# Table of Contents

WELCOME LETTER ................................................................. III
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ....................................................... IV
GROUND SWELL FUND’S THEORY OF CHANGE AND STRATEGIES ................................................ VI
INTRODUCTION ........................................................................ 1
INVESTMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE .................................. 4
ORGANIZING NURTURES STRONG MOVEMENT ROOTS ............. 7
  Grassroots Organizing Institute ............................................. 10
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT BUILDS CONTINUITY AND SUSTAINABILITY ........................................... 11
  STRATEGIC THREAD SPOTLIGHT: Promoting Youth Leadership .................................................. 14
ALLIANCES EXPAND REACH AND IMPACT ............................ 16
  STRATEGIC THREAD SPOTLIGHT: Fostering Solidarity Across Issues and Communities .................... 18
POLICY WORK EXPANDS ACCESS AND COMBATS THREATS ................................................................. 20
  Integrated Voter Engagement ............................................... 20
  Rapid Response Fund .......................................................... 23
  STRATEGIC THREAD SPOTLIGHT: Leveraging Local to State / Regional / National Impact .................. 24
BARRIERS, ACCELERATORS, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUPPORT ......................................................... 26
CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS FOR THE MOVEMENT ................................................................. 29
  Policies Passed or Blocked in 2018 ........................................... 30
APPENDIX .................................................................................. 42
  2018 Groundswell Fund National Funders ................................ 43
  2018 Catalyst Fund Grantmaking Partners ................................ 43
  Groundswell Fund Reproductive Justice Grantees ...................... 44
  Media, Communications, and Art ........................................... 45
  Acknowledgements .............................................................. 46
  Methods .................................................................................. 46
  Endnotes and Photo Credits ................................................ 47

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Korwin Consulting, an evaluation and planning firm, advances social justice solutions by identifying community strengths, building organizational capacity, and evaluating and communicating impact. More information on Korwin Consulting is available at www.korwinconsulting.com.

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Welcome

2018 was an extraordinary year for organizing and activism, and movements for justice saw big leaps in the number of people who were mobilized around the country. Voters, young and old, waited out long lines and overcame other voter suppression tactics to make their voices heard at the ballot box. New activists joined the fight for reproductive justice, helping to respond to legislative and judicial threats to healthcare access, as well as advance proactive policy at the local and national levels. In 2018, Groundswell’s RJ grantees recruited 322,308 base supporters—almost a 30% increase over the previous year.

In the midst of daily assaults on human rights, we can tend to focus on our losses and be moved by our fear. But “the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice”—as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminds us. And the reproductive justice organizations outlined in this report embody this long view towards organizing. In 2018, RJ organizations responded to urgent situations—such as the family separation crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border and the Supreme Court nomination of Brett Kavanaugh—while continuing to engage their long-term work to build a powerful base and shift the conversation around reproductive justice. They developed 35,212 leaders, contacted 151,178 voters using integrated voter engagement strategies, and organized steadily to block 49 harmful policies and advance 58 pro-RJ campaigns.

Through the power of their base, the RJ grantees in this evaluation achieved significant policy wins, including helping to block a fetal personhood bill in South Carolina, defeating anti-abortion and anti-immigrant ballot measures in Oregon, winning a federal law to fund state maternal mortality review committees, and blocking a Colorado bill that would have denied adoptions by LGBTQ parents. RJ organizations also deepened relationships with 3,114 elected officials and developed stronger cross-movement alliances with racial justice, immigrant justice, economic justice, and abolition/criminal justice movements. This groundwork is critical in the fights ahead—RJ grantees understand that without strong movement building we cannot win.

In addition to reporting on the impressive collective impact of RJ grantees in 2018, this evaluation explores three key strategic threads that RJ organizations used in 2018 to bolster their long-term movement goals:

- **Promoting Youth Leadership** with a clear focus on building the strength, sustainability, and future of the movement.
- **Fostering Solidarity Across Issues and Communities** by making a strong case to community members, allies, and media for an intersectional RJ movement that does not sacrifice one community’s rights for another’s.
- **Leveraging Local to State/Regional/National Impact** by acting with an eye to how a policy fight or organizing strategy will impact a broader area and/or set important precedent for others to replicate or build upon.

These strategic threads speak to the forward-looking nature of the RJ movement and present clear areas for funders to increase investment in women of color-led RJ organizations.

History teaches us that whenever movements for justice and liberation make progress, there is an equal and opposite measure of backlash. As I write this in June 2019, several states, including Ohio, Georgia, Missouri, Louisiana, and Alabama, have passed some of the most restrictive anti-abortion legislation in a calculated attempt to overturn or incrementally dismantle the protections of Roe v. Wade. As the RJ movement strategizes about how to move forward on a broad array of reproductive justice issues, foundations and donors have an opportunity to ask ourselves: How can we support the RJ movement more effectively? What does the movement need in order to be more powerful?

*We're proud to offer this evaluation as one way to answer these questions and showcase the strategies that RJ grantees used to advance reproductive justice in 2018.*

Naa Hammond

PROGRAM OFFICER, GROUNDSWELL FUND
Executive Summary

This report documents the strategies, achievements, and challenges faced by Groundswell Fund’s grantee organizations who used grassroots organizing to advance reproductive justice (RJ) in 2018. Published annually, Groundswell’s RJ evaluation report is the largest data set available on the U.S. RJ movement. It relies primarily on RJ Impact Surveys completed by 67 Groundswell grantees. In addition to tracking the impact of the U.S. RJ movement, this report shows Groundswell’s progress toward the goals in its 2015–2019 Blueprint: to increase philanthropic giving to RJ and to support its grantees to scale up their grassroots power.

Resourcing the Movement

Groundswell Fund supports a stronger, more effective U.S. movement for RJ by mobilizing new funding and capacity-building resources to grassroots organizing and policy change efforts, with a focus on those led by low-income women, women of color, and transgender people. In 2018, Groundswell awarded grants to 72 RJ organizations and seven grantmaking partners (other public foundations that leverage their grants for fundraising and regranting to women of color-led RJ organizations). The RJ organizations received support primarily through Groundswell’s Catalyst Fund and Rapid Response Fund. Some also received funding through Groundswell’s Birth Justice Fund and Liberation Fund and Groundswell’s capacity-building programs: the Integrated Voter Engagement (IVE) program, Grassroots Organizing Institute (GOI), and Ecosystem Initiative. Since 2008, Groundswell, its grantmaking partners, and its direct grantees have collectively leveraged and invested $55.1 million in RJ work. In 2018, Groundswell further leveraged funding to RJ organizations by investing $5.6 million in capacity-building support to fortify the infrastructure needed for a powerful RJ movement.

Funders and donors invest in Groundswell because it supports organizations building grassroots power to respond to RJ threats, organizes funders, and is a thought leader. Some funders and donors have increased their investment in RJ organizations due in part to their relationship with Groundswell. In spite of concerns about limitations imposed by a hostile political climate, most funders and donors see positive RJ movement impacts, including strong organizing and important policy wins.

The RJ Base

Consistent with past years, the primary constituencies of RJ grantees were Black/African American (44%), Latinx/Hispanic (22%), and low income (83%). They were also: youth under 30; lesbian/gay/bisexual/queer (LGBQ); immigrants/refugees; survivors of domestic, sexual, or gender-based violence; and transgender, gender non-conforming, and intersex people. The top five issues around which grantees mobilized the most people in 2018 were: racial justice, gender justice, economic justice/workers’ rights, abortion access, and immigrant justice. Eighty-two percent of RJ grantees engaged in organizing and action in support of core reproductive rights issues: access to abortion, contraception, and other reproductive healthcare services, and/or comprehensive sex education.

2018 RJ Movement Accomplishments

In addition to campaigns to protect, restore, or expand RJ movement goals, more than one in five RJ grantees battled the following escalating threats in 2018: solidification of an anti-RJ judiciary, exclusion and dehumanization of immigrants, sexual violence, and attacks on transgender rights. Rather than limiting their focus to these and other reactive fights, however, most 2018 grantees leveraged strategies, strengths, and community support in the service of long-term fights for sustainable change—such as dismantling the prison-industrial complex and ensuring access to high-quality health care, including abortion access for all.
KEY STRATEGIC THREADS EMPLOYED TO BOLSTER LONG-RANGE MOVEMENT GOALS IN 2018

Promoting Youth Leadership, with a clear focus on building the strength, sustainability, and future of the movement.

Fostering Solidarity Across Issues and Communities, by making a strong case to community members, allies, and media for an intersectional RJ movement that does not sacrifice one community’s rights for another’s.

Leveraging Local to State/Regional/National Impact, by acting with an eye to how a policy fight or organizing strategy will impact a broader area and/or set important precedent for others to replicate or build upon.

In 2018, RJ grantees reported successful strategies and progress in:

Organizing: RJ grantees organized 322,308 base members—people active in grantees’ work. RJ grantees have increased the number of base members by 29% since 2017, due to both grantees’ increased organizing capacity and Groundswell’s ability to support more organizations.

Leadership Development: 35,212 individuals took leadership roles in grantees’ work. The 23 organizations that have received five consecutive years of support from Groundswell’s Catalyst Fund show an 85% increase in their number of leaders since 2014.

Alliances: Ally sectors that grantees named as most integral to their RJ work were the racial justice, immigrant justice, economic justice, and abolition/criminal justice movements. In 2018, 749 of their alliances were “very strong and collaborative” (in contrast to many others that were more temporary or transactional). The 23 organizations that have received five consecutive years of Catalyst Fund support have increased the number of these strongest alliances by 76% since 2014.

Policy Advocacy: Grantees contributed to the passage of 58 pro-RJ policies, including a resolution in New York City to repeal a criminal abortion statute, a law in Georgia making it easier for domestic violence survivors to leave abusive relationships, a federal law to fund state maternal mortality review committees, and pregnancy accommodations for 550,000 Walmart workers nationwide. Grantees were instrumental in blocking 49 harmful policies, including a fetal personhood bill in South Carolina, a Colorado law to deny adoption on the basis of sexual orientation, Oregon ballot measures that would have permanently prohibited public funding for abortions and required local police to turn people over to immigration officials, and a federal law to criminalize abortion 20 weeks post-fertilization. (Please see the full report for a comprehensive list and details about these and other wins.)

Groundswell Fund believes that when organizations grow the number of people in their grassroots base and leadership and the number of organizational allies willing to team with them in key fights, they will have greater leverage with decision makers and ultimately win more policy and systems changes. In 2018, RJ grantees developed, maintained, and strengthened relationships with 3,114 public officials affiliated with all levels of U.S. and tribal government. The 23 organizations that received five consecutive years of Catalyst Fund support have increased the number of U.S. government relationships by 45% since 2014. Longstanding Catalyst Fund grantees who also participated in Groundswell’s IVE program have increased their number of elected official relationships by 93% since 2014 and by 23% since 2017.

According to grantees, the most common barriers to progress they faced in 2018 were a hostile political climate and limitations in organizational capacity. Accelerators cited as helping them achieve success included: support through Groundswell’s IVE program, GOI program, Catalyst Fund, and Rapid Response Fund; implementing leadership development strategies and advocacy campaigns that responded to and resonated with their communities; nurturing strategic relationships with allies and public officials; and having a strong organizational infrastructure. The most prominent opportunities for funders include support for quality staffing and infrastructure needs, resources for base members’ leadership development and political education, long-term support for project development and implementation, and information and support to help grantees increase policy advocacy effectiveness. (Please see the full report for details about these opportunities.)

Conclusion

In 2018, Groundswell Fund’s RJ grantees channeled community members’ experiences and alarm about threats to human rights into powerful, visible action. In a context of significant threats and barriers, they built up and strengthened the ranks of the RJ movement’s activists and staff, increased strategic alliances, and achieved important policy wins. Their work in 2018 reveals the RJ movement’s growing maturity and capacity to sustain itself while advancing an intersectional agenda that is more critically needed by the day.
Groundswell Fund’s Theory of Change and Strategies

Groundswell Fund’s overarching goal, as articulated in its 2015–2019 Blueprint, is a vibrant and organized grassroots base with the power to advance reproductive justice (RJ) for the long-haul, win concrete improvements that can be felt in people’s daily lives, and infuse broader social justice movements with a progressive analysis and strategies around gender and race.

Groundswell shares the ultimate goal of the RJ movement: 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.

Groundswell Fund seeks to achieve this goal by pursuing three core strategies: grantmaking, capacity building, and funder organizing. It increases funding to RJ organizations expanding the grassroots base of the movement and winning concrete improvements in women’s and LGBTQ people’s reproductive health outcomes and experiences. It expands 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 it does. How it does its work is guided by five operating values: being strategic, accountable, responsive, creative, and nimble.

Since its inception in 2007, Groundswell has launched and grown several grantmaking and capacity-building initiatives to support a stronger, more effective RJ movement:

Grantmaking

- **Catalyst Fund**: Uses donor outreach and matching grants to leverage and direct new resources to organizations that are led by women of color, low-income women, and transgender people and that are building an organized grassroots base of support for RJ.
- **Birth Justice Fund**: Addresses the alarming rates of poor infant and maternal health outcomes in communities of color by supporting strategies to make high-quality midwifery and doula care and training accessible to women of color, low-income women, young women, and transgender people.
- **Liberation Fund**: Supports the strongest organizing by women of color and transgender people of color across a diversity of social change movements in the U.S. It is a joint project of Groundswell Fund, a 501(c)(3), and Groundswell Action Fund, a 501(c)(4).
- **Rapid Response Fund**: Deploys resources quickly and strategically to organizations led by women of color, low-income women, and transgender people during unexpected and critical policy campaign fights and key opportunities, such as ballot initiatives, critical fights to defend communities, and strategy-setting between RJ and other social justice organizations.

Capacity Building

- **Integrated Voter Engagement**: Provides grants, training, convenings, coaching, and legal and technical support for RJ organizations to integrate voter engagement strategies into their work and to boost their scale and ability to achieve systems change.
- **Grassroots Organizing Institute**: Provides grants, training, convenings, and coaching to support RJ organizations to deepen their understanding and practice of the fundamentals of organizing and advocacy, including how to identify issue priorities and demands, conduct community asset mapping, and analyze the political landscape.
- **Ecosystem Initiative**: Currently active in South Florida, this initiative deepens support for existing Catalyst Fund grantees and their key allies in linked movements within specific local and state ecosystems.
Introduction

This report documents the strategies, achievements, and challenges of Groundswell Fund’s 2018 RJ grantees. It relies upon: the Groundswell RJ Impact Survey,¹ data on financial investment by Groundswell’s matching grantees and Catalyst Fund grantmaking partners,² a focus group with a subset of RJ grantees, and interviews with Groundswell’s donors and institutional funders.

The learnings in this report are best understood within the context of intersectionality, the escalation of threats to RJ under the Trump administration, and strategic threads that unify multiple strategies for long-term change.

- Intersectionality: Working across multiple social justice sectors is a core characteristic of the RJ movement. The policy and other campaign goals pursued by individual grantees encompass multiple, interrelated human rights that Groundswell’s communities of focus struggle to secure. Data shared by grantees about the communities they organize, alliances they forge, strategies they employ, and wins they achieve illustrate how RJ unifies human rights issues. The chart below shows multiple issues linked through the work of just a few of the 2018 grantees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access to abortion, contraception, and/or other reproductive healthcare</th>
<th>Black Women for Wellness</th>
<th>El Pueblo, Inc.</th>
<th>Freedom, Inc.</th>
<th>HEART Women and Girls</th>
<th>Sylvia Rivera Law Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abolition/Criminal justice/Prison-industrial complex</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic justice/Workers’ rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental justice/health justice</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender justice</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Immigrant justice</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racial justice</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGBTQ and TGNCI justice³</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Groundswell supports organizations that are led by and working with the people who experience the greatest disparities in RJ in the U.S.—prioritizing organizations led by women of color (WOC), but also including those led by low-income women and transgender, gender non-conforming, and/or intersex people. Collectively, these communities may be referred to in this report as Groundswell’s “communities of focus.”
Escalation of RJ Threats: While opposition to RJ movement goals is not new, threats have increased exponentially in number and severity since the 2016 presidential election. In 2018, RJ grantees often prioritized fighting the erosion of human rights—codified by legislation, court decisions, and executive orders—and a resurgence of publicly sanctioned bigotry, violence, and white supremacy. Grantees cite the following acute threats that influenced their agendas in 2018:

- **Solidification of Anti-RJ Judiciary/Kavanaugh Nomination:** 25% of grantees fought against the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court—one of the most controversial of many increasingly bold strategies to pack all levels of the judiciary branch with staunchly anti-RJ judges. They acted not only because of testimony that he has perpetrated sexual violence, but because of well-founded alarm at the assault on abortion rights and other RJ issues that he is also expected to bolster for decades to come.

- **Exclusion and Dehumanization of Immigrants:** 42% of grantees organized against parent-child separation at the U.S.–Mexico border, travel and immigration bans targeting Muslims, proposed changes to public charge rules, ending Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and denying asylum and immigration rights to refugees.

- **Sexual Violence and Harassment:** 37% of grantees raised awareness about and combatted a culture of sexual violence through organizing, communications, and policy work, including participating in and leading the #MeToo movement.

- **Attacks on Transgender Rights:** 23% of grantees fought to counter local, state, and federal attacks on the rights and safety of transgender people.

- **Other threats grantees felt an urgency to address include, but are not limited to:** attacks on racial justice, such as police brutality, the carceral state, and voter suppression; a proposed federal anti-abortion gag rule; threats to Indigenous people’s rights; climate change; workers’ lack of paid sick leave for reproductive healthcare visits and court dates related to domestic violence; attempts to limit healthcare access; and gun violence.

The urgency of these threats demanded time and resources that grantees would otherwise have dedicated to proactive goals around these and other issues.

**Strategic Threads:** Rather than being discouraged by the current hostile environment for RJ or limiting their focus to short-term reactive struggles, a notable majority of 2018 grantees leveraged their strategies, strengths, and community support in the service of a long-term fight and a clear vision for sustainable change. Three key strategic threads that emerge in their RJ Impact Surveys are:

- **Promoting Youth Leadership,** with a clear focus on building the strength, sustainability, and future of the movement.

- **Fostering Solidarity Across Issues and Communities,** by making a strong case to community members, allies, and media for the necessity of the intersectional RJ movement to achieve a vision of justice that does not sacrifice one community’s rights for another’s.

- **Leveraging Local to State/Regional/National Impact,** by acting with an eye to how a policy fight or organizing strategy will impact a broader area (e.g., local to state or state to national) or set important precedent for others to replicate or build upon.

These strategic threads appear in the 2018 data more prominently than ever before. When contrasted with grantee data over the past 10 years, they reveal an increasingly widespread emphasis on forward-thinking and sophisticated approaches to securing RJ at this moment in the movement.
How to Read This Report

Organizations in the RJ movement address 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, including grantee stories that illustrate how those strategies are being implemented. Grantees whose work exemplifies each of the strategic threads are featured in three spotlight sections in this report. The full list of RJ grantees, including their organizations’ budget ranges and the type(s) of Groundswell support each received for their work in 2018, can be found in the Appendix.

A Note About Terminology

Whenever possible, stories about grantees’ work featured in this report preserve words the grantees use to describe the people and communities with whom they center their work. The main narrative of the report adheres to Groundswell’s terminology preferences.

“There’s been an incredible increase of energy in working with folks all over the state who were originally drawn to doing advocacy work because of what they were going through in their personal lives... what they need for themselves and their families. What feels like a radical shift in 2018 is that folks are thinking beyond that to their communities, their state, and their nation.”

— 2018 GROUNDSWELL RJ GRANTEE FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT
Investment and Infrastructure

Groundswell aims to build a stronger RJ movement through multiple strategies, including direct and matching grants, capacity building, and funder and donor education.

**Resources to the Movement**

RJ organizations led by and focusing on women of color, low-income women, and transgender people experience consistently lower funding than other organizations. In 2018, Groundswell leveraged the support of national funders and donors to award grants to 72 RJ organizations (including nine matching grantees) and seven grantmaking partners, contributing to an investment of $14.1 million in the RJ movement. The chart below shows the growth in investment since 2008, which is partly—although certainly not exclusively—the result of Groundswell’s work.

### RESOURCES MOBILIZED FOR PRIMARILY WOMEN OF COLOR-LED REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE (RJ) BY GRANTMAKING PARTNERS AND DIRECT RJ GRANTEES

Groundswell Fund, grantmaking partners, and direct grantees have invested a total of $55.1 million in RJ since Groundswell’s initial grantmaking in 2008.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>CATALYST MATCHING GRANTS</th>
<th>ADDITIONAL RESOURCES RAISED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$2.4M</td>
<td>$3M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$4.2M</td>
<td>$4.8M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$4.8M</td>
<td>$3M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$3M</td>
<td>$3.1M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$3.4M</td>
<td>$2.9M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$2.9M</td>
<td>$2.8M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$4.5M</td>
<td>$9.8M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$10M</td>
<td>$14.1M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$11M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$12M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$13M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Groundswell Fund leverages additional funding for the RJ movement by investing in capacity-building support for the movement—including its Integrated Voter Engagement program, Grassroots Organizing Institute, and Ecosystem Initiative—bringing an additional $5.6 million in resources (including $3.2 million in grant dollars, skill-building, database access and support, and staff and coaching consultations) to build the organizing and civic engagement infrastructure needed to power the reproductive justice movement.
The funders and donors who invest in Groundswell say they do so because Groundswell Fund:

- Is strategic and has the capacity to respond to threats posed by the Trump administration.
- Supports grassroots organizing, capacity building, and power building in under-resourced communities.
- Provides funders with a mechanism for supporting grassroots and state-level groups.
- Is a thought leader in the philanthropic community.

Over the past year or more, some funders have increased the size and duration of grants to RJ organizations led by Groundswell’s RJ communities of focus. Most of these cite Groundswell’s strategic messaging about the RJ movement as having a role in their own or their institution’s increased understanding and investment.

While they have grave concerns that a hostile political climate limits what can be achieved at this time, they recognize positive impacts by the RJ movement, including:

- Influence on national conversations within the political “left” and philanthropy.
- A stronger movement infrastructure, including effective organizing and new leaders joining and staying involved.
- Important policy wins.

Philanthropic Advocacy

A core focus of Groundswell’s work is to raise awareness of the potential power of a well-funded RJ movement led by Groundswell’s communities of focus, who consistently face the greatest RJ disparities but receive the least philanthropic support. In addition to hosting funder education briefings and speaking at events, Groundswell is an active participant in leading conversations and shaping strategy in the following funder networks:

- Democracy Alliance
- Funders for LGBTQ Issues
- Funders for Reproductive Equity
- Funders’ Committee for Civic Participation
- Health & Environmental Funders Network
- Justice Funders (formerly Bay Area Justice Funders Network)
- Neighborhood Funders Group
- Northern California Grantmakers
- Rapid Response Coordination Table
- Rights, Faith & Democracy Collaborative

Groundswell’s donor community also connects it closely to the following donor networks with whom it often communicates and/or collaborates:

- Donors of Color
- Resource Generation
- Solidaire
- Spark
- Women Donors Network
- Women Moving Millions
Grantee Organizational Infrastructure

Foundations, individual donors, and other sources (e.g., fundraising events, program revenue, and speaking fees) helped Groundswell’s RJ grantees build budgets ranging from $10,000 to over $6 million.

- The majority of their funding (62%) came from national foundations, with the rest from a combination of other foundations, donors, and other sources.
- National foundations made up a larger share of RJ organizations’ budgets in 2018 than they did in 2014, and individual donors accounted for a smaller share. Government funding and speaking engagements were the most common “other” sources of income in 2018, with fewer grantees citing fees for service or trainings than in 2014.

In addition:

- Grantees organized in tribal nations, 47 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico. (See map, pages 12–13.)
    - Collectively, they had a broader grassroots reach than in any prior year, due both to the addition of new grantees and geographic expansion by some returning grantees.
    - Nearly all expect to have an impact at local and state levels.
    - 72% expect their work to have a national impact.
    - The RJ movement is rooted in international human rights principles. Because of the cross-border scope of some RJ groups and the work other organizations do through international human rights bodies, 22% expect their work to have international impacts.
- 71% experienced leadership staff transitions, due in part to a positive trend of new leadership but also due to burnout and insufficient resources to offer competitive salaries and benefits to attract and retain qualified leadership. This highlights an opportunity for funders’ support for leadership succession planning, recruitment, and retention.

**PERCENTAGE OF GRANTEES WHO EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS, 2014-2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Increased Budgets</th>
<th>Decreased Budgets</th>
<th>Increased Staff</th>
<th>Decreased Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>71%</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"The Catalyst matching grant allowed us to make a more compelling case to new funders. It was of a meaningful size and therefore also made a substantial contribution to our work. This enabled us to show both significant support from another foundation and to get significant work done, so that we could then provide progress updates about our successes to prospective funders."

— COMING CLEAN, INC., A CATALYST FUND GRANTMAKING PARTNER
Organizing Nurtures Strong Movement Roots

In 2018, RJ grantees engaged 322,308 base members—people who are responsive to outreach, take concrete action with an organization, and can be mobilized in a campaign. This represents an increase of 29% over 2017. Year by year, Groundswell RJ grantmaking and capacity-building programs reach increasing numbers of people, due to more organizations being supported as well as returning grantees’ increased reach and engagement.

Similar to past years, the primary constituencies of RJ grantees’ base were:

- Black/African American (44%)
- Latinx/Hispanic (22%)
- Low income (83%)
- The other most common primary characteristics among base members were: youth (under 30); LGBQ; immigrants/refugees; survivors of domestic, sexual, or gender-based violence; and transgender or gender non-conforming. These characteristics of the movement are similar to past years, although there has been an increase in grantees who identify survivors of violence as one of their primary constituencies.

The issues around which grantees mobilized the most people (with a third or more of grantees citing these as their top mobilizing issues) are, in descending order:

- Racial justice
- Gender justice
- Economic justice/Workers’ rights
- Abortion access
- Immigrant justice
- Contraception access
- Access to other reproductive health services
- Abolition/Criminal justice/Prison-industrial complex
- LGBQ rights
- Comprehensive sex education
While every Groundswell RJ grantee supports all people’s access to reproductive rights and health services, 82% of the RJ grantees included organizing and action around core reproductive rights issues: access to abortion, contraception, other reproductive healthcare services, and/or comprehensive sex education in their work in 2018.

Grantees organize in person, online, and through traditional and social media. The largest numbers of grantees say the following organizing strategies have been especially effective:

**DOOR-TO-DOOR OUTREACH**, including integrated voter engagement strategies and canvassing during and between elections. **For example:**

**Miami Workers Center (MWC) (MIAMI, FL)** launched the #FemmeAgenda to address multiple intersecting factors in the feminization of poverty. The #FemmeAgenda incorporates a Power Leadership Institute; a Women and Femme Circle; and the Femme Coalition, a statewide gender justice effort that includes RJ as part of its core platform. In 2018, MWC conducted the Black and Latina Women’s Canvass, an intensive non-partisan voter and civic engagement strategy that included knocking on 10,370 doors, making contact with over 2,500 people, and conducting surveys with 2,143 people. Through this strategy, the organization expanded its base of people pledging commitment to act in support of low-income and immigrant women of color’s power and self-determination. The power of this expanded base helped MWC to block a 2018 bill that would have prohibited sanctuary cities in Florida and will be instrumental in its current work to ensure implementation of Amendment 4, which voters passed in November, restoring voting rights to 1.4 million formerly incarcerated Floridians.

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRAINING FOR ACTIVISM AND ADVOCACY**, such as those to build the capacity to analyze and respond to policy threats. Several grantees offer multiple levels of training, such as:

**California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative (CHNSC) (OAKLAND, CA)** employs an engagement and organizing strategy that progresses from outreach and basic trainings to attending general membership meetings, to the more intensive California Leadership Institute for workers, and finally the opportunity to serve on its Leadership Circle. Members are encouraged to take on greater levels of leadership and responsibility and deepen their skills and knowledge to organize others and advocate for policies that protect nail salon workers’ rights to work in a place free of reproductive toxins. In 2018, member leaders helped bring about a policy win requiring labeling of ingredients in cosmetics used in professional salons in California. CHNSC’s national movement building work included coordinating with an ally organization in New York to align and deepen their leadership development trainings and convening 24 workers from California, New York, and Canada to build relationships and create a foundation for a national organizing strategy for nail salon workers’ rights.
POLITICAL EDUCATION AND CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING, such as rallies, petition drives, and teach-ins. For example:

SisterReach (MEMPHIS, TN) uses community discussions as an organizing tool to inform marginalized women and girls about the impact of public policies on their reproductive lives. Its Birth Control Access discussions, which educate women about the benefits of long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARC) and the coercive practices of providers and LARC “zealots,” have helped SisterReach to shift culture among patients and providers. The organization also trained communities of faith and advocates with its Reproductive Justice and Faith curriculum, which centers RJ and faith as culture shifting, movement building tools and applies an RJ lens to religious texts. These activities offer new, inspiring strategies to support the reproductive autonomy, self-determination, and sacred human rights of all people. SisterReach’s engagement and advocacy work in 2018 helped it win passage of a Tennessee law prohibiting sterilizing and coercing contraceptives on incarcerated people.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY, including providing tools and other support to amplify community members’ experiences and policy demands. For example:

International Indian Treaty Council (SAN FRANCISCO, CA) developed guidelines and an interactive training to support members of Indigenous communities in documenting environmental and human rights violations for United Nations monitoring bodies. The organization’s members record testimony and document the severe health, environmental, and human rights impact that toxic pesticides, persistent organic pollutants, mercury, mining, and other extractive industries have on Indigenous women and their reproductive health. Its members are able to submit their testimony directly to international human rights monitoring bodies with the power to address these violations.

Other successful organizing strategies grantees cite are:

- Raising awareness and shifting the dominant narrative on issues through art and other forms of popular education.
- Focusing on an issue or policy campaign that feels relevant to constituents.
- Providing opportunities and encouragement for those who come for services or information to deepen their engagement.
- Hosting community gatherings.
- Being sure that all organizing work is rooted in the cultural experiences and priorities of the community.
Being responsive to the cultural, demographic, and geographic characteristics of their base leads RJ organizations to combine multiple, complementary organizing strategies, as the two examples below illustrate:

**Native American Community Board (NACB) (Lake Andes, SD)** addresses health issues pertinent to Native American communities, providing services and organizing for policy change locally and nationally. Its Indigenous Women’s Health and RJ Program works to hold Indian Health Service (IHS) accountable to pro-RJ policies and laws, including those related to sexual and gender-based violence and reproductive healthcare and contraception access. NACB explains, “Grassroots advocacy within Indian Country comes in many forms.” NACB’s organizing strategies include trainings and workshops about pressing issues and how to identify and educate appropriate policy makers about them, sponsoring activities at Pow Wows and other cultural events, handing out educational materials, and producing a weekly call-in show on the community radio station.

**United for Respect (Oakland, CA)** elevates the voices of low-wage workers in the retail sector at local, state, and national levels to build support among industry leaders and policy makers for policies that build economic security for workers and their families. The organization uses an online-to-offline organizing model to reach constituents that are traditionally overlooked and unengaged. Through online spaces, workers can share experiences, get peer support, build a sense of community, build leadership skills, and join campaigns to change corporate and public policy. Through United for Respect’s organizing pathway, a base of women leaders at Walmart ran a successful campaign to raise pay and win pregnancy accommodations, and women leaders formerly employed at Toys R Us won a $20 million severance fund settlement.

“*We’re in a situation where the majority of the good news stories and successes are coming from WOC-led groups, trans-led groups, and others who have the toughest fight but are also demonstrating that they have an approach....[T]hey seem to have much better odds of success than some of the more traditional methods that have been used in these current times.*”

— Elisa Slattery, Open Society Foundations, a Groundswell National Funder

**Grassroots Organizing Institute**

Launched in 2016, **Groundswell's Grassroots Organizing Institute (GOI)** supports RJ organizations in building sustainable power for policy and systems change. Founded on the belief that the most important RJ win is the development of an organized grassroots base that is large and committed enough to fight for reproductive justice over the long term, GOI provides intensive training and coaching support for campaign development, new member recruitment, and leadership development. In 2018, 15 organizations each received a one-year general support grant, to help them build the staffing and infrastructure needed for effective community organizing, and a field grant of $10,000 for grassroots recruitment drives. They received 100 hours of coaching to develop and implement their organizing work plan, participated in two three-day convenings, and attended two webinars. All 15 of the 2018 GOI grantees are included in this RJ report, and several of these received support from another Groundswell grantmaking fund or capacity-building program.³
Leadership Development Builds Continuity and Sustainability

Tapping into and strengthening the leadership capacity of community members is a central strategy of the RJ movement. Community members fill a wide range of volunteer and paid roles within RJ grantee organizations, helping to ensure the vitality and continuity of the movement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common leadership development strategies are:</th>
<th>RJ grantees using this strategy include:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Activists may move along a structured pipeline to internships/mentorships and staff positions. | • National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (New York, NY)  
• Mothering Justice (Ferndale, MI) |
| Clients receiving services are invited to take on leadership and organizing roles, which may lead to staff or contract work. | • Trans Queer Pueblo (Phoenix, AZ)  
• Freedom, Inc. (Madison, WI) |
| Interns receive trainings and play an integral role in shaping and executing the organization’s work. | • ACCESS Women’s Health Justice (Oakland, CA)  
• The New Florida Majority-Education Fund (Miami, FL) |
| Community members who attend a leadership development training may move into volunteer and ultimately staff positions—even that of executive director. | • SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW (Atlanta, GA)  
• HEART Women and Girls (Chicago, IL) |

In 2018, a combined 35,212 individuals took leadership roles in RJ work.

Larger RJ grantee cohorts for the past two years only partially explain the growing numbers of leaders: An analysis of the 23 organizations that have received five consecutive years of Catalyst Fund support (for WOC- and transgender-led RJ organizations) shows a 3% increase in leaders since 2017—and an increase of 85% between 2014 and 2018.
2018 RJ Grantees

ALABAMA
Access Reproductive Care-Southeast
Black Women’s Blueprint
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
National Network of Abortion Funds
Positive Women’s Network-USA
SisterReach
SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective
Transgender Law Center
United for Respect
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity

ALASKA
Alaska Community Action on Toxics
International Indian Treaty Council
National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum
Transgender Law Center

ARIZONA
International Indian Treaty Council
Los Jardines Institute
National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum
National Network of Abortion Funds
Raising Women’s Voices
Trans Queer Pueblo
Transgender Law Center

ARKANSAS
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
SisterReach
Transgender Law Center
United for Respect

CALIFORNIA
ACCESS Women’s Health Justice
ACT for Women and Girls
Black Women for Wellness
California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
Forward Together
HEART Women and Girls
International Indian Treaty Council

CENTER FOR EARTH, ENERGY AND DEMOCRACY
Chicago Freedom School
EverThrive Illinois
Freedom, Inc.
HEART Women and Girls
Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum
National Network of Abortion Funds
Raising Women’s Voices
Positive Women’s Network-USA
United for Respect
Warehouse Workers for Justice

INDIANA
HEART Women and Girls
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
National Network of Abortion Funds
Raising Women’s Voices
Transgender Law Center
Warehouse Workers for Justice

IOWA
Raising Women’s Voices

KANSAS
Transgender Law Center

KENTUCKY
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children

KANSAS
Transgender Law Center

LOUISIANA
LA Future

MAINE
Equality Maine

MARYLAND
Equality Maryland

MASSACHUSETTS
Access Reproductive Care-Southeast
Black Women’s Blueprint
Equal Rights Advocates
HOPE for a Healthy Connecticut
Reproductive Justice Coalition of Connecticut
Transgender Law Center
United for Respect

MICHIGAN
Accessibility Michigan
Michigan State University
Midwest Women’s Reproductive Justice Collaborative
National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum
National Network of Abortion Funds
Raising Women’s Voices
Transgender Law Center

MINNESOTA
Access Reproductive Care-Southeast
Black Women’s Blueprint
National Network of Abortion Funds
Positive Women’s Network-USA
SisterReach
SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective
Transgender Law Center
United for Respect

MONTANA
Montana Women’s Action Network

NEBRASKA
Raising Women’s Voices
Native American Community Board

NEVADA
Gender Justice Nevada
Positive Women’s Network-USA

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Transgender Law Center

NEW JERSEY
Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy
Raising Women’s Voices
SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW, Inc.
Transgender Law Center
United for Respect

NEW MEXICO
Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy
Changing Woman Initiative
Forward Together
International Indian Treaty Council
Los Jardines Institute

NEW YORK
Access Reproductive Care-Southeast
Black Women’s Blueprint
Choice USA
National Network of Abortion Funds
Raising Women’s Voices
Transgender Law Center
United for Respect

NORTH CAROLINA
Access Reproductive Care-Southeast
Black Women’s Blueprint
Carolina Youth Action Project
National Network of Abortion Funds
Raising Women’s Voices
Transgender Law Center
United for Respect

OHIO
Access Reproductive Care-Southeast
Black Women’s Blueprint
Carolina Youth Action Project

OKLAHOMA
Raising Women’s Voices

OREGON
Access Reproductive Care-Southeast
Black Women’s Blueprint
National Network of Abortion Funds
Raising Women’s Voices
Transgender Law Center
United for Respect

PENNSYLVANIA
Access Reproductive Care-Southeast
Black Women’s Blueprint
Equality Pennsylvania
National Network of Abortion Funds
Raising Women’s Voices
Transgender Law Center
United for Respect

PENNSYLVANIA
Access Reproductive Care-Southeast
Black Women’s Blueprint
Equality Pennsylvania
National Network of Abortion Funds
Raising Women’s Voices
Transgender Law Center
United for Respect

RHODE ISLAND
Raising Women’s Voices

SOUTH CAROLINA
Access Reproductive Care-Southeast
Black Women’s Blueprint
Carolina Youth Action Project
Positive Women’s Network-USA
SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective
SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW, Inc.
Transgender Law Center
United for Respect

SOUTH DAKOTA
International Indian Treaty Council
Native American Community Board
Transgender Law Center

TENNESSEE
Access Reproductive Care-Southeast

TEXAS
Access Reproductive Care-Southeast
Black Women’s Blueprint
National Network of Abortion Funds
Raising Women’s Voices
Transgender Law Center
United for Respect

UTAH
Raising Women’s Voices

VERMONT
Equality Vermont

WISCONSIN
Access Reproductive Care-Southeast
Black Women’s Blueprint
National Network of Abortion Funds
Positive Women’s Network-USA
SisterReach
SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective
Transgender Law Center
United for Respect

WEST VIRGINIA
Transgender Law Center

WYOMING
Raising Women’s Voices

PUERTO RICO
International Indian Treaty Council

RHODE ISLAND
Raising Women’s Voices

SOUTH CAROLINA
Access Reproductive Care-Southeast
Black Women’s Blueprint
Carolina Youth Action Project
Positive Women’s Network-USA
SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective
SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW, Inc.
Transgender Law Center
United for Respect

SOUTH DAKOTA
International Indian Treaty Council
Native American Community Board
Transgender Law Center

TENNESSEE
Access Reproductive Care-Southeast

TEXAS
Access Reproductive Care-Southeast
Black Women’s Blueprint
National Network of Abortion Funds
Raising Women’s Voices
Transgender Law Center
United for Respect

UTAH
Raising Women’s Voices

VERMONT
Equality Vermont

WISCONSIN
Access Reproductive Care-Southeast
Black Women’s Blueprint
National Network of Abortion Funds
Positive Women’s Network-USA
SisterReach
SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective
Transgender Law Center
United for Respect

WEST VIRGINIA
Transgender Law Center

WYOMING
Raising Women’s Voices

PR
National Network of Abortion Funds

Khmer Girls in Action
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
Los Jardines Institute
National Network of Abortion Funds
Raising Women's Voices
Organización en California de Líderes Campesinas, Inc.
Positive Women's Network-USA
SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW, Inc.
Transgender Law Center
United for Respect
Women's Voices for the Earth

COLORADO
Colorado PosOrganization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights
Raising Women’s Voices
Positive Women's Network-USA
SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW, Inc.

DELAWARE
Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy
Delaware Concerned Residents for Environmental Justice

FLORIDA
Access Reproductive Care-Southeast
Miami Workers Center
New Florida Majority-Education Fund (The)
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Network of Abortion Funds
Positive Women's Network-USA
Power U Center for Social Change
SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective
SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW, Inc.
Transgender Law Center
United for Respect

GEORGIA
Access Reproductive Care-Southeast
Black Women's Blueprint
Forward Together
HEART Women and Girls
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Network of Abortion Funds
Raising Women's Voices
Positive Women's Network-USA
SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective
SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW, Inc.
Transgender Law Center
United for Respect
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
Women Engaged

HAWAII
International Indian Treaty Council
Transgender Law Center

IDAHO
Western States Center

ILLINOIS
A Long Walk Home
Arise Chicago
Asata's Daughters
Cabrini Green Legal Aid

National Advocates for Pregnant Women
National Network of Abortion Funds
Raising Women’s Voices
REACT (Rubertown Emergency ACTION)
SisterReach
SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective
Transgender Law Center

LOUISIANA
Raising Women’s Voices
Positive Women's Network-USA
SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective
Transgender Law Center
United for Respect
Women With A Vision

MAINE
Raising Women’s Voices

MARYLAND
HEART Women and Girls
National Network of Abortion Funds
Raising Women's Voices

MASSACHUSETTS
National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum
Raising Women’s Voices
Transgender Law Center

MICHIGAN
Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy International Indian Treaty Council
Mothersing Justice
Raising Women's Voices
Positive Women's Network-USA
Transgender Law Center

MINNESOTA
Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy
International Indian Treaty Council
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
Raising Women's Voices
TransWART Law Center

MISSISSIPPI
Access Reproductive Care-Southeast
Black Women’s Blueprint
Mississippi Low-Income Child Care Initiative
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
Raising Women’s Voices
SisterReach
SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective
Transgender Law Center
United for Respect

MISSOURI
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
National Network of Abortion Funds
Positive Women's Network-USA
Transgender Law Center
United for Respect

MONTANA
Raising Women's Voices
Transgender Law Center
Women's Voices for the Earth

NEW YORK
Audre Lorde Project (The)
Black Women's Blueprint
Correctional Association of New York
HEART Women and Girls
International Indian Treaty Council
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Network of Abortion Funds
Raising Women's Voices
SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective
SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW, Inc.
Sylvia Rivera Law Project
Transgender Law Center
United for Respect
Women's Voices for the Earth

NORTH CAROLINA
El Pueblo, Inc.
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
National Network of Abortion Funds
Native American Community Board
SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective
SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW, Inc.
Transgender Law Center
United for Respect

NORTH DAKOTA
International Indian Treaty Council
Transgender Law Center

OHIO
National Network of Abortion Funds
New Voices for Reproductive Justice
Positive Women's Network-USA
Transgender Law Center
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity

OKLAHOMA
International Indian Treaty Council

OREGON
Forward Together
National Network of Abortion Funds
Raising Women's Voices
Transgender Law Center
Western States Center

Pennsylvania
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Network of Abortion Funds
Raising Women’s Voices
New Voices for Reproductive Justice
Positive Women's Network-USA
Transgender Law Center

RAISING WOMEN'S VOICES

TEXAS
Afya Center (The)
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
Los Jardines Institute
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Network of Abortion Funds
Raising Women's Voices
Positive Women's Network-USA
SisterReach
SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective
SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW, Inc.
Transgender Law Center
United for Respect

UTAH
National Network of Abortion Funds

VIRGINIA
HEART Women and Girls
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective
SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW, Inc.
Transgender Law Center

WASHINGTON
Collective Legal del Pueblo
Incarcerated Mother’s Advocacy Project
National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum
National Network of Abortion Funds
Raising Women’s Voices
Transgender Law Center
Washington Community Action Network
Western States Center

WASHINGTON, D.C.
Black Women’s Blueprint
HEART Women and Girls
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Network of Abortion Funds
SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW, Inc.
Transgender Law Center
United for Respect
Women's Voices for the Earth

WEST VIRGINIA
Raising Women's Voices
People Concerned About Chemical Safety
Transgender Law Center
West Virginia Free

WISCONSIN
Freedom, Inc.
International Indian Treaty Council
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
National Network of Abortion Funds
Raising Women's Voices
Transgender Law Center
Warehouse Workers for Justice
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity (WASHINGTON, D.C.) puts the leadership of young people at its center, with civic engagement as a core strategy and a focus on the South and Midwest. In 2018, URGE hired young people to do site-based canvassing on college campuses in Alabama. It engaged 13,758 people in conversations about sexual and reproductive justice topics, including abortion access, and recruited many to join the organization’s work. Other paths toward engagement and leadership with the organization include internships and attending the Reproductive Justice Leadership Institute (RJLI), which teaches about the history and tools of RJ advocacy.

Mugdha, a woman of color and first-generation immigrant on her way to medical school, is a former student leader with URGE. Her trajectory illustrates the path many young leaders take. Growing up in suburban Alabama, she had never seen someone like her included in policy conversations. When she attended URGE’s RJLI, she discovered her passion for healthcare and political advocacy. She re-started her university’s URGE campus chapter and led consent education workshops and RJ sessions, held a voter registration drive on campus, and coordinated a free HIV/STI testing event. She and other leaders received ongoing tools and support from URGE to develop their advocacy skills. She was selected to serve as a student representative on URGE’s Board of Directors, where she met abortion providers who became role models for how she could become a healthcare provider in the RJ field. She explains, “Through URGE, I became connected to other social justice organizations in my community and gained the confidence to travel to our state capitol and speak to congresspeople about sexual health education.”

Living its commitment to elevating youth leadership in the RJ movement, URGE hired a new executive director in 2018, Kimberly Inez McGuire, a queer Latinx RJ advocate, who started her career as an URGE intern.

“IT wasn’t until after I started going to TQPueblo and really seeing the power that I can have [personally], the power I have through a community, and the power that I can give back to my community, that I saw that my life has meaning.”

— XYRA, ACTIVIST LEADER WITH TQPUEBLO, A GOI AND CATALYST FUND GRANTEE
Trans Queer Pueblo (TQPueblo) (Phoenix, AZ) works to cultivate leadership and community power among people in the LGBTQ+ migrant communities of color in Arizona, both inside and outside detention walls. The majority of its Leadership Corps members are under 30 years old. Using a community power model developed by its members, it provides a leadership development pathway that includes a leadership corps, politicization training, and outreach and organizing skill development. It emphasizes the creation of new autonomous support structures—projects affiliated with the organization that address community needs and are formed and run by members. The ultimate goal is to transform society, with policy change only a step along the way. It has supported migrants in detention with letters, case management, anti-deportation campaigns and sponsorship, with a particular focus on supporting LGBTQ+ migrants. It has also raised awareness of abuses of power in the Phoenix Police Department and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) by organizing community members and officials to demand accountability.

Xyra, a nonbinary youth from a mixed immigration-status family, first connected with Trans Queer Pueblo when she was approached by a TQPueblo promotor@ (a health justice organizer). Xyra received health services, including hormone therapy, at TQPueblo’s free Clínica Liberación, and participated in the leadership development process. She became a promotor@ and now does outreach at gay bars and other community spaces. She was recently hired as TQPueblo’s AZ queer politics coordinator, which is a paid contractor position. She organizes trans and queer people of color to decriminalize sex work and brings trans and queer people of color’s voices to national and local forums on racial, gender, and LGBTQ+ justice.

Chicago Freedom School (CFS) (Chicago, IL) provides leadership development and political education through a racial justice lens, so that young people can use their unique experiences and power to create change for themselves, their communities, and the world. Youth activists—predominantly Black and Latinx femme-identified youth ages 14 through 21—progress through skill-building trainings and organize and conduct policy advocacy around RJ, gender justice, gender-based violence, criminal justice reform, prison abolition, and education justice. One leader, Anaya, attended CFS’s intensive summer Freedom Fellowship as she was entering public high school. She learned about healing justice (which includes RJ), transformative justice, and anti-oppression and became a leader in her cohort. She then deepened her involvement in CFS’s RJ work by becoming a Project Heal Us program associate. She developed a curriculum and facilitated trainings, including a segment that the youth call the “pussy plan,” which focuses on safer sex considerations, the power to choose whether or not to have children, and having honest conversations with sexual partners. Now 16 years old, Anaya organizes around RJ issues at her high school.

In 2018, CFS joined the steering committee of the VOYCE Project, an alliance for school reform and racial justice led by students of color from across Chicago and greater Illinois. With VOYCE, CFS youth leaders launched a series of actions to call attention to the need for more mental and behavioral health funding in schools, rather than the governor’s choice to spend more money on police. To ensure that today’s youth will be ready to lead tomorrow’s movement and institutions, CFS provides professional development and offers opportunities for youth to create and lead in much of the organization’s work. The Youth Leadership Board was involved in every aspect of the selection of CFS’s new executive director, and youth are currently consulting on the development of public discussion and social media strategies centered around reproductive and healing justice.
Alliances Expand Reach and Impact

Every 2018 RJ grantee organized collaboratively with organizations and coalitions in RJ and other linked movements. These alliances may be transactional, as they join forces and skillsets for a specific organizing or advocacy campaign. Increasingly though, RJ grantees are forging strategic, long-term relationships for joint agenda-setting, strategy implementation, and action. In 2018, RJ grantees had a total of 749 very strong alliances/collaborative partnerships. The cohort of 23 long-term grantees increased the number of these strongest alliances by 76%, from 265 in 2014 to 467 in 2018.

RJ grantees identified the following ally sectors as their most important:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERCENTAGE OF RJ GRANTEES IDENTIFYING MOVEMENT ALLIES AMONG THE TOP 3 WHO SUPPORTED THEIR WORK OR WHOSE WORK GRANTEES SUPPORTED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reproductive Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racial Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrant Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Justice / Worker Rights (Labor Justice, Economic Development, Self-Sufficiency)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abolition / Criminal Justice / Prison-Industrial Complex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reproductive Health and Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Violence / Domestic Violence / Intimate Partner Violence / Gender-Based Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Health / Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGBTQI Justice (broadly)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Justice / reform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transgender Justice (specifically)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV Issues and Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parenting Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Over the past four years, alliances with groups in the following movements have increased in importance for RJ grantees:

- Immigrant justice
- Abolition/Criminal justice/Prison-industrial complex
- Anti-violence/Domestic violence/Intimate partner violence/Gender-based violence
- Environmental health/justice
- Economic justice/Labor justice/Workers’ rights

Congruent with the RJ movement’s intersectional approach, the above list shows that grantees were most likely to name increases in alliances with other movements.

Three of the most common ways grantees forge effective alliances is to:

- **Identify potential allies with aligned values** (in contrast with more transactional alliances with those whose values are not aligned), and strategize how to support each other, as *Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT) (ANCHORAGE, AK)* did with Native Movement, a Groundswell Liberation Fund grantee and an organization that shares ACAT’s commitment to Indigenous rights and environmental justice.

- **Combine power and assets**, as *Audre Lorde Project (ALP) (NEW YORK, NY)* did when it brought its racial justice and anti-violence organizing expertise to the Mass Bail Out action for women and children held at Riker’s Island jail, mobilizing volunteers to post bail funds that had been raised by allies, provide post-release support, and address opposition from the court system.
Engage in long-term trust building, as The New Florida Majority–Education Fund (NFM–EF) (MIAMI, FL) has done with six Statewide Alignment Action Group partners with whom it has worked over several years on issue campaigns and integrated voter engagement. It also deepened relationships with fellow Ecosystem Initiative members, Power U Center for Social Change and Miami Workers Center. These and other long-standing alliances helped New Florida Majority win the restoration of voting rights to over 1.4 million formerly incarcerated Floridians in 2018 through Amendment 4.

Several RJ grantees have established transformative relationships with their allies by influencing conversations, shaping agendas, and inspiring actions that encompass the cross-sector issues of the RJ movement often unaddressed by mainstream organizations, such as racial, LGBQ/TGNC, and immigrant justice and the rights of pregnant and parenting teens.

**Young Women United (YWU) (ALBUQUERQUE, NM)** explains, “YWU formed an alliance with the New Mexico Dream Team (NMDT), which conducts immigrant rights work by engaging undocumented youth.* We shared leadership and communications training opportunities and helped shape the RJ section of NMDT’s curriculum aimed at racial justice in higher education. Together, we hosted a series of facilitated conversations about reproductive healthcare and religious refusals with Spanish-speaking people of faith, with a strong focus on equitable abortion access. We were proud to host community leaders from a variety of backgrounds who identified as Catholic, Christian, immigrant, LGBTQ, and/or undocumented. Participants described the conflict they often face when making healthcare decisions for themselves or with family members that are contrary to the beliefs of their churches. These conversations inform our ongoing work to develop messages and value statements about reproductive health and abortion.”

*YWU’s alliance with NMDT is funded through the Rights, Faith, and Democracy Collaborative, of which Groundswell is a donor partner.

**Women Engaged (ATLANTA, GA)** says, “Georgia WAND, focusing on environmental health and justice and political power in communities of color, is one of our partners through the 501(c)(3) state civic engagement table. This past year, they have joined our Reproductive Justice Workgroup because they understood that reproductive justice is environmental justice.”

**Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR) (DENVER, CO)** reports, “Our statewide expansion has included connecting with grassroots leaders, organizations, donors, opinion leaders, and accomplices in key Latinx communities in both urban and rural locations in Colorado. In 2018 we worked closely with our partners from the Colorado Children’s Campaign to educate them on destigmatizing language, particularly when discussing abortion, contraception, and marginalized communities. Further, we have worked with different local organizations as well on how to respectfully talk about young parents, including a Colorado-based funder who is heavily invested in supporting LARC efforts in Colorado.” Reaching beyond the state, COLOR also worked closely with partners in protesting changes to public charge rules that would disqualify countless immigration petitions. Informed by their deep roots in the Latinx community, COLOR lifts up racial, gender, and reproductive justice in this fight in statewide coalition with the American Friends Service Committee, Colorado Fiscal Institute, Colorado People’s Alliance, the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition, and others.

**National Advocates for Pregnant Women (NAPW) (NEW YORK, NY)** relays, “NAPW played a role bringing an RJ lens to work led by allies at the Drug Policy Alliance (DPA) and others working in the drug policy arena. We advised DPA in [its] marijuana reform efforts in NY, suggesting language for draft bills to ensure that newborn testing at birth alone would not become the basis of child neglect proceedings. We connected with allies from Harm Reduction Coalition, Bronx Defenders, NY Academy of Medicine, and DPA to discuss strategies that DPA could support on behalf of pregnant drug-using women. This included making it clear that bills promoting ‘assistance to healthcare providers caring for expectant mothers with substance use disorder’ should be used to increase funding and availability of treatment services, not to punish pregnant and parenting women, which is counterproductive and deters them from receiving care.”
National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum (NAPAWF) (CHICAGO, IL) bridges the many issues that Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) women in the U.S. confront, advancing AAPI women’s and girls’ collective power to make decisions about their lives, families, and communities. Its member activists are woman-identifying AAPI people, including professionals and—due to increasingly intentional outreach—those who are low income, are limited-English speakers, and have not accessed higher education. NAPAWF articulates an intersectional policy strategy to address its priority issues of immigrant rights, economic justice, and reproductive health and rights within the framework of RJ. Members provide legislative testimony, speak up through social and traditional media, and organize in 10 states and Washington, D.C. NAPAWF’s intersectional approach inspires grassroots leadership and action: After meeting with senators to advocate delaying the Kavanaugh hearings because of his anti-RJ, anti-worker, and anti-civil rights record, new members started their own chapter in New Mexico and have already held a forum on immigration.

In 2018, NAPAWF leveraged community strengths, alliances, and policy-maker relationships to have an impact on key RJ issues. NAPAWF was able to thwart proposed changes to the public charge rule, which threaten to disqualify immigration petitions by people who access public benefits. In addition, NAPAWF’s efforts were key in exposing fake pregnancy care clinics and opposing legislation banning sex-selective abortions in Missouri (a policy based on anti-Asian stereotypes designed to chip away at abortion access for all). NAPAWF also hosted Southeast Asian Equal Pay Days and a Reproductive Justice Day of Action. In addition, NAPAWF provides significant leadership to the 34-member National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, a coalition of AAPI organizations working on public policy. As the sole RJ organization in the coalition, NAPAWF influenced the coalition to increase its commitment to policies that support gender justice and reproductive health and rights.
The Afiya Center (Dallas, TX) builds alliances across multiple movements in order to transform Black women and girls’ relationship with their sexual and reproductive health. Working to highlight the plight of maternal mortality among Black mothers in Texas, the Afiya Center held community organizing events and forums to form alliances with birth workers, and environmental and economic justice organizers. The Afiya Center educated community members and allies about how their issues intersect. It used voter engagement activities in 2018 to start conversations about the policy advocacy that is needed to address maternal mortality; increase wages; support immigrant justice; and win paid sick-time off, abortion access, and comprehensive sex education. The Afiya Center hosts community forums where its cross-issue frame resonates with many participants, including one young mother who went on to attend a doula training sponsored by the Afiya Center and now advocates to raise awareness of Black maternal mortality.

In 2018, when a national anti-abortion organization placed billboards in Dallas that shamed Black women for having abortions, the Afiya Center responded with billboards that read, “Black women take care of their families by taking care of themselves. Abortion is self-care.” It followed up with an op-ed in the Dallas News linking full-spectrum self-care, control of Black people’s bodies, and economic oppression that leaves many without the financial means to escape unsafe living situations or to support another child. With the attention and conversations they generated (including a celebrity tweet), the billboards became an effective organizing strategy.

Forward Together (Oakland, CA) brings together individuals and groups to advocate around three main issues: healthcare access, including full-spectrum reproductive healthcare; safe communities, with investments that prioritize economic opportunity over incarceration; and ensuring that all families, whether related by blood or affinity, can access the resources they need to thrive. Some of Forward Together’s most impactful work in 2018 was in Oregon, where it spearheaded a large-scale door-to-door canvass and advocacy campaign that engaged activists from reproductive, economic, and immigrant justice movements to defeat two harmful policies. One of these policies—Measure 106—would have amended the Oregon Constitution to permanently prohibit coverage of abortion through publicly funded healthcare plans, affecting approximately 250,000 low-income women. The other policy—Measure 105—would have reversed Oregon’s 31-year-old sanctuary state law, effectively turning police into immigration enforcement officers and increasing racial profiling.

Forward Together took on a leadership role in two coalitions aimed at defeating these policies. It joined No Cuts to Care with Groundswell Catalyst Fund grantee Western States Center (Portland, OR) and over 100 other organizations, businesses, and political leaders. In addition, it joined Oregonians United Against Profiling. Forward Together and its partners helped ensure that both coalitions’ campaigns centered communities of color in outreach, messaging, fundraising, and collaborations with grassroots groups. Forward Together deployed a majority people of color-activist team to conduct outreach in communities of color, where it engaged over 2,000 people in conversations about abortion access and encouraged them to vote. For No Cuts to Care, Forward Together leveraged its network to gain the support of the largest Latino workers’ union in Oregon and the endorsement of iconic civil rights organizer Dolores Huerta. It brought in a media strategist to heighten the attention to the multiracial, multi-issue aspects of the campaign. As part of a diverse coalition, Forward Together’s intentional commitment to cross-movement and issue outreach and visibility helped Oregonians defeat both measures by landsides.
Policy Work Expands Access and Combats Threats

Nearly all RJ grantees took action to support the passage or implementation of pro-RJ policies or the reversal or prevention of anti-RJ policies. In all, 2018 grantees contributed to the passage of 58 pro-RJ policies and to blocking 49 harmful policies.

These wins illustrate grantees’ constant vigilance—to ensure that pro-RJ policies are not reversed and are implemented fully and consistently, and to catch anti-RJ policy efforts, including those that many may not realize are threats.

Integrated Voter Engagement

Groundswell launched the Integrated Voter Engagement (IVE) initiative in 2012 in order to increase the capacity and scale of RJ organizations to win systems change through well-resourced grassroots organizing and non-partisan voter engagement strategies. All 20 organizations in the 2018 IVE cohort are included in this evaluation. Each organization received over $150,000 in direct funding and professional training support, including grants for general operating support, door-to-door canvassing, phone banking, and access to voter contact technology. IVE participants also receive personalized IVE coaching, evaluation support, skill-building convenings, mind-body practice opportunities, and access to legal counsel to ensure 501(c)(3) compliance.

In 2018, a midterm election year, IVE grantees made 151,178 contacts with voters (a 92% increase over the 78,792 reached in 2017). Almost all reported contributing to successful policy battles, including (but not limited to) those related to Medicaid expansion in Virginia, environmental health policy in California, criminal justice reform in Louisiana, adoption rights for same-sex couples in Georgia, and blocking abortion restrictions at the federal level. Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT) staff members also visited Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) while mobilizing members to contact her through action alerts to express their alarm at Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court; Murkowski was the only Republican to oppose the nomination.9

Khmer Girls in Action (KGA) (LONG BEACH, CA) is led by young Southeast Asian women who work at local and national levels to defend the rights of immigrants and refugees, with a strong record of defending abortion rights. IVE support helped KGA to reach close to 10,400 voters in 2018, nearly double its 2017 number. Its multi-year campaign, Invest in Youth, aims to divert funds away from policing and increase investment in resources for youth, including access to contraception and reproductive health services. In 2017 and 2018, KGA youth conducted outreach to over 1,200 community members and collected over 700 surveys about youth programming, budget priorities, and public safety practices. KGA members presented the results at a press conference before an audience of 150. Youth and adult allies developed the campaign’s demands and strategy, held advocacy visits with all nine Long Beach city councilmembers and the mayor’s office, and presented their findings before the city council. Ultimately, they were able to celebrate the inclusion of a $200,000 Long Beach Children & Youth Fund in the mayor’s proposed budget—funding that would otherwise have gone to over-policing and criminalization of youth of color.
Strategies for Success in Advocacy and Organizing Campaigns

In laying the foundation for long-term, sustainable policy change, RJ grantees have achieved wins through their advocacy and organizing campaigns. They have amplified public voice and increased visibility about issues, forged powerful alliances, gained champions among public officials, and more. The following strategies helped them reach many of their 2018 campaign goals:

- Deepening organizational capacity, by securing more resources or hiring staff.
- Basing policy priorities on what they heard from members about their experiences and needs, which led to campaigns that resonated with and inspired their base.
- Launching social media campaigns to raise awareness and mobilize the community.
- Developing constituents’ leadership and advocacy capacity.
- Building on past advocacy work.
- Employing integrated voter engagement (IVE) strategies, including get out the vote (GOTV) campaigns.
- Joining or forming coalitions to increase numbers, voice, and impact on public officials.
- Applying pressure to individual officials (elected or appointed government officials and corporate board members, for business policy change).
- Supporting constituents in sharing testimony about community experiences and needs with each other and in public spaces, including at legislative hearings.
- Co-authoring new legislation.

Relationships with Public Officials

Grantees’ relationships with public officials can move them to introduce, sponsor, or support new policies, block harmful policies, and use RJ organizations’ talking points and issue frames. The 2018 RJ grantees developed, maintained, and strengthened relationships with 3,114 public officials affiliated with all levels of U.S. and tribal government in 2018.

The chart at right shows an increase in the number of relationships at all U.S. government levels by the cohort of 23 RJ organizations that have received five consecutive years of Catalyst Fund support.

Those long-term grantees who were in Groundswell’s IVE program in 2018 had 93% more such relationships in 2018 than 2014, with a gain of 23% since 2017.
Numbers of relationships fluctuate depending on election results, the number of types of issues being addressed by active campaigns, organizational staffing, and other factors. Given the high level of political polarization and hostility toward RJ issues among many public officials in recent years, the increases in relationships over time by these 23 grantees are notable. The aggressive attacks on abortion access and reproductive justice issues in 2019 will make these relationships more critically important than ever, as grantees prepare for any opportunities to block and reverse these and other policies in the coming months.

Four strategies that RJ grantees often cite as effective in initiating, sustaining, or strengthening relationships with public officials are:

- In-person meetings between constituents and policy makers.
- Holding events with a policy maker as the intended audience or guest.
- Building visibility for work on an issue (e.g., through media and public events).
- Engaging in long-term and consistent outreach and communication.

Examples of these strategies in action include:

**New Voices for Reproductive Justice (PITTSBURGH, PA; CLEVELAND, OH)** developed increased and stronger relationships in the Ohio Legislature, which it hopes will lead to a prioritized focus on Black maternal health and an end to shackling pregnant incarcerated women. Factors contributing to these relationships include hosting a policy briefing in Cleveland and constituents visiting newly elected representatives at state offices during advocacy days.

**Positive Women’s Network-USA (PWN-USA) (OAKLAND, CA)** credits a strong relationship with Colorado’s newly-elected Governor Jared Polis to consistent outreach ever since PWN-USA state chapter members started talking to him about HIV issues when he was running for a school board position 20 years ago. The relationship continued during his time as a state assembly representative and has led to a PWN-USA member being appointed to serve on a healthcare advisory committee of the gubernatorial transition team.

**Gender Justice Nevada (LAS VEGAS, NV)** organizes for the rights of sex/gender-diverse people and garnered extensive visibility through media coverage for its work to raise awareness about a 2017 law (SB 225) to protect sex/gender-diverse students. This in turn prompted many 2018 candidates to contact Gender Justice Nevada for information; seven of whom promised to support full implementation of the law. Since all seven were elected to office, the organization now has an opportunity to build on early supportive relationships with a state senator, a governor, assembly members, and school board members.

Grantees also say the following methods helped them develop and strengthen relationships in 2018:

- Building a reputation among public officials as a thought leader or partner on an issue.
- Engaging influencers (organizations, coalitions, or local individuals) to join the RJ grantee for in-person visits with policy makers.
- Attending events in which a policy maker is involved.
- Forming a 501(c)(4) organization, which is able to endorse candidates for election, opening the door to a future positive relationship.
Rapid Response Fund

Groundswell’s Rapid Response Fund is a multi-issue fund that provides timely, flexible grants of up to $30,000 to grassroots organizations led by women of color, trans people of color, and low-income women. The Rapid Response Fund focuses on critical, but unexpected, fights to protect and advance reproductive and social justice. In 2018, 30 organizations (including six RJ grantees that participated in this evaluation) received a total of $500,000 in Rapid Response funding. With Rapid Response Fund and often other support from Groundswell, they were able to organize to block anti-abortion ballot measures in Virginia, Oregon, and Alabama; organize against voter suppression in North Dakota; and build political power in Indigenous communities; among many other organizing campaigns and advocacy efforts.10

“While we are pleased to see the fruits borne by those years of leadership development, organizing, political education, culture shift, and advocacy, 2018 also underscored that every victory must be defended, that shifting culture with mainstream allies is often an incremental proposition, and that each step forward for community empowerment is likely to be countered by a significant push-back.”

— WESTERN STATES CENTER, A CATALYST FUND AND RAPID RESPONSE FUND GRANTEE
STRATEGIC THREAD SPOTLIGHT:

Leveraging Local to State /Regional / National Impact

Acting with an eye to how a policy fight or organizing strategy will impact a broader area or set important precedent.

**National Network of Abortion Funds (NNAF)** (Boston, MA) builds its members’ power to remove financial and logistical barriers to abortion access. Through its work, it centers people who have abortions and organizes at the intersections of racial, economic, and reproductive justice. NNAF aims to build a presence of leaders of color in spaces of power where conversations about communities facing barriers to abortion are typically shaped by white institutional leaders. NNAF unites member funds in 39 states and Washington, D.C., including Groundswell RJ grantees Access Reproductive Care-Southeast (Atlanta, GA), ACCESS Women’s Health Justice (Oakland, CA), and West Fund (El Paso, TX). NNAF builds member fund leadership and capacity to advocate for policy change through opportunities to participate in leadership development programs, serve on task forces and working groups, and attend conferences and convenings.

NNAF relies on a regional cohort strategy to build a strong, coordinated network of funds within and across regions working toward common policy goals at the local, state, and federal level. Replicating and scaling up its successful Southern Funds Cohort, NNAF works with established and emerging abortion funds to share approaches to data management, offer practical support, and develop the leadership of people of color within abortion funds. NNAF’s advocacy agenda includes public funding of and increased access to abortion, living wages and worker protections for those who use abortion funds, and removing other barriers to people’s ability to access the care they need and to create the families they want, when and if they choose.

In 2018, NNAF members who are also Groundswell RJ grantees celebrated state-level wins. They secured the rights of young parents in California to access education (AB 2289); blocked policies in West Virginia that would have excluded abortion from the definition of medical services, making it ineligible for Medicaid coverage (HB 4012); and prevented the criminalization of pregnant women with substance use disorders (HB 4623). At the federal level, NNAF was instrumental in the renewal of a policy that protects against coercive sterilization practices targeting low-income people, people of color, immigrants, and/or people with disabilities who are of reproductive age and who have Medicaid insurance.
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (LSPC) (Oakland, CA) organizes communities impacted by the criminal justice system and advocates to release incarcerated people, to restore their human and civil rights, and to reunify families and communities. It builds public awareness of structural racism in policing, the courts, and the prison system and advance racial and gender justice in all its work. Led primarily by formerly incarcerated people, LSPC partners with other organizations and grassroots activists to promote change in California’s criminal justice system. It was instrumental in four California policy wins in 2018, including AB 2138, which supports people’s ability to provide for their families by reducing barriers to professional licensure for individuals with prior criminal convictions. Through its project All of Us or None, LSPC is a national leader in Ban the Box campaigns, which seek to end the practice of requiring job seekers to indicate on hiring applications whether they have a criminal record. It was also instrumental in campaigns to restore voting rights to formerly incarcerated people.

LSPC scales and replicates strategies developed in one state to inform work in others for national impact. In 2018, it focused on a multi-year campaign to win back voting rights for formerly incarcerated people in Florida. Replicating a conference and advocacy event it originated in California, LSPC organized a campaign called Quest for Democracy. This campaign included door-to-door canvassing, phonebanking, and texting Florida voters to educate them about how the restoration of voting rights to 1.4 million people with prior convictions through the proposed Constitutional Amendment 4 would benefit families and communities. The amendment passed with 65% of the vote.

Rubbertown Emergency ACTion (Louisville, KY) is an organization of residents living near or adjacent to a cluster of 11 chemical plants commonly referred to as “Rubbertown.” With a consistent focus on women and girls of color, it fights for strong laws to stop toxic air pollution from chemical plants; the protection of residents in the event of a leak, fire, or explosion in a chemical plant or railcar; and full disclosure and easy access to information about the impact of Rubbertown on residents living nearby. Almost entirely volunteer-run, REACT engages in leadership development and advocacy, building individual capacity and leveraging alliances, as members bring locally based policy campaigns to state and national levels. In 2018, it joined Groundswell grantees Delaware Concerned Residents for Environmental Justice (Wilmington, DE), Los Jardines Institute (Albuquerque, NM), and Center for Earth, Energy, and Democracy (Minneapolis, MN) and others to fight for passage and implementation of stronger federal regulations to prevent chemical disasters.

REACT members organize canvassing and demonstrations, testify at hearings, speak before the city council, and hold briefings for state legislators. It strategically partners with grassroots groups across the country, science-based research groups, legal groups, training organizations, and national advocacy organizations. REACT supports community leaders in guiding local policy and organizing campaigns, linking these efforts to national campaigns for systemic reforms. Explaining its advocacy strategy in 2018, REACT says: “We focused on solutions and impacts that are meaningful to grassroots communities as well as the cross-cutting issues of reproductive and economic justice, toxic chemical exposure, and environmental health and justice that need resolving. This kept a big tent open for us to build coalitional power on the ground, with groups in neighboring states and nationally, and to add value—and leverage resources—as much as possible toward a commonly desired set of solutions.”
Barriers, Accelerators, and Opportunities for Support

RJ grantees’ accomplishments in 2018 are particularly notable when seen in the context of the challenges they faced.

The most prominent barrier in 2018 was a political climate hostile to RJ, evident in:

- A rise of American isolationism and white nationalism, racism, and misogyny.
- Well-funded anti-abortion activists and organizations that used racist, sexist, and anti-immigrant ideologies.
- The dismantling of prior hard-won rights and protections.
- Federal policies and practices that spread fear in immigrant communities, including through workplace raids, deportation, family separation, and lack of protection against hate crimes.
- Voter suppression and barriers to meaningful access to the legislative process.
- Policies supporting unfettered corporate development and those that conflicted with internationally affirmed rights of Indigenous peoples and human rights.
- A lack of enforcement and rollback of laws and regulations to protect workers and the environment.
- The high pace of attacks from the federal government that drained activists and hindered their ability to be forward-thinking, proactive, and innovative.

Nearly as frequently mentioned was the issue of organizational capacity, which included:

- An inability to compete for and retain staff due to insufficient benefits, salaries, and raises.
- Staff and leadership transitions, leading to increased workloads and other pressures.
- A need for organizational restructuring.
- Insufficient staff, skills, and resources to carry out organizations’ day-to-day administrative/infrastructure work.
- Having to turn down projects and partnerships due to lack of capacity and burnout.
- Trouble balancing long-term organizing needs with short-term opportunities.

Other barriers were:

- Challenges obtaining funding for general operations, technology to manage a growing base and gather data, travel to remote or distant constituencies or communities, and staff development.
- The need to recruit and cultivate leaders who will stay with RJ organizations and work in regions with the greatest RJ threats.
- Conflicts and lack of coordination among allies, including some allies who are anti-choice and others who do not understand that the way they address some issues exacerbates others (e.g., advocating the expansion of police powers to combat violence without considering the experiences of communities of color with police).
The boxes that follow summarize RJ grantees’ reflections on factors that supported, or accelerated, their work in 2018 and opportunities drawn from their experiences for funders to support the RJ movement in the coming year.

### BUILDING LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZING

**WHAT HELPED GRANTEES IN 2018**
- 2018 midterm election energy and political concern, which created opportunities for large-scale targeted canvassing, civic engagement, and advocacy to implement proactive policies at the state level.
- Groundswell’s Catalyst Fund and Grassroots Organizing Institute support.
- Staff who listen to and reflect the base geographically and demographically, which helped ensure strategies resonated and earned community support.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUNDERS**
- Support grantees in hiring staff to lead base-building and civic engagement.
- Invest in long-term leadership development strategies for base members.
- Provide resources for grantees to train volunteers and staff in best practices to navigate current threats, such as escalating racism and anti-immigrant policies, when they are in the field and organizing in communities.

### STRENGTHENING ALLIANCES

**WHAT HELPED GRANTEES IN 2018**
- Nurturing long-term relationships and strategically cultivating new partnerships.
- Dialogue and resource-sharing among RJ leaders and across movements to build collective power.
- Convening current and potential allies for intensive work on shared visions and unified strategies across states or nationwide.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUNDERS**
- Make funding available for grantees’ allies to build their capacity to work within an anti-oppression framework, by covering associated training or consulting costs. This would allow groups to focus more of their energy and resources to work with their allies on organizing and advocacy goals.
- Help grantees invest in strong communications staff and practices, because greater visibility of their work builds credibility and draws new allies.

### BRINGING ABOUT POLICY CHANGE

**WHAT HELPED GRANTEES IN 2018**
- Focusing on organizing, advocacy, and policy-maker relationships at the local level.
- Groundswell’s IVE program and Rapid Response Fund.
- Engaging in culture change strategies (e.g., messaging or communications) so the public was receptive to calls to action around issues.
- Having a dedicated policy team on staff to present expert information and build contacts for policy support.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUNDERS**
- Support implementation of grantee strategies to bring community members and their stories to public officials who may be unaware of how their decisions impact their constituents.
- Offer information about user-friendly resources to help grantees learn more about whether to consider obtaining a 501(c)(4) status.
# Deepening Organizational Capacity

**What helped grantees in 2018**

- **Groundswell’s pairing of technical assistance with grants,** including coaches and consultants.

- **Honoring self-care and healing justice** for staff and investing in trauma-informed healing practices.

- **Strengthened internal systems** to move base members through trainings and institutes into staff and consultant roles.

- **Becoming selective about new work,** in order to maximize effectiveness and impact of work on core projects.

**Opportunities for funders**

- **Help grantees identify new opportunities for institutional funding.**

- **Support board development and recruitment** so grantees can recruit a cross-sector board to help them identify new opportunities for networking, fundraising, and visibility.

- **Award long-term funding** so grantees can plan and build infrastructure.

- **Support grantees to develop leadership succession plans and offer competitive pay and benefits to attract and retain staff.**

- **Invest in technical assistance** to build grantees’ communications skills about their work and the RJ framework.

“If we can’t pay our people enough money to keep them, they will have to move on, because they need to support their families. I’m always torn when there’s a new funding source. Do we want to take on more work or pay the people we’ve got?”

— Alaska Community Action on Toxics, an IVE and Catalyst Fund Grantee
Conclusion and Next Steps for the Movement

At a time of grave, pervasive threats to human rights, Groundswell Fund’s 2018 RJ grantees and their constituents channeled their experiences and alarm into powerful, visible action. They utilized multiple complementary strategies to expand the ranks of activists and leaders in the RJ movement. By seeking out allies within their own sectors and across other sectors who would align agendas and work as authentically collaborative partners, they expanded their reach, visibility, and power. And in an unrelentingly challenging policy environment, they identified opportunities to win policy battles and to build stronger relationships with public officials.

Reflecting a growing sophistication in the RJ movement, RJ grantees developed and implemented forward-thinking approaches to build youth leadership, foster solidarity across issues and communities, and expand from local to broad impact campaigns. They faced significant barriers in protecting and advancing RJ, and there are many opportunities for funders to deepen support of their ongoing efforts. Their work in 2018 showed a growing maturity and capacity to advance and sustain an intersectional RJ movement that is urgently called for today.

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

“We want you to know that this work, while necessary, interrupts what should be the normal carrying-on of our lives with our families and friends. We want you to know that even though this work interrupts our lives, we do it because it is important. We do it in spite of the fact that many of us work full-time jobs.... We do it in spite of the fact that many of us are caregivers for aging relatives and friends who are ill. We do it in spite of the fact that many of us have passion projects that could transform our neighborhoods....We can only hope that at some point, a future generation will not have to be consumed every single day with fighting for justice that should already exist.”

— REACT (RUBBERTOWN EMERGENCY ACTION), A CATALYST FUND GRANTEE
Policies Passed or Blocked in 2018

Following is a list of 58 pro-RJ policies passed and 49 harmful policies blocked or reversed with the contribution of 40 RJ grantees’ work in 2018.11,12 These include policies related to reproductive health services and rights as well as those that support a broad range of other RJ issues, such as economic justice, environmental health and justice, criminal justice reform, immigration justice, and the rights of pregnant people and parents. The names of grantees are listed below each policy win in which they had a role.

### ABORTION ACCESS

#### NEW LAWS AND NON-LEGISLATIVE POLICY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New York</th>
<th>National Advocates For Pregnant Women</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New York City Council Resolution 0084-2018</td>
<td>urges the New York State Legislature to pass, and the governor to sign, the Reproductive Health Act, expanding the types of providers that can provide abortion care in the state and repealing the criminal abortion statute that still exists in New York.</td>
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<tr>
<th>North Carolina</th>
<th>SisterSong Women Of Color Reproductive Justice Collective</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Durham County resolution against the Hyde Amendment calls on the federal government to repeal the Hyde Amendment, a federal budget provision that bars Medicaid recipients from using their insurance to access abortion care (except in very limited circumstances). Durham County is the first county in the state to adopt the resolution and the second in the South.</td>
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#### BLOCKING/REVERSING HARMFUL POLICY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federal</th>
<th>National Advocates For Pregnant Women, National Latina Institute For Reproductive Health (NLIRH), SisterSong Women Of Color Reproductive Justice Collective</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S 2311, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, would have amended the federal criminal code to make it a crime for any person to perform or attempt to perform an abortion if the probable post-fertilization age of the fetus is 20 weeks or more.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Colorado</th>
<th>Colorado Organization For Latina Opportunity And Reproductive Rights (COLOR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CO HB 18-1082 would have institutionalized a tactic intended to frighten or shame people seeking abortions by requiring abortion providers to provide any person seeking an abortion the option to see or forego seeing their ultrasound at least 24 hours prior to performing an abortion.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Colorado Organization For Latina Opportunity And Reproductive Rights (COLOR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CO HB 18-1120 would have severely limited the availability of second-trimester abortions in Colorado. This bill would have labeled a safe, common abortion method as “dismemberment abortion,” prohibited it, and instituted punitive consequences for the practitioner.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Colorado Organization For Latina Opportunity And Reproductive Rights (COLOR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CO HB 18-1121 would have banned funding for research on fetal tissue within higher education institutions.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Colorado Organization For Latina Opportunity And Reproductive Rights (COLOR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CO HB 18-1225 would have made abortion a Class 1 felony and would have denied access to abortion, except when a pregnant person’s life is endangered.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Bills</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>• FL HB 1429/SB 1890 would have prohibited second-trimester abortions in Florida. This bill would have labeled a safe, common abortion method as “dismemberment abortion,” prohibited it, and instituted punitive consequences for the practitioner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>• IL HB 4257 would have institutionalized a tactic intended to frighten or shame people seeking abortions by requiring abortion providers to provide any person seeking an abortion after eight weeks of gestation the option to see or forego seeing their ultrasound prior to performing an abortion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>• MD HB 748/SB 53 would have defined fetuses as victims in certain murder, homicide, and manslaughter cases, thereby establishing legal precedent for giving personhood to fertilized eggs, embryos, and fetuses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>• MO HB 1867/SB 724 would have prohibited any person from performing or inducing an abortion if they know that the pregnant person is seeking the abortion due to a prenatal diagnosis, test, or screening confirming or indicating the potential of Down syndrome in a fetus or if the individual knows that the pregnant person is seeking the abortion solely because of the sex or race of the fetus. This type of law capitalizes on anti-immigrant and other biases in order to make outlawing women’s autonomy seem acceptable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>• NM HB 56, Parental Notification of Abortion, would have required parental notification for people under the age of 18 seeking an abortion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>• OH HB 258, the “Heartbeat Bill,” would have banned any abortion after six weeks of gestation. The bill was vetoed by the Ohio governor.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• OH HB 56 would have defined abortion as an act of murder, and would have allowed individuals seeking abortions and those providing abortions to be sentenced with the death penalty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>• Ballot Measure 106 would have amended the Oregon Constitution to permanently prohibit coverage of abortion through publicly funded healthcare plans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>• PA HB 2050 would have banned abortions after Down syndrome diagnosis in a fetus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• PA HB 2315, the “Heartbeat Bill,” would have prohibited abortions from the point of fetal heartbeat detection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>• S 217, the Personhood Act of South Carolina, would have established fetal personhood in South Carolina. Fetal personhood laws have direct consequences for the rights of pregnant people and people with the capacity for pregnancy, including providing the legal foundation for criminalization and punishment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>• TX SB 8 was an omnibus anti-abortion law that would have banned a common abortion method (dilation and evacuation) and would have required health facilities in Texas to bury or cremate fetal tissue for abortion or miscarriage procedures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>• VA HB 1182 would have required healthcare providers to provide information about “perinatal hospice and palliative care services available” to any pregnant person whose fetus has a diagnosis of “a profound and irremediable congenital or chromosomal anomaly that is incompatible with sustaining life after birth.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>• WV HB 4012 would have amended the definition of medical services to exclude abortion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• WV HB 4623 would have permitted involuntary drug testing, civil commitment, and criminal prosecution of pregnant people who abuse substances in the state of West Virginia.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE ACCESS

### NEW LAWS AND NON-LEGISLATIVE POLICY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>The Medicaid Consent for Sterilization Policy continued the required use of the Consent for Sterilization Form (OMB No. 0937-0166), which was set to expire on December 31, 2018. Use of this form protects against coercive sterilization practices particularly targeting low-income people, people of color, immigrants, and/or people with disabilities who are of reproductive age.</td>
<td>California Latinas For Reproductive Justice, National Network Of Abortion Funds (NNAF), URGE: Unite For Reproductive &amp; Gender Equity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>Long Beach City Council Budget allocated $200,000 to be used for the Invest in Youth strategic planning process to center youth voices and needs, including reproductive health services.</td>
<td>Khmer Girls In Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>The Medicaid Consent for Sterilization Policy continued the required use of the Consent for Sterilization Form (OMB No. 0937-0166), which was set to expire on December 31, 2018. Use of this form protects against coercive sterilization practices particularly targeting low-income people, people of color, immigrants, and/or people with disabilities who are of reproductive age.</td>
<td>California Latinas For Reproductive Justice, National Network Of Abortion Funds (NNAF), URGE: Unite For Reproductive &amp; Gender Equity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>NM HB 2 provides funds to the New Mexico Department of Health for training providers on the provision of long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs) and provides funds to NM GRADS, an in-school program that effectively supports expectant and parenting students in working toward graduation.</td>
<td>Young Women United</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Amendments to SB 30 block a budget amendment that would promote LARCs to welfare recipients with substance use issues, thus crossing the line from providing access to pressuring or potentially coercing certain forms of birth control for specific populations.</td>
<td>SisterSong Women Of Color Reproductive Justice Collective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### OTHER HEALTHCARE AND SERVICE ACCESS

### NEW LAWS AND NON-LEGISLATIVE POLICY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>SM 3 and HM 9, Medicaid Buy-in Study Memorial, charges the NM legislative health and human services committee with exploring options for expanding healthcare access, including reproductive healthcare.</td>
<td>Forward Together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>OR Measure 101, Healthcare Insurance Premiums Tax for Medicaid Referendum, closes a gap in Medicaid funding, meaning that 400,000 children, including 80,000 children of color, will keep their health insurance.</td>
<td>Forward Together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>VA Medicaid Expansion Budget allocates funding for Medicaid expansion in VA, providing access for nearly 400,000 Virginians. Groundswell grantee NLIRH supports expansion but opposes the proposed work requirements.</td>
<td>National Latina Institute For Reproductive Health (NLIRH)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Environmental Health and Justice

### New Laws and Non-Legislative Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>California</th>
<th>Black Women For Wellness, California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative, Women’s Voices For The Earth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• AB 2775, Professional Cosmetics Labeling Requirements, requires manufacturers to list all ingredients on the labels of professional cosmetic products, so that the predominantly women of color who work in and patronize salons can make informed and healthy choices. The bill establishes labeling parity with retail cosmetic products to provide the same level of ingredient disclosure to professional salon workers as to retail consumers.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The Visalia Unified School District Integrated Pest Management Plan establishes local school district policies to remove toxic pesticides from all school campuses/grounds.</td>
<td>ACT For Women and Girls</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Criminal Justice Reform/Prison Abolition

### New Laws and Non-Legislative Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>California</th>
<th>Legal Services For Prisoners With Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• CA AB 2138 reduces barriers to professional licensure for individuals with prior criminal convictions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• CA AB 2293 requires certifying entities to submit data annually on the approval or denial of emergency medical technician (EMT) applicants, including the number of applicants with a prior criminal conviction who were denied, approved, or approved with restrictions. This prevents discrimination on the basis of a prior conviction and supports employment opportunities for formerly incarcerated people.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• CA AB 2845 includes a number of provisions that improve the transparency and accessibility of California’s pardon and commutation process, including authorization of the Board of Parole Hearings to make recommendations to the governor at any time, authorization of the governor to request investigation into candidates for pardon or commutation at any time, and a requirement for the board to consider expedited review of the application if a petitioner indicates an urgent need for the pardon or commutation, among other procedural reforms.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• CA SB 1393 allows a court to strike or dismiss a prior serious felony conviction, which otherwise would add a sentencing enhancement of five years for prior conviction of a serious felony.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida</th>
<th>The New Florida Majority-Education Fund, Power U Center For Social Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Amendment 4 restores the right to vote to over 1.4 million voters who have felonies and who are no longer incarcerated.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Illinois</th>
<th>Cabrini Green Legal Aid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Public Act 100-0776 removes barriers to sealing criminal records by prohibiting courts from denying sealing relief of criminal records due to unpaid fines and fees from past criminal cases.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Louisiana</th>
<th>Women With A Vision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Amendment 2 requires unanimous consent of juries in criminal trials. (Until this win, only two states did not require this Sixth Amendment protection: Louisiana ended a unanimous trial requirement due to racist motives during Reconstruction, and Oregon ended it in 1934, with anti-immigrant and anti-Semitic motives.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• LA SB 558, Dignity for Incarcerated Women Act, provides for increased access to healthcare products for incarcerated women, including sanitary pads, tampons, toilet paper, and hygiene products. The Act also restricts male staff from conducting pat-down searches and entering areas where incarcerated women may be undressed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Mexico
- Capital Outlay Request for Bernalillo County Youth Services Center Drug/Metal Detection Equipment provides $61,000 of funding for a pilot project to significantly reduce the use of strip searches in New Mexico juvenile detention facilities. Young Women United

New York
- A 588A/S 6176 increases access to free menstrual products to people incarcerated in New York State prisons. Sylvia Rivera Law Project

North Carolina
- Updates to the State Department of Public Safety Prisons Use of Force Policy limit shackling of incarcerated people during pregnancy, labor, and postpartum. SisterSong Women Of Color Reproductive Justice Collective

Tennessee
- TN HB 2520 prohibits Tennessee courts from making sentencing determinations based on a defendant’s consent or refusal to consent to any form of temporary or permanent birth control, sterilization, or family planning services, regardless of whether the defendant’s consent is voluntarily given. National Advocates For Pregnant Women, SisterReach

Virginia
- VA HB 83 directs the State Board of Corrections and the director of the Department of Corrections to each adopt and implement a standard or procedure to ensure the provision of no-cost feminine hygiene products to incarcerated women. National Latina Institute For Reproductive Health (NLIRH)

Washington
- WA SB 5307 creates alternatives to incarceration for people with children. Sylvia Rivera Law Project

**BLOCKING/REVERSING HARMFUL POLICY**

New Mexico
- NM HB 27 would have created a new penalty for formerly incarcerated youth who flee while under supervised release. This would have put young people at risk for further criminalization. The defeat of this bill affirms that youth need resources and care to feel secure and thrive, not increased penalties for leaving a fearful situation. Forward Together

- NM HB 190 would have given adult prison terms to youth who commit crimes. Forward Together

North Carolina
- HB 3/SL 2018-132 would have given legislators more power in the process of filling judicial vacancies that would affect reproductive justice issues. El Pueblo, Inc.

- HB 63 would have increased the penalties for having, making, or selling false documents; made it harder for undocumented people to get out of jail on bail; and allowed courts to use any documents that include records of a person’s immigration status. El Pueblo, Inc.

**PARENTING RIGHTS, BIRTHING RIGHTS, AND THE RIGHTS OF PREGNANT PEOPLE**

**NEW LAWS AND NON-LEGISLATIVE POLICY**

**Federal**
- HR 1318/S 1112 provides funding for state maternal mortality review committees, providing a pathway for activists to hold states and hospitals accountable. Raising Women’s Voices

**California**
- CA AB 2507 requires county jails to develop and implement an infant and toddler breast milk feeding policy, based on currently accepted best practices for incarcerated people who are lactating in a county jail. California Latinas For Reproductive Justice

- CA AB 2289 ensures young parents have access to parental leave from school after giving birth. This will expand opportunities for young parents to access education and take care of their children. The bill includes gender-inclusive language. Access Women’s Health Justice, ACT For Women And Girls, Black Women For Wellness, California Latinas For Reproductive Justice
| California Latinos For Reproductive Justice | CA AB 2785 requires California Community Colleges and the California State University system to provide reasonable accommodations to a lactating student on their respective campuses to express breast milk, breastfeed an infant child, or address other needs related to breastfeeding. The bill requires that these reasonable accommodations include, but are not limited to, access to a private and secure room, other than a restroom, to express breast milk or breastfeed an infant child; permission to bring onto a school campus any equipment used to express breast milk; and access to a power source for that equipment. |
| National Advocates For Pregnant Women | New York City Council Introduction 0913-2018 aims to increase access to doula care for birth people in New York City by creating a requirement for the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) to assess the needs of pregnant people and the availability of doulas to meet those needs. This measure also requires DOHMH to develop a plan for providing access to doulas to more pregnant people who request doula services as well as an annual report with information about known organizations that provide doula services. |
| National Advocates For Pregnant Women | New York City Council Introduction 0914-2018 creates requirements for the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to report on maternal mortality and morbidity rates and causes, and requires enhancement of coordination between city agencies tasked with combating maternal mortality and morbidity, including development of a report on the current implementation of recommendations made to agencies/committees. |
| National Advocates For Pregnant Women | Changes to HR 3545 would have eliminated key confidentiality protections in the federal Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder Records regulations. In September of 2018, according to the Legal Action Center, Congress “drop[ped] language [from this legislation] that would weaken addiction treatment confidentiality safeguards from the final opioid package.” This block is a win for RJ as it upholds confidentiality standards for people seeking treatment for substance use disorders. |
| National Advocates For Pregnant Women | HR 5646, the proposed “POPPY Act” had the stated purpose of increasing understanding of opioid prescribing practices for pregnant women, but singled out pregnant women in a way that could undermine their health and well-being. |
| URGE: Unite For Reproductive & Gender Equity, Women Engaged | GA SB 375 would have restricted adoption for same-sex couples and would have codified Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA, or “Hobby Lobby”) language, which is a part of an overarching battle that has attempted to use the RFRA to justify and further restrict working people’s access to reproductive healthcare and LGBTQ rights. |
| National Advocates For Pregnant Women | MI HB 4500 would have amended a section of Michigan’s code of criminal procedure to increase criminal sentences by defining embryos and fetuses as separate “persons” when counting the number of victims of a crime. Laws that establish separate rights for embryos and fetuses create a punitive climate for all women, pregnant people, and children, and feticide and similar laws can create a legal culture that encourages prosecutions and punishment of pregnant people. |
| National Advocates For Pregnant Women | HB 1511 would have removed the existing exception in New Hampshire’s feticide law stating that pregnant women cannot be prosecuted for any action/inaction with regard to their own pregnancy. This language would have subsequently allowed any pregnancy loss (intentional or not) to be the basis of criminal investigation and prosecution. |
| National Advocates For Pregnant Women | NY S07998 would have presented a risk of increased unnecessary reporting of pregnant and parenting women to civil child welfare authorities. Although this bill was written as a public health law and included elements that Groundswell grantee NAPW supported, including increased funding and availability of confidential, non-punitive treatment for pregnant and parenting women with a substance use disorder, other elements would have created risks for pregnant and parenting women. |
Virginia

- VA SB 541 would have established that “any person who, as a result of driving under the influence, causes the death of the fetus of another is guilty of involuntary manslaughter,” and that if this conduct showed “a reckless disregard for human life,” the driver could be charged with aggravated involuntary manslaughter. Laws codifying a “feticide charge” create a legal culture that encourages prosecution and punishment of pregnant people.

LGBQ, TRANSGENDER, GENDER NON-CONFORMING, AND INTERSEX RIGHTS

NEW LAWS AND NON-LEGISLATIVE POLICY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nevada</th>
<th>• Clark County School District’s Policy 5138, Addressing the Rights of Students with Diverse Gender Identities and Expressions, affirms a person’s right to control their own body and identity. The policy includes requirements to develop a Gender Support Plan to protect trans, gender non-conforming, and intersex (TGNCI) students and protect their privacy.</th>
<th>Gender Justice Nevada</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>• Amendment to Article 207 of the New York City Health Code allows TGNC people to update their birth certificates to accurately reflect their gender identities by offering &quot;X&quot; as a gender marker option for non-binary New Yorkers who do not identify as male or female.</td>
<td>Sylvia Rivera Law Project</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BLOCKING/REVERSING HARMFUL POLICY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alaska</th>
<th>• Proposition 1, a proposition on the Anchorage municipal ballot, would have forced transgender people to use facilities that are inconsistent with their gender identity.</th>
<th>Alaska Community Action On Toxics (ACAT)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>• CO SB 18-241 would have allowed adoption agencies to deny adopters on the basis of sexual orientation.</td>
<td>Colorado Organization For Latina Opportunity And Reproductive Rights (COLOR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• CO HB 18-1206 would have rolled back protections for LGBTQ Coloradans in areas of adoption and foster care, health care, housing, marriage, employment, and public spaces.</td>
<td>Colorado Organization For Latina Opportunity And Reproductive Rights (COLOR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>• GA SB 375 would have allowed adoption agencies to deny adopters on the basis of sexual orientation.</td>
<td>URGE: Unite For Reproductive &amp; Gender Equity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>• OH HB 658 would have required teachers and health providers to inform parents if their child/adolescent is transgender.</td>
<td>New Voices For Reproductive Justice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ECONOMIC JUSTICE/WORKERS’ RIGHTS/ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES AND SUPPORT

NEW LAWS AND NON-LEGISLATIVE POLICY

| California | • CA AB 992 creates the CalWORKs Baby Wellness and Family Support Home Visiting Program to provide CalWORKs recipients who are pregnant or parenting a child under age two with voluntary home visiting services from trained professionals. | Black Women For Wellness |

### 2018 RJ IMPACT EVALUATION REPORT

#### The California budget was passed with funding to ensure no CalWORKS grant falls below 50% of the federal poverty line. By placing a minimum CalWORKS grant level, this measure seeks to end childhood deep poverty.

- Measure WW, Claudia’s Law, requires Long Beach hotels to provide overtime protections and panic buttons to hotel workers for their protection.

**Florida**

- Referendum 362 allocates 88% of $75 for every $100,000 in assessed taxable property value to go toward paying teachers more.

**Illinois**

- Amendment 2-25-035 to Chicago’s Municipal Code establishes an Office of Labor Standards to enforce paid sick days, which include time off for doctor appointments for reproductive health purposes, domestic violence-related doctor appointments, and domestic violence-related court appointments.

**Mississippi**

- MS SB 2836, An Act Relating to the Mississippi Medicaid Program, prevents drug testing of pregnant Medicaid recipients and limits drug testing of parenting women who are Medicaid recipients in Mississippi.

**Pennsylvania**

- 180649-A, Fair Workweek, amends the Philadelphia city code to provide workplace protections, including predictable schedules, to approximately 130,000 retail, fast food, and hospitality workers.

**Texas**

- The Austin Paid Sick Leave Ordinance No. 20180215-049 is the first city-level paid sick leave policy in Texas.

**Corporate**

- Walmart’s new pregnancy accommodations corporate policy for the first time extends physical accommodations to pregnant Walmart employees, such as a less physically taxing job, etc. Walmart is the largest private employer in the U.S. Fifty-seven percent of Walmart employees are women.

- A Walmart policy was established that provides hourly workers with the same paid family leave as salaried workers. As a result, 550,000 workers benefited from this change in policy, that provides 10 weeks of paid maternity leave and six weeks of paid parental leave and extends benefits to adoptive parents for the first time.

- A Walmart policy change allows workers to plan their lives with a new commitment to 13 weeks of a set, predictable schedule.

- The Toys R Us Assistance Fund provides $20 million of financial assistance for Toys R Us workers laid off after the company went bankrupt.

### BLOCKING/REVERSING HARMFUL POLICY

**Colorado**

- CO SB 18-171 would have misclassified marketplace platform employees as contractors to undermine workers’ protections.

**Florida**

- FL Amendment 1, Homestead Exemption Increase Amendment, would have exempted a portion of home values assessed at $100,000 or more of all property taxes other than school district taxes. Had it passed, this would have given more tax relief to richer homeowners at the expense of statewide programs for families funded by property taxes.

**Pennsylvania**

- PA HB 861 would have prohibited local governments from passing ordinances regarding employment laws, specifically paid sick day requirements.

- PA HB 2138 would have amended public assistance requirements to include work requirements for Medicaid recipients.
### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/SEXUAL ASSAULT

#### NEW LAWS AND NON-LEGISLATIVE POLICY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Law/Policy</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>GA HB 834 allows domestic violence survivors to break their leases early without penalty from their landlords.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>NM HB 2 allocates $1.1 million of increased funding for sexual assault services.¹³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NM SB 61 provides a definition of “strangulation” and adds it to the Family Violence Protection Act. This bill officially made strangulation a violent offense without increasing penalties, therefore codifying a fuller definition of gender-based violence without increasing the punitive power of the carceral state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>171109-A, a Philadelphia Ordinance, mandates sexual harassment training for all city employees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>WA HB 1022 requires certain entities and law enforcement agencies to complete “victim certifications” for nonimmigrant visa applications for qualifying survivors. This bill requires that people who are survivors of crime must have their U-Visa certification considered by law enforcement.</td>
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</table>

### YOUTH AND EDUCATION

#### NEW LAWS AND NON-LEGISLATIVE POLICY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>CA AB 2601 amends the requirements of the California Healthy Youth Act (CA AB 329), which required school districts provide all students in grades 7 to 12 comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education. AB 2601 extends this requirement to charter schools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>IL SB 2866 requires the IL Department of Public Health to provide all students entering sixth grade with information on the link between HPV and cancer. This law only applied to female students previously.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>Increased federal funding was made available for the Child Care and Development Funds and was used to eliminate the waiting list for federal child care vouchers, a list that had ballooned to 21,500 children. This increase in funding should reduce the list to 1,600.</td>
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#### BLOCKING/REVERSING HARMFUL POLICY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Law/Policy</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>A “proof of residency” requirement from the Mississippi Department of Health Services required parents to show multiple documents to receive child care. This requirement was removed, allowing many to regain access to affordable childcare.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### RACIAL JUSTICE/IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

#### NEW LAWS AND NON-LEGISLATIVE POLICY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>California</th>
<th>• The Long Beach Values Act is a local sanctuary policy that bars local agencies from working with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on detention. This local policy provides additional protections not afforded by state protections, including restrictions on city agencies—such as the Housing Department and local police—from working with DHS.</th>
<th>Khmer Girls In Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Woodlake Unified School District Sanctuary School Policy establishes all campuses as safe havens for all, regardless of immigration status. This policy only allows Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or other immigration enforcement agencies on campuses if they have a warrant.</td>
<td>ACT For Women And Girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>• CO HB 18-1256 continues the Colorado Civil Rights Division and funding for the next ten years.</td>
<td>Colorado Organization For Latina Opportunity And Reproductive Rights (COLOR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• CO SB 18-108 clarifies and expands eligibility for undocumented immigrants under Colorado’s driver license program and improves the program’s renewal process.</td>
<td>Colorado Organization For Latina Opportunity And Reproductive Rights (COLOR)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### BLOCKING/REVERSING HARMFUL POLICY

| Colorado | • CO SB 18-220 would have prohibited state and political subdivisions from creating sanctuary policies protecting immigrants. | Colorado Organization For Latina Opportunity And Reproductive Rights (COLOR) |
| Florida | • FL SB 212/HB 45 would have made it a third-degree felony to re-enter the state of Florida after having been deported from the U.S., punishable by up to five years in prison. | National Latina Institute For Reproductive Health (NLIRH) |
| | • FL SB 308/HB 9 would have prohibited sanctuary city policies in Florida and would have required state and local governmental agencies to comply with and support enforcement of federal immigration law. | Miami Workers Center, National Latina Institute For Reproductive Health (NLIRH) |
| North Carolina | • NC HB 113 would have created a process to penalize local municipalities that do not comply with state immigration laws. | El Pueblo, Inc. |
| | • NC SB 145 would have revoked an exception allowing law enforcement officers to accept a community identification, forced the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety to enter into an agreement with ICE to enforce immigration laws, and forced the NC university system to disclose a student’s immigration status if required by a state or federal agency, among other anti-immigrant measures. | El Pueblo, Inc. |
| Oregon | • Measure 105 would have reversed Oregon’s sanctuary state law, thereby turning police into immigration enforcement officers. | Forward Together |
| Virginia | • VA HB 1257 would have prohibited sanctuary policies in localities. | National Latina Institute For Reproductive Health (NLIRH) |
### GENDER EQUALITY

#### NEW LAWS AND NON-LEGISLATIVE POLICY

| Illinois | • IL SJRCA4 provides for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which was first introduced to Congress in 1923. This amendment declares that equality of rights “shall not be denied by the U.S. or any state on account of sex.” The Equal Rights Amendment goes into effect if 38 states ratify the amendment, pending a court challenge to extend the deadline for ratification. Illinois is the 37th state to approve the amendment. | Everthrive Illinois |

### CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

#### BLOCKING/REVERSING HARMFUL POLICY

| North Carolina | • HB 4/SL 2018-133 would have removed powers from the governor’s office and undermined democracy. | El Pueblo, Inc. |
## Legal Advocacy and Judicial Wins in 2018

Court rulings may affirm existing policy and/or set precedent that influences future cases and policy making. Because of this, some RJ grantees conduct legal advocacy, in the form of supporting community members’ ability to provide witness testimony, filing amicus curiae (“friend of the court”) briefs, petitioning judges or prosecutors, etc. RJ grantees were instrumental on the following cases related to reproductive justice in the following states:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Case Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>Several reproductive justice organizations filed amicus briefs for <em>Azar v. Garza</em>, an appeal filed with the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit by the American Civil Liberties Union, the Center for Reproductive Rights, and the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health in support of the “Janes,” unaccompanied immigrant minors in the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) who are being denied access to abortion. A coalition of 34 organizations joined the brief as amici.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>In <em>Arkansas v. Anne Bynum</em>, Groundswell grantee National Advocates for Pregnant Women represented Anne Bynum after she was charged with two 19th century era statutes: concealing a birth (a class D felony punishable by up to six years in prison and a fine of up to $10,000), and abuse of a corpse (a class C felony punishable by up to ten years in prison and a fine of up to $10,000). Bynum was arrested after a stillbirth, accused of taking misoprostol pills, and was convicted to six years in prison. In 2018, after a lengthy appeal battle, the prosecution declined to prosecute the case and Bynum plead guilty to a non-criminal violation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td><em>State of California v. Azar II</em> is an appeal pending before the Ninth Circuit focusing on the irreparable harm to women, particularly women of color, that will result if the Federal Administration’s rules allowing employers broad exceptions to the Affordable Care Act’s contraceptive coverage requirement on the basis of moral or religious objections are implemented. Forty-four organizations signed on to the amicus brief.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>In <em>State of Indiana v. Kelli Driskel</em>, Ms. Driskel was charged with feticide, involuntary manslaughter, and possession of methamphetamines after experiencing a stillbirth at home. An autopsy was later performed on the fetal remains and the cause of death was determined to be placental abruption with contributing factors of “acute methamphetamine intoxication.” Groundswell grantee National Advocates for for Pregnant Women filed a motion to dismiss the case and followed up with an open letter to the prosecutor calling on him to drop the prosecution, which was signed by 11 local and national organizations and 27 individuals. The court granted the motion and dismissed the charges of feticide and involuntary manslaughter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>In <em>State of Virginia v. Michelle Roberts</em>, Michelle Roberts was indicted for the felony charge of “producing an abortion or miscarriage.” Groundswell grantee National Advocates for Pregnant Women served as co-counsel after a previous attempt by NAPW, ACLU of Virginia, and the SIA Legal Team to dismiss the charges was denied. In 2018, the case was dismissed. This case contradicts anti-abortion activists’ claims that people who have abortions will not be criminally investigated and prosecuted if abortion is made a crime in the U.S. This case also demonstrates that laws criminalizing abortion are not limited to the issue of abortion. Such laws sweep women who wish to remain pregnant but experience miscarriage or stillbirth into the criminal legal system.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix

- 2018 Groundswell Fund National Funders
- 2018 Catalyst Fund Grantmaking Partners
- 2018 Groundswell Fund Reproductive Justice Grantees
- Media, Communications, and Art
- Acknowledgements
- Endnotes and Photo Credits
National Funders, Grantmaking Partners, and Grantees

2018 Groundswell Fund National Funders

- Anonymous (five anonymous donors)
- The California Endowment
- Claneil Foundation
- Community Investments Fund of Tides Foundation, on recommendation of Becky Liebman
- The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
- Flora Family Foundation
- Ford Foundation
- Foundation for a Just Society
- The Future Fund of Horizons Foundation
- General Service Foundation
- The Grove Foundation
- Heising-Simons Foundation
- Irving Harris Foundation
- The JPB Foundation
- Linked Fate Fund for Justice
- Open Society Foundations
- The Overbrook Foundation
- The Peggy and Jack Baskin Foundation
- Pinpoint Foundation
- The Prospect Hill Foundation
- The Reis Foundation, Inc.
- Seeds Fund
- Tara Health Foundation
- Tides Foundation
- Tikkun Olam Foundation, Inc.
- Triskeles Foundation
- Underdog Fund of the Common Counsel Foundation
- WestWind Foundation
- The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
- Women Donors Network
- Yellow Chair Foundation

2018 Catalyst Fund Grantmaking Partners

These grantmaking partners participated in the Catalyst Fund in 2018 by raising matching grant funds and awarding grants to RJ organizations led by women of color in December 2018/January 2019 for work the grantees will do in 2019.

- Chicago Foundation for Women
- Coming Clean, Inc.
- Ms. Foundation for Women
- The New York Women’s Foundation
- Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples
- Social Justice Fund NW
- Third Wave Fund
2018 Groundswell Fund Reproductive Justice Grantees

Following are the 72 organizations funded by Groundswell for their reproductive justice work. They received grants at the end of 2017 or at the beginning of 2018 for work in 2018.

A Long Walk Home $$ C
Access Reproductive Care-Southeast (ARC-Southeast) $$$ C G
ACCESS Women’s Health Justice $$$ C G
ACT for Women and Girls $$$ C √
Afia Center (The) $$ C G
Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT) $$$$ C √ *
Arise Chicago $$$ C
Assata’s Daughters $$ C
Audre Lorde Project (The) $$ G
Black Women for Wellness $$$$ C √
Black Women’s Blueprint $$$$ C
Brave Heart Society $ C
Cabrini Green Legal Aid $$$$ C G G
California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative $$$ C √ R √
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice $$$ C
Carolina Youth Action Project (CYAP) $ G
Center for Earth, Energy & Democracy (CEED) $ C
Centro por la Justicia $ C √
Changing Woman Initiative $ C B
Chicago Freedom School $ C
Colectiva Legal del Pueblo $$$$ C
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR) $$$$ C √
Correctional Association of New York $$$$ G
Delaware Concerned Residents for Environmental Justice $ C
El Pueblo, Inc. $$$ C √
EverThrive Illinois $$$$ C
Forward Together $$$ C ∗
Freedom, Inc. $$$$ C √
Gender Justice Nevada $$ G
HEART Women and Girls $$ C
Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health (ICAH) $$$ C G
Incarcerated Mothers Advocacy Project $ C
International Indian Treaty Council $$$ C ∗
Khmer Girls in Action $$ C √
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children $$$$ C ∗
Los Jardines Institute $ C
Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force $$$ C
Miami Workers Center $$$ C G E
Mississippi Low-Income Child Care Initiative $$$$ C
Mothering Justice $$$ C √
National Advocates for Pregnant Women $$$$ C B
National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum (NAPAWF) $$ G √
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH) $$$$ C √ R
National Network of Abortion Funds $$ C ∗
Native American Community Board $$$ C
New Florida Majority-Education Fund (The) $$$ E
New Voices for Reproductive Justice $$$$ C √ *
Organización en California de Líderes Campesinas, Inc. $$$ C
People Concerned About Chemical Safety $ C
Positive Women’s Network-USA $$$ C G
Power U Center for Social Change $$$ C √ E
Raising Women’s Voices $$$$ C ∗
REACT (Rubbertown Emergency ACTion) $ C
SisterReach $$$ C
SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective $$$$ C G
SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW, Inc. $ C
Sylvia Rivera Law Project $$$$ C G ∗
Trans Queer Pueblo $ C G
Transgender Law Center $$$$ C
Transgender, Gender-Variant, and Intersex Justice Project (TGJIP) $$$$ G L
United for Respect $$$$ C
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity $$$$ C √
Warehouse Workers for Justice $ C
Washington Community Action Network $$$$ √
West Fund $ C
West Virginia FREE $$ C √ R A
Western Native Voice $$ √
Western States Center $$$$ C R
Women Engaged $$$ C √
Women with a Vision $$$$ C √
Women’s Voices for the Earth $$$ C
Young Women United $$$$ C B R ∗

BUDGET KEY:
$ = Under $200K
$$ = $200K–$499,999
$$ = $500K–$999,999
$$ = $1 million and above

GRANTMAKING PROGRAM KEY:
C = Catalyst Fund 2018 grantee
B = Birth Justice Fund 2018-19 grantee
E = Ecosystem Initiative 2018 grantee
∫ = Integrated Voter Engagement 2018 grantee
G = Grassroots Organizing Institute 2018 grantee
R = Rapid Response Fund 2018 grantee
* = Raised Catalyst match in 2018
L = Liberation Fund grantee
A = Groundswell Action Fund grantee
Media, Communications, and Art

All RJ grantees engaged in culture change work to shift the conversation around RJ in 2018, using traditional media, social media, communications, and art.

Earned Media

RJ grantees influenced public discussion and perceptions using earned media, which includes any mention of an organization in a publication, blog, online article, newspaper, or TV segment after the media content passed through an editorial filter (i.e., someone outside of the organization decided to run the story). In 2018, 35 grantees reported* an average of 117 earned media hits per organization. This number represents about 43% more than the average number of hits per grantee in 2017.

Direct Reach

Each grantee directly reached an average of 29,355 people through various platforms, including social media, email, mailers, blogs, and other direct means. This represents a 12% increase in the average number of people reached directly by grantees in 2017.

Social media was the most commonly reported means of directly reaching people. Nearly all grantees used social media:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Platform</th>
<th>Total friends/followers/likes</th>
<th>Average per grantee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FACEBOOK</td>
<td>900,805</td>
<td>13,859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWITTER</td>
<td>331,216</td>
<td>5,711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INSTAGRAM</td>
<td>109,406</td>
<td>2,432</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grantees also used the following methods for direct reach (listed from most common to least common):

- Direct mail/email
- YouTube
- Blogs
- Tumblr
- Pinterest

In addition, 40% of grantees (27 grantees) used arts and theater as a strategy to reach their organizational goals.

*32 grantees did not track this data in 2018.
Acknowledgements

Korwin Consulting is grateful for the genuine partnership and support of Groundswell Fund’s leadership and staff throughout the evaluation design, implementation, and reporting process. Sincere thanks also to the reproductive justice grantees, grantmaking partners, 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 to share their thoughts about the value of the previous year’s evaluation, current priorities and needs of the RJ movement, and how to shape a resonant and useful 2018 evaluation report:

- Patti Saunders, Development Director, Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT)
- Erin Garner-Ford, Executive Director, ACT for Women and Girls
- Angeline Echeverría, Executive Director, El Pueblo, Inc.
- Brielle Treece Osting, Director, Maternal and Infant Mortality Initiative, EverThrive Illinois
- Diana Lugo-Martínez, Movement Building Director, Forward Together
- Debasri Ghosh, Development Director, National Network of Abortion Funds (NNAF)
- Naina Khanna, Executive Director, Positive Women’s Network-USA (PWN-USA)
- Dagoberto Bailón, General Assistant, Trans Queer Pueblo

Methods

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

- Analysis of final data submitted by 67 grantees through Groundswell’s online 2018 RJ Grantee Impact Survey.
- A focus group with eight RJ grantees/movement leaders on June 19, 2018.
- 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.
- In-depth interviews conducted with eight Groundswell Fund national funders and donors.

Limitations

From 2014 through 2016, only Catalyst Fund grantees were required to complete the online RJ Impact Survey. Because data for 2017 and 2018 includes all Groundswell grantees engaged in RJ, whether or not they received a Catalyst Fund grant, comparative analyses across all five years are limited.

Nine grantees in 2018 completed “mini” versions of the online 2018 RJ Grantee Impact Survey, which contained fewer questions than the full Impact Survey. Therefore, a number of data points contained in this report are taken from only the 58 grantees who completed the full survey.

Occasionally, grantees interpret a survey question differently than intended, or find that a question does not reflect their experience. Korwin Consulting and Groundswell conduct extensive data verification processes, including directly contacting grantees with follow-up questions about inconsistent or unclear data. Each year, insights gleaned through this process inform revisions for the next year’s survey.
Endnotes

1. This survey represents the largest data set in the U.S. of the strategies, accomplishments, learnings, and impact of the RJ movement. A total of 67 of Groundswell’s 72 RJ grantees (including those with Catalyst Fund, Ecosystem Initiative, Grassroots Organizing Institute, and/or Integrated Voter Engagement support) completed the 2018 survey.

2. One of Groundswell’s strategies to stimulate investment in WOC-led groups is to award matching grants to a group of grantmaking partners (such as local women’s funds and other public foundations) who then regrant to RJ organizations.

3. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, and transgender, gender non-conforming and intersex.

4. The proposed changes would have disqualified immigration petitions by people who had accessed public benefits.


6. Catalyst Fund grantmaking partners are composed of women’s funds and other public foundations who, by matching a Groundswell grant, raise increased funds to regrant to their RJ grantees. The seven Catalyst Fund grantmaking partners in 2018 are listed in the Appendix.

7. It is unknown whether the increase is due to more survivors joining the movement, an increase in violence, a reflection of more people speaking up due to the #MeToo and Time’s Up movements, or other factors.

8. Please contact Groundswell Fund to see its 2018 Capacity Building report for more in-depth information.

9. Please contact Groundswell Fund to see its 2018 Capacity Building report for more in-depth information.


11. Groundswell’s RJ grant funds are not used to support grassroots or direct lobbying. Grantees raise funds for grassroots lobbying from sources other than Groundswell Fund.

12. 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 RJ 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.

13. This general appropriation act related to New Mexico’s budget is also listed under the Reproductive Healthcare Access section, as this act also allocated funds to reproductive healthcare services.

Photo Credits

FRONT COVER TOP: Power U Center for Social Change
FRONT COVER BOTTOM: El Pueblo, Inc.
PAGE 3: Miami Workers Center
PAGE 9: Illinois Coalition for Adolescent Health
PAGE 15: Trans Queer Pueblo
PAGE 19: The Afifa Center
PAGE 23: National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum
PAGE 28: Young Women United
PAGE 29: REACT Rubbertown Emergency Action
PAGE 40: Western States Center
PAGE 42: National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health

Graphic Design: Trevor Messersmith, 80east Design
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.

www.groundswellfund.org