An Imperative to Invest in Grassroots Power for Reproductive Justice

CATALYST FUND EVALUATION

2016
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Welcome to the ninth annual Catalyst Fund evaluation. The largest of Groundswell’s four funding vehicles, Catalyst supports nearly 40 reproductive justice organizations across the country — the vast majority led by women of color, and all using grassroots organizing to advance policy and systems change. We are ever-grateful to the generosity of our grantees for providing us with the information needed to generate this report, which represents the largest data set documenting this brave movement. It is a one-of-a-kind overview of trends, opportunities, set-backs, and victories.

While the annual evaluation is always a useful resource for reproductive justice leaders, offering them a birds-eye perspective on the movement, this year’s findings are particularly important for the broader philanthropic sector. In the wake of the 2016 presidential election, millions of people have become active in social justice movements for the first time. We are seeing one of the largest base-building and organizing opportunities in the history of this country. Two things must happen for this groundswell of support to translate into long-term change, especially for the most vulnerable communities. First, it must be sustained. Newly activated people must be able to plug into organizations in their communities that have the skills necessary to transform one-off actions into a lifetime of activism and leadership for social change. In order to meet rising demand, grassroots organizing must be funded more generously than ever before. Second, this growing base must be unified. For us at Groundswell, this means that organizing must be rooted in a worldview that helps people see the interconnectedness of issues and a method of social change work that locks arms across issue silos and racial lines to forge the solidarity necessary to defeat a rising fascist threat. This means directing more support to organizations that work in this way, including women of color-led organizing efforts, which have been at the vanguard of multi-issue, solidarity-based work for decades in nearly every social justice sector.

We hope that this year’s report will be a resource for colleagues in philanthropy who, like us, see the critical need to seize, not squander, the historic opportunity now before us. We hope this report breaks through the false narratives in our field that have long obstructed funding for grassroots organizing and solidarity-based work.

To counter the argument that funding organizing is risky because it’s impossible to measure impact, this report provides a comprehensive methodology for measuring the impact of individual organizations and the broader field. To the argument that only large, inside-the-Beltway-focused national organizations have the scale needed to achieve impact, it offers stories and statistics about the considerable achievements of local- and state-based organizations, including affiliates of authentically grass-rooted national groups that take their strategic direction from the ground up. To the argument that single-issue strategies produce the biggest wins, it presents the strength and effectiveness of multi-issue organizing. And to the concern that people of color-led organizations lack the scale or sophistication to be formidable players in social justice movements, the report establishes that when the trend of divestment is reversed and these organizations receive steady and substantial funding, they achieve important, sustained wins and that in fact, there is little hope of winning large-scale, long-term change without them.

We hope that in these difficult times, the work described in this report lifts and inspires you, just as it does our team here at Groundswell. We welcome your thoughts and comments — and your partnership.

In solidarity,

Vanessa Daniel
Executive Director
Launched in 2008, Groundswell’s Catalyst Fund supports a stronger reproductive justice (RJ) movement by providing an easy way for foundations and individual donors to move resources to grassroots organizing efforts led by women of color (WOC), low-income women, and transgender people. In 2016, the Catalyst Fund supported 39 organizations working in the U.S. and in Native American/Tribal nations within U.S. borders.

The RJ movement recognizes the intrinsic connections between access to reproductive freedom and racism, poverty, gender-based violence, and environmental health threats, among other issues. As such, it addresses systemic barriers and inequities related to multiple, intersecting issues in order to create a society where “all people have the economic, social, and political power and resources to make healthy decisions about their gender, bodies, sexuality, and reproduction for themselves, their families, and their communities.” Supporting organizations with a multi-issue approach is core to the Catalyst Fund strategy.

The Catalyst evaluation is the largest data set for the RJ movement, highlighting strategies and emerging trends and offering unique insights for RJ leaders, funders, and others who are interested in the movement’s impact to date and opportunities to continue building its power and reach. The evaluation relies primarily on quantitative data and stories reported by grantees in Groundswell’s online Catalyst Grantee Impact Survey.

“How to Read This Report

Organizations in the RJ movement address the interrelated issues that impact their communities using multiple, complementary strategies. This report is divided into separate sections in order to focus on each strategy in some depth. Grantee stories in each section exemplify individual strategies. In addition, we offer the story of one grantee, Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR), divided up and presented at the beginning of four sections. By continuing the story across several sections, we illustrate how those in the RJ movement interweave strategies to build the capacity of individuals, communities, and organizations to achieve short-term wins, lay the groundwork to act on future opportunities, and achieve victories in the longer term.
In 2016, the Catalyst Fund supported 39 organizations — three of them new to Catalyst — working in 35 states and territories.  

As a whole, the cohort is characterized by:

- 87% of Catalyst organizations or projects are led by women of color.
- 56% have women under 30 on their board or in management positions.
- 33% increased, 18% decreased, 49% stayed the same.
Budget
Catalyst supports effective local work as well as national efforts, encompassing a broad range of scale and budget sizes. The adjacent key shows the percentage of grantees at each of four budget levels and a symbol for each level. The symbols appear next to each grantee story featured in the report in order to highlight the contributions of organizations of different budget sizes to the RJ movement.

Most grantees increased their budget in 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Range</th>
<th>% of Grantees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under $200k</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$200k-$499,999</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500k-$999,999</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over $1 million</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Working at Multiple Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GEOGRAPHIC LEVEL</th>
<th>2016 (n=39) % of Grantees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL GRANTEES</td>
<td>N/A*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GEOGRAPHIC LEVEL</th>
<th>2016 (n=39) % of Grantees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburban</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reservation</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL GRANTEES</td>
<td>N/A*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Because some grantees chose more than one category, totals exceed 100%.

46% increased their geographic reach in 2016, including new regions within their state, new states, or beginning to expand their reach and impact to the national level.
Working across Issues

A multi-issue approach has proven essential in organizing a base that can protect and advance reproductive rights and justice, including access to abortion and family planning services. Here are several examples of Catalyst grantees who exemplify this multi-sectoral approach:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access to Abortion Contraception, and/or Other Reproductive Health Care</th>
<th>Civil Rights/ Racial Justice</th>
<th>Criminal Justice/Prison Industrial Complex</th>
<th>Economic Justice</th>
<th>Environmental Justice</th>
<th>Immigration Justice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warehouse Workers for Justice</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Warehouse Workers for Justice" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Civil Rights/ Racial Justice" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Criminal Justice/Prison Industrial Complex" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Economic Justice" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Environmental Justice" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Voices for Reproductive Justice</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="New Voices for Reproductive Justice" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Civil Rights/ Racial Justice" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Criminal Justice/Prison Industrial Complex" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Economic Justice" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Environmental Justice" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Women United</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Young Women United" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Civil Rights/ Racial Justice" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Criminal Justice/Prison Industrial Complex" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Economic Justice" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Environmental Justice" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska Community Action on Toxics</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Alaska Community Action on Toxics" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Civil Rights/ Racial Justice" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Criminal Justice/Prison Industrial Complex" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Economic Justice" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Environmental Justice" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Civil Rights/ Racial Justice" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Criminal Justice/Prison Industrial Complex" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Economic Justice" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Environmental Justice" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California Latinas for Reproductive Justice</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="California Latinas for Reproductive Justice" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Civil Rights/ Racial Justice" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Criminal Justice/Prison Industrial Complex" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Economic Justice" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Environmental Justice" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Civil Rights/ Racial Justice" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Criminal Justice/Prison Industrial Complex" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Economic Justice" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Environmental Justice" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Constituents

Collectively, Catalyst grantees organized a base of 150,000 individuals in 2016 (an 11% increase over the prior year). Several grantees point to support through Catalyst and Groundswell’s capacity building programs (described later in this report) as instrumental in helping them to strategically build their base and provide ongoing opportunities for engagement with their work.

As a local partner of Catalyst grantee Raising Women’s Voices (Washington, D.C.), the Afiya Center (Dallas, TX), is part of a 28-state emergency strategy launched in December 2016 to defend the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The Afiya Center, founded and directed by Black women in North Texas, promotes empowerment and an end to reproductive oppression of Black women and girls living with HIV. The organization builds women’s capacity for activism on abortion access, transgender rights, and environmental and economic justice. It leverages its impact through partnerships with organizations in Dallas and at state and national levels.

Women first come to the Afiya Center through referrals from other organizations or agencies or by word of mouth. The Afiya Center starts by building trust in group and one-on-one settings, encouraging and empowering women to tell their life stories and work through stigma and shame. Once the women are comfortable talking about living with HIV, they talk about what is missing in their lives (housing, work, etc.), and staff connect them to services. In time, the women learn to connect their experiences with policy solutions. In finding their own voice, they take leadership roles and action. They become peer educators, trainers, and mentors, and they speak to public officials about policy solutions to improve the lives of women living with HIV.

In October 2016, the Afiya Center hosted their first ever Black Women’s Reproductive Justice Policy Summit. Publicized via social media networks under the hashtag #TXBlackWomenRiseUp, the summit brought together approximately 70 women from across Texas in an effort to launch a Black women-led RJ movement in Texas. In planning the event, the Afiya Center strengthened partnerships with participating organizations and expanded its reach across the state.

The vast majority of Catalyst organizations’ constituents are people of color, with 64% of grantees claiming individuals of African descent among their primary constituencies and 46% claiming individuals of Latino(a)/Hispanic descent. These numbers reflect increased engagement of those communities since 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African Diasporic/Continental African/Black/African American</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino(a)/Hispanic</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American/North, South, or Central American Indigenous</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander or Asian/Pacific Islander American</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian/European American</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Primary Base Constituencies Engaged: Ethnicity/Race

2014
2015
2016
As in prior years, a large majority had either low or no income. A larger proportion of organizations organized teens and youth (under 30 years old) than in prior years.

Although not included in these charts, grantees also track populations they consider to be their secondary constituencies (either because of smaller numbers or less focus on their issues) which helps reveal emerging trends in the RJ movement. Nearly all — 79% — of the grantees name LGBTQ people as their primary or secondary constituency; increasing numbers of grantees are engaging survivors of sexual assault/domestic violence and immigrant/refugee communities as secondary constituencies.
CATALYST’S ROLE IN STIMULATING INVESTMENT IN REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

The Catalyst Fund works to reduce the significant disparity between investment in RJ organizations led by women of color (WOC), low-income women, and transgender people and better-known organizations working on reproductive health and rights. Each year, in addition to awarding standard grants to a diversity of RJ organizations, the Catalyst Fund awards a handful of matching grants to grantmaking partners (such as local women’s funds and other public foundations) and select WOC-led RJ organizations with the fundraising capacity to meet the match. Since 2008, the grantmaking partners and grassroots organizations that have received Catalyst matching grants have moved a total of $31.2M into WOC-led RJ work. They credit Catalyst for playing a major role in the increased resources they have invested in WOC-led RJ work.

“Groundswell is an important strategic partner to the Ford Foundation. Through their creative and responsive approach to funding and capacity building, Groundswell Fund’s work with the reproductive justice field has been transformative. We are in a time of unprecedented growth in the concrete political power of women, and especially women of color-led organizations, because of their work. And for funders like Ford that work primarily at the national level, Groundswell has helped to make visible the creative and innovative work happening at the grassroots level. Our shared commitment to integrating racial and gender justice into our funding priorities has been invaluable. We feel that Groundswell’s commitment has helped to ensure racial and gender justice is articulated and valued by our wider funding community, resulting in stronger and more aligned support to the field.”

- Brook Kelly-Green, Ford Foundation

The Catalyst Fund, grantmaking partners, and direct grantees have invested a total of $31.2 million in reproductive justice since Catalyst’s inception.
Matching Grant Strategy Impact
As explained above, one way the Catalyst Fund stimulates investment in RJ is by providing matching grants — both directly to RJ organizations and through a re-granting strategy with women’s and community foundations. The Catalyst Fund issues matching grants to a set of grantmaking partners and grassroots organizations to support WOC-led RJ work, specifically. In 2016, these grantees moved a total of $3.9M into WOC-led RJ work, and they report that $1.54M of this was as “a result of” their Catalyst Fund grant. They say the matching grant gave them:

- An opportunity to communicate with donors about current work and the importance of their support.
- An incentive for staff, local businesses, and current and new donors to contribute to the organization.
- Resources for better staffing, public education, coalition building, and policy advocacy.
- Leverage to attract other foundations’ support and Tribal funding sources.

Of the nine grassroots organizations receiving a matching grant in 2016, 78% increased their budget in 2016, compared with 62% of those who did not receive a matching grant.

Catalyst Grantee Funding Sources
As in prior years, the full 2016 cohort of 39 Catalyst grantees raised the majority of their budgets from foundations. Reflecting an increase in foundation investment in RJ reported by Catalyst’s national funders, they were able to increase the proportion of funding they received from national foundations (59%) over the previous year (54%).

“As a result of our direct matching grant, we’ve been able to cultivate at least two new funders to the Collaborative. We were also able to re-cultivate a funding relationship with a previous foundation who had switched priorities, but because of the scale of our work, they have committed to providing us a separate pot of funding as a match to our grant.”

- California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative

“We recently received our first grant from a local LGBTQ funding stream. Having a matching grant helped us leverage and tap into these local resources we would not have had access to otherwise.”

- Young Women United

“We are in an ongoing process of growing our grassroots fundraising program so we can become less reliant on larger foundation gifts. This year, we leveraged the direct matching grant with donors to secure new and upgraded gifts. We were able to raise $22,625.80 (113% of our online giving goal).”

- Sylvia Rivera Law Project
National Funder Support

Over the past nine years, 48 foundations and donors have invested in the Catalyst Fund. In recent interviews, 11 funders explained that they invest because, through the Catalyst Fund, Groundswell:

- Builds the capacity and power of RJ leaders.
- Strengthens a network of RJ organizations across the U.S.
- Provides an effective mechanism for investment in grassroots and state-level groups.
- Supports funders’ learning.

The funders value Groundswell’s role as a thought leader and reflect upon key learnings gained from their relationship with Groundswell:

- RJ groups may have priorities, based on a deep knowledge of their constituents, that do not match what national funders accustomed to a single-issue approach (e.g., reproductive health care access) expect. Listening to the grantees’ understanding of their communities’ priorities is necessary to build a resonant, sustainable RJ movement.
- A strong commitment to racial justice and analyses of the roles of race and power in people’s lives are indispensable to making progress in reproductive health, rights, and justice.
- It is important for white funders to be true allies with communities of color, starting with listening, learning, and being transparent in their relationships with RJ organizations.

National funders see a growing visibility of RJ in funder affinity groups. They notice more talk about the need for intersectional funding, in contrast to a single-issue strategy, and state-level funding. Most national funders say that Groundswell contributed to recent changes in their understanding and support for WOC-led RJ organizations, and more than half have increased their grant-making to RJ organizations in the past year. Reasons they cite include being impressed by the impacts demonstrated by these organizations and wanting to support the holistic RJ strategy that Catalyst exemplifies.

Increasing Visibility Among Funders

From the outset, a desired outcome of the Catalyst Fund has been to increase the visibility of WOC-led RJ groups in funder affinity groups. Groundswell is an active participant in leading conversations and shaping strategy in the following funder networks:

- Bay Area Justice Funders Network
- Health and Environmental Funders Network
- Funders’ Committee on Civic Participation
- Funders for LGBTQ Issues
- Funders for Reproductive Equity, formerly known as Funders Network on Population, Reproductive Health and Rights
- Neighborhood Funders Group
The Goal of Investment: Organizational Capacity → Movement Building → Change

The Catalyst Fund builds the capacity of communities most impacted by RJ issues to grow a strong movement and bring about positive change. To help Groundswell learn what kind of funder/donor education and investment is most needed in the field, Catalyst grantees report on 12 organizational capacity indicators each year. In 2016, 80% or more organizations agreed or strongly agreed that:

- Staff members have clear roles.
- Staff expertise is adequate to meet their mission and goals.
- Evaluation is used to measure and inform the organization’s progress.
- New leadership is being developed to ensure continued strong direction of their organization over time.

Compared with previous years, increasing numbers of grantees say that their organizations have the capacity to communicate effectively with key stakeholders and that fundraising strategies are effective enough to ensure that revenues are stable and efficient enough to meet their mission and goals.

Grantees faced the most challenges in meeting the following capacity indicators:

- Having an adequate number of staff to meet their mission and goals.
- Having the technology needed to meet mission and goals.
- Board members participating in fundraising.

Information grantees provided about their strengths and pressing needs will help to inform Groundswell’s work in the coming year.

“The matching grant gives us substantial resources that sustain staffing necessary to achieve our RJ mission. The matching grant also serves as leverage for other foundations to support our work. We’ve steadily increased individual giving, and our development director has implemented additional practices to increase retention of members/supporters. This year, we met our match in April, in large part because of the incentive the grant provides for our donors. We highlight this in our newsletters, e-communications, social media, and at events. Our supporters view this as an opportunity to leverage their own support for an organization they care about.”

-Alaska Community Action on Toxics
COMPLEMENTARY GROUNDSWELL INITIATIVES

“Participation in Groundswell’s Grassroots Organizing Institute has helped our staff think strategically about how their work is linked and the ways to build our base in different areas of the state. Without a consistent presence outside of the Chicagoland area, we have struggled to organize around reproductive justice issues downstate. The GOI has supported this by building our capacity to engage young parents around Birth Justice. Through a Birth Justice Summit in central Illinois, we were able to learn trends and opportunities with new partnerships. We look forward to continuing the momentum and our presence downstate in order to build a groundswell of leaders who can take action on our issues.”

—Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health

Groundswell Fund’s Blueprint (2015–2019) contains an analysis of the need for money + power + scale for systems change to occur. Mobilizing new funding and capacity building resources for efforts led by those who face the greatest barriers to RJ is critical to this change.

In 2016, Groundswell Fund operated three grantmaking funds to support the RJ movement, of which Catalyst is the largest. Several Catalyst grantees also receive grants through Groundswell’s other grantmaking funds:

**Rapid Response Fund:** This is a grantmaking vehicle to provide fast funding to grassroots organizations led by WOC, low-income women, and transgender people who are organizing in unexpected fights to protect and advance RJ and other social justice issues. In its 2016 pilot year, the Rapid Response Fund made $200,000 in grants to 16 organizations for work that included fighting environmental toxins, confronting police brutality, supporting incarcerated mothers, advancing birth justice efforts by indigenous women, supporting WOC leadership within the abortion rights movement, providing transgender communities with emergency identity documents, and safeguarding the digital security of activists under attack.

**Birth Justice Fund (BJF):** This fund seeks to eliminate disparities in pregnancy and birth outcomes experienced by women of color, low-income women, young women, and transgender people. The BJF supports increased access to empowering and culturally relevant birthing options, led by midwives, doulas, and other birth workers of color, and changes in policy and practice aimed at improving birth outcomes. Some BJF grantees working in areas with high rates of poor maternal and infant health outcomes have reduced and even eliminated poor birth outcomes among the hundreds of people they serve.

Groundswell has two capacity building programs that bolster the organizing and power building skills of RJ organizations. These programs, which are optional for Groundswell grantees, are:

**Integrated Voter Engagement (IVE) Program:** The IVE program supports leading RJ organizations to conduct non-partisan integrated voter engagement work as a means of mobilizing historically underrepresented populations to participate in policy, systems change, and the democratic process within and beyond election cycles. The IVE program builds a sustainable infrastructure to increase voter participation while helping organizations scale up the power-building components of their work. Since its inception in 2012, the program has supported a cohort of 15 organizations to move from making less than 1,000 voter contacts per year to making 70,000 voter contacts in 2016, and it moved from obscurity to greater prominence and even leadership in the larger progressive voter engagement landscape.
Grassroots Organizing Institute (GOI): Grounded in a racial and gender justice framework, the GOI supports RJ organizations to gain the “nuts-and-bolts” organizing skills to build a strong grassroots base of support and run effective campaigns to win policy and systems change. Participating organizations have access to convenings, one-on-one coaching with experienced community organizers, a state-of-the-art database, and communications training and coaching. Participants also receive mind-body practice support to help build group cohesion, foster sustainability in movement building work, and accelerate culture change.

Some Catalyst grantees are also a part of a Groundswell initiative that includes both grant and convening support:

Ecosystem Initiative: This initiative is designed to address a long-standing problem: RJ organizations have been marginalized from the larger progressive movement and isolated from the kinds of alliances that could boost their power to win key fights. The Ecosystem Initiative aims to accelerate RJ policy and systems change by deepening support for existing Catalyst Fund grantees and their key allies in linked movements (e.g., economic justice) within specific local and state “ecosystems.” Groundswell is supporting RJ organizations to have a seat at the table and to bring a level of power that strategic allies will respect: a strong grassroots base in key communities, the capacity to mobilize voters, a willingness to engage on key issues in the larger progressive ecosystem, etc. The initiative also bolsters grantees’ ally organizations that are deepening their engagement with RJ work. Ecosystem Initiative states currently include Florida, Georgia, and Colorado.
BUILDING A GRASSROOTS BASE

Building a strong and expanding grassroots base of support is at the heart of Catalyst grantees’ work. Collectively, Catalyst grantees mobilized a base of 150,000 individuals in 2016 (an 11% increase over the prior year). Catalyst grantees organized a diverse range of communities to take action in support of RJ movement goals. The organizations’ base-building strategies and strengths include:

- **Culturally Competent Engagement**: Catalyst grantees are rooted in and reflective of the communities they are organizing. They not only understand, but live out, the norms and customs specific to their constituents’ location, demographics, and lived experiences. They are reaching people who would feel distrustful or disconnected from an organization that is not deeply rooted in and respectful of their community.

- **Hybrid Direct Service/Organizing Models**: Many grantees couple programs and services that help constituents overcome trauma and challenges with education and leadership training on how to take action to transform the policies and systems that impact their lives.

- **Powerful and Resonant Communications**: Grantees help individuals to connect personal experiences with community needs and policy solutions through telling their stories. With art, publications, and social media, they amplify community voices, bring in new supporters, and broaden public understanding of RJ issues.

- **Outreach**: Grantees use canvassing, phone banking, rallies, events, and voter engagement campaigns to bring new people into their work.

- **Alliances**: Grantees develop larger networks and coalitions of constituents through strategic partnerships and collaboration with allies.

- **Policy Advocacy/Legal Advocacy**: Grantees inform constituents about important opportunities or decisions pending in legislatures or the courts and mobilize them to speak out, get the attention of public officials, and/or inspire others to join them.

**STRATEGY SPOTLIGHT: GRASSROOTS BASE BUILDING — COLOR STORY, PART I:**

**Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR)** (Denver, CO) organizes its constituents around a range of interconnected issues impacting their lives: health care access; reproductive health care and bodily autonomy; young people’s empowerment; immigration policy reform; and economic, environmental, criminal, and LGBTQ justice. Executive Director Cristina Aguilar explains, “From the onset of the attacks on Planned Parenthood in summer 2015 to the shooting at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs that fall and the anti-abortion rhetoric that followed, the climate has heightened defense work on the reproductive health, rights, and justice fronts.” She describes COLOR’s work as multigenerational, intersectional, and grounded in “la cultura” (Latinx’ culture). COLOR engages young community members through “artivism,” blending artistic expression to foster dialogue and collecting stories to destigmatize abortion. In June 2016, the organization collaborated with Advocates for Youth to bring true stories about abortion to the documentary play, *Remarkably Normal*.

COLOR’s community organizing strategies include the COLORistxs group, which meets weekly to discuss policy issues that impact women and families and learn how to conduct legislative advocacy campaigns, and “cafecitos” (chats over coffee) at an elementary school. In 2016, many of the cafecito and COLORistxs participants joined in the 10th annual Latino/a Advocacy Day, going to the state capitol and meeting with public officials for the first time to advocate and show support for RJ issues. Learn more about how COLOR is engaging in policy work on page 28.
Inspired by the original freedom schools in Mississippi in the 1960s, the Chicago Freedom School (CFS) (Chicago, IL) seeks to be a catalyst for young people across Chicago to discover their own power to make change for themselves, their communities, and the world. Executive Director Naomi Milstein asserts, “Young people have real roles in major decision-making and the implementation of our work.” The organization’s 2016 Project Heal Us summer program provided 11 Latinx and Black youth, ages 15 to 20, with an intensive opportunity to draw on personal experience to explore their connections to the RJ movement and develop skills in strategies for community organizing and popular education. Several Project Heal Us participants formed a curriculum team, which included CFS’s Wellness Coordinator, Jacqulyn Hamilton, and three CFS Freedom Fellowship alumni, ages 17 to 20: Stefan Caizaguano, Marilyn Hurtado, and Jasmine Grace. They worked diligently for eight weeks to research and write a curriculum and develop materials that would engage, provoke, and support the program’s goals. Reflecting on the entire Project Heal Us experience, one participant said, “Now that I’ve learned more about what reproductive justice means to different people, I see the necessity there is to have resources and workshops in our communities to teach them about how reproductive justice affects all of us.”

Women with a Vision (WWAV) (New Orleans, LA) addresses issues that hinder the health and well-being of women, their families, and communities in New Orleans. Noting that 2016 was a challenging year for those supporting RJ issues in the Deep South, WWAV’s Director of Programs and Communications Desiree Evans describes their work as focusing on RJ outreach and exploring the role that criminalizing sex work plays in exacerbating violence against women, lack of access to drug treatment care, and other forms of structural oppression related to race, gender, and class. She describes how the organization mobilizes its community: “We host informal and formal meetings with our base, such as home health parties and meetings at our office on our front porch. Using a safe space, combined with food and conversation, we are able to engage women through the traditions and methods that are familiar to them. We have had success in sharing important legislative and political information in this manner, after which participants go out into their communities to share the information further.” One of their community leaders, Kiera, a transgender woman who first came to them through a sex worker diversion program, has become a volunteer facilitator for WWAV’s GroundWork support group, where sex workers learn skills to fight for their rights.

In 2016, Groundswell’s IVE program supported WWAV to boost the civic engagement of its community. During the presidential election season, WWAV oversaw a team of 19 canvassers in four historically low-turnout wards who encouraged more than 2,600 residents to vote. They also launched a Black Women’s Reproductive Justice Roundtable series of community gatherings throughout Louisiana, where participants shared their reproductive health experiences and what policy change they would be most excited about. Community members’ priorities became the basis of the organization’s 2017 policy agenda and the centerpiece of plans for a Black Women’s Advocacy Day at the Capitol in April 2017.
The Issues

2016 marked a rise in national visibility of the issues at the center of the RJ movement. This took the form of public outrage at police violence taking the lives of Black youth and adults, rallies demanding family-affirming immigration policies, the passage of minimum wage ordinances, and the development of a National Democratic Party Platform that calls for the repeal of the Hyde Amendment. Collectively, Catalyst grantees organized constituents by focusing on one or more of the intersecting issues that impact their lives. The graphic below illustrates the proportions of grantees organizing around each of several issues in 2016 and compares them with 2015 numbers.

The issues around which a third or more of the grantees were able to engage the most constituents in 2016 were:

Percent of grantees that mobilized largest numbers around this issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>2016 %</th>
<th>2015 %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civil rights/Racial justice</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abortion access</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to other reproductive health services</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to contraception</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic violence/Intimate partner violence/Gender-based violence</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGBTQ rights</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal justice/Prison-industrial complex</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive sex education</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although less than a third of grantees say their base mobilized around immigrant rights and worker rights/economic justice, there were notable increases in constituents’ activism on those issues in 2016. (See below for a more detailed discussion of the rise in engagement around issues related to racial justice and violence.)

Every year, large majorities of Catalyst grantees work to expand reproductive health and rights. 2016 was no exception.
Black Women for Wellness
(Los Angeles, CA) is a multi-generational, woman-centered, community based organization committed to the well-being of Black women and girls. An IVE program participant, the organization uses multiple strategies to engage constituents in advocacy, including policy and RJ trainings, base building, polling and focus groups, voter engagement, popular education, and direct conversations with elected officials. In 2016, Black Women for Wellness partnered with the All Access Coalition to produce a storytelling event and concert highlighting women’s experiences with reproductive health care access. They partnered with All* Above All to support the passage of a resolution opposing the Hyde Amendment by the Los Angeles City Council in September 2016. They also joined Catalyst grantees California Latinas for Reproductive Justice and URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity, along with NARAL Pro-Choice California and the California Family Health Council as co-sponsors of AB 1954 — California’s Direct Access to Reproductive Health Act. The bill, which was signed into law in October 2016, increased access to reproductive health services by requiring private insurance companies to allow members to seek reproductive or sexual health services, including abortion, without referrals from their primary care doctors.

The National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH)
(New York, NY) works in four states and Washington, D.C., building Latina power to increase abortion access and affordability, advance the rights of immigrant women and families, promote sexual and reproductive health equity, and transform cultural narratives. As an IVE program participant, NLIRH has expanded its reach by engaging in year-round phone banks, canvassing, and designing and sending materials by mail. During the 2016 legislative session in Virginia, NLIRH’s Virginia Latina Advocacy Network worked to defeat a bill to defund Planned Parenthood (HB 1090). With digital organizing support from Catalyst grantee Forward Together, NLIRH engaged a broad constituency and mobilized grassroots activists to successfully pressure the governor to veto the bill, which had passed the House and Senate.

Examples of RJ leaders working — and winning — on reproductive health and rights:
WOC-led Catalyst grantees bring their organizing power to bear in support of abortion access and reproductive health care as integral goals in their RJ work.
Linking Movements: RJ in Civil Rights, Racial Justice, Criminal Justice, and Immigrant Justice

Catalyst grantees are integral members of movements related to ending the mass incarceration of people of color, increasingly referred to as “the New Jim Crow,” and immigration policies that target individuals for racial/ethnic profiling, incarceration, and/or deportation without regard for family status or other pertinent circumstances in this country or their country of origin. Activism for RJ, civil rights, and racial justice underlies both of these movements, which garnered heightened visibility during the intense final months of the 2016 presidential campaign and during the grassroots response to subsequent actions of the new administration. Catalyst grantees active on these issues include well-recognized and emerging leaders in these movements, such as:

**Black on Both Sides** (Chicago, IL) highlights the voices and experiences of Black/African American foster youth and parents while launching a direct action organizing campaign to address root causes of the foster care-to-prison pipeline. Through supportive programs and connecting with national organizations and coalitions, the organization challenges threats to Black families such as: policies that reduce reproductive rights and health care access, tolerance for police violence, and restrictions on the rights of free speech and protest. In 2016, the organization collected stories of individuals impacted by foster care and sent them to their legislative representatives to educate them about some of the many intersecting issues and faces of the foster care system, including its role in the pipeline to prison for youth of color.

**Sylvia Rivera Law Project (SLRP)** (New York, NY) was founded on the understanding that gender self-determination is inextricably intertwined with racial, social, and economic justice. They work to improve access to respectful and affirming social, health, and legal services and policies for low-income people and people of color who are transgender, intersex, or gender non-conforming — both within and outside the context of the criminal justice system. SRLP achieved two 2016 policy wins which increased access to gender-affirming health care and safer conditions for transgender/gender non-conforming people under the jurisdiction of the NY Department of Corrections.

**Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (LSPC)** (CA/National) is led by formerly incarcerated people and family members of prisoners and has been advocating for incarcerated parents, their children, and family members for almost 40 years. A national leader in criminal justice system reform, LSPC is a member and/or originator of several groundbreaking programs and alliances. LSPC conducts outreach and advocacy in California, other states, and with federal policy makers. They have led efforts to pass legislation that greatly restricts shackling of pregnant women in California prisons and jails and less restrictive visitation practices for children and family members. In 2016, they continued to use multiple strategies to advocate for pro-RJ policies for incarcerated parents and their children.

**Correctional Association** (New York, NY) works to create a more fair, just, and humane criminal justice system through prison monitoring, research, public education, leadership training, coalition building, and policy advocacy. Their priority issues include women in the criminal justice system, the impact of incarceration on families, LGBTQ youth in the system, and HIV and health care. They support women who are or have been directly affected by incarceration to become leaders in shaping and changing the criminal justice policies that directly affect their lives. With their allies, they have been leading the campaign to pass the Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act since 2011. In 2016, they conducted education and advocacy to ensure implementation of the 2015 anti-shackling law for pregnant incarcerated women and a law to reduce barriers faced by parents released from incarceration in regaining custody of their children from foster care. (See feature story later in report).
Trans Queer Pueblo (Phoenix, AZ) — a local partner of Raising Women’s Voices (RWV) (National) — is an organization led by and for the LGBTQ+ migrant community of color in Phoenix. Trans Queer Pueblo uses traditional and social media, artwork, large-scale convenings, and research and documentation to conduct outreach, mobilization, and leadership development. With migrant LGBTQ communities as their focus, they advocate for comprehensive sex education and reproductive health care access, environmental health justice, labor rights, economic justice, and immigrant rights, including the rights of migrants in detention. In 2016, they engaged in outreach, activism, and advocacy in support of the establishment of universal health care in Phoenix and closing immigrant detention centers.

California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ) (Los Angeles, CA) builds Latina power to advance grassroots-led RJ through advocacy, community education, and base building in Latina communities. They use original community-informed research, education, alliance building, and strategic communications to create a culture shift around Latinas, sexuality, and sexual and reproductive health. A participant in the IVE program, CLRJ mobilizes Latinx communities that are often neglected in electoral politics and discounted by the reproductive rights movement due to a presumed lack of support of abortion. In 2016, they were instrumental in 14 pro-RJ policy wins.

National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NY/FL/TX/VA/National) builds Latina power to create a society in which Latinas have the economic means, social capital, and political power to make and exercise decisions about their health, family, and future. In 2016, NLIRH ensured the inclusion of Latina and immigrant voices in the debate surrounding Texas’s anti-abortion law (HB 2) by submitting the first amicus curiae brief in their organization’s history to the U.S. Supreme Court. The brief in support of the plaintiffs in Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt was grounded in the lived experiences of community members and included the abortion experiences of nine Latinas living in the Rio Grande Valley, Houston, San Antonio, and Dallas. NLIRH is also an active member of All* Above All and a participant in the IVE program, which has helped their grassroots networks intensify mobilization of potential voters year-round. They achieved four pro-RJ policy wins in 2016 resulting from policy and legal advocacy.

National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum (NAPAWF) (CA/National) is fighting against the repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and policies that target women in immigrant communities. It engages in base building/leadership development, grassroots organizing, policy advocacy, research and communications, and strategic alliances in order to advance social justice and human rights for AAPI women and girls. Their policy goals include ending sex selective abortion bans (which rely on anti-immigrant bias to reduce all women’s abortion access), expanding public benefits for reproductive health care access to low-income women, and ending punitive policies that criminalize women and girls seeking reproductive health care and abortion. NAPAWF achieved five policy wins as a result of policy and legal advocacy in 2016.
BUILDING STRONGER LEADERSHIP

Catalyst grantees are committed to building the impact and sustainability of the RJ movement through cultivating new leaders.

Since 2014, there has been an 86% increase in the number of constituents taking leadership roles in the RJ movement, based on all Catalyst grantees (whose number varies somewhat) each year. In 2016, there was a small decline in the number of leaders recruited by grantees. This is likely explained by a smaller number of Catalyst Fund grantees than in the prior year. In addition, several grantees reported focusing their energy on deepening the capacity of existing leaders.

Catalyst grantees use a leadership ladder developed by Groundswell to track the number of leaders as well as the journey constituents take from being an active member of an organization’s base to having a leadership role in the movement. In order to compare changes in various indicators of grantee capacity and contributions to the RJ movement, numbers for organizations that have received Catalyst grants since 2014 are compared each year. The graphic at right shows how counts of leaders at each level have changed for the 27 grantees that have received ongoing Catalyst support over the past three years.

Strategy Spotlight: Leadership Development — COLOR Story, Part II:

COLOR helps its constituents to build leadership and advocacy capacity. A recent graduate of the organization's Latinas Increasing Political Strength (LIPS) program and current COLORistxs group member, 16 year old Gianella Millan participated in comprehensive sex education Latinas of Vision workshops and volunteered to canvass by phone and door-to-door. In March 2016, she became the youngest lobby team leader at the annual Reproductive Freedom Lobby Day hosted by COLOR, NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado, and Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains. In addition to helping mentor new LIPS participants, about half of COLOR’s young leaders go on to lead in social justice organizations and local government. LIPS graduate Angelina Sandoval serves on the COLOR board of directors and was appointed by the mayor to the Denver Women’s Commission. At 30 years old, LIPS graduate Jordan Sauers is now a city councilwoman in Northglenn, and 2016 graduate Macarena Villagomez interned for Colorado House Majority Leader Chrisanta Durán before going on to her current internship with U.S. Senator Michael Bennet. Catalyst grantees are committed to building the impact and sustainability of the RJ movement through cultivating new leaders.
As Catalyst grantees — particularly those that participate in Groundswell’s IVE program and GOI — have increased their capacity for leadership development, there has been impressive growth in the number of very engaged and most engaged leaders in the RJ sector. In 2016, more Catalyst grantees were focused on moving their volunteers and members up the leadership ladder than in 2015, which may account for the drop in leaders at the “engaged” level.

A third of the cohort who have received Catalyst support since 2014 were in Groundswell’s IVE program in 2016. The apparent impact of IVE participation on their ability to cultivate Level 1 leaders is remarkable: While the number of Level 1 leaders reported by non-IVE grantees has nearly doubled (a 68% increase), the number reported by IVE grantees has more than tripled (a 235% increase).

The International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) (San Francisco, CA) is an organization of Indigenous peoples from the American continent, the Caribbean, and the Pacific working for the sovereignty and self-determination of Indigenous peoples and the recognition and protection of Indigenous rights, treaties, traditional cultures, and sacred lands. In 2016, IITC provided information and testimony to the United Nations (U.N.) Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association related to the use of excessive force against protesters fighting to stop an oil pipeline from running through sacred lands and threatening drinking water sources at the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in North Dakota. The rapporteur responded with condemnation of “unjustified force to deal with opponents of the Dakota Access Pipeline.”

IITC’s Project Access is a training program for new delegates of the U.N. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), an important mechanism for bringing Indigenous concerns — including those related to chemical contamination and other toxins that threaten women’s reproductive health — to the U.N. In 2016, the program trained 20 new delegates who then trained their own communities to present Indigenous concerns to the UNPFII. One of these delegates, Crystal Lameman of the Beaver Lake Cree Nation in Canada, a tireless environmental justice campaigner and advocate, coordinated a series of leadership trainings to deliver during the UNPFII session. IITC’s Environmental Health Program Coordinator Rochelle Diver explains, “These events will train other trainers to work in advocacy efforts and form another road to take in protecting the environment and peoples, specifically our women, their reproductive health, and our future generations to come.”

Correctional Association of New York (CA) (New York, NY) was founded in 1844 by citizens concerned about brutal prison conditions and the lack of services available for individuals returning to their communities after incarceration. Through prison monitoring, research, public education, leadership training, coalition building, and policy advocacy, the CA works to address injustices and raise awareness of racism, violence, and abuse in the criminal justice system. One of their most powerful strategies is to facilitate strong participation by formerly incarcerated women in legislative and administrative advocacy. A key to their success is providing the women with practical support, such as public transit cards, child care expenses, and buying lunch to facilitate their participation. LadyKathryn Williams-Julien, a domestic violence survivor, was able to avoid prison after being charged with manslaughter, thanks to intensive advocacy by a member of CA’s Coalition for Women Prisoners’ Violence Against Women Committee. LadyKathryn is now a member of the committee and has been giving testimony since 2012 to support the Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act (DVSJA), a bill to allow judges to weigh the impact of domestic abuse when considering sentencing. She uses her story and personal experience to educate policymakers. She has led a legislative advocacy team in meetings with Republican senators and takes part in media interviews on a regular basis. Although the DVSJA is not yet law, it was passed by the New York state assembly in May 2016.
FORGING ALLIANCES FOR GREATER POWER

All Catalyst grantees work in alliances, networks, and/or coalitions, partnering with organizations that focus on one or many RJ-related issues. Nearly all of them build alliances that cross local, state, and national levels. The 2016 Catalyst grantees worked with 4,200 ally organizations. Their most common alliances were with organizations working on:

- Smaller numbers had allies in criminal justice/prison-industrial complex change, domestic/intimate partner/gender-based violence, immigrant rights, labor/worker rights, education justice, and environmental justice.

As the RJ movement has matured, grantees increasingly talk about being selective and strategic about alliances, noting that it is important to be valued for their grassroots and multi-sectoral perspectives and not be tokenized or sidelined from important discussions and decisions.

**Strategy Spotlight: Alliance Building — COLOR story, Part III:**

COLOR counts several Catalyst grantees as allies in its work: Forward Together/Strong Families New Mexico, SisterSong, Young Women United, National Advocates for Pregnant Women, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH), and California Latinas for Reproductive Justice. Together, these organizations send activists to each other’s advocacy days, coordinate rallies, and publish joint press releases. For instance, in May, young leaders and staff of COLOR and NLIRH co-led a Google Hangouts convening, “Seeing Ourselves: Young Parents, Popular Culture, and Representation.” COLOR has strong partnerships with other organizations working on reproductive health, immigrant rights, and economic justice as well. COLOR is a founding member — along with 9to5 Colorado and ProgressNow Colorado — of the Colorado Stand with Women and Families Campaign, a long-term reproductive and economic justice effort formed in 2015 with leadership by U.S. Congresswoman Diana DeGette, Colorado State Senator Andy Kerr, and Westminster City Councillor Maria De Cambra. Among its priorities, the campaign fights for the repeal of the Hyde Amendment and the extension of sick leave and living wage policies.
Catalyst grantees’ most rewarding alliances involve:

- Partnerships with organizations with complementary capacities, enabling them to share resources, personnel, or expertise.
- Leveraging alliances to unite communities that are diverse in terms of race, ethnicity, age, income, or other characteristics.
- Increased outreach, activism, and impact by linking issues, such as reproductive health care access, immigration, and/or criminal justice; or economic justice and abortion access.
- Close collaboration on all aspects of campaign planning and implementation.

Groundswell’s alliance ladder helps show how many alliances are authentic partnerships and go beyond transactional (one-time event) purposes. The adjacent graphic shows that alliance numbers increased at all levels in 2016 for the 27 grantees that have received ongoing Catalyst support.

“Since the recent legislative attacks on marginalized groups such as the LGBTQ+ community, women, people of color, and low-income families, we have seen a cross-movement of organizations joining forces to help make West Virginia a place that everyone can call home. We face a triple-threat crisis here in the Mountain State of economics, demographics, and civics. Drawing out the interconnections between various movements is fundamental. Attaining justice and creating safer communities for all to live, work, and raise a family does not transpire through single-issue organizing. We have built, and will continue to build, relationships with health, economic, environmental, and other social justice initiatives. We understand that cross-movement organizing strengthens our impact and ability to effect change.”

– FREE, West Virginia
Cabrini Green Legal Aid (CGLA) (Chicago, IL) provides legal services for those impacted by the criminal justice system and advocates for systemic change that strengthens lives, families, and communities. In 2016, with the support of Groundswell’s GOI, CGLA has been able to meet their goal of identifying 150 new supporters to start building their base of support and has improved their methods of engagement to move families from program participants to advocates for change. Maria, one of their activists and a graduate of CGLA’s Visible Voices program, which offers support and leadership development for formerly incarcerated women, has shared her story to raise awareness on issues facing women in prison at multiple events held at universities, churches, and on panels. She has participated in CGLA’s Leadership Council and coalition meetings, and the organization hired her to organize people around their newest campaign to address the financial barriers imposed by the criminal justice system. In 2016, a state budget impasse jeopardized the Reunification Rides bus service, which enables children and their caregivers to take a monthly bus to visit their mothers at correctional centers. CGLA worked with two organizations to preserve the program, mobilize new constituencies, and raise awareness of RJ and impact of incarceration on children and families. Collaborating with Moms United Against Violence and Incarceration and Nehemiah Trinity Rising, which promotes restorative justice, CGLA conducted a crowd-funding campaign and ignited a movement that resulted in saving the program. Working with these and other allies, CGLA was able to achieve five policy wins in 2016 that promise to improve access to employment and health care for formerly incarcerated women.

Kentucky Health Justice Network (KHJN) (Louisville, KY) advocates, educates, and provides direct services to ensure that all Kentucky communities and individuals have power, access, and resources to be healthy and have agency over their lives. KHJN works to increase and improve access, quality, and scope of accurate and culturally-relevant health information and services, particularly those pertaining to comprehensive reproductive health care. KHJN runs an abortion fund and hotline, which, in 2016, it expanded to include a transgender health focus. Then community member Kate Hall, who began as an intern, came up with the idea to start a separate transgender health hotline. Now a staff member, Kate has developed and implemented the Trans Health Advocates hotline.

KHJN recognizes alliances as key to its work. As a participant in the National Network of Abortion Funds’ Southern Cohort, KHJN developed an alliance with Catalyst grantee SisterReach, a racial, economic, and reproductive justice organization based in Tennessee. In 2016, the partnership between the organizations grew when SisterReach wanted to develop an abortion fund and hotline in Tennessee. KHJN also has a strong relationship with another Catalyst grantee, Georgia-based SisterSong. In 2016, SisterSong joined KHJN at its reproductive justice health fair. SisterSong’s involvement contributed to a large presence of black women standing in opposition to racist rhetoric claiming that they are unable to understand, let alone support, a woman’s right to abortion access. KHJN is also a member of the Louisville Sex Education Now coalition. With allies including Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky, American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky, and Black Lives Matter, the coalition is advocating to bring comprehensive sex education to all Jefferson County public schools.
IMPROVING SYSTEMS AND POLICIES

Twenty-five Catalyst grantees were instrumental in the passage of 44 policies and blocking or reversing 35 of anti-RJ policies in 2016. Most of these wins were legislative or administrative, however a small but growing number were in the form of court decisions that had or are expected to have an impact on current and future policy making. More than half (59%) of grantees reported policy wins. By contrast, 83% of Catalyst grantees in the IVE program reported policy wins. This difference is likely an indication of two things: the effectiveness of the IVE program in boosting the impact of organizations, and the fact that the most effective organizations are often the ones invited to participate in the IVE program.

To engage their base in policy advocacy, Catalyst grantees use myriad strategies, demonstrating the importance of community-centered planning by organizations that come from and are deeply familiar with the communities they wish to mobilize. They report that their most effective strategies include:

Listen → Communicate → Support in Meaningful Action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADVOCACY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Listen...</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ask about and Respond to Community Priorities:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listening sessions, polling, focus groups, and participatory research.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outreach to constituents who have become less active.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communicate...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Offer Public Education:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briefs, fact sheets, messages, legislative report cards, art activism (“artivism”) events, and trainings in RJ and advocacy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organize Using Digital Tools:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information and calls to action via social media.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expand Outreach:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engagement of diverse constituencies, including alliances that encompass ethnic, age, or class groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Meaningful Action...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tap into Constituent Knowledge and Power:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relying on constituents to lead or help lead in the shaping of policy campaigns and strategies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy monitoring and follow-up conducted by constituents with public officials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure That Constituents are Seen and Heard:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arranging meetings with and policy testimony before public officials; facilitating constituents’ roles as participants and/or witnesses to court cases whose decisions will have a policy impact.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide Practical Support:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation or bus fare, child care, lunch, etc. to enable low-income people to participate in advocacy.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The end result — whether in the near or longer-term — is to shift policy.
Cultivating Relationships with Public Officials

Catalyst grantees discuss many factors that contribute to their ability to develop and build relationships with those who make and implement policy. These include:

- **Place constituent voices front and center:** Provide stories and support personal visits and testimony by constituents to share the personal impact of policies. Provide leadership development so constituents can communicate well and develop cooperative relationships with public officials.

- **Place long-term relationships ahead of short-term policy actions:** Take time to cultivate relationships and support public officials — starting when they are in local positions and continuing as they move up — even if it seems to slow policy progress in the short-term. Conduct visits and communicate even when a big issue is not under consideration.

- **Develop resonant framing:** Frame issues in a way that resonates with public officials’ current focus or understanding, and come with concrete proposals for policy change or solutions.

- **Support public officials:** Be around-the-clock, go-to experts for public officials on reproductive health, rights, and justice, by providing them with information and access to issue experts and by co-authoring op-eds or policies — both proactively and in response to specific requests.

- **Forge visible alliances:** Build ally support for an issue and/or join with an affinity caucus or other group to increase public officials’ perceptions of a group’s credibility, the importance of an issue, or a sense of accountability on an issue.

- **Leverage external factors:** Be ready to respond to state and national attention to issues, which can translate into a positive impact on public awareness of organizations working on those issues and increase public officials’ desire to work with them.

Strategy Spotlight: Policy Advocacy — COLOR story, Part IV:

Despite a tense policy landscape, COLOR worked with partners from the Colorado Reproductive Rights, Health and Justice Coalition to introduce four pieces of proactive legislation during the 2016 legislative session. With split chambers and the overall challenging political climate for RJ work, it became imperative to secure bipartisan support on bills in order for them to succeed. All four bills successfully moved through the process. Here is the story of COLOR’s work on one of them:

Leveraging the power of their alliance, COLOR and the other co-founders of the Colorado Stand with Women and Families Campaign decided to prioritize passage of a law guaranteeing employer accommodations for pregnant women in August 2015. Their first meeting included Democratic state representatives with whom they had developed supportive relationships and a public affairs firm to help them strategize throughout the next 10 months. This coalition identified an organization that had worked with other states in implementing pregnancy accommodation laws to help them draft the Employer Accommodations Related to Pregnancy bill (HB 1438). The group developed fact sheets and outreach email messages and held stakeholder meetings to gain the support of a broad cadre of organizations, including the March of Dimes, the Colorado Women’s Bar Association, the Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the Junior League. Eventually, they were also able to attract a Republican co-sponsor, which they knew would be necessary for the bill to pass. After meeting with and addressing concerns by the business community, the group ultimately garnered positive press for the bill and its bipartisan and broad coalition of supporters. Activists from COLOR and 9to5 came to the capitol in late April to urge representatives to support the bill. Among them was Maribel Anguiano, a parent who was visiting the capitol for the first time. Maribel participated in a legislative briefing and lobby training in preparation for meeting with her state representative. She later commented on feeling “supported and guided step-by-step to do something I’ve never done or knew that I could do.” On June 1, 2016, the bill was signed into law as the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.
As a result of their strategies and other contributing factors, Catalyst grantees reported a total of 2,200 relationships with public officials in local, state, and federal government in 2016.

In an indication that consistent Catalyst support has an impact on RJ organizations’ capacity, the cohort of 27 organizations that have been Catalyst grantees since 2014 show consistent gains in total numbers of public official relationships at each layer of government, with a 39% increase from 2014 to 2016.

The adjacent table shows that relationships with state policy makers are by far the most common and have shown the greatest increase since 2014, although relationships with local public officials have increased, too.

Grantees have made the least gains in numbers of federal official relationships. This trend aligns with several grantees’ focus on local and, depending on the state, state-level policies, where they currently see more opportunity to move policy than at the federal level. However, the total numbers do not tell the whole story: Catalyst grantees have increased their Level 1 relationships with federal public officials 127%, from 41 in 2014 to 93 in 2016, indicating a more strategic cultivation of existing relationships.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>707</td>
<td>1157</td>
<td>1119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>359</td>
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URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity (Washington, D.C.) engages young people in leading the way to sexual and reproductive justice by providing training, field mobilization, and national leadership for a youth-driven agenda. In April 2016, the organization partnered with All* Above All and launched its first-ever national Abortion Positive Campus Tour on ten campuses in five states. Through the tour, URGE attracted new student supporters who have heard about abortion restrictions in their states but have not yet become activists. By giving these students opportunities to take concrete action and introducing them to their local URGE chapter and the Abortion Positive campaign, the tour built student power in Alabama, Georgia, Kansas, Ohio, and Texas.

An activist in Kansas, Danica, self-identifies as a full-time student, a U.S. Navy veteran, feminist, Chicana, and, most importantly to her, the single mother of a three-year-old boy. She says, “I applied for URGE’s Reproductive Justice Leadership Institute (RJLI). When I was told I could bring my son, I was excited, because, for once, I had found an organization that appealed to my passion for activism and my identity as a mother. After the RJLI, I actively participated in an advocacy day with URGE and Planned Parenthood at my state capitol to fight a bill that would restrict abortion access, and I was able to meet some of the legislators that were on our side in the matter. It was an uplifting experience.” Although they were unsuccessful in blocking passage of that bill, they were successful in blocking another bill that URGE Kansas activists mobilized around, which would have required parental consent for students to attend sex education classes. URGE activists in other states helped to bring about policy wins related to abortion and contraception access (OH, CA, and TX) and financial stability for mothers (CA).
Policy Advocacy Activities

The most common policy advocacy activity was supporting new legislation. A smaller proportion of the 2016 grantees did this than in 2015, however. Given the political climate, which included conservative majorities in multiple state legislatures as well as in the U.S. Congress, this is not surprising.

Catalyst grantees engage in several policy advocacy activities

- 74% Support new legislation (laws and bills only)
- 64% Voter engagement
- 62% Block anti-RJ legislation
- 59% Ensure implementation of passed legislation
- 54% Ensure implementation of institutional policy
- 49% Support new institutional policy
- 23% Block anti-RJ institutional policy

ACT for Women and Girls (Visalia, CA) provides leadership opportunities to diverse young women to ensure they have a prominent voice in the RJ movement to impact legislation, their communities, and their own lives. In 2016, ACT made a concerted effort to ensure that the voices of young women and girls in the Central Valley are heard in local rule-making bodies as well as state, and federal legislatures. ACT mobilizes young women, including mothers like Lydia Pina, an ACT program participant, to make phone calls and conduct in-person visits to public officials, sign on to legislation, organize through social media, and provide legislative testimony.

Executive Director Erin Garner-Ford explains, “Our youth are a constant voice with people in positions of power. Their influence helps ACT in many ways to gather the support we need to push our agenda.”

ACT co-sponsored their first piece of legislation in 2016, supporting the rights of pregnant and parenting students. Although it did not pass, ACT was able to advance their relationships with elected officials to open the door and approach them on other legislation. ACT’s contribution to fighting against California’s SB 999 resulted in additional coverage for self-administered hormonal contraceptives. ACT worked with other organizations to successfully advocate for a law that that removed an exclusion from Covered California that prevented undocumented immigrants and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients from purchasing a health plan in the state’s marketplace. Partnering with several other organizations, they contributed to the repeal of the Maximum Family Grant Rule, which denied cash aid (i.e. welfare) to children who were conceived and born while their families were already receiving assistance.

ACT and its young leaders were active in a coalition that worked to influence the U.S. Supreme Court case, Whole Women’s Health v. Hellerstedt which reversed HB 2, a Texas bill requiring abortion providers to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals and to meet the standards of ambulatory surgical centers. In total, ACT participated in four coalitions and was instrumental in four policy wins. Just as important for its longer-term impact, ACT established itself as knowledgeable and poised to take action in the legislative process and effectively reflect the needs of women and girls in their region. In a new experience for the organization, elected officials turned to ACT during the recent election cycle as an expert on issues related to girls in the Central Valley.
INFLUENCING CULTURE AND CONVERSATIONS

Public Reach
Catalyst grantees understand that an effective communications strategy is an important tool in helping to achieve their RJ goals. With the support of Groundswell’s IVE program, GOI, and/or other targeted support, grantees are increasing the visibility of RJ issues and organizations, showing thought leaders and policy influencers where their constituents stand, and helping to bring awareness to the systemic challenges they face.

Number of unique individuals reached through communications strategies: 934,000 (a 70% increase since last year’s 658,000).

2016 Facebook likes: 505,000 (up from 315,000 in 2015).

2016 followers on Twitter: 130,000 (up from 104,000 in 2015).

Grantees report that they earned media coverage through dozens of traditional and online media outlets, including all major television news outlets and:


Several report media outlets in languages other than English, including:


Issues and Messaging Adopted by Others
Increasing public reach through the methods above and in-person contacts as well as bringing important campaigns to allies, policy makers, funders, and other stakeholders raises awareness, transforms conversations, and paves the way to build broad support that leads to change.
Abortion access for all is critical and part of the full RJ spectrum.

Monica Simpson, Executive Director of SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective, testified at the Democratic National Convention Platform Hearing on June 17, 2016. She spoke to Democratic members of Congress and other party members tasked with shaping the party’s priorities about the importance of supporting the many connecting aspects of RJ, including the repeal of the Hyde Amendment.

Access to abortion is about respect for women and families.

During the 2016 legislative session, Young Women United (YWU) was successful in defeating a number of anti-abortion bills in large part because their organizing efforts through social and new media mobilized constituents to testify in opposition to the bills. Social media was a platform for YWU and their partners to engage communities and disseminate messages about abortion that resonated with New Mexico families.

Black women do not live single-issue lives, and Black women vote.

In the summer of 2016, Black Women’s Blueprint revamped and relaunched their blog, mamablack.org. Mama Black curates the truths of Black women standing at the crossroads of economic justice, violence against women, and racial justice. The use of the blog, in tandem with Facebook and Twitter, has expanded their reach and garnered much attention and many inquiries from potential allies for building political power. This was especially true during the presidential election, when Black Women’s Blueprint was asked to partner with Higher Heights (an organization building Black women’s power) to promote #BlackWomenVote and to host online Twitter chats as well as Thunderclap (an online campaign platform through which individuals and organizations “donate” one or more of their social media accounts to send out a coordinated message) to encourage Black women to head to the polls.

Environmental justice is an urgent public health issue.

Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT) used earned media, paid media (non-profit radio ads), and social media to advance organizing and policy priorities. In July 2016, Alaska’s largest print and online newspaper, Alaska Dispatch News, published an opinion editorial (op-ed) by Executive Director Pamela Miller on the dangers of environmental toxicants on neurodevelopment. Following publication, ACAT received a call from the editor of a statewide publication, Alaska Nursing Today, requesting to reprint the op-ed and offering to help publicize ACAT’s Alaska Children’s Environmental Health Summit. With a readership of over 7,000 nurses statewide, this substantially increased ACAT’s reach and educated an important constituency. The op-ed also led to an invitation to appear on the Alaska Public Media’s popular radio program, Line One: Your Health Connection.

Racial and gender equity are essential to economic justice.

Warehouse Workers for Justice worked with Will Evans, an investigative reporter at the Center for Investigative Reporting, on stories detailing discrimination against temporary workers on the basis of gender and race. The story had a major impact throughout the industry and has provided critical support in winning elected officials over to the view that the state must take action to regulate the temporary worker industry.
ASSETS, NEEDS, AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE MOVEMENT

Catalyst grantees and their constituents navigated many barriers in 2016.

- **Anti-RJ political environments** at state and federal levels.
- **Slow pace of change** in government bureaucracies.
- Ongoing **cultural stigmas** about RJ and a recent resurgence of **anti-immigrant and racist rhetoric** that impedes progress and endangers activists.
- **Inadequate power and visibility** in the media, public awareness, and governmental or institutional decision-making settings.
- **Wedge campaigns** that pit populations or movements against each other.
- **Trauma** experienced by communities of color and transgender individuals, which contributes to fear and rage and undermines resiliency.
- **Inadequate organizational resources** (staff, volunteer, technological, and/or financial).
- **Staff limitations**, including insufficient expertise to meet new demands, staff transitions, and personnel conflicts.
- **Limited geographical reach** in states with large rural areas.

The following boxes, divided into the main strategies necessary for RJ movement success, provide insights into what grantees say helped them in 2016, what they need, and what opportunities they say or imply are important for funders to support them moving forward.

### BUILDING A GRASSROOTS BASE AND LEADERSHIP

#### WHAT HELPED GRANTEES IN 2016

- Added a national focus or expanded to new areas of a state, new states, or international partners.
- Assisted allies in replicating programs in other communities or states.
- Combined grassroots organizing with media advocacy, public information campaigns, and a strategic use of social media.
- Helped constituents to share personal narratives with links to RJ issues and policies that impact their communities.
- Used GOI support, strategies, and tools to identify resources, gain exposure, and integrate leadership development processes.

#### WHAT GRANTEE SAY THEY NEED

- Communications capacity to quickly mobilize communities in response to critical events as well as to proactively articulate key issues outside of crises.
- Regular professional development and training to learn best practices.
- The ability to implement self-care strategies as an essential component of staff and community mental health and capacity to cope with trauma.

#### WHAT GRANTEES WOULD LIKE FROM FUNDERS

- Provide funding to sustain adequate staffing to meet the need for specific expertise and high-demand activities.
- Subsidize staff training/professional development for small organizations.
- Fund or subsidize resources for self-care and addressing individual and community trauma.
- Fund organizations in states with large rural areas to travel and organize in new communities.
## Forging and Strengthening Alliances

**What Helped Grantees in 2016**
- Formed or deepened alliances to advance policies, expand geographical scope, and overcome obstacles.
- Strengthened cross-movement alliances.
- Used GOI strategies to identify opportunities to partner with new organizations and/or across geographical regions.

**What Grantees Say They Need**
- Opportunities to share skills, policy platforms, and organizing strategies with other grantees.
- Alliances that will help link issues and movements as a defense against wedge issues.

**What Grantees Would Like from Funders**
- Provide funding, coordination, and/or technology to increase networking and alliance strengthening.
- Provide support to strengthen a cross-issue adaptation of RJ across organizations working in different movements.

## Creating Systems and Policy Change

**What Helped Grantees in 2016**
- Identified and cultivated relationships with ally organizations to advance policy initiatives.
- Built a reputation as a leader in their field.
- Utilized IVE strategies to mobilize constituents and advance civic engagement activities.
- Laid advocacy groundwork so when a culture shift in thinking about an issue occurred, they could quickly take advantage of a more positive environment for policy reform.

**What Grantees Say They Need**
- Support in connecting community engagement efforts with policy advocacy.
- Strategies to increase their visibility and, in turn, their ability to shape public messaging and focus the attention of thought leaders and public officials on RJ issues.
- Intersectional movement building to increase visibility, credibility, power, and/or resources.
- The capacity to ensure effective implementation of policy gains already made.

**What Grantees Would Like from Funders**
- Provide funding for adequate staffing to implement policy advocacy agendas.
- Extend the IVE program to more organizations.
- Support grantee collaboration and strategy sharing in common policy advocacy, within and/or across state lines.
### INITIATING CULTURE CHANGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHAT HELPED GRANTEES IN 2016</th>
<th>WHAT GRANTEES SAY THEY NEED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Built greater visibility on social media.</td>
<td>• Increased geographical reach, especially into rural communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Published public education materials and connected with key media contacts.</td>
<td>• Communications tools to highlight commonalities that bridge communities and movements and prevent or overcome wedge campaigns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Assisted constituents in developing and sharing personal narratives with their communities and broader audiences.</td>
<td>• Strategies to track the impact of social media campaigns.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Aligned messaging across movements (e.g., using the term “reproductive justice”).</td>
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<tr>
<td>• A socio-political climate in which organizing and protests have led to greater mainstream visibility of systemic racism and other RJ issues.</td>
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### BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE ORGANIZATIONS

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<tr>
<th>WHAT HELPED GRANTEES IN 2016</th>
<th>WHAT GRANTEES SAY THEY NEED</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Used multi-year funding to maintain stability while pursuing new funding opportunities.</td>
<td>• Adequate staffing to concentrate on data collection and use, civic engagement, and membership and volunteer development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Used a Catalyst matching grant to develop a successful fundraising strategy and/or to support operational needs.</td>
<td>• Long-term, unrestricted funding to allow them to invest in tools, personnel, or other internal needs that may otherwise be cost-prohibitive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Received complementary Groundswell support, including GOI and IVE.</td>
<td>• Increased professional and leadership development of current staff and programs, rather than replicating or creating new programs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Had a clear strategic plan.</td>
<td>• Support for staff renewal to ensure strong individual capacity and prevent burnout (and turnover).</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Had high quality staff and teams.</td>
<td>• Capacity and processes for efficient, streamlined data collection and funder reporting strategies, including databases and dedicated staff resources.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Shared space and/or resources with an ally organization.</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Adequate staffing to concentrate on data collection and use, civic engagement, and membership and volunteer development.</td>
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| WHAT GRANTEES WOULD LIKE FROM FUNDERS                                                      |                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|                                                                                           |
| • Provide support for strategic planning or other planning capacity to develop systems for saying “yes” or “no” to work, based on mission and internal capacity. | • Provide support for strategic planning or other planning capacity to develop systems for saying “yes” or “no” to work, based on mission and internal capacity. |
| • Assist organizations in identifying possible partners to leverage/complement each other’s capacity. | • Assist organizations in identifying possible partners to leverage/complement each other’s capacity. |
| • Support donor outreach.                                                                  | • Support donor outreach.                                                                  |
| • Provide or subsidize board development training for fundraising and other member roles.   | • Provide or subsidize board development training for fundraising and other member roles. |
| • Provide funding for the purchase of technology.                                          | • Provide funding for the purchase of technology.                                          |
| • If funders request data from grantees, provide resources and technical assistance to ensure that organizations have the capacity to collect, accurately report, and use the data. | • If funders request data from grantees, provide resources and technical assistance to ensure that organizations have the capacity to collect, accurately report, and use the data. |
CONCLUSION

Catalyst grantees helped to bring RJ issues to an unprecedented level of public awareness in 2016. The grantees were at the center of actions to protest environmental toxins on Tribal land in Alaska and North Dakota; to call attention to a lack of access to reproductive health care for low-income women of color in Illinois and Latina immigrant women in South Texas; and to build legal and institutional support for transgender rights in New York and Arizona. In multiple states or nationwide, they pushed for access to abortion, contraception, and comprehensive health care coverage; helped to awaken public outrage against police violence and mass incarceration; and challenged laws that target immigrants and women of color. In these and many other pro-RJ battles, they used strategies developed through years of working with their communities and, often, skills and tactics newly acquired through participation in Groundswell’s IVE program, GOI, and other initiatives.

As attention to RJ has grown in the philanthropic sector, threats have deepened — but so has the capacity of the movement. This year’s evaluation highlights factors that contributed to grantee organizations’ successes in 2016, those that inhibited greater progress, and numerous opportunities for investment in the capacity they will need to organize constituents and mobilize allies, public officials, and public will to resist the erosion of rights and support the advancement of pro-RJ policies in the coming months.

To learn more about the data behind this evaluation or to host a discussion for your board or other stakeholders, please contact Groundswell Fund.
APPENDIX

- Policies Passed or Blocked in 2016
- National Funders, Grantmaking Partners, and Grantees
- Map of 2016 Grantees’ Organizing Efforts
- Groundswell Fund Theory of Change
- Acknowledgements and Methods
- Endnotes
- Photo Identifications
Policies Passed or Blocked in 2016

Following is a list of 44 pro-RJ policies passed and 35 harmful policies blocked or reversed in part due to the work of 25 Catalyst grantees in 2016. These include policies with a direct impact on reproductive health, rights, and justice as well as those with a broad and/or indirect RJ impact, via education, employment, and immigration. As several grantees engage in legal advocacy, the list also includes court decisions with significant impact on RJ-related policies. The names of grantees are listed beside each policy win in which they played a role.

**ABORTION ACCESS**

### New “Pro-RJ” Laws and Non-Legislative Policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Policies</th>
<th>Grantees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>• A resolution opposing the Hyde Amendment was passed by the Los Angeles City Council in September 2016.</td>
<td>BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS</td>
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### Blocking/Reversing Harmful Policies

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Policies</th>
<th>Grantees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>• HB 2, a Texas law passed in 2013, required Texas abortion providers to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals and to meet the standards of ambulatory surgical centers. HB 2 resulted in closures of nearly 75% of Texas clinics until its defeat. HB 2 was struck down in the Supreme Court case Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt in June 2016.</td>
<td>ACT FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS, NATIONAL ADVOCATES FOR PREGNANT WOMEN, NATIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN WOMEN'S FORUM, NATIONAL LATINA INSTITUTE FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, NEW VOICES FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE, SERVICE WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK, SISTERREACH, URGE: UNITE FOR REPRODUCTIVE &amp; GENDER EQUITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>• Anne O'Hara Bynum v. State of Arkansas successfully demonstrated that “fetal rights” laws negate the rights of pregnant women. The case involved a woman who was arrested five days after a stillbirth on charges of “concealing a birth” and “abuse of a corpse” (with a potential 10-year sentence) for bringing the fetal remains home from the hospital after allegedly having taken pills to induce an abortion. Ms. Bynum succeeded in persuading a trial court judge to issue a verdict finding her “not guilty” of abuse of a corpse. NAPW helped her win release from incarceration and is working with her to appeal her conviction for the charge of concealing a birth. Positive outcomes for Ms. Bynum will help to set a precedent that will influence future court cases and policy making.</td>
<td>NATIONAL ADVOCATES FOR PREGNANT WOMEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>• CO HB 1113, Protect Human Life at Conception, would have banned virtually all abortions and emergency contraception in Colorado and imposed several criminal penalties against physicians performing abortions.</td>
<td>COLORADO ORGANIZATION FOR LATINA OPPORTUNITY AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• CO HB 1146, Born Alive Infant Protection Act, would have paved the way to deny access to abortion and impede medical providers’ ability to provide the most appropriate health care to pregnant patients by mandating that an infant “born alive” (including during the course of an abortion procedure) be included in the statutory definitions of “child,” “human being,” “individual,” and “person.” (Please see explanation of NM HB 275, below, for further discussion of the purpose of new “born alive” laws.)</td>
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<td>• CO HB 1200, Authority Over Fetal Tissue Transfers, would have empowered the Attorney General to enforce already existing fetal tissue transfer laws, which unnecessarily politicize women’s reproductive health care.</td>
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<td>• CO HB 1203, Women’s Health Protection Act, would have implemented burdensome registration and inspection requirements for abortion clinics.</td>
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## ABORTION ACCESS

### Florida
- FL HB 1411 would have prevented abortion clinics from receiving state funding for non-abortion services and imposed requirements for clinic doctors to have admitting privileges at local hospitals.

### Indiana
- In an important win against the erasure of pregnant women’s rights, *Purvi Patel v. State of Indiana* set a precedent that the IN feticide law may not be used to punish women who have abortions. The Indiana Court of Appeals overturned federal and state feticide charges for Ms. Patel’s alleged self-induced abortion and reduced a neglect charge, resulting in her release from prison.
- IN SB 313 would have criminalized doctors who conduct “sex-selective abortions,” among many other motivation-based bans.16 This type of law capitalizes on an anti-immigrant bias and unsubstantiated assumptions about immigrants’ motivations for abortions.

### Ohio
- OH HB 493 would have prohibited abortions in cases where a fetal heartbeat is detected.

### New Mexico
- In an effort to undermine abortion access, NM HB 275 would have mandated that a physician attempting to perform an abortion would need to take “all medically appropriate and reasonable steps to preserve the life and health of a born alive infant.” It would have made denial or deprivation of nourishment or medically appropriate and reasonable care to any infant “born alive,” as defined in the act, a first or second degree felony (depending on specific factors). Strong Families New Mexico explains, “The bill has a misleading title of ‘Medical Care for Infants Born Alive’ but in fact denies medical providers the ability to provide women and families individualized, appropriate health care.”
- NM SB 242 would have renamed the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act as the “Late-Term and Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act,” prohibited abortion of a “viable” fetus after 20 or more weeks of gestation, and provided exceptions and penalties.
- NM SB 243 would have provided additional exceptions and penalties for NM SB 242.
- NM HM 101 would have compelled multiple public health agencies to investigate and create a report concerning the incidence of infants showing “signs of life” following an abortion.

### Oregon
- OR IP 61 would have created a new definition of abortion in the Oregon State Constitution that includes some commonly-used forms of contraception. It would have excluded coverage for abortion and certain contraceptives through the Oregon Health Plan and private insurance policies for employees of the state, school districts, cities, counties or any “public” entity.

### Rhode Island
- RI S 2612 would have criminalized doctors who conduct “sex-selective abortions.”

### Virginia
- VA HB 1090 would have prohibited expenditure of funds related to abortions and family planning services.
- VA HB 963, Virginia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, would have banned abortion of fetuses past 20 weeks of gestation.

### Washington
- WA SB 6612 would have criminalized doctors who conduct “sex-selective abortions.”

### West Virginia
- WV SB 10, Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act, would have prohibited “dismemberment abortion” (inflammatory language that mischaracterizes surgical abortion) and instituted punitive consequences for the practitioner.
- WV HB 2468, No State-Funded Transportation for Abortion Act, would have prevented the state and counties from reimbursing any person or entity for transporting any person to schedule, arrange, or procure an abortion.
### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE ACCESS

#### New “Pro-RJ” Laws and Non-Legislative Policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Policy Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Federal</strong></td>
<td>* The National Defense Authorization Act of 2016 was extended to provide Veterans Administration funding for in vitro fertilization (IVF) services to veterans whose infertility was caused by a combat-related injury for the year 2017.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>California</strong></td>
<td>* CA AB 1795 provides coverage for treatment and services under the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program (BCCTP) for the duration of the period of treatment and expands eligibility for breast cancer screening under the Every Woman Counts (EWC) program to symptomatic women under the age of 40.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* CA AB 1954 prohibits health care service plans and health insurance policies from requiring the insured to receive a referral to access reproductive or sexual health care services.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* CA SB 999 requires health care service plans and health insurance policies to cover up to a 12-month supply of FDA-approved, self-administered hormonal contraceptives when dispensed at one time for an enrollee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* CA SB 1433 requires state prisons to provide family planning services upon the request of an incarcerated person and to offer these services between 180 to 60 days prior to their release date.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Colorado</strong></td>
<td>* CO HB 1360 adopts recommendations from a sunset report by the Department of Regulatory Agencies, extending and expanding the state’s Direct Entry Midwife (DEM) program. This ensures that women will continue to have access to the services of a midwife and to give birth at home while affirming the right to maintain self-agency and bodily autonomy during pregnancy and labor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Illinois</strong></td>
<td>* IL HB 5576 builds on state and federal regulations to improve access to the full range of contraceptive options for all people in Illinois who have insurance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* IL SB 2331 is a trailer bill that clarifies the intent of a law passed in 2015 (HB 2812), to protect the privacy of people accessing reproductive health (among other) services. HB 2812 instructs IL Medicaid Managed Care Entities to suppress the sharing of claim-related information with their members when it comes to specific “sensitive health services.” In the law, “sensitive health services” refers to mental health services, substance abuse treatment services, reproductive health services, family planning services, services for sexually transmitted infections and sexually transmitted diseases, and services for sexual assault or domestic abuse. The new law, SB 2331, clarifies the intent of the original law.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### COMPREHENSIVE SEX EDUCATION

#### Blocking/Reversing Harmful Policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Policy Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kansas</strong></td>
<td>* KS HB 2199 would have required written consent from parents or legal guardians to allow students to participate in sex education classes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### OTHER HEALTH CARE AND SERVICE ACCESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New “Pro-RJ” Laws and Non-Legislative Policies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>California</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• CA SB 10 removes an exclusion from Covered California that prevented undocumented immigrants and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients from purchasing a health plan in the CA marketplace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="url" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Illinois</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• IL HB 6213 reduces the information gap that currently exists for Medicaid recipients in managed care and increases overall transparency within the Medicaid Managed Care system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="url" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• IL HB 5736 ensures that about 40,000 Illinois children continue to have access to health insurance through the All Kids program by extending the sunset date for this program from June 30, 2016 to October 1, 2019.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="url" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Louisiana</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Medicaid coverage was expanded through the Healthy Louisiana program.</td>
</tr>
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<td><img src="url" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oregon</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• OR HB 4071 establishes a Compact of Free Association (COFA) Premium Assistance Program administered by the Department of Consumer and Business Services to provide financial assistance for health care premiums and out-of-pocket costs to Pacific Islanders legally residing in Oregon under the COFA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="url" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• OR HB 4017B provides for the development of a Basic Health Blueprint that could improve access to care for 89,000 working Oregonians, Pacific Islanders and legal residents by 2018.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="url" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>West Virginia</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• WV HB 4347 requires substance abuse treatment providers to give pregnant women priority access to services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="url" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• WV HB 4334 allows advanced practice registered nurses to prescribe drugs after meeting certain requirements and allows them to practice within the scope of their training without the direct supervision of a physician.</td>
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<tr>
<td><img src="url" alt="Image" /></td>
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</table>

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND JUSTICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New “Pro-RJ” Laws and Non-Legislative Policies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Federal</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• HR 2576, the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, reforms the 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act in order to protect vulnerable populations such as women and children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="url" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• HR 1321, the Microbead-Free Waters Act, amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ban rinse-off cosmetics that contain intentionally-added plastic microbeads. Microbeads concentrate endocrine-disrupting chemicals that are ingested by fish and ultimately by people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="url" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• S 612, the Federal Water Infrastructure Improvement Act, provides for improvements to U.S. water resources to provide access to safe drinking water.</td>
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<tr>
<td><img src="url" alt="Image" /></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## CRIMINAL JUSTICE/PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX REFORM

### New “Pro-RJ” Laws and Non-Legislative Policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Policies</th>
<th>Organizations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>California</strong></td>
<td>CA AB 2792, The TRUTH Act, establishes a transparent process, including community engagement, prior to local law enforcement participation in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) deportation programs.</td>
<td>CALIFORNIA LATINAS FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Illinois</strong></td>
<td>IL Public Act 99-0836 prevents the termination of an incarcerated mother’s rights solely as a result of her incarceration, mandates her participation in Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) case reviews, and calls for appropriate service plans to address reunification. IL Public Act 99-0886 removes lifetime barriers to health care licensing for individuals with forcible felony convictions. IL Public Act 99-0872 improves the Health Care Waiver process for individuals to work in unlicensed health care positions. IL Public Act 99-0884 removes lifetime barriers to employment in park districts for individuals with drug convictions or misdemeanor prostitution/public indecency convictions. IL Public Act 99-0667 removes lifetime barriers to employment in schools for individuals with drug convictions or misdemeanor prostitution/public indecency convictions.</td>
<td>CARRINI GREEN LEGAL AID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New York</strong></td>
<td>RCNY Chapter 40 prevents the NY Department of Corrections from banning access to gender-affirming court attire for incarcerated individuals. The New York City Board of Correction’s new rules expand the definition of sexual violence as well as the definitions of sex and gender identity. The new rules implement federal requirements for transgender/gender non-conforming individuals to be placed where they feel safest, unless there is a safety risk incurred from doing so.</td>
<td>SYLVIA RIVERA LAW PROJECT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Blocking/Reversing Harmful Policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Policies</th>
<th>Organizations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Colorado</strong></td>
<td>CO HB 1007 would have allowed for homicide or assault charges for the harming of a fetus during the commission of a crime.</td>
<td>COLORADO ORGANIZATION FOR LATINAN OPPORTUNITY AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Georgia</strong></td>
<td>A policy that had led to fewer resources being available to education was rescinded when a contract between the Atlanta Police Department and the Atlanta Public Schools (APS) was severed. Because of this, $10-$15 million of public education funds will now be re-allocated from police and police equipment back to APS.</td>
<td>PROJECT SOUTH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Mexico</strong></td>
<td>NM HB 29 would have allowed local governments to enact curfew ordinances.</td>
<td>FORWARD TOGETHER/STRONG FAMILIES NEW MEXICO, YOUNG WOMEN UNITED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NM HB 5 would have imprisoned people for life after receiving three felony convictions.</td>
<td>YOUNG WOMEN UNITED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### OTHER PARENTING RIGHTS

#### New “Pro-RJ” Laws and Non-Legislative Policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Policy Description</th>
<th>Organization(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>AL SB 372 clarifies that women cannot be charged with chemical endangerment of a child for taking legally prescribed medications during pregnancy.</td>
<td>NATIONAL ADVOCATES FOR PREGNANT WOMEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>CA ACR 201, the CA Young Parents Resolution, acknowledges the extensive health, educational, and systemic inequities many low-income pregnant and parenting youth face and serves as a framework to inform future policy decisions that affect the well-being of young parents.</td>
<td>CALIFORNIA LATINAS FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>IL SB 3007 provides survivors of human trafficking, torture, and other serious crimes with access to critical benefits (e.g. Medicaid, SNAP, TANF) while they are waiting for visas.</td>
<td>EVERTHRIVE ILLINOIS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Blocking/Reversing Harmful Policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Policy Description</th>
<th>Organization(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>HR 4843 would have amended the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) to require that grant-receiving states engage in “enhanced” monitoring to address the needs of infants identified as affected by substance abuse. The proposed amendments would not have ensured that states will develop and implement evidence-based, medically-appropriate child protection policies that uphold mothers’ human rights.</td>
<td>NATIONAL ADVOCATES FOR PREGNANT WOMEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>CO SB 118 would have required social service providers to use a questionnaire to screen for prenatal substance exposure, a strategy that advances the criminalization of pregnant women.</td>
<td>COLORADO ORGANIZATION FOR LATINA OPPORTUNITY AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS, NATIONAL ADVOCATES FOR PREGNANT WOMEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>TN HB 1660 would have permitted the prosecution of a woman for assault of a fetus based on her use of narcotic drugs while pregnant. Rather than providing evidence-based treatment and care, this type of law overrides the rights of mothers and families.</td>
<td>SISTERREACH, NATIONAL ADVOCATES FOR PREGNANT WOMEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>West Virginia v. Louk set a precedent that a woman cannot be convicted of “child neglect resulting in death” for inactions or actions during pregnancy. The West Virginia Court of Appeals overturned Louk’s conviction of “child neglect resulting in death” for Louk’s ingestion of methamphetamine and resulting cardiac arrest during pregnancy, which allegedly resulted in the death of her child after birth.</td>
<td>NATIONAL ADVOCATES FOR PREGNANT WOMEN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LGBTQ AND GENDER NON-CONFORMING/INTERSEX RIGHTS

#### New “Pro-RJ” Laws and Non-Legislative Policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Policy Description</th>
<th>Organization(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>CA AB 1732 requires all businesses, government buildings, and places of public accommodation to provide access to all-gender single-user toilet facilities.</td>
<td>CALIFORNIA LATINAS FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>The NY Human Resources Administration (H.R.A.), NYC’s social services and public assistance agency, issued a Policy on Gender Change which allows recipients of H.R.A benefits to correct their gender marker in H.R.A records.</td>
<td>SYLVIA RIVERA LAW PROJECT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Blocking/Reversing Harmful Policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Policy Description</th>
<th>Organization(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>GA HB 757 would have given faith-based organizations in Georgia the option to deny services and jobs to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people.</td>
<td>SISTERSONG WOMEN OF COLOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE COLLECTIVE, WOMEN ENGAGED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Cruz v. Zucker struck down NY Medicaid regulations which excluded “suspicious or cosmetic” procedures from Medicaid coverage. The court ruled that these exclusions violate the Medicaid Act.</td>
<td>SYLVIA RIVERA LAW PROJECT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Employment, Access to Social Services, and Immigrant Rights

### New “Pro-RJ” Laws and Non-Legislative Policies

#### California
- CA AB 2125 institutes Healthy Nail Salon Recognition Programming, which aims to protect the reproductive health of nail salon workers through the Department of Toxic Substance Control.  
  - **CALIFORNIA HEALTHY NAIL SALON COLLABORATIVE, CALIFORNIA LATINAS FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE**
- CA AB 2025 requires that all salon licensees understand key workplace rights and labor standards in order to create increased awareness of workers’ rights.  
  - **CALIFORNIA HEALTHY NAIL SALON COLLABORATIVE**
- CA SB 1015 deletes the repeal date of the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights.  
  - **CALIFORNIA LATINAS FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE, FORWARD TOGETHER**
- CA SB 1001 prohibits employers from requesting specific documentation not required by the I-9 form or refusing to accept legally acceptable documents at the time of hiring.  
  - **CALIFORNIA LATINAS FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE**
- CA SB 1139, Medical DREAMER Opportunity Act, ensures that all people, regardless of their immigration status, have access to California’s scholarship and loan forgiveness programs for health professionals.  
  - **CALIFORNIA LATINAS FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE**
- CA AB 1978 provides worker protections in the janitorial industry and addresses gaps in California’s regulatory scheme relating to violations of workplace rights.  
  - **CALIFORNIA LATINAS FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE**

#### Colorado
- CO HB 1438, Employer Accommodations Related to Pregnancy, provides for accommodations for pregnant people while employed.  
  - **COLORADO ORGANIZATION FOR LATINA OPPORTUNITY AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS**

#### Illinois
- An ordinance in Cook County enacts a minimum wage for workers in Cook County that exceeds the state minimum wage.  
  - **WAREHOUSE WORKERS FOR JUSTICE**

#### New Mexico
- NM SJM 10 requests that the Department of Health develop a limited-English-proficiency (LEP) model policy for state agencies to enforce existing LEP policies and make policy recommendations.  
  - **FORWARD TOGETHER/STRONG FAMILIES NEW MEXICO**

### Blocking/Reversing Harmful Policies

#### California
- Repeal of the Maximum Family Grant Rule, which denied cash aid (i.e. welfare) to children who were conceived and born while their families were already receiving assistance.  
  - **ACT FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS, BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS, CALIFORNIA LATINAS FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE, FORWARD TOGETHER, URGE: UNITE FOR REPRODUCTIVE & GENDER EQUITY**

#### West Virginia
- WV HB 4012, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, would have protected the right to discriminate based on religious freedom.  
  - **WV FREE**

## Youth and Education

### New “Pro-RJ” Laws and Non-Legislative Policies

#### Illinois
- IL SB 2393 amends the Breakfast after the Bell Act, which is a model that embraces proven best practices to overcome barriers that keep children from eating breakfast.  
  - **EVERTHRIVE ILLINOIS**

#### New Mexico
- NM SM 12, the Dona Ana Youth Programs Memorial, recognizes the importance of creating public-private partnerships that foster sustainable programs and collaborative projects to increase youth participation in community service and social justice in Dona Ana County, NM. Among other benefits, this will contribute to youth activism and leadership in RJ.  
  - **FORWARD TOGETHER/STRONG FAMILIES NEW MEXICO**

### Blocking/Reversing Harmful Policies

#### Georgia
- GA Amendment 1, Opportunity School District, would have allowed the Georgia Governor to take over public schools without input or oversight of local school boards.  
  - **PROJECT SOUTH**
National Funders, Grantmaking Partners, and Grantees

Catalyst Fund National Funders (2016)

- Alki Fund
- Anonymous (four anonymous donors)
- The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
- Educational Foundation of America
- Ford Foundation
- Foundation for a Just Society
- General Service Foundation
- Grove Foundation
- Heising-Simons Foundation
- William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
- Irving Harris Foundation
- Linked Fate Fund for Justice
- Open Society Foundations
- The Overbrook Foundation
- Prospect Hill Foundation
- Seeds Fund
- Tides Foundation
- Triskeles Foundation/Monardella Fund
- Underdog Fund of the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment
- WestWind Foundation
- Women Donors Network
- Wyss Foundation

CATALYST GRANTMAKING PARTNERS (2016)

These grantmaking partners participated in the Catalyst Fund in 2016 by raising matching grant funds and awarding grants to RJ organizations led by women of color in December 2016/January 2017 for work the grantees will do in 2017.

- Chicago Foundation for Women
- Ms. Foundation for Women
- New York Women's Foundation
- Third Wave Fund

Catalyst Grantees

Following are the 39 organizations featured in this evaluation. They received grants at the end of 2015 for work in 2016.

- ACT for Women and Girls
- Alaska Community Action on Toxics – ✓ R *
- Black on Both Sides
- Black Women for Wellness – ✓
- Black Women’s Blueprint
- Cabrini Green Legal Aid – G
- California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative – ✓ R *
- California Latinas for Reproductive Justice – ✓
- Chicago Freedom School
- Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR) – ✓
- Correctional Association of New York – G
- Everthrive Illinois
- Forward Together/Strong Families New Mexico – ✓ R *
- Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health – G
- International Indian Treaty Council – *
- Kentucky Health Justice Network
- Legal Services for Prisoners with Children – *
- Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force
- Mississippi Low-Income Childcare Initiative
- National Advocates for Pregnant Women – B
- National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum – G
- National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health – ✓ E
- Native American Community Board
- New Voices for Reproductive Justice – ✓ *
- Power U Center for Social Change – G, E
- Project South: Real Talk
- Raising Women’s Voices/The Afiya Center/Trans Queer Pueblo – *
- Reproductive Justice Collective – ✓
- Service Women’s Action Network
- SisterReach
- SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective – G
- Sylvia Rivera Law Project – G *
- URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity – ✓
- Warehouse Workers for Justice
- Western States Center
- Women Engaged – ✓ R
- Women with a Vision – ✓
- WV FREE – ✓
- Young Women United – B *

Key:
B = Birth Justice Fund 2016-17 grantee
E = Ecosystem Initiative 2016 grantee
✓ = Integrated Voter Engagement 2016 grantee
G = Grassroots Organizing Institute 2016 grantee
R = Rapid Response Fund 2016 grantee
* = Raised Catalyst match in 2016
NEW MEXICO
Forward Together/Strong Families New Mexico
International Indian Treaty Council
Native American Community Board
Young Women United

NEW YORK
Black Women’s Blueprint
Correctional Association of New York
International Indian Treaty Council
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
Service Women’s Action Network
Sylvia Rivera Law Project

NORTH CAROLINA
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective

OHIO
National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum
New Voices for Reproductive Justice
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity

OKLAHOMA
International Indian Treaty Council
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
Native American Community Board

OREGON
Western States Center

PENNSYLVANIA
New Voices for Reproductive Justice

PUERTO RICO
International Indian Treaty Council

SOUTH DAKOTA
International Indian Treaty Council
Native American Community Board

TENNESSEE
Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum
Project South
SisterReach
SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective

TEXAS
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
Raising Women’s Voices & the Afiya Center
SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity

VIRGINIA
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
Service Women’s Action Network

WASHINGTON
National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum

WASHINGTON DC
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
Service Women’s Action Network
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity

WEST VIRGINIA
West Virginia FREE

WISCONSIN
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
Reproductive Justice Collective
Warehouse Workers for Justice
Groundswell Fund Theory of Change

In 2014, Groundswell Fund underwent a rigorous planning process to develop a Blueprint for future work. The theory of change in the Blueprint best articulates the underpinnings of the Catalyst Fund at this time:

The ultimate goal of the reproductive justice (RJ) movement is that “all people have the economic, social, and political power and resources to make healthy decisions about their gender, bodies, sexuality, and reproduction for themselves, their families, and their communities.” The ultimate goal of Groundswell Fund is a vibrant and organized grassroots base with the power to advance reproductive justice for the long haul, winning concrete improvements that can be felt in people's daily lives, and infusing broader social justice movements with progressive analysis and strategies around gender.

The following principles undergird Groundswell’s work:

- Mass-based social justice movements are necessary to advance major change.
- An organized grassroots base is the engine of any social justice movement. Policy and system-changing wins are paper thin without an organized, vibrant, and sustained grassroots base that can defend them and advance RJ for the long haul. The policy win is not the end game. A movement that can defend each victory and win again and again is the end game.
- Resourcing those most affected by reproductive injustice to transform the systems that impact their lives will expand RJ for the greatest number of people. In today's United States, power comes from a racially, economically, and generationally diverse base as well as the leadership of low-income people, young people, and people of color who have the skills and capacity to organize their communities.
- Multi-issue organizing is an essential tool for effective base building.
- Strategic and courageous organizing within philanthropy is needed to address the dearth of resources moving into grassroots organizing work led by women, people of color, youth, and transgender people.
- We will have our greatest impact where we can play a catalytic role. Therefore, we prioritize funding work where our support can be most impactful due to historic and ongoing under-resourcing.
- Sustained social change requires a range of strategies. Our primary focus is on grassroots organizing, recognizing that direct service provision, cultural work, and healing work serve as transformative entry points for grassroots leaders.

We will achieve our ultimate goal through pursuit of three core strategies: grantmaking, capacity building, and funder organizing. We increase funding to RJ organizations that are expanding the grassroots base of the movement and are winning concrete improvements in women’s and LGBTQ people’s reproductive health outcomes and experiences. We expand grantee access to capacity building resources that build the skills and infrastructure needed to accelerate grassroots power-building. A commitment to investing in ecosystems and building bridges across movements is woven through all the work we do. How we do our work is guided by five operating values: being strategic, accountable, responsive, creative, and nimble.
Acknowledgements and Methods

Korwin Consulting sincerely appreciates the partnership and support of Groundswell Fund Executive Director Vanessa Daniel and Senior Program Director Alexandra DelValle in the Catalyst Fund evaluation. We also thank Groundswell Program Officer Naa Hammond and Program Assistant Krystal Kwong for their support.

We are grateful to all of the Catalyst grantmaking partners, grantees, and national funders and donors whose time and insights in reports, interviews, and follow-up communications made this evaluation possible. The following grantee representatives participated in a focus group about the value of the previous year’s evaluation and how to make the current evaluation as resonant and useful as possible to the field:

- Tannia Esparza, *Young Women United*
- Charity Tolliver, *Black On Both Sides*
- Malika Redmond, *Women Engaged*
- Kelley Weigel, *Western States Center*
- Amy Casso, *Western States Center*
- Pamela Miller, *Alaska Community Action On Toxics*

Methods

The evaluation was conducted using a mixed-methods evaluation approach including:

- Analysis of final report data submitted by 39 grantees through Groundswell’s online 2016 Catalyst Grantee Impact Survey.
- Comparative analyses against data from the 2014 and 2015 Catalyst grantees.
- A focus group with six Catalyst grantees/RJ movement leaders on June 2, 2016 to gain insight into their work and recommendations for strengthening the movement.
- Review and analysis of relevant reports and other materials from Groundswell Fund.
- Meetings, phone calls, and emails with grantees and Groundswell Fund staff for clarifications, in-depth information, and evaluation planning.

Limitations

Through feedback and conversations with individuals representing Catalyst grantees based in Native American/Tribal nations, we found that the evaluation survey’s categories related to public official relationships did not adequately allow for officials who are not a part of the U.S. federal, state, and local government structures. With stakeholder collaboration, we are in the process of developing new categories to include in the 2017 evaluation survey to bring visibility to relationships developed in these nations and communities in the course of RJ work.
Endnotes

1 This is Forward Together’s definition of reproductive justice, which is widely used in the RJ field.

2 One grantee organization, Reproductive Justice Collective of Milwaukee, WI, closed in 2016. The information they submitted on their interim report is included in this evaluation.

3 Groundswell defines “base” as people who are actively and consistently involved in an organization’s activities.

4 Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and gender non-conforming individuals.

5 This $1.54M is a combination of the $636K in matching grants awarded to them by Groundswell’s Catalyst Fund and the additional $903K they raised from other sources using that match.

6 In the table showing grantee funding sources, “other” includes: membership donations, training and event fees, speakers’ fees and honoraria, government grants (local, state, or federal), sub-grants from partner organizations, fees for services provided, sales of products or publications, corporate giving, and interest income.

7 Latinx is a gender-neutral term that encompasses all individuals of Latin American heritage, regardless of race, and includes individuals who are LGBTQ and gender non-conforming.

8 Groundswell Fund used only contributions from individuals to pay for the lobbying portion of Catalyst grants; no private foundation funds were used for those purposes.

9 First enacted in 1976, the Hyde Amendment severely restricts Medicaid funding for abortion.

10 The All* Above All campaign unites organizations and individuals to build support for lifting bans that deny abortion coverage.

11 This is a term coined by author Michelle Alexander, a former board member of Catalyst grantee Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, in her book, The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness, to describe policies and practices related to the mass incarceration of people of color as the metaphorical continuation of the racist Jim Crow laws once prevalent in the Southern U.S.

12 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

13 The current Catalyst Fund Grantee Impact Survey, which requires all grantees to provide a count of their leaders, was launched in 2014. Therefore, the most reliable comparisons across time begin in 2014.

14 This is not a unique count; it is likely that some grantees have the same allies.

15 The policy process is far too complex and long-term for any one organization or advocate to claim full credit for policy passage or defeat. However, when Catalyst grantees mobilize their communities, send their staff and constituent leaders to educate and testify to public officials, and forge and leverage relationships with allies and decision makers, their involvement is a critical part of the RJ policy process — and its absence would be felt.

16 This policy was subsequently passed in 2017.

17 HR 1321 became federal law in 2015 but was not listed in last year’s report as it was passed after last year’s report was published.

18 NY Human Resources Administration Policy on Gender Change was passed in 2015 but was not listed in last year’s report as it was passed after last year’s report was published.
Photo Identifications

Front cover, top: National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum

Front cover, bottom: Sylvia Rivera Law Project (SRLP)

Page 8: Afiya Center

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Page 15: Alaska Action on Toxics

Page 16: Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR)

Page 17: Chicago Freedom School, Women with a Vision

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Page 36: California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
Groundswell supports a stronger, more effective U.S. movement for reproductive justice by mobilizing new funding and capacity building resources to grassroots organizing and policy change efforts led by low income women, women of color and transgender people.

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