

## 2023 National Grassroots Organizing Grant Recipients



### **215 People's Alliance Education Fund**

**\$20,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

#### **General Support**

Philadelphia, PA

215 People's Alliance Education Fund (215PA) is a multi-racial, multi-issue, membership-based collaborative fighting for equity and justice in Philadelphia. Their work centers on building a city-wide movement to bring Black, Brown and white working class Philadelphians together around issues that directly impact their communities. Founded in 2015, 215PA has worked on issues related to public education, gentrification and displacement, fair banking practices, and more recently, food justice, workers' rights and ending mass incarceration. 215PA facilitates neighborhood chapters that support their neighbors, block-by-block, and provide political education and leadership development in support of multi-racial organizing that centers culture and relationships.

Over the next two years, 215PA will implement a newly developed "organizing, leadership development and political education" program and focus their organizing in two neighborhoods: Northeast and South Philly. These neighborhoods share many dynamics, such as an unorganized white working class and diverse immigrant population. Through exploring individual and collective journeys into politicalization, this program provides a grounding in relationship development needed in organizing for the long haul, between issue-based campaigns. Members will also build skills in organizing practice such as community, asset, and power mapping, to identify, develop, and lead issue-based campaigns that are centered in their lived experiences.

### **350 Chicago**

**\$23,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

#### **General Support**

Chicago, IL

350 Chicago is a volunteer-driven, independent non-profit that works in coalition with other environmental justice and climate organizations in Chicago, Illinois, and the region. 350 Chicago is working to end local public institutions' investments in the fossil fuel industry while advocating for swift climate action in Illinois and the Midwest. Since its founding in 2013, 350 Chicago has built a network of approximately 60 committed core volunteers and about 1,600 email list subscribers who amplify their messages. The organization is run almost entirely by volunteers and hired its first part-time staff in 2023. Funding was provided to help support the hiring of a full-time staffer to manage their ongoing efforts to: lead the statewide Illinois fossil-fuel divestment campaign; provide local leadership for nationally-coordinated grassroots campaigns; and provide ally support to environmental justice campaigns led by frontline communities and communities of color.

### **AA4H (Asian Americans For Housing)**

**\$20,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

#### **General Support**

Los Angeles, CA

Asian Americans for Housing (AA4H) is a coalition of pan-Asian, multi-ethnic, and multilingual grassroots/community-based organizations working in Central Los Angeles, aka Koreatown LA, including Asian Americans for Housing and Environmental Justice, Father's Table Shelter, and Neighborhood Safety Companions. AA4H works to give voice and power and to develop leadership among at-risk, marginalized and unhoused Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in Central LA/Koreatown. Many have limited, nominal, or no English proficiency. Unhoused AAPI are drastically

undercounted in Central LA/Koreatown. AA4H's outreach has determined there are 700 unhoused AAPI, though the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority only counts 36. As such, the needs of unhoused AAPI are largely ignored by the city and county. AA4H uses the experiences of their members to identify where there are gaps and holes in the government provided social service systems and to advocate with them for systems level changes, including the elimination of language, logistic and cultural barriers to access appropriate and holistic services for this population.

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

**Second Year \$20,000**

**General Support**

Concord, NH

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

2023 goals: ABLE will run another community organizing series (covering Ableism & Disability Justice; Understanding Power & Self-Interest; 1:1 Meetings; and Building a Strategic Campaign) in the summer of 2023 with the goal of developing 20 new leaders and connect them to a task force or local ABLE chapter.

**ACT4SA**

**Second Year**

**\$20,000**

**General Support**

San Antonio, TX

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

2023: This year, ACT4SA have successfully advocated for the expansion of the pilot San Antonio Core Non-Police Responder Units to include 6 teams running 24/7. In the coming year, ACT4SA will: 1) Expand their Cop the Data Suspension Dashboard (cophthedata.com), to become a statewide dashboard and increase transparency of police suspensions and terminations in Texas. This dashboard will serve as an example for other organizations across the country to create similar public dashboards. 2) continue to work in coalition with the Bexar County Jail Based Voting Coalition, to establish a polling location in the Bexar County Jail by putting continued pressure on the Elections Administrator. 3) Continue providing classes and workshops for the community on topics such as a warrant clinic, a community educational workshop covering topics such the newly proposed police budget, new managed assigned counsel system, know your rights workshops, and a conflict resolution without the police workshop. 4) Continue adding to and promoting ACT4SA's "People over Policing" toolkits on their website and expand those actions. 5) Continue professional development of staff through workshops and conferences.

**Adelante Student Voices**

**Second Year**

**\$25,000**

**General Support**

Poughkeepsie, NY

Adelante Student Voices is a network of undocumented youth activists across New York State that brings together students, their families, educators, and other allies using a popular education model

that centralizes the experience of undocumented youth from small towns and rural areas when identifying issues and solutions. Young people become members as high school or GED students when they participate in Adelante’s intensive Summer Program. Adelante not only offers support to students when seeking access to higher education, but also provides the space and tools for the members to make social change through participation in campaigns and coalitions.

2023: Funding was provided in support of Adelante’s transition to direct action organizing, including hiring a part time Youth Organizer, which they did in 2023. Their youth organizing program, Vision Adelante, has been surveying students, teachers and counselors and are developing their campaign aimed at discrimination against immigrants students within K-12 school systems.

**All About the Ballots**

**\$23,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

General Support

Eustis, FL

Budget \$45,000

Launched in 2019, All About The Ballots (AATB) is an all-volunteer, Black woman-led organization based in Central Florida that occupies a unique lane in Florida civic engagement work by focusing on rural and suburban communities of color too often left out of community and political life. AATB works year-round to engage, educate and empower Black people ages 16 - 40 across rural Florida to become civically involved in order to improve issues impacting their communities including living wages, accessible and affordable health care and housing, wellness, education, racial and environmental justice, and racial equity. Their approach is to provide strong civic engagement platforms like public mutual aid events in marginalized Black communities, and educational programs for Black women and girls to encourage community members to register to vote, mobilize around issues of local importance and directly champion those needs.

**Alliance For Congregational Transformation Influencing Our Neighborhoods**

General Support

**Second Year**

**\$30,000**

Youngstown, OH

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

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

**Arkansas Community Organizations**

**Second Year**

**\$10,000**

General Support

Little Rock, AR

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

Through their Make Medicaid Better Campaign, ACO works to improve access to Medicaid and services offered by Arkansas’s Medicaid program. They bring together Medicaid recipients to take

direct action, share their stories, and engage with DHS officials to push for changes in Medicaid application process and service delivery. Through their Housing & Renters Rights campaigns, ACO works with local renters supporting their fights for safe, healthy, and affordable housing and founded the first statewide renters' organization in Arkansas - Arkansas Renters United - which is organizing for changes to Arkansas's eviction laws.

**Asian Solidarity Collective**

**Second Year**

**\$25,000**

General Support

Los Angeles, CA

Asian Solidarity Collective (ASC) is a non-hierarchical grassroots organization in San Diego that activates social justice consciousness and builds solidarity cross-racially and with all oppressed communities. ASC membership includes a diverse range of Asian and Asian American people who approach liberation work from an intersectional lens. They build power through a transformative leadership model where relationship building is foundational to their practice through one on one meetings, role progression processes where members scale up in their learning of the fundamentals, reading circles, bi-weekly Organizer Trainings, and critical concept courses. ASC builds community power through programming, campaigns, and advocacy work - including redistricting work, advocating for a justified city budget, developing the C.A.R.E. program to protect Asian and vulnerable communities, and turning out for rapid response actions in solidarity with allied organizations. In Spring of 2022 ASC launched a free Organizing Fellowship Training program on how to Organize and build power. It incorporates training on campaign development, base-building, direct action, coalition building, advocacy, critical concepts, community building, and wellness practices. ASC also has a strong Youth Committee, which organizes their Co-HEART (Hope, Empowerment, Aspire, Restorative, and Transformation) Series, using the arts to engage young people in the movement-building work.

**Barred Business**

**\$23,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

Protected Class

Ellenwood, GA

Barred Business (BB) is a membership-based organization founded in 2018 by a formerly incarcerated Black woman and a formerly incarcerated Black queer and gender non-conforming person to help formerly incarcerated people who are disproportionately affected by the US legal system. BB works to build the power of all marginalized justice-impacted people in Georgia, including their children, families, and communities to organize to transform institutions and build systems of support. In 2020 Barred Business launched the Protected Campaign to have justice-impacted people who experience collateral consequences when they return home, be included as a protected class. BB leveraged its base of justice-impacted people to organize and push the Atlanta City Council to pass the protected ordinance in October 2022, making Atlanta the first city in the U.S. to categorize formerly incarcerated people as a protected class. Barred Business is now working to launch companion-protected campaigns in cities and towns across the state of Georgia. This includes training organizers through a protected organizing fellowship for formerly incarcerated and justice-impacted people, who upon completion of the organizing training program will be stipended to lead protected campaigns in the cities, towns, and counties they represent as part of their organizing fellowship.

**Be:Seattle**

**\$20,000/yr; 2 years**

General Support

Seattle, WA

Be:Seattle is a tenant-led housing justice organization dedicated to empowering and fighting for renters' rights and preventing homelessness by building the power and leadership of renters and people experiencing homelessness to fight displacement and increase access to affordable housing in Seattle through renter education, organizing, mutual aid, and advocating for housing justice policies prioritizing equity and stability.

Be:Seattle works with Seattle Renters and Elders by facilitating the Seattle Renters Organizing Council and the Elder Renters Council which engage in tenant-led, direct action organizing focused on low-income tenant and elder tenant rights in Seattle. The councils are led by tenants and are working towards group identified changes in rental laws focused on better protections for tenants - specifically those living in public housing, income rated housing, and elder housing - like removing barriers for renters based on criminal backgrounds, income source, ability to pay deposits all at once and helping tenants stay in their home by protesting "renovictions", exploitive late fees and notice delivery fees. Currently, the Renters Councils are specifically advocating for the creation of an Office of Renters Rights Standards and an Elder Commission in the city of Seattle. The councils are also focused on the need for housing for all and collaborate with coalitions serving the houseless community in solidarity and to prevent homelessness.

### **The Bethesda African Cemetery Coalition**

**\$25,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

#### **General Support**

Bethesda, MD

The Bethesda African Cemetery Coalition (BACC) was founded by the Social Justice Ministry of Macedonia Baptist Church to stop the desecration of an ancient African mass burial ground containing bodies of enslaved and post-emancipated Africans, and calling for reparations in order to build a museum and sacred space to honor their African ancestors, educate the public about the atrocity that took place there, and demand accountability for those responsible for the criminal desecration of Moses Cemetery. Moses African Cemetery is located in one of the most prosperous communities in the United States where local political leaders for the past 70 years have covered-up the atrocities and murders committed against enslaved Africans and African Americans. After emancipation, Africans built a thriving community along River Road that was destroyed by an alliance between the KKK, local government and the police. The only institution that survived the genocide and violent displacement was Macedonia Baptist Church.

While BACC includes leaders and members of local organizations, the majority of their members are solely grassroots working-class members of the community who attend weekly meetings and participate in demonstrations and public forums on a regular basis.

Funding will help enable BACC to hire a full time staff person to maintain digital presence (social media, website, Network for Good site), and to expand their capacity to organize presentations for faith groups, schools, and community groups. In addition, BACC is building a national Descendants' Coalition to share best practices and build a movement in response to the widespread issue of Black cemetery desecration throughout the country.

### **Beyond the Bars**

**\$25,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

#### **General Support**

Miami, FL

Beyond the Bars (BTB) is a member-led worker center in Miami whose members are people who have been incarcerated and their families. BTB's core work is building the leadership skills, organizing capacity, and strategic abilities of impacted people at scale, with the goal of building a mass organization with thousands of members who are able to shift the economic, social, and political terrain in Miami and more broadly, in the State of Florida, in coalition with other labor and community organizations.

At Beyond the Bars, workers with criminal records, working as paid Organizing Fellows, are building campaigns to shift their place in the economy, with the goal of creating labor protections including amending the Miami wage theft ordinance to include temp workers who are often misclassified as independent contractors and to address the exploitive working conditions for people in probation agreements. In addition, BTB is working to ensure living-wage jobs in the formal economy and legitimizing our members' work in the informal economy through the creation of worker-owned cooperatives.



**Black Hills Clean Water Alliance**

**Second Year**

**\$15,000**

**General Support**

Rapid City, SD

Black Hills Clean Water Alliance (BHCWA) is a membership-based grassroots alliance that protects the region’s water by opposing new large-scale uranium, lithium, gold and rare earth mining in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming. Native and women-led, BHCWA focuses on environmental justice, especially for indigenous people, both within and outside the organization, and is one of the few multi-racial organizations in an area that is deeply divided by race.

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

**The Black Response**

**\$25,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

**General Support**

Cambridge, MA

The Black Response (TBR) is a civic association consisting of Black residents of Cambridge, MA spearheading a coalition of local organizations to advocate for the replacement of policing and other carceral systems with community-grounded solutions for public safety, while building and strengthening the state- and nation-wide movement toward abolition. TBR particularly advocates for resources and 911 calls to be allocated to the Cambridge Holistic Emergency Alternative Response Team (HEART), their partner organization which TBR designed through a collaborative, community-led process, to create a positive, community-driven alternative to police crisis response.

TBR works for the construction of community-based mechanisms that utilize principles of transformative and disability justice to address and prevent the root causes of harm. They advocate for investing in the social fabric of communities, such as mental health support, housing services, job training, quality education, and healthy food, as a way to foster lasting physical safety and generate community wellbeing. And they particularly focus on the devastating impacts of the carceral state on Black and Brown people, as they seek to uplift Black and Brown communities by making their voices heard and by advocating for the channeling of resources to create alternative community safety infrastructures. TBR’s work is guided by a deep sense of love for their communities and the belief that a fierce commitment to ensuring the dignity, self-determination, and well-being of all people must be at the center of any long term solution to public safety.

**Black Workers Matter--Chicago West Side**

**Second Year**

**\$30,000**

**General Support**

Chicago, IL

Black Workers Matter is an independent group of workers fighting discrimination/segregation in hiring and on the job in Chicago West Side industrial districts. Black Workers Matter is a movement made up and governed by worker-members that targets the "Segregationist Employment Model", a strategy to suppress wages by dividing workers--isolating and exploiting immigrant workers while practicing other discrimination against U.S.-born and Black workers. BWM gives attention to the discrimination against Black workers, while being committed to Solidarity—uniting workers of all identities—as the key to power. In the long term, BWM aims to end management domination by organizing cooperative control. Continued funding supports BMW campaigns which include Workplace Organizing/Union Democracy, Amazon Accountability, Community Hiring, and Equitable Development.

**Boston Climate Action Network**

**\$15,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

**General Support**

Boston, MA

The Boston Climate Action Network (BCAN) is a climate justice advocacy organization. BCAN campaigns organize residents to change Boston city policies by building coalitions that collaborate across race and class divides, building relationships with and pushing policy-makers towards stronger

and more equitable climate policy, and using grassroots activism and advocacy to help build a movement towards climate justice in Boston. BCAN has been a volunteer-led organization since the early 2000's, and hired its first full-time staff person in 2023 to lead their current campaigns which aim to: push for green/equitable buildings in Boston Public Schools; and keep homes affordable in low-income/BIPOC communities by confronting rising costs of energy.

**Boston Education Justice Alliance (BEJA)**

**Second Year**

**\$25,000**

**General Support**

Boston, MA

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

BEJA has active campaigns focused on equitable and transparent school building decisions, fighting off state receivership threats, and electoral work around getting an elected school committee. Boston is the only city in the state that has an appointed committee. Immediate campaign work includes supporting school communities to fight school budget cuts, specifically preparing for federal Covid funds to run out which are projected to cut 610 BPS staff. All of BEJA's campaigns are centered on fighting racism and on parent and student leadership.

**Brockton Workers Alliance**

**Second Year**

**\$20,000**

**General Support**

Brockton, MA

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

2023 goals: After working to pass the ballot question for Driver licenses in 2022, BWA will participate in the implementation and education stage by hosting training sessions in different languages to enable everyone to pass the drivers license test. Collaborating with New England United for Justice for a three weeks organizers school for key leaders to become community organizers. Supporting pathways to economic development by providing support and assistance to temp workers to learn English skills and get the training tools to become certified CNAs and Home Health Aides. Building Black and Brown immigrant worker leadership through BWA's third institute for leadership development program.

Training is led by three worker center leaders - who were trained in the first leadership program we ran in the spring.

**Building a United Interfaith Lexington through Direct-action (BUILD)** **\$25,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

**General Support**

Lexington, KY

Building a United Interfaith Lexington through Direct-Action (BUILD) is a DART affiliated grassroots organization made up of 26 religious congregations that represent different religious and racial backgrounds in Lexington, KY. BUILD addresses city-wide problems by pressing community leaders to take action on the member-identified problems that cause poverty and injustice.

This year BUILD is focused on three community problems: violence & policing - leading the campaign to implement community policing strategies proven to reduce violent crime and improve relationships in marginalized neighborhoods.; affordable housing - to identify and fight for a \$10 million per year

dedicated revenue stream for the affordable housing fund; and transportation for folks with mental illness.

**Capital Area Justice Ministry, Inc.**

**Second Year**

**\$25,000**

**General Support**

Tallahassee, FL

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

In 2024, CAJM will continue to focus its campaigns on three social justice crises: 1. VLI/ELI Affordable Rental Housing Campaign to address the crisis of 13,500 very-low income families paying more than 50% of their income for rent; 2. Gun Violence Interruption Campaign to address the over 400 shootings in Tallahassee since 2019; and 3. Stopping Youth Arrests Campaign which recognizes that one of the key root causes of gun violence is the unnecessary arrest of children.

**Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores**

**Second Year**

**\$25,000**

**General Support**

New Bedford, MA

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

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

**City Wide Tenant Union of Rochester**

**\$30,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

**General Support**

Rochester, NY

The City-Wide Tenant Union of Rochester (CWTU-R) is a grassroots housing justice movement organizing to make housing a human right and to secure community control over land by working in two ways: 1) building tenant power through organizing tenant unions; and 2) expanding the rights of all tenants through winning transformative policies by exercising the tenants' economic, political, and public power. CWTU-R focuses on the underlying causes of housing inequity by mapping out outreach activities in historically redlined neighborhoods and targeting absentee slumlords with the highest numbers of housing code violations. Synchronously with building organizing, the CWTU-R organizes campaigns around progressive sets of policy priorities which elevate housing as a human right in coordination with grassroots power building. The CWTU-R works with other housing justice organizations in Rochester and Statewide in coalition to expand the impact and development of members.

In 2023-2024 the tenant union will continue to organize tenants most affected by housing injustice to reclaim their housing by forcing sale of slumlord properties through the Evict Our Slumlord Organizing Program. Leaders from this program will lead member-based campaigns for policies on the local, state and national level.



**Coalition for Restaurant Safety and Health**

**\$30,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

**General Support**

Philadelphia, PA

The Coalition for Restaurant Safety and Health (CRSH) is focused on addressing violence and harrasment in the Philadelphia restaurant industry through collective organizing, popular education, worker empowerment, coalition building, and campaign development. CRSH’s strategy and focus is determined by the workers, immigrants, and survivors that lead the coalition, and who have broadened their mission’s focus beyond gender-based violence, to also include the daily injustices experienced by Philadelphia’s restaurant workers. As a worker-led organization, CRSH develops goals based on the lived experiences of restaurant workers. CRSH’s member leaders provide workplace harassment prevention education, organize support for workers that fight for a more equitable workplace, alert governmental bodies to gross inequalities in access to services for immigrant workers, and build grassroots campaigns to shift labor policy.

In the next year CRSH plans to increase their reach through surveys that alert workers to their rights and building membership in their Latinx worker committee, El Comité.

**The Colorado Springs Pro-Housing Partnership**

**\$15,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

**General Support**

Colorado Springs, CO

The Colorado Springs Pro-Housing Partnership is a relatively new organization working to become a hub for affordable housing-focused grassroots organizing in apartment buildings, mobile home parks, and low-income neighborhoods in Colorado Springs. They seek to build power among housing insecure residents of the city to win concrete changes to city policy, resource allocation, and development processes needed to ensure everyone has a safe, stable, and affordable place to live. Colorado Springs Pro-Housing Partnership’s goal is to run organizing campaigns with goals directly related to residents’ immediate concerns, developing leaders and building a base of support for housing-justice systems change in the process. By focusing first on hyperlocal campaigns, they then aim to bring together leadership from all of the campaigns to form a coalition that can leverage the power built at the grassroots towards citywide structural change. Colorado Springs Pro-Housing Partnership have been working for 18 months with leaders in a low-income neighborhood to stave off gentrification and are about to begin organizing with tenants in public housing buildings.

**Congregation Action Network (CAN)**

**Second Year**

**\$25,000**

**General Support**

Washington, DC

The Congregation Action Network (CAN) is a network of 60 plus faith communities in the Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia region (DMV). CAN was launched in March 2017 as a regional organizing project of LA RED, the Immigration Program of the Faith in Action Network. Member congregations commit to using a leader-led intentional process of community organizing aimed at bringing together directly impacted immigrant families with those who strive to be allies; they share a common commitment to build power to effectively fight to stop criminalization of immigrants and increase access to citizenship. CAN is now spun-off into its own organization. Continued funding supports their efforts to organize recently arrived migrants and undocumented immigrants who are already here to work for better and more comprehensive city, county and state legislation and services for immigrants facing undue housing, identification and health care challenges.

**Contact Center**

**Second Year**

**\$10,000**

**General Support**

Cincinnati, OH

Contact Center is a community-based, membership organization, located in the Cincinnati inner-city neighborhood of Over-the-Rhine, that strives to uphold the rights of all people. Contact Center builds the leadership skills of its primarily low-income and Black members to organize for economic and social

justice. They organize on issues that directly impact their members and provide monthly leadership and organizing skills training to build members' participation in working for social, economic, racial, and gender justice. Contact Center's issue campaigns focus on health care, income security, kinship care, child care, affordable housing, and voting rights. In 2022, after the Dobbs decision overturning Roe v. Wade, Contact Center pivoted their organizing priorities to working for comprehensive health care that includes full reproductive benefits in Ohio. With the end of the federal right to abortion in America, Ohio's Governor, Attorney General and other Majority Party leaders took immediate action to essentially eliminate reproductive choice in Ohio.

CC's short-term goals for 2023, given the current make-up of Ohio's ultra conservative GOP dominated government, is to push the Ohio Governor and State Legislature to increase the financial cash assistance that pregnant women/girls/transgender people and families receive under Ohio's TANF program called Ohio Works First (OWF), while continuing to push for comprehensive reproductive health care.

**COUP Council**

**\$30,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

**General Support**

Rapid City, SD

Community Organizing for Unified Power (COUP) Council's work addresses multiple systemic problems in the Mni Luzahan (Rapid City, SD and surrounding region) area, including racism, discrimination, oppression, and lack of Native voices in community and political discussions. COUP seeks to retain Lakota culture and build collective power to bring justice and healing in the heart of Oceti Sakowin territory by following traditional Oceti Sakowin cultural practices and values to build a community founded on and accountable to these traditional ways while organizing to address systemic power structures. COUP programs forward Native-centered solutions and voices to challenge conditions that perpetuate systemic problems while also providing an opportunity for allies to educate themselves and engage supportively.

COUP organizes community members to participate in cultural activities, coalition building, direct action, and programming, including providing opportunities for inter-generational traditional knowledge and skills transfer; holding ceremonies to help relatives reconnect with their cultural and spiritual traditions; hosting workshops to help relatives and non-Native community members better understand the history and legacy of settler colonialism; supporting relatives who wish to build their leadership skills and community engagement; seeking innovative solutions to problems facing the community, such as homelessness, discrimination, and violence; and engaging in nonviolent direct action activities to bring awareness to systemic power issues.

**Decarcerate Sacramento**

**Second Year**

**\$20,000**

**General Support**

Sacramento, CA

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

Continued funding will support Decarcerate Sacramento in their ongoing fight to confront the return of a jail expansion project by organizing for jail population reduction through base-building, public education, centering incarcerated voices, coalition-building, and community mobilizing around advocacy for specific policy and budget demands in Sacramento County. Despite the board's vote at the end of 2022 to re-start a previously cancelled jail expansion project, there are many opportunities and avenues to prevent this project from moving forward. DS are working to expose the bias in the consulting report that led to the board's decision through public education and media work. They are working behind the scenes to organize county leadership internally to explore utilizing court room

space for ADA compliant intake instead of building a new annex. And they are working with environmental experts to fight the county's environmental review process and financial experts to prevent the county from successfully securing an underwriter for the Lease Revenue Bond.

**Dignidad Inmigrante de Athens**

**Second Year**

**\$10,000**

**General Support**

Athens, GA

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

Continued funding supports DIA to: organize the Driving without Fear campaign locally, which seeks to change local policy to prevent the arrest of immigrants without a license and state policy to obtain driver's licenses for all; organize to prevent the evictions of vulnerable tenants in Athens and to demand safe and secure housing; celebrate the contributions and culture of immigrants by organizing an annual Latinx Fest; and to develop an after school program with young people in Latin American studies.

**Dignity Power**

**\$25,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

**Ava's Law**

Orlando, FL

Dignity power is a grassroots coalition founded by formerly incarcerated women of color on the LGBTQ+ spectrum and led by impacted communities, including the formerly incarcerated, veterans, BIPOC, and LGBTQIA+ folks. Dignity Power mobilizes constituents and fights to pass effective legislation to ensure the dignity and safety of women and girls+. Their overarching goal is divestment from the inherent harms of the current carceral state into one that is a therapeutic system of personal reformation that prioritizes safety and addresses the unique needs of women and girls+ of color, including transgender and non-binary persons and LGBTQ+ people who are disproportionately incarcerated. Dignity Power works to undo years of white supremacist, colonialist, and patriarchal policy-making, starting with the state of Florida.

Dignity Power have had two successful legislative sessions of advocacy in Florida including the passage of the Dignity for Incarcerated Women and Girls Act (HB 49/ SB 332) in 2019 and the passage of the Tammy Jackson Act (HB 1259/ SB 852) in 2020. In 2023, building off of this momentum, Dignity Power will use their multimodal organizing approach - Connect, Educate, Organize, Mobilize, and Sustain - to work for the passage of Ava's Law (HB 363/ SB 630) which would provide for the ability to defer custody of pregnant women until 12 weeks postpartum.

**Downwinders at Risk Education Fund**

**Second Year**

**\$25,000**

**General Support**

Dallas, TX

Downwinders at Risk is a 28-year-old grassroots clean air and environmental justice group based in Dallas-Fort Worth and administered by a majority BIPOC board including representatives from communities with which they are campaign partners. Since 2017, Downwinders at Risk has focused on the reduction and elimination of Particulate Matter pollution, which disproportionately harms Communities of Color. Besides their program work, they also sponsor a five month-long seminar course on community organizing techniques and history called "The College of Constructive Hell-Raising."

Funding was provided in support of the Neighborhood Self-Defense Project which provides urban planning and community organizing expertise to neighborhoods seeking to reverse the kind of racist zoning that places their homes next door to industrial polluters. Downwinders assists residents in drawing-up their own new, greener neighborhood zoning plans, tract-by-tract, to replace the ones written by segregationists. When adopted by City Hall, these resident-led plans can oust polluters through zoning "nonconformity." Dallas is incorporating these resident plans into a new comprehensive land use map. Downwinders is mobilizing Dallas frontline Black and Brown neighborhoods to use this citywide re-mapping opportunity to significantly decrease their exposure to harmful air pollution and improve public health. In 2023, Downwinders is expanding these efforts into Fort Worth, as BIPOC resident groups pursue a redrafting of that city's Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

**Education for Liberation Minnesota**

**Second Year**

**\$20,000**

**General Support**

Minneapolis, MN

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

In 2024, EdLibMN's grassroots organizing plans will continue to engage educators, youth, and families in the rollout and implementation of the Ethnic Studies elective in MN k-12 schools. EdLibMN will support curriculum and professional development, organizing of communities at individual schools and engaging with ethnic studies educators and community members, including delivering their Let's Get Free Saturday Community Freedom School that works to equip a cohort of educators, students, and families to support the implementation of ethnic studies in MN schools and to organize people through sharing resources, connecting with local community, and partnering with others doing this work to leverage efforts.

**Elmahaba Center**

**\$20,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

**General Support**

Nashville, TN

Elmahaba Center started in 2019 to address the systemic displacement of Arabic-speaking peoples from civil and communal life in Nashville. Despite Arabic being the third most-spoken language in the state of Tennessee, and specifically in Nashville, Arabs live segregated lives without basic language access at schools, work, or in social spheres. Elmahaba started by providing direct services, like tutoring, mutual aid, weekly livestreams and food distributions and have quickly recognized the need to organize for systems change.

In 2023, Elmahaba Center is launching three campaigns through their coalition in Nashville: a renters' bill of rights to address skyrocketing housing costs, slum conditions and displacement of Arab communities in North and South Nashville; a parents school committee to address continued racism and aggression in Nashville and Murfreesboro schools towards Arabs; and African language access for the driver's license exam while fighting for the MENA (Middle Eastern and North African) category.

**Equitable Opportunities NOW**

**\$25,000/Yr; 2 Yrs**

**General Support**

Boston, MA

Equitable Opportunities NOW (EON) works to ensure MA delivers on its promise of creating equitable economic opportunity in the emerging adult-use cannabis industry and community reinvestment of cannabis revenues for communities harmed by the war on drugs. EON accomplishes its goals by

providing educational and technical assistance programming for BIPOC and system impacted entrepreneurs and workers and through policy advocacy and research. EON's grassroots team of paid and volunteer leaders is composed of people of color, women, justice-involved individuals, and people directly impacted by the policies they work on and operates by consensus. EON's work is guided by their peers and constituents through coalition building, community listening sessions, online webinars, and surveys, and they encourage active supporters to join their leadership team. EON's combined grassroots (rallies, direct action, constituent meetings) and grasstops (campaign coalition building and community leader engagement) have been critical to their electoral, legislative, and regulatory successes.

Funding was provided in support of EON's constituent-led statewide legislative and regulatory advocacy campaigns to pass new bills filed this year that would direct more cannabis revenue to support communities & entrepreneurs harmed by the war on drugs, create career pathways for justice-involved individuals, support BIPOC-run cannabis businesses, and improve access to expungement, and the specific goals of our regulatory advocacy campaign is to ensure marginalized communities have a meaningful voice in the MA Cannabis Control Commission's implementation of the new cannabis equity law EON passed last session to ensure the law is equitably and effectively implemented.

### **The Every Voice Coalition**

**\$30,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

#### **General Support**

Bedford, MA

Founded by students and survivors, The Every Voice Coalition (Every Voice) brings together survivors, students, young alums, and advocates to combat campus sexual violence by empowering survivors and students to lead on-the-ground efforts to advocate for student-written, survivor-centered legislation at the state level around the country. Currently, Every Voice trains and mobilizes the next generation of student leaders across 14 states (AZ, CT, HI, IL, MA, ME, NH, NM, NV, OR, PA, VA, VT, WA) and DC with student and survivor-written laws passed in 7 states—which impact a total of 1.7 million students—and pending legislation in the remaining 9 states.

### **Ex-Prisoner Organizing Collective**

**\$30,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

#### **General Support**

Worcester, MA

Ex-Prisoner Organizing Collective is a brand new effort by a steering committee of ex-offenders working to advocate for de-carceration, for a "uniform-free" Reentry Center (not staffed by law enforcement personnel), and to eliminate exploitative costs for inmate phone calls to families in Massachusetts. The Ex-Prisoner Organizing Collective is spearheaded by two graduates of Dismas House, both former gang members and former offenders in Worcester who are the community organizers for this initiative.

Ex-Prisoner Organizing Collective arose as a response to the need for a social justice advocacy effort for former offenders in New England's second largest urban community in the shifting environment of the pandemic. The initiative is driven by members and community organizers who see opportunity and challenges, decide on an agenda, and work on issues they've identified. Mike and Jose, the organizers, drive the process - holding meetings, collecting video testimony from members and families, going to the statehouse to advocate and educate on issues of concern, and working locally in Worcester to build the infrastructure needed for change. Issues have included decarceration, new resources and housing for reentry, providing the voices of reentry to the city manager's homeless and reentry efforts, fighting for free phone calls for inmates to family, pushing for reforms to the social security office, and unearthing and exposing new threats to well-being such as landlords and employers using credit reports to weed-out people and applicants with criminal records, allowing for an end-run around the criminal justice reforms of the state. Through meetings, post card parties, testimony, in-person work, connection with partners and allies, the collective works to bring change and criminal justice reforms.



## **Felony Murder Elimination Project**

**Second Year**

**\$25,000**

### **General Support**

Concord, CA

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

In 2024, FMEP will continue to outreach, orient and provide leadership training to directly impacted people including formerly incarcerated and family members of individuals serving extreme sentences in the statewide campaign to end draconian punishment. Organizing activities include leading the Drop LWOP Convening in LA, Justice for Survivors Campaign dedicated to reforming laws that punish survivors of domestic violence, the collection and analyzing of data related to felony murder and LWOP, policy development to ensure reforms for felony murder continue in CA, and the first of its kind national Felony Murder Convening in collaboration with Bost University's Center for Anti-Racist Research to be held in TN in February.

## **The Feminist Front**

**\$20,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

### **General Support**

Oakland, CA

The Feminist Front (The FF) is a membership-based, youth of color-led organization uniting 15-35 year olds to fight for intersectional gender and racial justice. The FF's main campaigns are fighting for Abortion Access and the Equal Rights Amendment. By building community power through political education, advocacy, direct action, and healing arts, the FF works for the anti-racist and care centered feminist future all people deserve.

Funding was provided in support of the Feminist Front's Southwest Feminist Hub base-building initiative to develop local chapters with resourced and empowered feminist youth leaders recruiting and training new members, developing more feminist youth leadership, and creating structures for members to engage in personal growth and a collective participatory democracy to guide campaigns and decisions with advisory guidance from the National Board. Once the Hubs, composed of high school and college age BIPOC, women, LGBTQ+, working class, and first generation youth living across the Southwest region are active and established, they will be planning and executing campaigns to challenge and overturn abortion bans and working to advance awareness, legislation, and amendments that expand legal protections for women, LGBTQ+ people, abortion, and voting rights, like the Equal Rights Amendment.

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

**\$20,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

### **General Support**

Eugene, OR

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

one of the founders and lead organizers of the action-oriented Pacific Northwest Forest/Climate Alliance that represents over 100 grassroots activists. In 2022, FUSEE launched the youth-led FireGeneration Project. FireGen's Program Director, a member of the Karuk Tribe, traditional fire practitioner, wildland firefighter, and first year graduate student, was recently appointed as the sole 'public' representative on the federal advisory committee overseeing the revision of the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan.

In 2023, continued funding supports FUSEE's ongoing mentoring, organizing, communications and outreach that is: 1. Increasing wildland firefighter and youth access to and influence on high-level fire and climate decisionmakers; 2. Amplifying the voices and holistic approaches of Indigenous fire practitioners; and 3. Bringing FUSEE's unique, and highly credible, critique of fire management policies and practices to bear in public opinion, media, and decision making arenas for wildfire and climate.

**Florida Cares Charity Corp.**

**\$23,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

General Support

West Palm Beach, FL

Florida Cares is a grassroots organization founded by 3 women who were directly impacted by harsh sentences their incarcerated loved ones received in Florida. Florida Cares offers free support, guidance and advocacy to the over 80,000 people who are incarcerated in Florida's prisons as well as their non-incarcerated loved ones who support them during their incarceration and teaches people how to advocate for legislative changes to retroactively reduce harsh prison sentences and improve prison conditions. Florida Cares has developed a unique registration-based database system which allows system-impacted volunteers to assist people who are incarcerated and their loved ones with issues they are unable to resolve within the Florida Department of Corrections including medical, disciplinary problems and much more. This system allows Florida Cares to build the framework and documentation needed to pursue oversight legislation by creating and using a prison concern help ticket system to manage communication from incarcerated people, their loved ones, and FDC regarding concerns about prison conditions and treatment. Florida Cares then strengthens directly impacted peoples ties with legislators through attendance at legislative delegation meetings, in-person meetings, pre-session committee weeks hearings, session hearings and hosting meet and greets at the Capitol between directly impacted people, legislators and the public.

Funding was provided to support Florida Cares' grassroots organizing activities by consistently bringing families of directly impacted people who have a loved one incarcerated up to the Florida Capitol everyday during the 6 week pre-session and 60 days of session to walk the Capitol halls, talk to legislators and testify at Committee hearings on the need for legislative change in the criminal justice system in Florida in the areas of sentencing reform for people serving over 20 years and citizens' oversight of prisons.

**FOCUS Initiatives LTD**

**Second Year**

**\$30,000**

FOCUS Initiatives & IDOC Watch General Support

Indianapolis, IN

FOCUS Initiatives LTD is an abolitionist effort to develop a re-entry or post-release program for people returning to Indiana from prison, that takes into account the underlying or "root" causes of mass incarceration. FOCUS stands for Forever on Course United in Solidarity, and in that spirit, they hope to go beyond helping individuals, to changing the conditions that the prison-industrial complex produces in poor communities. FOCUS Initiatives understands that under racial capitalism, the likelihood of arrest and how one is treated by the police and courts is determined by socioeconomic status and political power, and that the prison system is designed to keep people incarcerated, not to rehabilitate them or prepare them for a successful future. IDOC Watch is a prisoner-led abolition organization in Indiana operating with the conviction that in order to fight the power of the prison system, outside organizers must follow the lead of, and act in solidarity with the prisoners who are experiencing the most acute consequences of state repression and the horrors of incarceration. IDOC Watch works directly with

incarcerated people who are already resisting these conditions in order to successfully combat the massive power differentials that exist inside the prison walls.

In 2022, funds supported their first paid organizer, a formerly incarcerated man who had organized for better conditions while on the inside. In 2023, FOCUS and IDOC Watch will continue developing the successful Green Star Families Initiative (GSF) and FOCUS Re-entry Circles (FRC), the principal social bases for their Mass Release Now! (MRN) campaign. FRC's are spaces for mutual aid and collective struggle organized by formerly incarcerated people. GSF organizes families of the currently incarcerated. MRN pressures the Indiana government to free the aging and sick, those held due to revocation of "good time" and those held on technical parole violations.

**Fossil Free California**

**\$24,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

General Support

Oakland, CA

Fossil Free California (FFCA) is the only organization focused on getting California's huge state pension funds - the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) and the California Public Employee Retirement System (CalPERS) - with combined assets of over \$650 billion - to divest from fossil fuels. Fossil Free California works to end financial support for climate-damaging fossil fuels and promotes the transition to a socially just and environmentally sustainable society.

California's pensions are the nations largest and their divestment would disentangle all California state employees and teachers from the financial success of fossil fuel polluters while drawing attention to the danger of fossil fuels. FFCA operates through several volunteer-led campaign teams that create space for pension beneficiaries to learn how to navigate their unions and self-advocate for divestment in various power structures with additional capacity support from staff.

Fossil Free California has reached high momentum on California pension divestment with support from unions representing over 460,000 CalPERS and CalSTRS beneficiaries as well as over 140 organizations. FFCA has expanded its staff and programs in order to strengthen their union member-driven union advocacy strategy as well as continuing direct pension board pressure and advancing policy to mandate pension divestment.

**Fund for Empowerment**

**Second year**

**\$25,000**

General Support

Phoenix, AZ

The Fund for Empowerment is a social advocacy, civil justice, and leadership development organization which primarily works with homeless persons to decriminalize homelessness, as well as advocate for social services and more accountability. Fund for Empowerment mobilizes marginalized people to speak on their own behalf in public forums and are working to ensure constitutional rights are not violated by the Phoenix Police Department. They conduct civic demonstrations, meet with officials, and are collecting testimonies with which to pursue justice such as the Department of Justice's investigation into the Phoenix Police Department, as well as other legal strategies. Fund for Empowerment are also raising awareness about the fact that many shelters in Phoenix exclude people with disabilities and advocating for ADA compliance for all shelters. 60%-70% of Fund for Empowerment's homeless members are disabled.

**Generation Vote**

**\$30,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

General Support

Brooklyn, NY

Generation Vote (GenVote) is the only youth-led electoral justice movement organization that has frontloaded a multi-year strategy to spark an intersectional youth-led movement that fights for the right to vote and a just democracy for all across the United States. GenVote is rising to stop the crisis in democracy by building people power through a national organizing home for youth voting rights activists, shifting public opinion by making electoral justice issues a major priority for young people, and fighting for a just democracy for all through escalated nonviolent moral protest. GenVote Teams and

Hubs spark the movement by: Organizing local campaigns and creative actions for a just democracy for all in their states; Building people power throughout the GenVote network in national electoral justice campaigns; and Working with local community organizations and allies to win local political and legislative fights for voting rights and a just democracy for all in their localities. To build an inclusive youth-driven movement, GenVote is the only national electoral justice movement organization whose base includes not only college students, but high schoolers, postgraduates, opportunity youth, and any allies aligned with their principles. GenVote members spark Teams and Hubs in colleges, high schools, rural counties and big cities across the country.

GenVote will be funneling staff time and support to recruit Hub/Team leaders in 10 key states where they will also be centering their electoral justice campaigns: Arizona, California, Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, and Wisconsin. Within these critical states, they have identified key HBCUs, high schools, community partners and non-traditional educational institutions to recruit new Team and Hub leaders. GenVoters are supported by the National Team who runs a robust coaching and mass training program with over 15 training modules and national leadership opportunities like the Fall 2023 Movement Organizing Leadership paid cohort program and the first youth-led, cross-movement Electoral Justice Summit.

### **GOAL-Justice**

**\$24,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

#### **General Support**

Greenville, SC

GOAL is a newly formed, multi-issue coalition of 20 faith-based congregations in Greenville County, SC who have come together to create systemic change through unified direct action. GOAL is a member of the DART Network, and works to solve community problems identified through a listening process by holding local officials accountable for action at their annual Nehemiah Action where they bring hundreds of community members together with decisionmakers to ask them to commit to community identified solutions. This year GOAL will have over 1000 people come together at their first Nehemiah Action to seek systemic change to address the housing and youth mental health crises in Greenville. Specifically, GOAL is asking both the city and ultimately the County of Greenville to establish dedicated revenue streams of \$10M each annually for the construction of new affordable housing. They are also seeking a dedicated funding mechanism at the state level for the 988 emergency mental health line to be fully staffed and operational.

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

**\$20,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

#### **General Support**

Tampa, FL

Hillsborough Organizing for Progress & Equality (HOPE) is a multi-issue, direct-action, community organization consisting of 24 interfaith member congregations working together to achieve justice. An affiliate of the DART Network, HOPE trains hundreds of leaders to listen to the experiences of members and surface community problems; to research the root causes of these problems and identify winnable, long-term solutions; and to build the needed people power to effectively hold decision makers accountable for the just treatment of people in Hillsborough County.

HOPE is currently working on 6 major issue campaigns: Adult Arrests - getting Criminal Justice Decision Makers to expand Hillsborough's Pre-Arrest Diversion Program to include certain non-safety traffic offenses to reduce adult arrests for minor offenses; Racial Profiling - pushing Tampa Police Department to work with an outside expert to track, analyze, and publish data on traffic stops to identify racial profiling; Supportive Employment - pushing the County to establish a Recovery-Through-Work Clubhouse for people with severe mental illness; Permanent Supportive Housing - working to get the County to develop 500 more units of Permanent Supportive Housing for people with severe mental illness; Flooding/Water Quality - pushing the City of Tampa to increase the use of green infrastructure to reduce flooding and heat, and purify water in 5 storm water drainage ponds; Affordable Housing: monitoring the use of the county's HOPE Affordable Housing Fund that HOPE won in 2019.

**Homes For All St. Louis**

**Second Year**

**\$25,000**

**General Support**

St. Louis, MO

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

HFASTL’s current ongoing organizing and campaign efforts are organizing four apartment complexes (Odin properties) on the west side of the City of St. Louis experiencing poor housing conditions, illegal evictions and gentrification pressures, and passing a tenants bill of rights (TBOR) ordinance in the City of St. Louis. In 2024, they will organize to pass a Tenants Bill of Rights and a Rental Registry for all landlords in St. Louis.

**Housekeys Action Network Denver**

**Second Year**

**\$25,000**

**General Support**

Denver, CO

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

In 2023, HAND released their initial report, “Pipe Dreams and Picket Fences” with the findings of their first housing survey of houseless people which helped to change the conversation around housing during the local mayoral elections.

Based on the priorities voiced by those without housing, HAND’s organizing campaigns will be focused on No Freezing Sweeps, Master Leasing, and Social Housing. HAND also works to provide rights education for their constituents, taking back public space for hygiene resources, advocacy training with case managers, easing paperwork for housing, creating grievance processes for shelters, advocating for better migrant shelters, a vacancy tax and more.

**Human Rights Coalition**

**Second Year**

**\$25,000**

**General Support**

Philadelphia, PA

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

In 2024, HRC will expand their #EndToxicPrisons Campaign to become the Energy Democracy/Environmental Justice program of HRC. As an organization focused on transforming the carceral system into a humane, rehabilitative system, HRC recognizes that coming home to an opportunity for good jobs, valuable skill training and a safe and healthy community are essential to the successful reentry and recovery of returning citizens. Understanding as well that poverty breeds crime, HRC views the opportunity create good jobs and energy sovereignty in BIPOC communities will be an upstream avenue to help break the carceral system and work toward abolition.

**Jackson People’s Assemblies (JXN-PAs)/People's Advocacy Institute**

**\$25,000**

**Youth Action Initiative**

**Second Year**





### J.U.S.T. Pensacola

\$24,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.

#### General Support

Pensacola, FL

J.U.S.T. Pensacola (Justice United Seeking Transformation in Pensacola) is a coalition of 18-member congregations across multiple faiths. A member of the DART Network, J.U.S.T. applies the DART organizing methodology to listen to the community, research the city's most pressing justice issues, develop economical and effective solutions, and hold politicians and policies accountable to create the change the community needs. It begins with the community in house meetings, the people, and the stories they tell of the everyday injustices that hold them back. Like all DART affiliates, J.U.S.T. focuses on one or two major campaigns at a time, but are not bound by a particular issue.

J.U.S.T. is currently advocating for affordable rental housing and civil citation issuance for juveniles and adults in Pensacola. Specifically, they are advocating that the city of Pensacola adopt their Affordable Rental Housing Trust Fund plan, which will build over 1,000 homes and help to eliminate the housing deficit in 10 years; they also will continue urging the local State Attorney to issue civil citations instead of arrests for all eligible juvenile and adult offenders, saving the city money while also keeping people out of jail for minor mistakes.

### Learning Alliance of New Mexico

\$25,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.

#### General Support

Albuquerque, NM

Learning Alliance of New Mexico (LANM) works together with students, educators, parents, and community members, as well as education justice coalitions to ensure that all students in New Mexico—regardless of race, cultural heritage, academic ability, location, or economic class—have choices upon high school graduation that allow them to fully participate in their communities, the workplace, and across the multi-national state of New Mexico. LANM is led by two young Chicana's who were born and raised in New Mexico and who started off as youth interns with the organization. The core of LANM's work is to make sure youth voices are heard and put into action when creating systemic change through it's Pipeline to POWER! youth leadership programs: Youth Voices in Action (VIA) for youth in 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade; and Youth Organizing to Decolonize Education and Learning (YODEL) for youth ages 18 -25. LANM supports youth voice by meeting them at their schools and providing leadership and advocacy trainings so that youth can become successful organizers. Some examples of policy change LANM are working on are: implementing a state-wide Student Bill of Rights; allowing 16 and 17 year olds to vote in school board elections; and continuing the support for teaching Ethnic Studies and an accurate and holistic history and social studies curriculum.

### Lift Every Voice Philly

**Second Year**

\$20,000

#### General Support

Philadelphia, PA

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

Over the past year, LEV has experienced significant growth, expanding their school-based chapters from one to five, and a host of school improvements identified by the parents at each school. In 2024, LEV plans to establish six new school-based chapters, build a city-wide coalition of parents calling for equity in the school system, and strengthen the organizational capacity with more staff and training. A priority issue for parents is to ensure school nurses are hired and present in every school. (This will be the final year of funding due to budget growth).

**Look2Justice**

**Second Year**

**\$25,000**

**General Support**

Tacoma, WA

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

Continued funding supports L2J multiple programs including Inside-Out Civic Education, Inside-Out Policy Newsletters, Paid Lead Organizers inside each prison; Weekly Educational Sessions for loved ones of incarcerated people; System Actor Education – workshops for superior court judges designed by incarcerated organizers and facilitated by formerly incarcerated people; Annual Symposium for system actors designed by incarcerated organizers and facilitated by formerly incarcerated people; the Chance Campaign for Justice working to establish emerging adult parole and retroactively eliminating the practice of applying previous juvenile convictions in order to establish longer prison sentences; and the new Writers Development Program that pairs experienced incarcerated writers with emerging writers inside prisons.

**LOUD For Tomorrow**

**Second Year**

**\$20,000**

**General Support**

Delano, CA

LOUD For Tomorrow (LOUD) is a youth-founded, youth-led grassroots organization that builds youth power to transform their communities, increase civic engagement, and sustain community healing in the small farmworking communities of rural Kern and Tulare Counties. Youth leaders are children of low-income, farmworkers, immigrants and refugees. LOUD’s top 2023 organizing campaign priorities are the Delano Rent Control Campaign; Housing justice in Kern County; Implementation of the California Voter’s Choice Act (VCA) in Tulare and Kern counties; and Mental health services for Delano youth.

**Lynn Canal Conservation**

**Second Year**

**\$25,000**

**General Support**

Haines, AK

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

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

In the coming year, LCC will continue its efforts to prevent the mining company from going underground for yet another year by using every tool at its disposal including: legal appeals, permitting processes,

educating and activating residents, and guiding and supporting newly elected local leaders as they contend with the tide of development projects that subsidize the mine. LCC also fights disinformation

put out by the mining company and will expand their efforts to defund the project by educating investors about the risks and drawbacks of the Palmer mine project and inspiring a large-scale divestment campaign. Long term, LCC is working to co-plan a path to protection, such as designating the Chilkat Valley as a World Heritage Site with the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve at its heart and ensure that Tribal sovereignty and Tribal land management are inherent to and foremost in the plan.

**Maine Youth Power**

**Second Year**      \$20,000

General Support

Swanville, ME

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

In 2023 and 2024, MYP is focused on leadership development, including a series of 10 political education training sessions, building the advocacy and engagement skills of their members while growing their base of young Mainers; and offering more opportunities for members to get involved in their local issue campaign for Gender Neutral bathroom accessibility in Maines public high schools.

**Merrimack Valley Project**

**Second Year**      \$20,000

General Support

Lawrence, MA

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

In 2024, MVP will continue working towards increasing voter participation in historically underrepresented communities through a stronger and expanded integrated voter engagement campaign, including working closely with our allies and connecting with new organizations focused on youth engagement and/or those focused on civic engagement. The campaign, which will be year-round and on-going, aligns with the overall mission of MVP to promote social justice, economic equity, and community-driven solutions.

**MORE Justice**

**Second Year**      \$25,000

General Support

Columbia, SC

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

Continued funding supports MORE Justice campaigns to ensure the Affordable Housing Trust fund is sustainably funded; the police department implements the Group Violence Intervention program; every law enforcement officer is trained in Crisis Intervention; develop and research a campaign to address Food Scarcity in Columbia.

**Mosquito Fleet**

**\$10,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

**General Support**

Portland, OR

The Mosquito Fleet is a regional network of activists fighting for climate justice and a fossil-free Pacific Northwest through on-water, direct action and grassroots movement building activities. The Mosquito Fleet focuses on three key areas of work – training, movement building, and non-violent “kayaktions” – to target the unjust systems continuing to cause environmental injustices and harm in Portland and throughout the Pacific Northwest. Stemming from a group founded in Seattle in 2015, Mosquito Fleet are guided by Just Transition principles and the belief in the power of popular education and creative direct action. From packing town halls to organizing community paddle events, Mosquito Fleet’s role is as a “force-multiplier,” strengthening the movement as a whole by interrupting business-as-usual and building local solidarity in the face of the climate crisis. The Mosquito Fleet engages in local and regional movement building by bringing communities together on the river, as well as for on-land events like river cleanups.

In 2023, plans are to grow the fleet to launch a free community Kayak Lending Library at their headquarters located at a historical shipbuilding site on the Willamette River, with the goal of building new relationships and providing opportunities for diverse folks to engage with the river.

They are organizing in coalition with grassroots organizations, frontline communities and NGOs for the Stop Zenith Oil campaign to shut down Zenith Energy’s Tar Sands tanker terminal on the Willamette River, and have plans to coordinate events and actions to raise public awareness and put pressure on the Portland City Council. Mosquito Fleet’s unapologetically audacious goal is to make Portland, OR the first American city to shut down its entire oil infrastructure.

**Muslim Justice League**

**Second Year**

**\$25,000**

**General Support**

Boston, MA

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

In 2024 Muslim Justice League plans to continue their ongoing campaigns and coalitions including: local abolitionist organizing in greater Boston, the national StopCVE (Countering Violent Extremism) campaign, and the Unmasking Fidelity campaign which is pushing Fidelity Charitable to end philanthropic funding for white supremacist and fascist organizations. MJL will be developing new ways to get their growing membership base involved across all campaigns and to build leadership of impacted people. They also plan to release a number of new resources and data from their extensive research to build grassroots knowledge of policing issues.

**Naomi Project**

**\$20,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

**General Support**

Sioux Falls, SD

Naomi Project is a worker center and worker/trafficking survivor-led non-profit focused on organizing to fight human trafficking in rural America. Naomi Project operates three programmatic areas, all of which



revolve around the core of worker centered organizing. These include: 1) Community Support - direct assistance for victims of a severe form of human trafficking, support to victims of wage theft violations and harassment, and a community women's group. 2) Investigations - working with federal agencies to prompt and develop investigations into bad actors that are trafficking significant numbers of people within the US. 3) Capacity Building - A new initiative in 2023 to formalize the community organizing lessons learned over the last five years. Naomi Project plans to host five community organizing trainings in rural America this year with at least 50 people with the goal of building a campaign to train organizers throughout rural America on how to identify and investigate cases of human trafficking in their communities and ultimately on how to propel policy change locally and nationally.

**Native American House Alliance**

**Second Year**

**\$20,000**

General Support

Philadelphia, PA

The Native American House Alliance's (NAHA) mission is to foster, preserve, and promote an accurate understanding of the Native American experience, history, and culture while working to promote racial, economic, and health justice for Native American people in Pennsylvania. NAHA's voting membership is representative of the diversity of Native American nations who have made Philadelphia into their home, including tribal members of the Lenni-Lenape, Lumbee, Haliwa-Saponi, and Nanticoke. Consistent with Native American culture, NAHA works as a multicultural collective for structural change on behalf of the next seven generations. NAHA organizes annual regional Powwows which serve as a keystone organizing event to promote their goals. NAHA's priority advocacy campaigns are to secure government approvals for the first ever City and State Native American Affairs Commissions in Pennsylvania by engaging in educational advocacy campaigns, letter writing, artistic celebrations and nonviolent direct action events. In addition, in 2024, NAHA will complete production of the documentary film: The Untold Story of Native Americans and the founding of Philadelphia and contributions democracy which they believe will be instrumental in helping to achieve their other goals.

**No Loose Braids**

**\$20,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

General Support

Grafton, MA

No Loose Braids is a Nipmuc-led organization working to bring Eastern Woodland Tribal communities together in unity through the cultural revitalization of traditional practices to revive community and culture. No Loose Braids actively engages with tribal youth and elders and aims to teach the original ways and create a space for Indigenous folks to step out of colonization, and the fractured ways of colonized thinking, to reconnect with ancestral knowledge, strengthen bonds of reciprocity, and bring balance back to People and the Earth. At the same time, No Loose Braids also works to build opportunities for future generations through changing structures of systemic marginalization and exclusion by advocating for Tribal rights, educating about historic treaty rights and responsibilities, and engaging in dialogue in colonial spaces. No Loose Braids advocates for changes in laws and regulations that restrict indigenous access to traditional resources and hinder their cultural practices. Their advocacy efforts (mainly with the Mass Dept. of Natural Resources) are creating more inclusive policies that respect Indigenous rights and promote cultural preservation.

**Northeast Ohio Worker Center**

**\$23,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

General Support

Cleveland, OH

The Northeast Ohio Worker Center (NOWC) is a membership-based organization built by workers, for workers, to organize and fight back against the systems that have workers isolated, overworked, underpaid, and exploited. The NOWC provides a space for workers to educate themselves on their rights at work, organize their workplaces, and receive legal and other support services from allied individuals and organizations working in solidarity with the center. In addition, the fundamental goal of the worker center is to transform the economy to better serve workers and their communities, so

NOWC also serves as a vehicle for grassroots advocacy and organizing for change. The Northeast Ohio Worker Center leads the Guardians for Fair Work coalition which is working to pass enhanced wage theft legislation in cities across Cuyahoga County. The Guardians for Fair Work is a coalition of over twenty grassroots, community, and labor organizations who are working to advance pro-worker policies in Northeast Ohio. The Guardians Coalition has already realized success with the passage of a wage theft ordinance in the City of Cleveland in December of 2023. In the next two years, NOWC will expand community organizing capacity by bringing more workers into their wage theft clinic, bringing workers together for mutual support, educating the community on their rights in the workplace, and center the workers that the system most marginalizes in the Guardians Coalition.

### **Northside Action for Justice**

**\$20,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

General Support

Chicago, IL

Northside Action for Justice (NA4J) is a grassroots member-controlled, volunteer-based organization that builds capacity and power for low- and moderate-income people to advance the cause of economic, racial, and social justice on the north side of Chicago. It is a multiracial, intergenerational organization whose members and leaders are largely working-class people of color. The three pillars of NA4J's work are housing justice, sustainable public education, and accessibility for communities. In 2023, to sustain the work, NA4J intends to hire a full-time organizer. Specifically, the organizer would facilitate NA4J's ongoing work on tenant organizing for affordable housing, transforming Chicago Public Schools into Sustainable Community Schools, and fighting for adequate and accessible human services.

### **Ohio Families Unite Against Police Brutality**

**\$25,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

General Support

Dayton, OH

Ohio Families Unite Against Police Brutality (OFUAPB) is a base-building organization of families who have lost loved ones to police abuse. OFUAPB was founded by Sabrina Jordan, who lost her son to police brutality in 2017, in order to build a network of other impacted families and create a connected space for support, healing, and action. OFUAPB gives families a space to grieve and control their own platform for advocacy, building power among directly impacted leaders in Ohio. OFUAPB's goals for 2023 are to expand capacity of their family programs, increase their civic engagement and community education, and grow their newest program - the Ohio Families Police Reform Policy Table. The Police Reform Policy Table will spearhead dismantling Ohio's state-sanctioned violence in Black, Brown, and Low-income communities by developing and promulgating a multi-level police reform platform.

### **Ohio Immigrant Alliance**

**\$30,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

General Support

Cleveland Heights, OH

The Ohio Immigrant Alliance (OIA) is a group of Ohio immigrants and citizens working together to protect the dignity and rights of all individuals who choose to make Ohio their home. OIA engages in activism and volunteerism that connect communities across the state, and include people currently living abroad due to inhumane immigration laws. OIA has developed a team of active volunteers and convenes a WhatsApp group of over 200 people who were deported, to engage in and inform the work. OIA's #ReuniteUS is a campaign to disrupt the reality of inhumane and unfair immigration laws and bring deported people back home to the U.S. to be with their families. Over 200 deported people and their loved ones, from at least 13 states, are at the center of #ReuniteUS. Using storytelling, grassroots action, relationship/coalition-building, and legal strategies, the short-term goal is to bring people home. The long-term goal is to change the paradigm around deportation and immigration law administration to one based on humanity and dignity rather than coercion and punishment.

### Ojo Caliente Restoration Society

**\$30,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

#### General Support

Dona Ana, NM

The Ojo Caliente Restoration Society (OCRS) is part of Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico, currently numbering roughly 500 members. The Chihene Nde ancestors were part of the Southern Apache Agency in Southern New Mexico during the 19th century. These are their decedents. The OCRS, comprised of Tribal Elders, is elected by the Tribal Council for two year terms and serve on the Nation's Board of Directors with responsibility for the recovery, preservation and continuity of the Nation's culture, language and traditions; while building collaborative efforts with other Apache Nations to organize gatherings, protect historic and sacred sites; and coordinating with spiritual advisors and medicine people to attain social justice for the whole of the Apache peoples.

Funding will allow the OCRS to be active in social justice activities involving the Nation, their partners at San Carlos, White Mountain, Jicarilla, Mescalero and Navajo Nation in Gallup; La Nacion in Juarez, Chihuahua; League of United Latin American Citizens, New Mexico Land Grant Consejo and local Southern New Mexico mayoralities. Operating funds will allow members to travel to meeting sites; plan a Cultural Center; and fund their continuing struggle to recover their traditional homelands and status as a Federally Recognized Nation. They have been operating on a meager budget dependent on volunteer labor with in-kind donations.

### Olneyville Neighborhood Association

**\$22,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

#### General Support

Providence, RI

Based in Rhode Island's most marginalized and diverse barrio, the Olneyville Neighborhood Association (ONA) is dedicated to organizing low-income families, immigrant communities, and people of color in the Olneyville area in order to create a diverse, community-led, democratic and non-partisan political movement that wins economic, social, and political justice. Beginning informally in 1998 as a forum for neighbors to address day-to-day living conditions, ONA has evolved into a small but passionate membership organization that works for human rights and justice through organizing, creating networks of mutual support, and developing programs to build community power among immigrant and low-income people in the Olneyville neighborhood.

Due to various organizational setbacks, ONA has an almost entirely new leadership team and opportunity to reimagine the organization. Through retreats, trainings, mutual aid work, and community canvassing, ONA will use this year to reactivate their membership, redevelop organizing skills and partnerships that were essential to their past success, and craft a campaign that reflects community needs and brings together both new and old neighbors of Olneyville.

### Oregon Community Rights Network

**\$20,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

#### General Support

Junction City, OR

The Oregon Community Rights Network (ORCRN) is a coalition of groups and individuals committed to securing community self-governance for sustainability, for community, and for the natural environment. The network consists of local chapters and activists and supports and empowers communities to secure local self-determination and self-governance rights, superior to corporate power, in order to protect fundamental rights, quality of life, the natural environment, public health and safety. ORCRN recognizes that the existing structure of law and governance is biased towards corporate so-called "rights" and an elite minority over those of people, communities, and nature who do not have the legal right or authority to say "No!" to harmful corporate behavior or the ability to say "Yes!" to expand rights and protections that conflict with the state-sponsored corporate agenda. The goal of the ORCRN is to unblock the barriers that would allow for the meaningful advancement of rights for the betterment of communities by connecting diverse people and exposing them to methods for transformational change by building a collective impact movement around the rights of nature and people.

General Support funding was provided in support of ORCRN's three priority organizing initiatives: Oregon Stands - in collaboration with other Oregon organizations and activists, Oregon Stands is built on the principles that Oregon people and communities are more alike than different and that climate disruption and corporate power are universal realities linking people and communities; Water is Us - an effort combining localized action, support, and statewide awareness and education on water and watersheds and the need to establish new relationships with water; From the Bottom Up - a project that encourages grassroots activists and organizations to collaborate and understand how the use of state ceiling preemption is a broad systems issue that directly impacts all root issues.

**Our Wisconsin Education Fund**

**\$21,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

**General Support**

Sheboygan, WI

Our Wisconsin Education Fund (OWEF) is a progressive policy-based organization that advocates for social, economic, and environmental justice for the people of Wisconsin. OWEF approaches this goal by organizing people around issues and working class solidarity, not party affiliation, and by building organizational power from the grassroots by building organizational coalitions and grassroots connections with communities. Our Wisconsin Education funds goal is to build a grassroots network of over 200 volunteers and members organized to help pass local referendum questions in six major Wisconsin counties that relate to a national single payer healthcare system. They will use these referendums to pressure federal elected officials to support a single payer healthcare system that covers all Americans.

**People's Budget Birmingham**

**Second Year**

**\$25,000**

**General Support**

Birmingham, AL

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

**Philadelphia Area Jobs with Justice**

**Second Year**

**\$30,000**

**General support**

Philadelphia, PA

Philadelphia Jobs With Justice (Philly Jw/J) is a coalition of unions and community organizations, led by and for working people. They are an autonomous chapter of a national network of local coalitions. In addition to their mission of building solidarity between unions and community organizations to win bigger victories, the Board of Directors, composed of representatives of member organizations, develops strategic campaigns that build power for working people, particularly working people of color. In 2022, Philly Jw/J launched a campaign to pass legislation for new health and safety protections for warehouse and logistics workers in Philadelphia. In 2023, they worked to continue building a base of Amazon worker leaders and develop a coalition of labor leaders to support the passage of this legislation and have launched the campaign, now called “Philly Fair Warehouses”. In 2024, Philly Jw/J will organize the base of warehouse workers they have built to agitate for two viable legislative goals that they have identified: establishing a Philadelphia Logistics Workers’ Board, and mandating safeguards for the impacts of climate change on warehouse and delivery workers.

**Pittsburghers for Public Transit**

**Second Year**

**\$20,000**

**General Support**

Pittsburgh, PA

Pittsburghers for Public Transit (PPT) is a grassroots, member-based organization of transit riders, workers, and residents who defend and expand public transit. PPT keeps the public in public transit by mobilizing communities to advocate for equitable, affordable, and sustainable transportation systems. PPT is committed to winning the PPT Transit Bill of Rights for all residents of Allegheny County, which defines transit as a critical issue at the center of racial, economic, labor, and environmental justice. Continued funding supports PPT campaigns to implement a free fare program for all low income riders; voter and candidate education for the 2023 County Executive race whose winner will have a great impact on Pittsburgh Regional Transit; Equitable Infrastructure for transit riders; and adequate transit service staffing.

**Pleasant Street Neighborhood Network Center**

**Second Year**

**\$10,000**

**General Support**

Worcester, MA

The Pleasant Street Neighborhood Network Center (PSNNC) is a community-based, resident-led non-profit that builds power and pursues action for change in the diverse Pleasant-Piedmont neighborhood of Worcester which has among the highest poverty rates in Massachusetts. Community members identify needs and organize for collective action. Having recently hired a new Lead Organizer, PSNNC is now being reorganized and revitalized sustainably.

In 2023, PSNNC undertook a year-long community-centered and culturally responsive community needs assessment which included youth engagement and developed into the Community Organizing Youth Engagement (COYE) Initiative. In 2024, PSNNC will focus on expanding and solidifying the COYE initiative, the goals of which are: To gather and evaluate data in grassroots, participatory manner to systematically assess resident-identified needs and implement dialogue events, Build consensus on the priority issues and strategic organizing efforts, Engage in youth outreach to assess community youth’s needs; Create a PSNNC Youth Advisory Council, and promote youth employment, and Remove barriers to employment for underserved communities through culturally responsive, accessible employment support.

**Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts - PHENOM**

**\$25,000**

**General Support**

**Second Year**

Worcester, MA

The Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts (PHENOM) is a grassroots, member-led organization that organizes for well-funded, affordable, accessible, well-staffed and democratically governed public higher education in Massachusetts. Uniting key stakeholders, including students, families, staff, faculty, alumni, and community members, PHENOM advances its goals with research, education, coalition-building, direct action, and advocacy. The first big success of this coalition was the 2011 effort to earmark a portion of projected casino revenue for higher education, at an estimated \$20 million per year. Now, PHENOM is positioning itself again as a national leader for its Debt-Free Future campaign which will guarantee free public higher education as a right to all Massachusetts residents. After successfully helping to pass the Fair Share Amendment (“millionaire’s tax) last year, PHENOM is campaigning for the CHERISH Act which would use a portion of the new revenue to create a state funded scholarship program based on income and eliminate the need for student loans for public higher education and ensure higher wages for faculty and staff. Continued funding supports PHENOM’s efforts to hire a new ED and Organizing Lead as well as activate a central Mass regional organizing hub.



## Quad Cities Interfaith

**Second Year**

**\$25,000**

### General Support

Davenport, IA

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

## Queens Power

**\$20,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

### General Support

Jamaica, NY

Queens Power is a coalition of more than 40 faith and non-profit organizations, schools and unions dedicated to organizing Queens, NY residents to fight for and win justice in their communities. Affiliated with Metro, the nation's oldest organizing network, Queens Power organizes in response to members' passion for justice and a moral calling to create the power to demand the resources required so that all Queens residents can live with dignity and have equal access to opportunity.

Building on past success advancing health access, affordable housing, public school investment and "quality of life" issues, Queens Power's primary campaigns, prioritized by members and leaders, focus on: Housing – to develop thousands of affordable units on publicly-owned land in Queens; Healthcare – to bring more primary and urgent care centers to SE Queens; Public Safety/Criminal Justice – to establish Crisis Response Centers and Crisis Intervention Training Programs in the NYPD; and Transportation – to expand and improve bus and transit service throughout Queens and improve dangerous intersections. Their strategy, led by volunteer leaders with broad community engagement guided by a professional organizer, involves one-to-one's, house meetings and local actions.

## Reclaim Roxbury

**\$30,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

### General Support

Boston, MA

Reclaim Roxbury is a community resident-led organization dedicated to improving the quality of life and economic wealth for Roxbury residents by preventing displacement and supporting economic development by working to ensure that Roxbury residents are actively involved in the democratic process and have a say in community planning. Reclaim Roxbury achieves this through education and advocacy in order to build a future for Roxbury in which public land is used for public good and shared wealth, where there is development without displacement, and where residents lead community planning. Reclaim Roxbury's board and staff are 100% Roxbury residents. Over the past 7 years Reclaim Roxbury have been successful in the fight for more affordable housing and community-led development leading to the creation of more good paying jobs, a focus on diverse contractor/development teams, and climate/environmental justice through eco-friendly development requirements.

Reclaim Roxbury have become the premier thought leaders in community planning, serving on committees for multiple developments to ensure community justice is front and center. They hold community meetings to discuss important issues, have organized roundtables with varying tenant and homeowner associations, as well as having their own membership of concerned Roxbury residents. Every Spring/Summer they form a civic team of Roxbury residents that canvas/phone bank their community to collect information about the state of the neighborhood, educate folks about important issues, and encourage them to join membership. Reclaim Roxbury leads and supports campaigns to advance policy for increased community decision making in local development, rent control, affirmatively furthering fair housing regulations, inclusionary development, tenant options to purchase, and a host of other housing justice solutions.

**Regeneration - Pajaro Valley Climate Action**

**Second Year**

**\$15,000**

**General Support**

Watsonville, CA

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

Continued funding supports Regeneración's goals for 2023 including: Climate Change Education and Community Building; Climate Leadership education for young people; and Advancing local Just Transition goals by increasing equitable access to transportation and building electrification for low income residents.

**Regional Tenant Organizing Network**

**\$30,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

**General Support**

San Francisco, CA

The Regional Tenant Organizing Network (RTON) is made up of over sixteen tenant rights, base-building organizations from across the 9-county Bay Area region in Northern California. It functions as a network for building relationships, peer-to-peer learning rooted in the needs and experiences of people organizing on the ground, convening values-aligned tenant organizing base-building organizations, distributing resources to where they are most needed, and coordinating collective actions for regional impact. The top priorities for the network are to create local tenant associations and to launch a region-wide campaign targeting corporate landlords. These two priorities have translated into a leadership development cohort of Bay Area tenants who want to start a tenant association in their local community, as well as a regional campaign focused on a real estate corporation that has had a track record of poor maintenance of properties and harassing tenants. The tenant organizing campaign is forming tenant associations in apartment buildings focused in the South Bay of Northern California to win direct concessions from the corporate landlord target and achieve transformative change for low-income people, immigrants and communities of color.

**Return Strong!**

**Second Year**

**\$25,000**

**General Support**

Las Vegas, NV

Return Strong! is a grassroots movement founded by families in Nevada impacted by mass incarceration. Through a team of family and community activists, Return Strong centers the voices of black, brown, and low-income people who are currently or formerly incarcerated. Using correspondence methods with their incarcerated membership base combined with a robust data collection system maintained by volunteers, Return Strong empowers those inside to be part of their decision-making processes. The information they provide directly translates to the priority campaigns. Return Strong simultaneously mobilizes the formerly incarcerated and those impacted by incarceration, providing political education and leadership development, building leaders that can use their lived experience to revolutionize a system that oppressed them. In 2023, Return Strong and their allies experienced tremendous legislative success in the NV legislature, passing 12 prison reform laws. In 2024 and 2025 Return Strong will build on that success and work ensure the accurate implementation of laws that have been passed in the last two sessions while preparing for the work in the Interim session. In addition, they will launch a yearlong focus on the public health crisis and the intersection of impact on communities and prison. Harm reduction, food insecurity, and climate change are all impacting people in prison as urgently as those who are free. Their 2025 platform that is currently in development includes the possibility of raising the age of criminal prosecution to 21, second look legislation as well as work on banning the box and conviction carve outs for certain categories of

crimes. In all of their work, Return Strong will continue to create space for the voices of incarcerated people in the discussion, and solution, of social justice and human rights issues.

**Rochester Alliance of Communities Transforming Society**

**Second Year \$20,000**

**General Support**

Rochester, NY

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

Task force priorities for the coming year are as follows: Climate Task Force - Response to noise pollution; Work with the City of Rochester to promote green space and tree planting; Develop an educational campaign with congregations about changes in recycling policies. Poverty/Jobs/Housing Task Force - Support the City-Wide Tenant's Union to advocate for tenants to prevent evictions; Participate in the Rochester Monroe County Anti-poverty Initiative (RMAPI) frontline workers cohort to address barriers to employment to residents.

Voting Rights Task Force - Participate in "Souls to the Polls"; In partnership with the League of Women Voters, determine which city schools will invite people to talk to civics classes to distribute voter registration to students to complete. Justice System Task Force - Bail Reform; Parole Justice/Elder Parole; Reduction of gun violence; support the Solutions, not Suspensions initiative; Support NYS constitutional amendment to "end slavery for all". Education Task Force (ETF) - Collaborate with school Superintendents to monitor progress toward introducing an Antiracist curriculum; Childcare Subsidies for low-income families; Early Intervention/Exclusionary Discipline; Solutions not Suspensions.

**Root Cause Research Center**

**\$25,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

**Louisville Tenant Union**

Louisville, KY

The Root Cause Research Center works alongside and trains community members to investigate and report community concerns. RCRC brings together impacted community members and trains them in community organizing, research, and design--all to help them launch base-building campaigns to build collective power and protect their communities from extractive processes. RCRC launched the Louisville Tenant Union (LTU) led by poor and working class tenants to actively build a multi-racial and multi-generation base of poor and working class tenants in Kentucky. LTU have a base of over 175 dues paying tenants.

LTU currently have 3 campaigns at the local, state and national level, including an anti-displacement ordinance currently in front of the local City Council. Their local campaign is an ordinance that would limit local government's ability to subsidize projects that would lead to displacement in Historically Black Neighborhoods. Their statewide campaign would add tenant protections and fair leases to Low Income Housing Tax Credit properties. Their national campaign would add tenants' protections to properties with federally backed mortgages.

**Sahiyo**

**\$20,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

**General Support**

Cambridge, MA

Sahiyo U.S. is an advocacy collective of South Asian and other survivors of female genital cutting (FGC), also known as female genital mutilation or female circumcision, to address the lack of acknowledgment around FGC as a global form of gender-based violence and child abuse, still practiced in the U.S. Sahiyo empowers communities left out of the discourse on FGC to create systemic change and abandon this centuries-long human rights violation. Sahiyo utilizes collaborative

grassroots campaigns and storytelling techniques to train members of FGC practicing communities to lead in demanding widespread abandonment, work with frontline professionals (i.e. healthcare providers) to create culturally sensitive systems of care for survivors, and partner with government officials to address state-level policy change all in order to build a critical mass of voices against FGC. Community mobilization creates a network of activists working collectively to end FGC, and provides a support system for those facing social sanctions like community alienation for opposing a deeply embedded social norm.

Over the next year, we Sahiyo U.S. aims to strengthen the network of community-based anti-FGC advocates leading prevention and policy campaigns in the movement to end FGC in the U.S.; to continue building FGC survivor and community-driven state coalitions who advocate for policy in states that don't yet have laws to address FGC; and to expand on their original Critical Intersections work, forming partnerships with allied social justice movements and working together to build more comprehensive and inclusive systems of care and support for FGC survivors and/or those at risk of FGC.

### **Saratoga Black Lives Matter**

**\$30,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

#### **General Support**

Saratoga Springs, NY

Founded by young community activists in 2021, Saratoga BLM is a volunteer-led, community-based organization that strives to lift the voices of the unheard, abolish systems of oppression, encourage individuals to think outside of the confines of society, and build new systems rooted in love. Saratoga BLM offers support to any community member who needs answers, assistance, and obtaining accountability in the Capital District. Saratoga BLM builds community through a monthly Books & Brunch, including an adult book club centered on alternatives to policing and a kids book club centered on imagination and thinking outside of the box, and biweekly Saratoga Safe Space meetings for LGBTQ+ youth.

Their goals for 2023 are to establish an Emergency Response Team (ERT) in Saratoga Springs, begin a partnership with another community to help them bring in an ERT to their area, build strong community support for the ERT, create and administer a community survey to gauge the community's feelings on policing, grow community involvement in city council meetings, build a strong youth group, work in coalition to pass Clean Slate and close Rikers Island, continue their housing justice work and secure more funding.

### **ShelterJH**

**\$25,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

#### **General Support**

Jackson, WY

ShelterJH is a grassroots membership organization of local workers, retirees, and families who tackle the fundamental causes of housing insecurity in a county plagued by the highest wealth per capita and the highest income gap in the country. Shelter JH's organizing strategies include marches, public comment campaigns, door-knocking efforts, and inclusive events to bring dedicated community members together. Shelter JH monitors proposed and planned developments, develops proposals for tenant protections and builds power locally to ensure the needs of low-income renters and the local workforce are accounted for and addressed by both developers and elected officials.

### **Stop Solitary CT**

**\$25,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

#### **General Support**

New Haven, CT

Stop Solitary is a grassroots, community-based organization led by Black, justice system-impacted people and focused on ending the use of solitary confinement in jails, detention centers, and youth facilities in Connecticut. Stop Solitary have led legislative campaigns, increased public education, and established a coalition of current and formerly incarcerated people, their families, and advocates who are opposed to state-sanctioned violence. In 2022, Stop Solitary helped pass the PROTECT Act, which

enacted limitations on the amount of time and circumstances under which an incarcerated person may be held in isolated confinement in state prisons and jails, and placed new requirements on its use. Stop Solitary is now fighting for the full implementation of the law, including advocating for increased oversight of the Department of Corrections, is continuing to build their coalition, and fighting for additional changes to abolish harmful and inhumane prison practices.

**Student Basic Needs Coalition**

**\$20,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

**General Support**

Knoxville, TN

The Student Basic Needs Coalition (SBNC) is a student-led and volunteer-based grassroots organization working to ensure that all students can access a college education, regardless of their financial background. Since its founding in 2020, SBNC’s organizing training programs have brought together over 50 students from 15 states to identify the issues they face, place their experiences in the context of broader education equity movements, and develop a plan for direct legislative and policy action to address these problems. SBNC’s focus is working with students in states, primarily in the South, with less infrastructure that do not receive as much attention from other national organizations. They do this primarily through year-long programs guiding students through the process of identifying a local barrier to equity, analyzing power dynamics and root causes of their issue, building a base of supporters with diverse lived experiences, developing and implementing a plan for direct action, including protests, town halls, and petitions, and determining campaign goals and metrics for success. SBNC first success was passing legislation in Tennessee that mandates data surveys in public higher education institutions to secure data on the instances of food insecurity at colleges and universities. SBNC 2023 goals include advocating for fewer requirements for national food assistance programs, implementing state-wide research on the status of basic needs insecurity, collaborating with partners to push for more funding for initiatives, and educating legislators on the issues that today’s college students face.

**Take Action Advocacy Group (TAAG)**

**Second Year**

**\$20,000**

**General Support**

McKeesport, PA

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

**Texas Prisons Community Advocates**

**General Support**

**\$30,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

Fulton, TX

Texas Prisons Community Advocates (TPCA) is a grassroots, volunteer-led, community-based support and advocacy organization founded and led by directly impacted family members and formerly incarcerated people. TPCA objectives include holding TX Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) accountable for inhumane conditions - including extreme heat and toxic facilities, building coalitions to create meaningful changes, promoting community awareness and involvement, and working towards policy and legislative changes to impact positive reforms within Texas prisons. TPCA operates throughout the state of Texas, which includes over 100 prison facilities. TPCA engages its over 3,000 directly impacted members through advocacy training and by connecting them to resources. Their work



is informed by direct communication with incarcerated people through letters and a quarterly newsletter. They amplify their voices and share their experiences regarding inhumane prison conditions in the media, with policymakers, and with the public. The formerly incarcerated and impacted families volunteer and lend their voices for education events carried out in the community with the intention of creating civic engagement and grassroots mobilization of people from all walks of life. TPCA also raises awareness about and advocates for reforms to hazardous environmental conditions and inhumane prison conditions through research with academic partners, publications and reports, and public education pushes while making the case for decarceration in Texas prisons and a closure of prison units.

**TiWakan**

**\$25,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

**General Support**

Sioux Falls, SD

TiWakan is a brand new nonprofit community organization, currently working to build an Indigenous-based and led community resource center in downtown Sioux Falls for urban natives. TiWakan is envisioned and led by a Native woman community organizer experienced in civic engagement, community response to police brutality, and mutual aid support systems. By educating, empowering and defining Indigenous existence, TiWakan believe they can address the pervading narrative of police violence, “over-parenting” from the state, and other issues related to poverty and disaffection that are contributing to crises in the Indian community in SD. TiWakan aims to sustain the cultural identity of the transient Native population in Eastern South Dakota, particularly in Sioux Falls. The project recognizes the challenges that Native communities face in relocating to the city and integrating into its diverse population. As Sioux Falls builds and gentrifies, it is TiWakan’s goal to provide a central location for transient community members and their families to access essential services and resources that can help them thrive, provide cultural programming and community connections, and engage the community in civic life. Ultimately, TiWakan will engage urban Native community members in campaigns to dismantle, disrupt, protest, and influence the systems that impact the daily lives of Native communities and to build Native-led alternatives to police and hospitals in Sioux Falls, such as mutual aid networks, collective and individual community care, and street patrol response.

**Transformative In-Prison Workgroup**

**Second Year**

**\$20,000**

**General Support**

Richmond, CA

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

After successfully passing the RIGHT (Rehabilitative Investment Grants for Healing & Transformation) Grant for capacity-building for community-based restorative/transformational justice programs serving incarcerated people, TPW will continue their 1% Campaign in California and introduce a bill to invest 1% of the CDCO budget into such programs and continue to build and develop their network in NYS.

**Tranzmission**

**Second Year**

**\$30,000**

**General Support**

Asheville, NC

Tranzmission is an NC-based organization dedicated to making the lives of transgender and nonbinary people happier, healthier, and safer since 2001. They build resilience for trans/nb people in Western NC and the Southeast through education, advocacy, and support. While their focus is on trans/nb people - who are widely maligned and targeted in today’s political landscape - Tranzmission also

pursues justice on issues of racism, ableism, labor rights, food insecurity, and discrimination in general. As a transgender-focused organization in the state that passed HB2 in 2015, and a region whose US representative is Madison Cawthorne, Tranzmission understands trans/nb rights to be in danger. In 2023, Tranzmission has added new programs, including monthly Skill-Shares, Trans Swim, and Tranzmission Bookclub. Unfortunately, the political landscape of NC has grown more intractable with several pieces of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation passed at the state legislature. Staff members have completed training in community organizing and worked in collaboration to rally around reproductive justice, attacks on trans youth, and attacks on trans adults and drag performers. They are increasingly focusing attention on local governments, turning out to town and county council meetings when hate legislation is being proposed. They are also working to build more coalitions with organizations, focusing on creating more access to legal and medical services. In 2024, Tranzmission is developing its capacity to provide more trainings to community members, and developing more youth and family supportive programming.

**UDW Resource Center**

**\$20,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

**General Support**

San Diego, CA

The UDW Resource Center (UDWRC) is a new workers center that provides organizing support, training and education, and the development of affordable housing with home care workers and family child care providers in the public and private sectors throughout California. The UDWRC is a space for these workers to organize themselves for better wages and working conditions, to change the long-term care system to benefit all Californians, and to organize for social, racial, and economic justice in dozens of counties throughout California, particularly in rural areas and small towns of the state where no other worker center has tried to organize private sector home care workers before. The UDWRC also supports family child care providers in finding innovative solutions to the childcare desert crisis throughout California.

Currently, while many public sector home care workers are unionized, there has been no opportunity for home care workers employed by private agencies to belong to a union. The UDW Resource Center (UDWRC) will build a base of private sector home care workers to organize themselves for better wages and working conditions and for social, racial, and economic justice. The UDWRC will also support private sector home care workers to join public sector home care workers to become leaders in advocating for a long-term supports and services system and public benefit for the state of California that will support Californians who need long-term care as well as provide for higher wages for home care workers.

**United Women of Color**

**Second Year**

**\$20,000**

**General Support**

Capshaw, AL

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

Continued funding supports CCJR's efforts to collect information about policing incidents, analyze the data collected, and develop the technology to make it easier for people to share their experiences and access police data in order to effectively and address police abuses in their community.

## Uniting Resilience

**\$30,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

### General Support

Rapid City, SD

Uniting Resilience (UR) exists as the sole organization in South Dakota to advance LGBTQ-2S (Native Two-Spirit) social and legal equality, inclusive of environmental justice and non-violent direct actions (NVDA), securing health and equity for all. UR also works to address the issue of homelessness among local and regional Native communities via their Mni Luzahan Creek Patrol, organizing homeless census counts, which revealed that 75% of the Rapid City unhoused identify as Two-Spirit. Living into the sacred "Water is Life" ethos, UR strives to protect this vital resource across the Dakotas. In 2020, their team collected and tested water across the Oceti Sakowin reservations, revealing toxic amounts of uranium in surface water.

In the coming year, Uniting Resilience has five main organizing priorities: 1) Following their success passing marriage equality and hate crimes legislation in four of the nine Oceti Sakowin tribal councils, will expand organizing to the remaining five reservations; 2) UR's founders will attend seasonal Pow-Wows and Pride festivals across seven cities, to hold rallies and invited education sessions, reclaiming/telling the venerated history of Native 2S persons; 3) Coalition building across tribal law enforcement departments, to hold 2S education workshops and liaison sessions; 4) Creation of 2S online advocacy hub and action center; and 5) Water testing, reporting, and organizing with our partners at the Black Hills Water Alliance. Funding will help pay the largely volunteer staff.

## UU Mass Action - Massachusetts Against Solitary Confinement

**\$30,000/Yr; 2 Yrs.**

### General Support

Jamaica Plain, MA

Massachusetts Against Solitary Confinement Campaign (MASC) is a statewide grassroots coalition of impacted people, legal advocates and allies. Led by a team of 13 survivors of solitary, formerly incarcerated people, and family members of those whose loved ones are currently incarcerated, MASC works to end solitary confinement in the Massachusetts Correctional System. MASC is the only coalition in Massachusetts focused on ending the torture of solitary confinement in the prison system. MASC focuses on three goals: 1) Continue to grow their grassroots base and build power, through providing organizing training and community for those impacted and survivors; 2) Create systemic change through legislative and regulatory changes; and 3) Grow their leadership team of system impacted people. Additionally, MASC is committed to caring for the emotional well-being of their leaders.

## Voter Choice Arizona

**Second Year**

**\$20,000**

### General Support

Peoria, AZ

Voter Choice Arizona is a non-partisan volunteer-based organization founded in 2019. Their focus is to improve the outcomes of the election system by bringing Ranked Choice Voting to Arizona. Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) ensures the winner has majority support, reduces negative campaigning, and increases the influence of an individual's vote. RCV increases the participation and representation of women and under represented minorities in the electoral process. Voter Choice Arizona is accomplishing this goal by building a movement to support Ranked Choice Voting in Arizona through the education of Arizona citizens and development an enactment campaign, toward the larger objective of launching, passing and then implementing a ballot initiative for a state constitutional amendment that will allow RCV at the municipal level in AZ. They are doing this by establishing regional chapters across the state, canvassing at events, speaking to groups and organizations, and holding meetings and events of their own to educate voters and attract volunteers, endorsements and donations.

## Voter Empowerment Project

**Second Year**

**\$20,000**

### General Support

Albany, NY

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

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

In 2024, VEP plans to build relationships with new POC-led partner organizations, create Fellowships for 8-12 underrepresented students, and build additional programming to respond to the needs expressed by their partner organizations for professional development training.