or conflicts.

We are also a founding partner in CultureAid NOLA (along with the New Orleans Musicians Relief Fund/Musicians Clinic, 504 Health Net, the New Orleans Culinary and Hospitality Institute, and several other organizations) which provides free food distribution and information dissemination to populations most at risk of economic collapse. MaCCNO's role in CultureAid has largely been behind the scenes, providing institutional support and organizational development, building a Board of Directors, grant writing, outreach, and connecting musicians and cultural community members with assistance and potential performance opportunities. We are currently exploring ways to tie MaCCNO's existing programs, such as support for street performers and our mini-grant program, more directly with CultureAid in order to more efficiently provide services.

One ray of hope that has emerged from the pandemic is that cultural organizations are working together and organizing in response to the pandemic in ways we have never seen before, and MaCCNO has been at the center of this activity. As we collectively began our COVID era organizing, it quickly became apparent that there hadn't been any good information about the state of the cultural community (income levels, demographic data, neighborhood mobility/displacement, etc) collected in about a decade—through the various forms of relief work, we were presented with a unique opportunity to gather this data. It was decided that the organizations with the most intimate ties to the community would lead this effort, as it requires significant trust. This process continues to move forward, and we hope to publicly launch in the early fall. In addition to the census, this collaborative of organizations is beginning a push for the inclusion of musicians, artists, and traditional culture bearers to be placed into leadership roles of all Boards, agencies, task forces, or departments that make decisions about cultural activities, businesses, or practices.”

### **National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR)**

\$25,000

#### **COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

Oakland, CA

The National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR) is a center for human rights education and organizing dedicated to advancing and defending the rights of immigrants and refugees, regardless of immigration status. NNIRR works at the intersections of migration, labor, environmental, women's rights, racial justice, and international human rights. As a national organization for migrant rights, NNIRR lifts up the experiences, struggles and organizing efforts of local members with a particular emphasis on communities at the US-Mexico border, a region often invisibilized in the immigrant rights movement and national advocacy reform efforts. NNIRR serves as a hub for shared resources and popular education tools for community organizing and capacity building, policy development, and advocacy.

Prior to the pandemic, NNIRR was advancing two simultaneous organizing efforts: “We Count” campaign for migrant-inclusive Census to be piloted with a coalition of grassroots partners in the Southeast, and a 5-state, border-wide organizing campaign to weave solidarity and organizing for human rights on the US-Mexico borderlands. Those efforts quickly transformed into a community emergency response to support migrant families experiencing heightened levels of distress and vulnerabilities resulting from the interaction between enforcement and COVID-19.

COVID-19 escalated the humanitarian crisis in border communities to a whole new level. In addition to supporting humanitarian relief efforts on the ground, NNIRR's new co-director in El Paso identified and coordinated food deliveries from local farms to farmworker families segregated by immigration checkpoints and separated from nearest hospitals, clinics, and food pantries. Recognizing the need for regional response collaboration, NNIRR quickly anchored a multilingual collaborative that brought together over fifty human rights and humanitarian groups to propose measures to protect the health and

safety of migrants and refugees on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. The process led to guidelines for border city mayors and governors to save lives, remove barriers to healthcare access, improve coordination with local community organizations, and mobilize resources to respond to the public health crisis. Recommendations included concrete prevention and mitigation efforts for protecting migrants under heightened levels of vulnerabilities; releasing people in detention centers, rehousing people in overcrowded shelters and migrant encampments, and labor protections for migrant workers acknowledged as “essential” but treated as disposable.

Partners included directors of shelters, legal advocates, women’s organizations, immigrant rights and humanitarian groups and child advocates for broad analysis and representation. Our local/regional approach gained the attention and support of the Mayors’ Migration Council and offered an opportunity to further explore local city and community partnerships in response to federal policy gaps. The powerful collaborative and rapid response opened an opportunity and a call for effective border-wide coordination and organizing towards a holistic human rights agenda.

Responding to needs that emerged from our early advocacy on COVID-19 at the border, NNIRR is conducting a Mapping for Human Rights at the Border and a Human Rights Spotlight Report, to 1) identify and map local groups addressing the multiple humanitarian and human rights crises (e.g. organizations providing services and supports for migrants in high-traffic corridors); 2) increase border-wide and transborder coordination, and; 3) develop shared analysis regarding the protection of human and community rights for communities in the border region.

Further, the Spotlight Report goals and outcomes seek to: 1) understand the magnitude of human rights abuses resulting from immigration enforcement, 2) uplift grassroots organizing, voices, and testimonies to raise awareness about the multiple impacts of immigration enforcement; 3) develop community-based human rights standards to protect people and livelihoods on the border and hold national and international hearings spotlighting border voices and demands. An urban/rural angle will identify impacts and scale of anti-immigrant policies and an intersectional approach to understand how indigenous nations, migrants and border families are impacted by border enforcement. NNIRR will pay particular attention to the intersections of migration, climate, food, labor justice, and COVID-19. We will reference existing human rights reports, as well as testimonies and videos to articulate urgent concerns and policy recommendations. Following the report, collaborative and rigorous advocacy among partners will aim to impact regional, national, and international human rights and border policy, and will take advantage of NNIRR’s prior advocacy work at the UN with the Global Compact on Migration, to conduct hearings with key international agencies.

### [New England United for Justice](#)

\$20,000

#### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Boston, MA

New England United 4 Justice (NEU4J) is a grassroots community based organization that builds power in low income communities of color to enhance the leadership of families wanting to promote social, economic and racial justice through organizing, leadership development, strategic coalition building, and issue campaigns. NEU4J has an active membership of 700 residents, an Organizing School and Civic Team Field Program which conduct trainings for grassroots leaders two to three times per year, and is a key player in local and statewide organizing campaigns that advance voter rights, development without displacement, and worker justice.

“NEU4J has responded to the pandemic by developing a Wellness to Organizing strategy, which strengthens their leaders’ capacity in mutual aid while also building residents’ power. Core activities include: Direct COVID-19 Rapid Response; online outreach, phone banking and expanded social media efforts; making phones, desktops, laptops and tablets available to staff and core leaders for remote work; expanded targeted outreach to 20,000 residents; trained member leaders in Video Conferencing; conducted a wellness survey to assess the immediate needs of residents; assisting residents in applying for government assistance and benefits; completing 2020 Census outreach; continued coalition building with Right to the City Boston - Homes 4 All, Community Labor United and the Jobs Action Network to meet immediate needs while shifting and strengthening long term strategies. This has included organizing resident calls focused on worker and housing and development issues to build a People’s Response to COVID-19 and neighborhood based solutions.”

## **New York State Labor-Religion Coalition**

\$14,000

### **COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

Latham, NY

The Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State unites faith, labor and community in a statewide movement for social, racial, and economic justice, grounded in moral and democratic values. Their current work is focused on coordinating the New York State Poor People's Campaign (NYS PPC), part of a national campaign to unite poor people, moral leaders, and activists in a movement to end poverty, systemic racism, militarism and environmental devastation. The NYS PPC has nine regional committees, almost 100 active volunteers, and an email list of over 15,000. LRCNYS' work includes grassroots base-building, direct action, grassroots lobbying, political education, cultural organizing, and leadership development.

"Anticipating that social distancing will remain necessary for several months, we are focusing our work in the near term on phone outreach, leadership development, and online political education and advocacy. The NYS PPC is making phone calls to our entire contact list. These calls have several purposes. First, we are checking on people's well-being and offering connections to mutual aid networks throughout the state, as well as to the NYS PPC Care Team, which is hosting regular "Caring Circles" for people to gather via phone/video-conference for connection and support. We are also inviting people to take online action around federal and state demands to provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations and permanently fix structural inequalities that are exacerbating the crisis. These conversations will also help us identify needs in our communities that will inform our demands and action over the coming months. In mid-April, the NYS PPC launched the Harriet Tubman Leadership Institute. Because the Harriet Tubman Fellows are based in different parts of the state, political education and mentoring was already planned to be held virtually, but we are working with the Fellows to adapt their organizing to respond to the impacts of the pandemic.

In 2020 the NYS PPC decided to prioritize the interconnected issues of healthcare and housing in our statewide organizing. We held a virtual town hall in April where grassroots organizations from across the state spoke to the impact of New York's austerity budget and COVID-19. We developed a survey tool for canvassing and are now moving the survey online and incorporating it into our phone outreach. We are working to develop other action plans including online or socially distant in-person actions to pressure officials.

The NYS PPC is also beginning to amplify stories of "projects of survival", through short videos and articles that highlight how communities are coming together to meet each other's immediate needs while also demanding everyone's needs be met.

The NYS PPC was planning to bring a delegation of more than 2,000 to the national Mass Poor People's Assembly and Moral March on Washington on June 20. The event will now be a mass digital gathering. A key challenge is assessing and trying to address any internet and technology access issues. The plans that emerge from the People's Assembly - as well as the fallout from COVID-19 - will shape the direction of our work for the following 6 months."

## **Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson Education Fund**

\$10,000

### **COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

Poughkeepsie, NY

Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson is a multi-issue, member-led, bilingual (Spanish-English) base-building organization of working-class Latinx and Black people in the Hudson Valley of New York. Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson fights for healthcare for all, housing for all, immigration justice, and climate justice; and builds civic power rooted in people of color, working people, and young people.

"We have had to greatly change the way we work due to COVID-19. Key to our work was door-to-door canvassing and other forms of in-person outreach, in-person mobilizations, and in-person meetings. Now phone calls, texts, social media, email, and zoom have become the tactics we're forced to exclusively use. We've had to adapt our campaign goals and programs to the urgent needs of our communities and our current reality of remote work. In terms of statewide policy, we're joining our statewide partners to advance our goals through much-further-reaching transformative legislation in the context of COVID-19 – pushing for single-payer healthcare (as we were before); housing for all homeless people, extending the ban on evictions, and canceling rent; ending ICE enforcement actions and releasing detained migrants; creating a multi-billion dollar fund for excluded workers, and more. We're holding car-safe direct actions,

call-in days, social media actions, and virtual press conferences. In terms of local policy, we're joining with local partners to demand our cities and counties do what they can to turn these policies into reality as well. We're asking local governments to directly institute policies they have control over (i.e. banning evictions) and asking them to pressure the state over policies that local governments cannot institute (i.e. single-payer health care). We've replaced our canvassing program with a distributed phone-banking system, so our members and volunteers can make calls from their homes. We've adapted our summer organizing internship for high school and college students, which will now take place remotely. We are also planning to still make tens-of-thousands of get-out-the-vote calls and texts."

### **North Bay Jobs with Justice**

\$18,000

#### **General Support**

Santa Rosa, CA

North Bay Jobs with Justice 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, political and social justice for all. This year, NBJwJ will continue their Raise the Wage campaign to finish passing \$15 minimum wage ordinances in the cities of Sebastopol and Cotati, as well as a countywide ordinance for the County of Sonoma, which would mostly impact farmworkers.

In response to the pandemic, NBJwJ created Sonoma County United in Crisis in alliance with seven key partner organizations to build a three-part advocacy agenda based on input from low-wage workers, tenants, and immigrant rights committees. Their platform builds a pathway for an economic recovery that regional electeds can pass immediately to provide rent and mortgage assistance; recall rights for laid-off workers; shelter and food for the unhoused; paid sick leave and an end to the Sheriff working with ICE.

### **Orleans Parish Prison Reform Coalition (OPPRC)**

\$25,000

#### **COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

New Orleans, LA

The Orleans Parish Prison Reform Coalition (OPPRC) is a diverse, grassroots coalition of individuals and organizations from across New Orleans who have come together to shrink the size of the jail and improve the conditions of confinement for those held in detention in Orleans Parish. Founded in 2004, OPPRC members include community activists, lawyers, service providers, organizers, formerly incarcerated people, and their family members. Orleans Parish Prison Reform Coalition uses education and organizing to decrease incarceration, increase oversight, and improve the conditions in Orleans Parish Prison, emphasizing a community-centered approach to justice, in order to foster a whole and liberated New Orleans.

"OPPRC has been the most vocal and representative voice for incarcerated people during the Covid-19 crisis, Hurricane Katrina, and all the challenging years in between. OPPRC was born in the fire and, for better or worse, has always operated in similar conditions. Even in the best of times, conditions at the Orleans Parish Prison are not safe for people. During COVID-19, people incarcerated at the jail - many of whom are there for nonviolent offenses and many with their cases not yet adjudicated - live in close proximity to one another without access to even the most basic health care.

OPPRC is prepared to address the pandemic and has already made an impact. OPPRC led efforts to demand actors including Mayor LaToya Cantrell, the New Orleans City Council, the New Orleans Police Department, the Louisiana State Legislature, and the Orleans Parish Sheriff's office lower arrests, release people from the jail, and raise money to support people currently incarcerated and their families. Due to our advocacy work, we have succeeded in making Orleans Parish one of the top 5 districts in the country for prison population reduction during COVID-19. OPPRC also led the recently successful effort to stop needless NOPD checkpoints throughout the city. While the pandemic necessitated a change in some of the tactics of how OPPRC advocates, the overall strategies of engaging the community and leveraging that power to influence stakeholders remain.

COVID-19 presents an opportunity to lower the incarceration rate and OPPRC will be ready to lead the advocacy to ensure it does not rise after the pandemic passes."

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

\$15,000

#### **Expansion of Group Violence Intervention**

Miami Shores, FL

People Acting for Community Together (PACT) is a county-wide coalition of 40 churches, synagogues, masjids, and universities that come together to achieve social change by holding public officials accountable for fair policies and practices. PACT unites and trains leaders from diverse congregations to build a powerful community voice. PACT unites, organizes and trains leaders from diverse congregations and schools to build a powerful community voice to achieve systemic change, and promote fairness, justice and democracy in Miami-Dade County. Since 2017, PACT has focused their organizing efforts on bringing a proven gun violence intervention strategy to Miami-Dade. As a result of their research and public pressure, local officials and police chiefs chose a strategy called "Group Violence Intervention" (GVI) and launched it in May 2019 at a pilot site. Funding was provided to help PACT ensure that the strategy is implemented with fidelity and expanded to other high-risk neighborhoods, requiring the cooperation of two other municipalities. To accomplish this, PACT will train 100 leaders to build up their base in these locations and push for expansion.

### **The People's Alliance for Transportation, Housing, and Employment**

\$20,000

#### **General Support**

Nashville, TN

PATHE is a coalition of low-income workers, renters, bus riders, and bus drivers organizing to ensure equitable development in Nashville. In August 2019, PATHE launched the Movement for 31,000 Affordable Homes, a decentralized broad campaign to win the largest funding for affordable housing in the South. They will build off PATHE's 2017-2019 success in moving public opinion to focus on institutional inequality and leverage their strengths as an organization composed of and led by directly-impacted people, whose first-hand knowledge informs their goals/strategy. They will also leverage their connections to city-wide institutions, whose memberships can be mobilized to carry out this multi-year campaign for affordable homes.

### **Pilsen Alliance**

\$9,000

#### **Housing Justice and Equity Campaign 2020-2021**

Chicago, IL

Pilsen Alliance is a multi-issue social justice organization committed to creating opportunities for all residents of Pilsen and neighboring low-income communities in Chicago's Lower West Side. PA works for quality public education, affordable housing, government accountability and healthy communities by using innovative community education tools and programs, direct action organizing campaigns and advocacy initiatives that reflect the popular education philosophy of building social consciousness for personal and social collective transformation. Pilsen Alliance is developing a comprehensive housing justice campaign that aims to hold developers and local leaders, including the Office of the Mayor and Governor, accountable.

PA are continuing all of their campaigns virtually via webinars, Zoom calls and on-line trainings. Traditionally they use all of the direct action organizing tools needed to wage a sustainable campaign including but not limited to: political education, youth organizing and direct action (YODA); conducting accountability sessions with local and citywide officials; and strategic partnership building with designated allies and supporters at the local, city and national arenas. This year, their summer Youth Organizing Institute, a paid opportunity for 14-19 year olds, will be held virtually. Devices will be provided for any youth that needs one."

### **Progressive Maryland Education Fund**

\$20,000

#### **COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

Largo, MD

Progressive Maryland is a statewide nonprofit advocacy organization promoting social, economic, and racial justice with over 120,000 individual members, supporters, and organizational affiliates across Maryland. Using grassroots organizing, public education, and legislative advocacy, Progressive Maryland works together with hundreds of community, religious, labor and other grassroots allies at all

levels, providing statewide leadership and coordination in a range of national, state, and regional campaigns.

“From March to June of this year, we shifted our work to focus largely on organizing in response to the COVID-19 crisis. We collaborated with grassroots allies and funding partners on mutual aid work to help communities meet their vital needs. We also gathered feedback from everyday Marylanders across the state on what the needs of their communities were at that time, collaborated on possible solutions, and worked with local and state policymakers to implement them.

In March, we launched a clearinghouse website called [marylandersunited.org](http://marylandersunited.org), offering ways for folks to volunteer, information from the Maryland Department of Health, policy proposals to help address the crisis, and updates on the state’s shifting plans around both the primary and general elections. Through this new website, we’re activating our base and plugging members of the public who are looking for ways to volunteer during this crisis into our work, and we’re asking people both how they can help others and how they need help. In addition, our members have been identifying opportunities for mutual aid work and we paired it with community power building by developing newly-engaged volunteers into community organizers and teaching them to fight for long-term policy change. In June, our COVID-19 work evolved to focus more on long-term systems change to eliminate systemic racism and became a focus in our ongoing justice, healthcare, and environmental reform campaigns. Early on, we created lists of what different communities needed across the state and sent those lists to county executives and county councils as well as state and federal representatives. In Anne Arundel County, for example, we were able to bring to the County Executive’s attention concerns in the Latinx community about seeking testing or treatment for COVID-19 because folks are afraid of being asked about their immigration status. This resulted in their making pivots in how they conduct outreach in the Latinx community. We have changed the way we organize, going entirely virtual. However, we’ve found that this has actually significantly increased participation in our events, membership on our statewide issue task forces, and our members stepping up into positions of leadership within Progressive Maryland. In addition to virtual volunteer recruitment via email, phone, text, and our website, we’ve been especially focused on strategically and methodically activating our existing network of leaders and members across the state in new ways and encouraging them to step into new roles, which they’ve been eager to do in this moment.”

### **Put People First! PA**

\$25,000

#### **COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

York, PA

Put People First! PA is a statewide grassroots organization composed of and led by poor and dispossessed working-class people who organize around the idea that basic needs are human rights. PPF!PA is multi-racial, urban, rural and suburban with members in 17 counties, nine Healthcare Rights Committees across the state and seven Statewide Teams.

“From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Put People First! PA shifted all of our organizing online. All meetings of the different organizational bodies are now held on Zoom. Because we are a statewide organization, we already had a facility with online meetings and are taking advantage of the fact that all local and regional meetings are now online to encourage people from across the state to sit in on meetings that used to be in person. This is helping Healthcare Rights Committee co-coordinators, all of whom are volunteers relatively new to organizing and coordination to learn directly from each other in real time. We had to address the technological challenges faced by many of our leaders we have provided smartphones, tablets, laptops, hot spots, or internet service to anyone who needed it to continue or begin coordinating a Team or Healthcare Rights Committee. This will continue to be a need moving forward as new people move into leadership roles during this period.

The Healthcare Is a Human Right (HCHR) Campaign, which informs our day to day work, is our long-term campaign to achieve quality, comprehensive, and free-at-the-point-of-service healthcare for all residents of Pennsylvania. In addition, at the onset of the pandemic we rapidly developed a vision for state level pandemic response to protect our health, safety and financial security. We have incorporated the rest of our platform into this response, and the full demands can be found here:

[www.putpeoplefirstpa.org/coronavirus](http://www.putpeoplefirstpa.org/coronavirus)

We have quickly adapted to an online outreach and organizing program, complete with tactics such as virtual demand deliveries and digital lobby days. We have also done regional and statewide public actions - in cars and on the streets - with safety protocols led by healthcare workers within our members.

We are ramping up our regular online offerings of trainings and social gatherings - such as social media and online organizing trainings, video potlucks and movie viewings, monthly educational series, and more.

We are preparing for an organization-wide phone bank to reconnect with all 2000+ contacts for whom we have phone numbers currently in our database.

In some areas we have created COVID-19 response groups that are focused on sharing information about how people are experiencing their local healthcare systems, the conditions of healthcare and other frontline workers, sharing and meeting material needs, and political analysis that can help organize and unite the working class through the crisis. In other situations, our members have distributed no-contact flyers door-to-door in their neighborhoods to inform their neighbors of our work and the ways in which we can assist people who have needs that may not otherwise be fulfilled at the current time.

We have also launched a community care fund for our leaders' material needs during the crisis, and have reached 75% of our 10k goal. Fundraising and basebuilding activities go hand in hand and as we move any fundraising efforts to online spaces this has had an effect on not only our fundraising but also our base-building efforts as well”.

### **Raleigh Police Accountability Community Taskforce**

\$20,000

#### **COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

Raleigh, NC

Raleigh PACT is a coalition of community-based groups, community leaders, and non-profit organizations committed to justice in Raleigh policing. They use community-based education, electoral organizing, and legislative advocacy to build the community’s power to create accountability to community, equity, and transparency in Raleigh policing. their goal is to create a Community Oversight Board that has the power to investigate, subpoena, and discipline police officers when there is injustice. “The COVID-19 pandemic has prevented us from holding a community action in response to a shooting by the Raleigh Police last month. We are unable to canvass neighborhoods that are directly impacted by overpolicing and are instead turning to social media to raise awareness of our work. We are creating a social media campaign to draw attention to police injustice and the need for a community oversight board. This work is especially relevant as local police are given an opening for enforcement action of stay-at-home orders that are disproportionately leveraged against black and brown communities. Our work has led to six community dialogues held by the City of Raleigh to discuss three community oversight board proposals, which our members attended. We are working to add pictures, video, and new information to our social media platforms and have moved our meetings to Zoom instead of meeting in person.

There are opportunities now for our group to collaborate with other organizations around housing and releasing those with non-violence charges early from prison. We aim to continue to hold the city accountable for funding that is earmarked for our community’s housing needs.”

### **Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP) Campaign**

\$20,000

#### **COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

New York, NY

Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP) is a grassroots community organization founded and led by currently and formerly incarcerated people to end mass incarceration and promote racial justice through the release of older and aging people, and those serving long or life sentences, from prison in New York State. By advocating and organizing for transformative changes to the policies, practices, and personnel associated with the New York State Parole Board, RAPP works to ensure that everyone, older people and otherwise, has a fair and meaningful chance for parole release. RAPP’s work challenges the fundamental pillar of mass incarceration: permanent punishment, rooted in racism and the criminalization and control of communities of color.

“When the pandemic struck, we initiated campaigns directed at 1) specific release of elders because of their vulnerability to COVID-19 (gubernatorial clemency, expansion of parole releases and medical parole/compassionate release, and pressure on the legislature to move bills that would decarcerate); and 2) educating the public to the idea that mass incarceration in general, and incarceration of elders in particular, constitutes a public health crisis. At the onset of the pandemic we began organizing public health experts, social workers, legislators, members of the US Congress, legal organizations, and others



to write letters to the governor urging release of vulnerable people. We contacted mass media organs and exposed the dire situation inside the prisons and the failure of elected officials to respond to it. We created a specific website, CuomoLetThemGo.com, to highlight the need for gubernatorial action. We have expanded our national work to connect with advocates in other states pushing for decarceration as a response to COVID-19. Our events, rallies, and press conferences moving online has resulted in a significant increase in the audiences we reach. We have held coordinated online and in-person rallies simultaneously at various places in the state, hosted briefings for state legislators, reached advocates in states around the country, and most significantly, build our NY Statewide participation and membership. The pandemic encouraged donors to contribute unsolicited funds, and we have been able to hire three new regional organizers to expand our capacity and allow us to mount an effective statewide campaign to pass our two legislative initiatives, Elder Parole and Fair and Timely Parole, and pressure the governor for clemencies.

During all of this, we have mourned the passing of numerous incarcerated people who were unable to protect themselves against COVID-19. We have transformed these tragedies into powerful messages to the public and elected officials on the need to decarcerate the state prisons. But our hearts have ached, and our collective online meetings have had to serve as memorials and opportunities to share our grief and comfort one another.”

## **Right 2 Survive**

\$18,000

### **COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

Portland, OR

Right 2 Survive is a Grassroots, direct action organization comprised of houseless, formerly houseless, their allies and supporters who teach and defend the civil, constitutional, and human rights of those experiencing houselessness. Right 2 Survive (R2S) works to bridge the gap between housed and unhoused people by clearing up misconceptions and stigmas associated with houselessness and empower houseless people to stand up for themselves when their rights are violated.

“R2S has been impacted by Covid-19 in the way we organize and outreach to our houseless members and community. Biweekly meetings and programs are now relying heavily on ZOOM, conference calls and emails to communicate. Social distancing is being practiced within our programs and during direct outreach to unhoused campers. Most of us who can work from home have had some restructuring. Our outreach within the unhoused community at large has really stepped up to address and adapt to the changing needs of our community. We are creating and utilizing community resources to bring informative and educational materials, masks, food, hygiene items, clothing and water to unhoused people daily. Refilling the hand wash stations we have built and placed around camps throughout the Portland area with water, soap, sanitizer and paper towels is one way we are addressing hygiene issues. Stipends are being paid to trainers, training volunteers and members on interactions (human, animal) and safety protocols, de-escalation, listening skills, educational materials, supplies distribution and staying or becoming involved in R2S programs.

Since March, R2S has created video shorts on the pandemic, supporting houseless neighbors, resources and a wide range of other topics. Stop The Sweeps (STS) has increased our pressure on local governments to accept our coalition list of demands to end sweeps, provide hotels, make bathrooms and showers accessible for houseless people and not criminalize folks for sheltering in place when a tent is their shelter. R2S and partners created and distributed factsheets and tips about the virus, staying healthy long term and ways neighbors can volunteer support to unhoused neighbors near them.

As a lead organization for the STS Coalition, we actively conducted a survey with a team from PSU Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative -Temporary Shelter/Housing for People Experiencing Homelessness. The survey was developed in collaboration and with feedback from people with lived experience of homelessness, advocates, service providers, and researchers. Members of Stop the Sweeps PDX, and other organizations (e.g., Beacon PDX, Rahab's, Sisters of the Road) administered surveys to people they came in regular contact with. We emphatically believe that any temporary housing, hotels, sheltering options provided should be part of a longer-term strategy to provide housing and stability to all. We plan to use this information in advocacy to support the needs of people experiencing homelessness during and after the pandemic. R2S has sent the research findings to City and County Officials, as a tool in requesting that they open up to hotels, move people inside and provide resources needed to transition people into permanent housing.

We realize for the foreseeable future, our work is educating the houseless about staying safe and surviving the pandemic, increase pressure to local governments to Ending SWEEPS & decriminalization of unhoused, advocate for hotels and housing.

Keeping our staff, members and countless volunteers equipped to be the bridges for connecting a thriving community together and being the catalyst for social justice remains paramount to our organizing.”

### Right Care Alliance

\$14,000

#### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Brookline, MA

The Right Care Alliance (RCA) is a grassroots coalition of clinicians, patients, and community members organizing to make health care institutions accountable to their communities and put patients, not profits, at the heart of health care. The current COVID-19 pandemic has impacted both the RCA’s programs and campaign goals. Prior to COVID-19, the RCA’s main focus was beginning a campaign to fight against surprise medical bills. While this issue remains critical to address, COVID-19 has made other health care concerns more urgent. Furthermore, prior to COVID-19, a significant part of programming relied on in-person meetings, activities and protests, which can no longer take place.

“We have started a new program called “COVID Community Conversations.” These are free, virtual meetings where we provide up-to-date, accurate information about the pandemic.

We also now have regular “Coffee Hours,” which are open meetings where people can virtually come together to connect with others who share similar views and values about health care and justice.

We discuss specific topics, such as elder and long-term care, or the hidden costs of COVID-19 testing, and share our common concerns. We are expanding and making virtual our online “Study Groups” which are monthly meetings to expand participants’ knowledge base and fluency in understanding our complex health care system and how to advocate for change. Members take turns facilitating a conversation about a topic in health care. Everyone reads a few articles beforehand, providing a similar reference base. Finally, this month (May 2020) we are launching “Grief Vigils,” video and phone calls that create space for us to mourn together. All of these programs not only help people feel connected during a time of isolation, but also allow us to virtually continue our community building and leadership training efforts. The RCA believes this current crisis is a moment to drive extensive reform in our health care system. This pandemic has highlighted our dedicated and brave clinicians, but it has prominently exposed the deep fissures and inequities in American health care. Now is an opportunity to address the systemic problems with how Americans are covered, how health care is delivered, and how providers (particularly hospitals) are paid. In the coming months, the RCA will build on our education and community events to identify several future campaigns to push for widespread health equity improvement, and realize a health care system that is safe, affordable, and accountable.”

### RISE St. James

\$20,000

#### General Support

St. James, LA

RISE St. James is a volunteer-led, faith-based organization focusing on protection of the air, water, and environment of St. James Parish (Louisiana) from petrochemical expansion. They are a small but mighty group of neighbors who live directly in the shadow of current petrochemical facilities; their homes are in the footprint of where new facilities are being proposed. Together the members of RISE St. James are protecting the health and homes of their families and neighbors. They educate residents around the harmful impacts of living in one of the most industrialized areas in the country and organize to hold their elected officials accountable. General support funding was provided to develop their internal capacity to build local awareness around the environmental, economic and health hazards brought by - and to organize resistance against - the petrochemical expansion in St. James parish. In September 2019, they requested a moratorium on all petrochemical expansion and construction in the parish (county) and the state. Central to achieving this goal is organizing.

## Rockaway Youth Task Force

\$25,000

### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Far Rockaway, NY

The Rockaway Youth Task Force is a member-led organization of youth of color within the Rockaway peninsula that builds power to secure social, economic and racial justice for all. RYTF develops politically conscious leaders who are invested in improving themselves and their communities through youth-led campaigns, leadership development, movement building, and cultural expression through arts and media.

“While RYTF’s organizing goals remain the same, the organization’s ability to organize has been severely hampered. RYTF is facing severely decreased capacity to organize now that social distancing measures have been implemented, preventing our organizers from meeting in person or being present in the community. Additionally, as the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected Black and Brown communities, our organizers have been subjected to heightened levels of preexisting physical, economic, and social insecurity. To address this new environment, RYTF has shifted to mobilizing and organizing virtually. In spite of all of these challenges, RYTF remains steadfast in our mission. RYTF will continue to fight for the “Solutions, Not Suspensions” bill in the New York State Senate and Assembly and is addressing the immediate needs of the community by providing healthy and affordable food through our full acre Urban Farm and Farm Stand.

To meet the expanded demand for fresh food, RYTF’s urban farm must maximize the yield of its farm. RYTF plans to use volunteers and hire local young adults to do emergency food distribution throughout the neighborhood.”

## Soulardarity

\$17,000

### General Operating

Highland Park, MI

Soulardarity is a membership-based organization of Highland Parkers and surrounding communities building energy democracy through education, organizing, and community-owned clean energy. Highland Park is a low-income municipality entirely surrounded by the city of Detroit. Their 200 members, half Highland Park residents and most of the remainder Detroit residents, are mostly working class and black community members. Soulardarity advocates at city and state levels for regulation and policy change, and for local political leadership to support community goals. Soulardarity’s programs and campaigns include: Polar Bear Sustainable Energy - a consumer cooperative organized to provide holistic energy-related products and services to its members in support of a just transition to clean energy; Highland Park Campaign - a campaign to make Highland Park, MI a global model of sustainability and self-determination, organized around their Blueprint for Energy Democracy; Work for Me DTE - a campaign to achieve energy affordability, public health, and community-owned clean energy aimed at DTE, the MI Public Service Commission, and the legislature.

## South Baltimore Community Land Trust

\$20,000

### General Support

Baltimore, MD

South Baltimore Community Land Trust is a membership-based organization dedicated to growing a community-led, non-speculative housing sector in Baltimore. SBCLT serves as the non-profit umbrella organization consolidating organizing, development, and stewardship of neighborhood CLT projects. Their development approach works at the intersection of race, class, gender, work with dignity and environmental justice. General support funding was provided in support of SBCLT’s efforts to move the Community Land Trust movement from “start-up” to “growth” stage by uniting neighborhood CLTs, securing a major commitment for public investment in non-speculative housing, a zero waste transition from trash incineration, and work with dignity enforcement. They are pursuing public policies that facilitate community ownership and non-profit land acquisition in red-lined communities, and policies that put Baltimore on the path to supporting a large non-speculative housing sector, investing in living wage jobs, and more accountable city services.

## **Southeast Asian Community Alliance (SEACA)**

\$20,000

### **General Support**

Los Angeles, CA

SEACA provides leadership education, mentorship, and organizing trainings to support low-income youth to create change in their communities around issues of affordable housing, economic justice, and environmental justice in the Chinatown and Lincoln Heights neighborhoods of Los Angeles. Funding was provided to support their youth organizing programs. SEACA recruits high school students in 9th and 10th grade to learn about social justice issues directly impacting them and their communities and provide leadership training and mentorship for them to feel empowered as change makers. They are also provided with hands on experience helping to lead and implement organizing campaigns, including strategic campaign planning, action research, community mobilization, and policy advocacy.

## **Southern California Coalition for Occupational Safety & Health**

\$15,000

### **COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

Los Angeles, CA

The Southern California Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (SoCalCOSH) is a grassroots membership organization of workers, unions, community-based groups, workers' rights activists, and health and safety professionals that advocates for improved health and safety standards for low-wage workers, and aims to disrupt the root causes of workplace injuries, illnesses, and fatalities. The organization is founded on the principle that workplace injuries, illnesses, and deaths are preventable. They build grassroots power through coalition-building, direct action, and worker trainings and leadership development. SoCalCOSH builds alliances with organizations, communities, and workers to address the barriers immigrant, LGBTQ, women, and workers of color face in attaining dignified and healthy work. Too often, workers are forced to work insecure and dangerous jobs in silence; SoCalCOSH aims to break this cycle and create safe, secure, and healthy jobs.

“At the onset of the pandemic, it was clear the ways in which health and safety and workplace conditions and protections intersected. As COVID-19 became more widespread across California and in Los Angeles, we started getting calls from our worker center and union allies, requesting support for worker and organizer trainings, information about health and safety rights and protections in the workplace, navigating state labor agencies and local county departments of public health.

We saw the immense impact the current health crisis was about to have on workers in predominantly low-wage and already high-hazard industries in regions across California, and the great need to mobilize our network members and worker leaders to respond. Cal/OSHA's enforcement was weak to the point of suspending in-person inspections, and workers within our network and beyond were confused how to stay healthy and access justice.

Over the last four months, SoCalCOSH has led on COVID-19 response work including organizing a call with over 50 of our worker center and union allies with the Cal/OSHA Chief and California DIR Director. We coordinated a statewide call to state and local leaders to implement stronger protections for workers and measures to hold employers accountable. Using social media platforms, each day we uplifted workers who have been impacted by COVID-19 linked with a health and safety demand and the unifying hashtags, “MyHealthIsYourHealth” / “MiSaludEsTuSalid.” We are co-leading the statewide Protecting Workers Committee, culminating in a Demand Letter to the governor calling for worker involvement in COVID-19 response efforts, enforcement, and workplace protections. We have both assisted organizations and workers one-on-one to file Cal/OSHA Complaints in workplaces where employers continue to put workers at risk for exposure, and held training sessions for organizers and worker leaders to better understand how to navigate the complaint filing process.

We have continued to be involved in drafting Employer Return to Work Guidance to Cal/OSHA and State and County Health Departments. We are intentional in engaging our base to weigh in on this guidance, as too often these processes privilege employer voice and preferences over workers' health and wellbeing. We are engaging our network members in pushing for an expanded Aerosol Transmissible Disease (ATD) Standard to cover all industries. This pandemic has proven that industries, such as grocery, warehouse, transportation, among so many others, are essential and require the same protections as health care workers to keep workers healthy. We are in the early stages of creating this coalition; the petition for the emergency standard is expected to be heard by the Cal/OSHA Standards Board in the next few months.”

## Southern Maine Workers' Center

\$21,000

### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Portland, ME

The Southern Maine Workers' Center (SMWC) is a member-led organization that uses an innovative mix of community and workplace organizing to improve the lives, working conditions, and terms of employment for working class and poor people in Maine. SMWC organizes through four worker-led committees: 1) Work With Dignity leads campaigns to improve public policy for workers, and runs a hotline and legal clinic. 2) Health Care is a Human Right organizes people directly impacted people into a long-term campaign for universal health care, and shorter-term advocacy to protect and expand access health care. 3) Political Education creates popular education workshops that connect the issues to their root causes. 4) The developing Media committee crafts social and earned media strategies.

"COVID-19 has reshaped the way we are organizing almost overnight, and without a clear end in sight. Many of our members have lost their jobs and health care. Others are "essential workers," risking their health at low-paying jobs while being un- or under-insured.

Members of the HCHR committee researched and wrote a list of demands targeting Gov. Janet Mills' use of emergency powers, including: expanding insurance in order to cover all COVID-19 screening, testing, and treatment; enrolling essential workers in MaineCare; compelling businesses to protect workers' health; and ensuring that people with disabilities and underlying conditions are guaranteed equal access to care. The committee is also demanding our federal delegation support opening a special ACA enrollment period. These immediate demands are short-term responses: we believe that universal health care is the only adequate long-term solution to the current crisis. The committee is now developing an organizational sign-on letter, creating a petition, and discussing escalating actions.

Work With Dignity: In the past three weeks, calls to SMWC's Worker Support Hotline have more than quadrupled. We had to close our weekly walk-in legal clinic and figure out how to use our hotline to fill the gaps. We have been hustling to keep up with training our volunteers on quickly shifting state and federal unemployment and paid leave policies.

We've also been providing Know Your Rights trainings to staff and leaders from immigrant serving organizations. We are also working closely with a small group of grocery workers who are developing a set of cross-industry demands and organizing employees from four grocery chains.

Like many organizations, we have shifted our organization's activities to be online and remote. We are learning how to meet online. That has included making sure that our members without internet, computers, or smart phones are supported to learn how to use new tools and/or to get the technology they need to stay connected to our community. We are finding successful ways to bring new people into our work. As our response develops we will explore new ways to hold actions: we're currently inspired by car protests, banner drops, and projections that maintain social distancing while pushing against the status quo".

## Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation (SOUL)

\$15,000

### The Fight for Environmental Justice in Black Communities: Water for All

Chicago, IL

SOUL is a grassroots, multi-issue power organization that addresses community issues on Chicago's South Side and South Suburbs. SOUL works to assist low-income people of color in the to build power, then leverage that power to fight for their own interest and liberation. They partner with congregations, people of faith and local community groups to build leadership, impact public policy, engage in direction action, and hold public officials accountable to the interest of their communities. Chicago's Southland neighborhoods experience disproportionately high rates of crime, unemployment, failing schools and general infrastructure, lack of economic investment and development, incarceration, police brutality and overall poverty. Funding was provided in support of SOUL's efforts to further advance their racial and economic equity platform by creating opportunities for marginalized individuals to be engaged conversations around environmental justice -- specifically, access to clean and affordable water.

## **STOP Southside Together Organizing for Power**

\$20,000

### **General Support**

Chicago, IL

STOP is a multi-issue community organization that builds the power of residents on the Southside of Chicago to impact the forces and decisions that affect their lives. They fight for human rights to racial and economic justice through organizing, popular education, and leadership development amongst people most directly affected by issues like gentrification, displacement, incarceration and criminalization of youth of color and health cuts. STOP engages its constituents in community organizing, leadership development, popular education, action research, and alliance building to achieve their goals. General support funding was provided in support of STOP's three program areas: Housing - working with tenants in subsidized housing to preserve, improve and maintain their homes; Youth - working on police accountability, restorative justice, and community development; and Mental-health - working with mental-health patients and providers to erase the stigma of mental illness, and to preserve and improve city mental health services. In addition, STOP has developed a small restorative-justice program.

## **STOP Southside Together Organizing for Power**

\$25,000

### **COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

Chicago, IL

Southside Together Organizing for Power (STOP) is a multi-issue community organization based in the south side of Chicago working to advance economic and social human rights by organizing and developing leadership among people most affected by economic and racial oppression. STOP fights for human rights to racial and economic justice through organizing, popular education, and leadership development amongst people most directly affected by issues like gentrification, displacement, incarceration and criminalization of youth of color and health cuts.

"Due to the pandemic, we have both taken on new goals and programming, and taken on our pre-pandemic goals more urgently. We checked in with all of our members and delivered essentials like groceries and vouchers to some of them. We began new organizing as a governing member of the Chicago Housing Initiative, which stopped not only execution but filing of evictions, and which is organizing for the Chicago Housing Authority to immediately provide its over 1000 ready-but-vacant apartments to people most in need of housing: medically vulnerably and in congregate housing like shelters. We also organized in coalition to advance a broad set of demands about needs sharpened but not limited to the pandemic, from water and power to income security.

Meanwhile our ongoing organizing has only become more urgent. We have been campaigning for a Community Benefits Agreement around the Obama Center for four years. The pandemic only accelerated our community's housing and other CBA-related needs, and we raised this successfully through actions like a march led by our youth graduating from the high school across from the Obama Center site. We worked with our alderwoman to agree with the mayor on a CBA ordinance which was passed into law in September. This is an historic victory: the first neighborhood-specific affordable-housing intervention put forward by the City's housing department. Our police organizing has also become more urgent, as we helped establish and expand the #CopsOutCPS coalition, which successfully got this year's school police contract reduced from \$33 to \$13 million. The pandemic exacerbates the lack of investment in supportive and alternative approaches to safety like social workers and restorative justice, while police suck up roughly half of the city's budget. Finally we have developed online town halls for members and neighbors once or twice a month, each focused on an issue, strategy, or campaign, to develop our members and organizing. We hope to continue this beyond the pandemic, aided by our first Constituent Relationship Management software."

## **Step Up Louisiana Organizing Fund**

\$20,000

### **General Support**

New Orleans, LA

The Step Up Louisiana Organizing Fund is a multiracial, intergenerational membership-led education and economic justice community organization with chapters in New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Step Up organizes with parents, workers, students, and community members to disrupt systemic oppression in schools and workplaces through voter education, advocacy, and action.

The workers and parents who lead the campaigns use a diversity of tactics including research actions, testimonies, forums, cultural organizing, communications work, and direct action to improve public policy on the issues. General operating funding was provided in support of their current programs and campaigns including: Unleash Local - local control of minimum wage and paid sick leave state policy campaign with local committees; Fair Chance in Hiring efforts to stop discrimination of folks with a conviction history; Sustainable Community Schools promotion and education; Holding charter schools accountable; Supporting and training parent advocates; Membership growth and development; and Civic engagement, census education, and get out the vote. In addition, with COVID-19 Step Up has moved to respond to the organizing needs of the current time, from calling for paid sick leave, to supporting unemployed workers, to supporting parents with children out of school.

### **Student Immigrant Movement**

\$25,000

#### **COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support**

Boston, MA

The Student Immigrant Movement (SIM) is a statewide immigrant youth-led organization based in Massachusetts. Founded by and for immigrant youth, SIM fights for the liberation of the undocumented community through the development of a network of immigrant youth organizers in high-density immigrant communities by organizing youth ages 13-26 and providing political education, leadership training, guidance, mentorship, and safe healing spaces.

“The first thing we did as COVID-19 was emerging was to have a conversation with our membership. We decided to move forward with virtual organizing to encourage our community to practice social distancing. Prior to COVID-19, we connected with our members through a communication app and continue to do so during the pandemic. We offer resources, links, materials, and documents through this app to help SIM move forward with campaign decisions and reminders for meetings. Annually SIM normally holds three major in-person events that serve as potential forms of recruitment, which include SIM Camp, a three-day event, the Summer Liberation Program (SLP)- a four-day event, and SIM congress a one-day strategizing event. We are planning to move these events on-line.

To address our concerns about how to better organize digitally during COVID-19 times. We tested different software and applications that would allow us to keep building momentum, recruit, and organize our members and have implemented Relay, a mass messaging software, Zoom Meetings and Google Hangouts, and Netflix Party as a way to create a space of culture and community.

We have as well hired a Digital & Communications undocumented young person to help us with our social media platform and have attended different webinars that provide useful tools on how to go from physical to digital organizing.

Importantly, the families of our members are among the hardest hit, both financially and physically, the the pandemic. We are doing our best to be a resource for support to our members, through mutual aid and connection”.

### **Students Deserve**

\$20,000

#### **General Support**

Los Angeles, CA

Students Deserve is a grassroots, member-led organization made up of students, parents and teachers in Los Angeles. They 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. They seek to contribute to the student movement, the movement for Black lives, and the movement for public education. Students Deserve was successful in ending the long history of Random Searches in LA public schools by organizing, movement-building with other organizations, creative direct actions, and deep youth leadership development. Students Deserve’s next campaign will pressure LAUSD to change its policies around pepper spray, disproportionate arrests, and over-policing and 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 youth and build consensus with community partners.

## Students for Educational Justice

\$15,000

### General Support

New Haven, CT

Students for Educational Justice (formerly PREST) cultivates self-pride in young BIPOC (Black people, Indigenous people, and people of color) and leads youth-led organizing efforts for racial and educational justice throughout Connecticut. SEJ seeks to transform educational systems that perpetuate institutionalized, interpersonal, and internalized racism (prejudice plus power) and anti-Blackness. We consider “youth” and “young people” to mean high school-aged students and recent high school graduates. Last year, SEJ was instrumental in passing a law that will require all high schools in Connecticut to offer Black and Latino Studies and has co-formed an HB7082 coalition with other youth-led organizations, some Yale and Southern professors, and local high school teachers to develop an implementation plan for the course. General support funding was provided as SEJ develops organizing plans around implementation while also moving into the next phase of their own organizational development.

## Sustainable Port Chester Alliance

\$15,000

### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Port Chester, NY

Sustainable Port Chester Alliance (The Alliance) is a volunteer-led coalition of a number of local housing, education, labor, faith, and community groups that advocates and organizes for responsible development in Port Chester, a village in Westchester County with a predominantly low-income, immigrant population. Adjacent to much wealthier communities, Port Chester is facing extreme pressures of gentrification. The Alliance works to build the power to secure responsible development, affordable housing, and good jobs, and to prevent displacement and safeguard human and civil rights. The Alliance strives to ensure all Port Chester residents share in the decision-making and economic benefit of the Village's current rezoning and redevelopment processes.

“Port Chester has the fifth-highest rates of COVID-19 cases to date in NY. Since March, we have dedicated been partnering with direct service nonprofits in Port Chester and hosting evening events to connect the community to the resources they need to access food, healthcare, and legal help to keep our community engaged. We are actively trying to create ways to have a "virtual open-door policy" to advance our social justice and anti-racist work. We need funding to increase our outreach and access people remotely. There is a severe digital divide amongst our constituents and which requires low-tech and high-tech solutions to access the Latinx community aligned with their ability to access wi-fi, bandwidth, money, and time.”

## Teachers Unite

\$20,000

### General Support

NY, NY

Teachers Unite (TU) is an independent membership organization of public school educators supporting collaboration between parents, youth and educators fighting for social 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 empowers educators to resist institutions that segregate and criminalize Black and Latinx youth, such as the School to Prison Pipeline. TU serves as the only educator organization in the Dignity in Schools-NY Coalition (DSC-NY), where they serve on the Steering Committee, Divestment Work Group, and participate in public actions. Continued funding was provided as TU works to organize NYC educators in a campaign demanding the mayor further invest in school climate, and divest from policing. They are building a campaign that envisions the schools where their members are leading Restorative Justice (RJ) initiatives, graduating students into unionized jobs in schools with titles such as Peacebuilder, Youth Advocate, or RJ Coordinator. This campaign will pressure the mayor to shrink the Department of Education's (DOE) \$500 million contract with the NYPD that comprises the School Safety Budget.



## Teamsters for a Democratic Union

\$20,000

### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Detroit, MI

Teamsters for a Democratic Union is a grassroots, worker-led movement organizing for economic and social justice on the job and in the union. TDU is independent of the Teamsters Union, receives no union funding, and is opposed by the union's leadership. TDU combines worker-led, grassroots campaigns with education and leadership development programs. They oppose corruption and narrow business unionism and work to transform the Teamsters Union into a worker-led movement that allies with the community to win economic and social justice for all workers.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on our members and our work.

While millions of people are staying at home, the majority of TDU members and the 240,000 workers at UPS are on the job and in the public as essential workers at much higher risk of contracting COVID-19. As the COVID-19 crisis hit, the company did nothing to provide the hand sanitizer, gloves, masks, and other PPE that workers needed to keep safe. TDU has redirected our organizing activities to meet the urgent health and safety threats posed by COVID-19. We have won important victories and grown our organization as a result:

- 1) Paid Leave for COVID-19
- 2) Saving Healthcare for Laid Off Workers
- 3) PPE and COVID-19 Health & Safety for frontline workers

UPS workers are organizing with good success around the country to make the company provide masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer, sanitize restrooms and work areas, and reduce congestion and increase social distancing. TDU members have also participated in a new coalition to push for an Essential Worker Bill of Rights with partners like MoveOn and the Working Families Party.

Our principal organizing mission for the coming year is to use the International Union election to reach out to workers, develop activists, organizers, and leaders, and win transformative change in the Teamsters. Despite COVID-19, this work remains on track. We are preparing a two-track plan so we are ready whether our programs can be in-person or have to be done online. The TDU Black Caucus will likewise meet online with the goal of holding a national Black Caucus summit in Chicago in November if in-person meetings are possible at that time.

Essential workers continue to go to work every day. We are adapting our face-to-face organizing methods to be safe, but our workplace organizing remains face-to-face.

TDU meetings, educational workshops, or organizer trainings are in the process of transitioning online until we can safely meet again face-to-face.

As the curve flattens, COVID-19 organizing will shift to contesting the terms of economic recovery. TDU will work with allies for an economic recovery that safeguards vulnerable working people and our communities. We are building partnerships with Green New Deal activists to organize for a pro-worker, environmentally-sustainable recovery”.

## The Transit Riders Union

\$15,000

### General Support

Seattle, WA

The Transit Riders Union is an independent, democratic, member-run organization whose mission is to build a participatory union of working and poor people building power and fighting for a more just world. General Support funding was provide in support of TRU’s efforts to expand their grassroots organizing capacity to continue the fight for economic, transit, and housing justice in the Seattle area including their ORCA for All campaign, which aims to pass pathbreaking legislation requiring that large employers subsidize transit for all their workers, ensuring that lower-wage workers have access to this benefit as well as high-paid workers, to increase transit equity and fight pollution and climate change.

## Toxic Taters

\$18,000

### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Callaway, MN

Toxic Taters is a multi-generational Native American and non-Native American rural grassroots community group made of people living around Minnesota’s potato fields. They work to protect the land,

air, water, and communities from the harms of industrial agriculture, particularly as they relate to pesticide drift and water impacts.

The communities that make up our coalition are low-income communities with limited resources in rural Minnesota. Our face-to-face interactions and community meetings with coalition members are a vital component of our organizing model, and this exchange of information and resource sharing has been cut due to COVID-19. Our Native American communities are also at high risk.

We have adopted Zoom for meetings and other online and phone technologies, but there is no replacement for some of the things we have to offer like our free water testing of nitrates that we were able to put together earlier in 2020. We will explore the possibility of drop-off water testing and remote resource sharing moving forward to continue to offer this service.

We have come to understand that with the pandemic, our work has become more urgent. Industrial agriculture is just one industry that continues to threaten our environment and community health during this time. Many extractive industries are using this moment of "shock" to push through big pipeline and mining deals, and these decisions can be made with greater speed during a crisis. We are working hard to continue amplifying our collective concern for the health of our environment and people breathing and drinking contaminated air and water. Toxic Taters Coalition recently partnered with other rural and native community groups to sign a letter in opposition to the Governor's recent decision to reopen boating and fishing activities in Minnesota many weeks before the end of the state stay-at-home order.

We are working on a podcast series speaking with individuals who were affected and poisoned by pesticide drift, as well as experts in the field. We are continuing coordination with the Minnesota Department of Health to release their community summary of a biomonitoring testing of pesticide exposure in preschoolers from our Central Sands region. We are holding our strategic planning session through zoom”.

### Union of Minority Neighborhoods

\$20,000

Massachusetts Citizens Congress on Poverty (MCCP)

Boston, MA

Union of Minority Neighborhood (UNM)'s mission is to ensure that trained, committed grassroots leaders of color effectively organize on issues of concern in their communities, their regions, and the nation. UMN's vision is to create a unifying force to address the threats to civil liberties and to end discriminatory policies and practices that limit black people's access to political, economic and social power. UMN's integrated programs develop leaders, build networks and win power for people of color in Massachusetts. Funding was provided for the Massachusetts Citizens Congress (MCCP), a UMN campaign developed to relieve poverty, the causes of poverty and the impact of poverty on the people in Massachusetts. It is a multi-issue campaign in order to achieve the full force of low-income people not divided into silos that prevent them from working together. The campaign is led by the people affected by issues and works to change systems, laws and policies. Community people are trained in the skills and knowledge needed to be successful. The campaign begins with Black people who demographically are most impacted by income inequality.

### Union of Minority Neighborhoods

\$25,000

COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Boston, MA

The Union of Minority Neighborhoods (UMN) is a Black-led, racial justice organization that works to break down barriers that poor and low-income Black individuals face on the road to securing economic mobility, social freedom, and political power. To accomplish this goal, UMN trains and develops community leaders to effectively organize the community and hold local policymakers accountable to the people whom they were elected to serve. UMN's focus is on real change and power for people of color in Massachusetts.

“Due to the pandemic, we quickly adapted to a virtual format and created new programming to meet the emergent needs in our community. Our programming included community briefings, virtual panels, and workshops on housing, unemployment, civic participation, effective organizing, and advocating for children who need special education. We held our second annual Black Men's Advocacy Day in October, bringing 75+ members of our community to the virtual table to converse with elected officials and hold them accountable to the needs of our community. We educated policymakers on the need to create

legislation that addresses the disproportionate number of COVID-19 deaths experienced by African American and Latinx individuals, as well as other disparities stemming from systemic racism. This culminated in the creation of Commonwealth Health, Economic, Education, and Equity Recovery and Reconstruction (CHEEERR) bill proposal. Furthermore, we converted our monthly legislative briefings at the state house to virtual community briefings where we were brought members of the community to work directly with legislators, religious leaders, legal service providers, community groups, case managers, and relevant experts. We used social and other media platforms to amplify our Massachusetts Citizens' Congress on Poverty (MCCP) anti-poverty campaign. We established a helpline to refer community members to appropriate resources for unemployment concerns, housing issues, locating food pantries, and utility assistance referrals during the pandemic.”

### Venceremos

\$10,000

#### General Support

Fayetteville, AR

Venceremos is a newly formed worker-based grassroots organization that works to protect the fundamental human rights of poultry workers to achieve long-term systemic change in the poultry industry through building worker-driven solutions and engaging consumers and the public. Venceremos was formed in order to spearhead adaptation of the Worker-driven Social Responsibility (WSR) model into the poultry supply chain. Successful implementation of WSR will address longstanding abuses faced by low-wage, predominantly female workers in otherwise isolated poultry processing plants. Venceremos is currently coordinating organizing exchanges with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) and has begun working with the Worker-Driven Social Responsibility (WSR) Network to begin researching the supply chain in the poultry industry. The innovative standards of the Fair Food Program underline the most comprehensive, verifiable and sustainable social responsibility program in US agriculture. Venceremos plans to be the first to apply this model to the poultry industry starting in Arkansas.

### Vermont Interfaith Action

\$15,000

#### General Support

Burlington, VT

Vermont Interfaith Action (VIA) is a grassroots, faith-based community organizing coalition of 53 member and affiliated congregations throughout the state who seek to effect systemic change around issues of social justice, utilizing practices of listening, research, and leadership development. General support funding was provided to support VIA's organizing on the issues of corrections reform, specifically using the women's program as a prototype for a more therapeutic environment; education improvements, particularly improving racial equity; and a moral economy, especially better pay and treatment of workers. Funding will enable staff organizers to develop leaders within VIA's member congregations and among marginalized parents and youth, and to build a power base in Southern Vermont to bolster their moral economy campaign.

### Vermont Interfaith Action

\$20,000

#### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Burlington, VT

Vermont Interfaith Action (VIA) is a grassroots, faith-based community organizing coalition of 53 member and affiliated congregations throughout the state who seek to effect systemic change around issues of social justice by utilizing practices of listening, research, and leadership development.

“To meet emerging needs in our faith communities and in the wider areas in which we work, we held two statewide virtual “convocations” when the pandemic first hit. Our leaders identified reaching out to clergy and congregation members to offer emotional support as one overarching goal. We also identified three areas in which to concentrate immediate efforts: 1) food security, 2) moral economy work that centered on relief and unemployment payments and housing for the homeless, and 3) holding corrections accountable for appropriate treatment of inmates regarding COVID. These groups temporarily replaced our other organizing groups that had been meeting, as we quickly shifted to impact the ongoing crisis. All of our work has been conducted by Zoom and phone calls since the pandemic started, which has certainly marked a difference in how we conduct our work, but our leaders and staff have adapted well.”

## VietRISE

\$16,000

### Bring Human Rights Home: ICE out of Little Saigon Campaign

Garden Grove, CA

Founded in 2018, VietRISE advances social justice in working class Vietnamese and immigrant communities in Orange County through transformative youth organizing, civic engagement, and popular education. VietRISE organizes youth of color and immigrants on issues related to immigration and housing around the framework of protecting human rights. VietRISE builds leadership and creates systemic change through organizing, shifting narratives, cultural empowerment, and civic engagement. Bring Human Rights Home is a campaign calling on Orange County officials to disavow anti-immigrant rhetoric and policies by helping close the migrant concentration camps at the border, protecting CA's sanctuary laws, and denouncing the collusion of government with white supremacist hate groups. The goal is to remove ICE out of Little Saigon and change the Vietnamese community's attitudes toward immigration through organizing and mobilizations such as marches, rallies, art, policy change, and celebrations and now virtual organizing strategies.

## Western Regional Advocacy Project

\$25,000

### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

San Francisco, CA

WRAP is a grassroots coalition of organizations fighting homelessness in the Western United States that engages communities across the country in an organizing campaign to stop the criminalization of homelessness and to hold the federal government responsible for restoring affordable housing funding. WRAP uses organizing, art, research, and training to expose and eliminate the root causes of civil and human rights abuses of people experiencing poverty and homelessness by reframing it as a structural issue rather than an individual dysfunction. WRAP has developed a unique structure that combines street outreach, movement building, and national policy work, helping to bridge the local-national divisions that have hampered homeless advocacy for several decades.

"The COVID-19 pandemic makes plain for all to see the truths that WRAP has been working to expose for 15 years: that the housing, criminal justice, social safety net, healthcare, and other systems are fundamentally not set up to support poor and homeless people. While we have had to shift into more of a mutual aid mode, for survival and as an organizing tool in the near-absence of charity and government support during COVID-19, our demands, goals, and organizing work leading up to this moment could not be more relevant.

WRAP and WRAP members are using this moment to push for an end to criminalization and housing for all. WRAP is playing three main roles: 1) Supporting the lifesaving work of our members and others by creating handouts, materials, and artwork; requesting funding and supplies for members; and doing complementary mutual aid work. 2) Looking for opportunities to pursue impact litigation and doing pre-litigation work to stop the sweeps and push hard for housing in the long-run; tracking national trends and policies, and speaking out on local and national platforms. 3) Using our communication infrastructure to facilitate connections between local WRAP groups and other groups. This amplifies our members' work and provides a way for others to plug in, building a crucial movement."

## Witness to Mass Incarceration

\$14,000

### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

New York, NY

Witness to Mass Incarceration (Witness) is a nonprofit organization founded by two formerly incarcerated LGBTI women working to end sexual abuse in confinement, to reduce the harms of the criminal punishment system, and to develop initiatives that facilitate meaningful re-entry into society. Witness works to end mass incarceration by placing the voices of formerly incarcerated women and LGBTI people at the front of the movement for alternatives. Witness seeks to change the narrative from invisibility and victimization to empowerment through documentation, leadership training, organizing and advocacy in hopes of educating the public and developing initiatives to result in policy reform, a radical change in conditions of confinement, and meaningful re-entry.

"As a result of the crisis, Witness has launched new initiatives and modified others. We launched our Covid-19 Food Response program to address food insecurity among formerly incarcerated people which is a serious problem, greatly exacerbated by the job losses stemming from the pandemic. Witness used

the opportunity to further its Civic Engagement platform by having formerly incarcerated people fill out the census and voter registration forms. The Census Initiative and Voter Registration Campaign have been shaped to reflect the changed landscape of the COVID era, contacting formerly incarcerated and directly impacted people through phone, text and social media applications, as well as canvassing to the extent possible. In addition, we conducted a social media campaign featuring a short video targeting our population. We also launched the Clemency Works program with the National Council of Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls. This campaign involves writing weekly postcards to state governors and parole boards, the office of the president of the U.S. and the federal pardon office, asking for the release of incarcerated people endangered by COVID-19. We asked members of our Faith Leaders Advisory Council to bring this same campaign to their houses of worship, and we are signing up congregation members to write postcards with us. The loss of job opportunities led us to launch another major initiative, TRACE, focused on asking corporations to carve out jobs for formerly incarcerated people. In addition to seeking jobs, we are developing a cooperative social entrepreneurship model starting with our Witness Network. During this period, we formed our Faith Leaders Advisory Council and Youth Outreach in Unity (YOU) advisory councils. Each help with growing the number of people involved with helping our population and working with us to provide meaningful reentry.”

### Workers' Dignity Project / Dignidad Obrera

\$25,000

#### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

Nashville, TN

Workers' Dignity (WD) is a worker-led center acting collectively for economic and racial justice, and the dignity of all in Nashville. WD currently has five programs of work: Construction Workers Organizing; Wage theft recovery; Workers' Compensation mini-campaigns; Music City Riders United, a bus rider group fighting for racial equity in public transit; and WDYO 104.1FM radio. All programs, as well as the Board, are led by low-wage, primarily Latino and Black, workers.

On March 3rd, Nashville was hit with devastating tornadoes. One week later, COVID shut down much of the local economy. These twin disasters impacted Workers' Dignity in four fundamental ways.

“WD had to divert some capacity from organizing to establish mutual aid funds, provide rides to members, and connect workers to community resources. Metro Nashville government, facing record shortfalls from loss of tax revenue, passed a crisis budget that included cuts to social services. We and other community organizations joined together to fight against the worst cuts and call for divesting from the carceral system. Even with unprecedented community pressure, two of our organizing targets - public schools and public transit - faced budget freezes. These fiscal constraints make it more challenging short-term to win our demands for high-road construction contractor agreements and expanded bus service into low-income Black and Brown neighborhoods.

As a group that organizes low-wage workers across multiple languages, the shift to digital organizing required countless hours of determining the most user-friendly online tools and then training dozens of members in using them. Since most online organizing apps do not have a Spanish-language or Quiché-language interface, we had to create graphic-heavy instruction guides. This new way of working required creating new ladders of engagement, training staff and members in using the online tools necessary to facilitate meetings and workshops from their cell phones (only 10% of members have a computer). We held digital worker town halls in Spanish and English, viewed by 25,000 people (with a reach of about 40,000), online trainings with small groups of construction workers, online interviews with construction workers who won improved conditions in other parts of the country. Interviews average 900 viewers each. We have accompanied workers to their work sites to support them in winning PTO and improved PPE and safety measures. We have held socially distanced open-air construction worker assemblies in a nearby park. And we launched a pilot program of Workers' Compensation campaigns.”

### YA-YA Network

\$15,000

#### COVID-19 Unrestricted General Support

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 to 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.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, our organizing efforts primarily focused on our #MakeSchoolsSafeAgain campaign which highlights how metal detectors and scanners in NYC schools populated by predominately poor students of color, are the entry points for the School to Prison Pipeline, creating a culture of fear and surveillance in the schools.

“With the onset of the pandemic we redesigned our programs to be effective via Zoom and guided our youth participants in adapting to remote activism. Our youth participants testified virtually at the monthly NYC Department of Education (DOE) Panel for Educational Policy hearings, organized virtual mock hearings to engage community members and local leaders, as well as phone-banked and Tweeted elected officials holding them accountable. We are now focusing our efforts on coalition work to address the intersectionality of educational inequity, racial injustice, the health crisis, and budgetary impact COVID-19 has had on the City. Our Action Committee joined protests and education justice rallies with ally organizations throughout NYC to call for divestment in policing and investment in education and other social services. One of our campaigns in partnership with Teens Take Charge led to the reinstatement of 35,000 out of the 75,000 Summer Youth Employment Program jobs. Our coalition demands with Dignity in Schools Campaign-New York for #PoliceFreeSchools and #DefundthePolice garnered support from numerous NYC Council Members. During July and August, we hosted our first-ever virtual Summer Social Justice Institute, an 8-week intensive program co-facilitated by staff and alum. Our staff and youth worked with the Movement of Rank and File Educators, among other coalition partners, to demand that schools not re-open for in-person learning. Although the City proceeded, we continue to urge leaders to ensure all school communities receive adequate funding and are equipped with measures to ensure the safety of our students, parents, teachers, and other school personnel.”