



2020

Catalyst Fund Docket





GROUNDSWELL
FUND

The Catalyst Fund

Groundswell's Catalyst Fund resources the nation's strongest reproductive justice (RJ) organizing led by women of color, low-income women, and transgender people. The Catalyst Fund supports efforts that use grassroots organizing to advance reproductive justice policy and systems change. Centering efforts led by women of color, Catalyst also supports work led by low-income white women and transgender people, who together make up the constituencies that experience the greatest reproductive health disparities and the largest barriers to reproductive freedom in the U.S.

Catalyst awards grants directly to grassroots organizations, including matching grants designed to bolster organizations' efforts to raise new money from other sources. Particular attention is paid to organizations building cross-movement alliances between reproductive justice efforts and other social justice organizations, such as labor unions or environmental and economic justice groups. Catalyst also awards matching grants to public foundations and women's funds who make grants to organizations led by women of color and transgender people of color.

Welcome

“The story of this election is that it was formerly incarcerated, new Americans, and BIPOC communities who came out and voted. Who organized, who protested, who took their voice to the ballot box and made their demands heard.”

– PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE OF NEVADA

We are at a precipice, a turning point.

2020 has been a tumultuous year, a year of collective breaking, and a year of reckoning. In the midst of a global pandemic, organizers around the country mobilized to demand services and safety for their communities, to demand an end to state violence against Black people, to demand an end to four years of creeping fascism and increasing white supremacist violence. Groundswell’s Catalyst Fund grantees leveraged the momentum of the past twenty-six years of reproductive justice organizing to advance tremendous RJ wins, while defending against legislative attacks, while making pivots to remote work and digital organizing, and while developing mutual aid and healing justice efforts to respond to shifting community needs during the pandemic.

In the face of so many challenges —COVID-19 abortion bans, the failure of the federal government to protect or act swiftly to pass relief for communities, threats to the Affordable Care Act, and the confirmation of a Supreme Court justice who has worked against reproductive justice issues— Catalyst grantees continued to educate communities, push for pro-RJ policies, and mobilize communities around the importance of voting and completing the Census.

Notably, Catalyst grantees made significant gains at the state, local and federal levels, including:

- > **COLOR (CO)** co-chaired the “No On 115” campaign and used integrated voter engagement strategies to defeat [Proposition 115, a ballot initiative that would have banned abortions after 22 weeks](#). COLOR also helped to pass the groundbreaking [Proposition 118, that establishes state paid medical and family leave programs](#).
- > **Women Engaged (GA)** mobilized Black voters in the historic 2020 presidential and Georgia Senate runoff elections, and obtained 1600 pledges to complete the Census. It also celebrated a huge win for low-income pregnant people with the passage of [HB1114, which expanded Medicaid coverage for pregnant people up to six months postpartum](#), with the Georgia state legislature allocating \$20 million to implement the program.
- > **Catalyst grantees** were at the forefront of engaging women of color to vote and take the Census. **New Voices for Reproductive Justice (PA, OH)** mobilized Black women voters ages 18–49 in PA and OH, reaching out nearly 800,000 times to Black women voters in both states — over half a million times in PA — and reaching 40,000 Black voters through phonebanking and texts in PA’s Allegheny, Delaware, Erie,

Philadelphia and Washington Counties, as well as OH's Cuyahoga and Summit Counties. During the Census, in one of CA's largest Black Census outreach campaigns, **Black Women for Wellness (CA)** sent over 100,000 text messages to Black women, encouraging them to complete the Census. BWW also published a popular nonpartisan *Vote (Her) Guide* focused on Black women's issues, including information about judges, ballot measures, and propositions.

- > **El Pueblo (NC)** organized its base of Latinx low-income leaders to stop some very regressive policies: helping to defeat a "partial birth" abortion ban passed by the legislature and a bill that would have forced sheriffs to fully cooperate with ICE in immigration enforcement even though many sheriffs opposed the bill and had already limited or halted cooperation with ICE.
- > **California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative (CA), Black Women for Wellness (CA) and Women's Voices for the Earth (NATIONAL)** helped to win the **Cosmetic Fragrance and Flavor Right to Know Act** to safeguard the health of women of color. It is the first law in the nation to require ingredient disclosure of toxic fragrance and flavor chemicals found in cosmetics, personal care, and professional salon products. This law will force corporations to reveal allergens, neurotoxins, and other chemicals linked to cancer, birth defects, and reproductive health problems.
- > **In Florida**, in response to the experience of Tammy Jackson -a pregnant incarcerated woman in who was denied medical attention in labor and who delivered her baby by herself in a Broward County isolation cell – **New Florida Majority and Miami Workers Center** helped to pass the **2020 Tammy Jackson Act**. This law provides stronger protections for incarcerated pregnant women, ensuring they are transported without delay to appropriate medical facilities, given proper medical care, and not placed in solitary confinement during labor. Additionally, during the 2020 election, New Florida Majority turned out Black and Brown voters to help to pass **Amendment 2, a ballot measure to increase the state minimum wage to \$15 by 2026**.
- > **Bold Futures (NM)** championed birth justice when the Lovelace Health System, the largest in the Albuquerque region, began a secret COVID-19 policy of automatically and immediately separating Indigenous newborns from their parents if they lived in Pueblos or reservations. Bold Futures along with other Groundswell grantees developed a first-of-its-kind **Emergency Care for Maternal and Child Health plan** to ensure that despite the pandemic, human rights are respected by one of NM's largest hospital systems and to inform equitable care provision for birthing families during other emergencies such as wildfires or floods.
- > **Transgender Law Center (NATIONAL)** Along with Groundswell grantees TGI Justice Project and Trans Latina Coalition, Transgender Law Center helped to win passage of an historic bill, signed into law, that **allows transgender, intersex and gender nonbinary people in CA to decide whether to be housed in a men's or women's prison**.
- > **Khmer Girls in Action (CA)** used integrated voter engagement strategies to pass **Measure US, a historic municipal ballot measure requiring corporations to pay their fair share in taxes and provide vital funding for low-income communities** that historically had to carry the burden of budget cuts during recessions.
- > **URGE (NATIONAL)** launched a national **Young People's Reproductive Justice Policy Agenda** focused on the needs of LGBTQ+ youth and young people of color around abortion access, sexuality education, democracy reform, economic justice, decriminalization, and immigrant justice.

We cannot turn back now.

The uprisings for Black Liberation, ignited by the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Dominique “Rem’mie” Fells, and too many more, set into motion a slew of #DefundthePolice and decarceration demands that were supported and led by many Catalyst grantees. The national rallying call #BlackLivesMatter would ring out in unprecedented marches and mass mobilizations across the world, including the largest rally in history (15,000 attendees) for Black trans lives. The Black Lives Matter movement’s call to reinvest in Black, Indigenous and People of Color communities created new possibilities for Catalyst grantees to advocate for municipal budgets to divest from policing and invest more in services that create real safety and security for communities, including access to healthcare, mental health services, abortion, and comprehensive reproductive healthcare.

Groundswell Fund is pleased to present the 2020 Catalyst Fund docket, which highlights the work of 58 reproductive justice organizations, including 6 grantmaking partners.

In 2020, the Catalyst Fund awarded almost \$4.5 Million to RJ organizations and grantmaking partners working in 49 states, Puerto Rico, and Washington, D.C. As part of this funding, Groundswell offered one-time COVID-19 Emergency Support grants to Catalyst grantees to help them pivot their work, take on the urgent crises of 2020, and provide mutual aid for their members, staff and communities during the pandemic. This year’s docket highlights trends and themes that shaped RJ organizing in 2020. The themes span many issues: from Catalyst grantees’ work to protect abortion access and the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare, to their work in defense of Black lives, to RJ organizing for the 2020 election and Census. The docket explores how Catalyst Fund grantees took action on important intersectional issues during the COVID-19 pandemic, including workers’ rights, mutual aid efforts, environmental justice, and healing justice. The docket also discusses the critical contribution of infrastructure organizations that scaffold and support the RJ movement.

What Catalyst grantees have been able to accomplish in a year like 2020 speaks to the strength of the RJ movement. Imagine if the reproductive justice movement, led by Black, Indigenous, and other Trans and Cis Women of Color, was funded at scale?

As funders, we must match grassroots RJ leaders’ dedication. Philanthropy needs to avoid the mistake it made during the last recession or under more pro-RJ administrations — we can’t take our foot off the gas. The Catalyst Fund resources RJ organizations year after year across the country, specifically focused in the South, Midwest and Southwest — an investment that is yielding results for reproductive justice and demonstrating the power of Black and Brown communities, who are a force to reckon with at policymaking tables and at the voting booth. In this moment of great momentum, philanthropy must deepen its investment and commitment to those working on the frontlines everyday to protect our human rights to bodily autonomy, to justice, and to live with dignity.



**In solidarity,
Naa Hammond**

SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER
GROUNDSWELL FUND

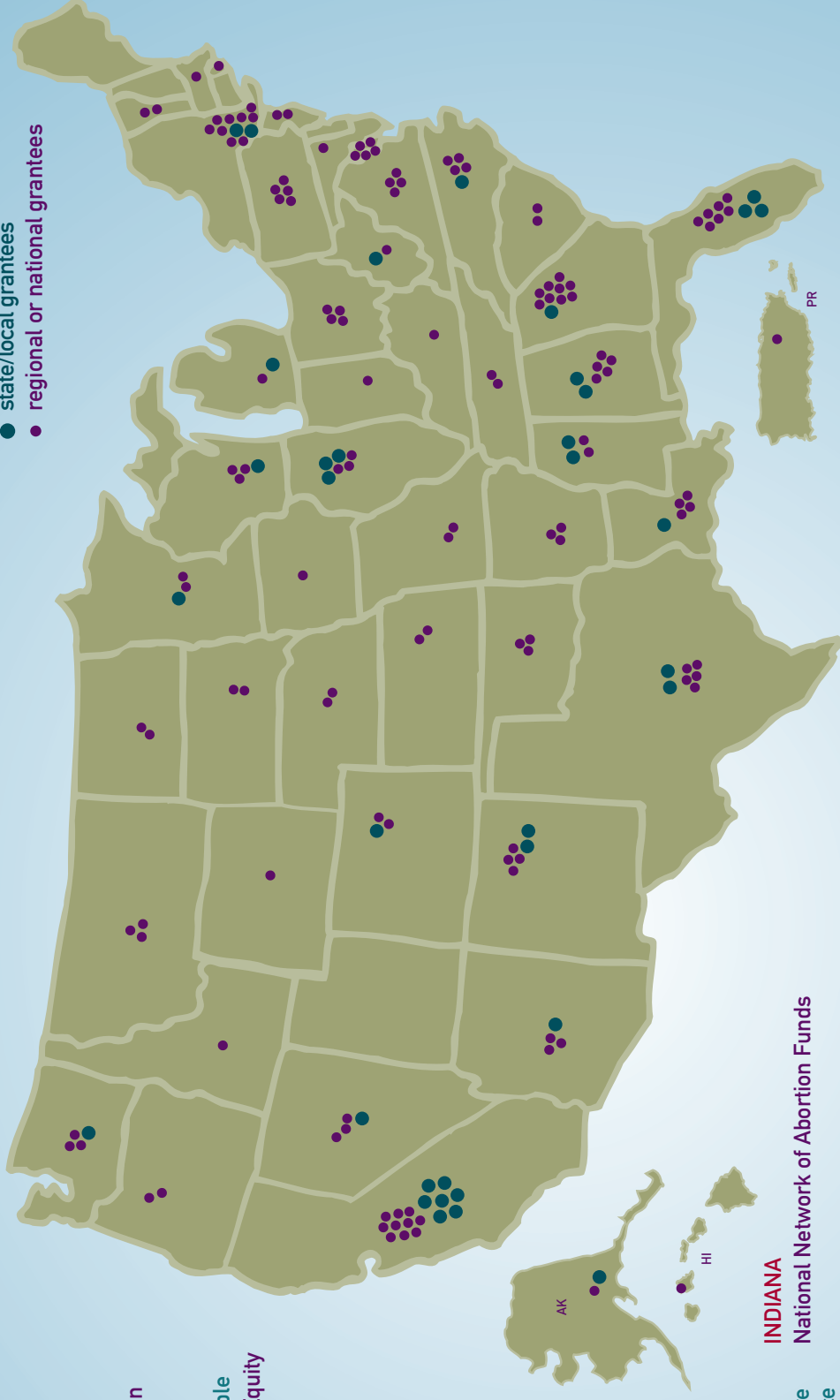
Table of Contents

WELCOME LETTER	3
TABLE OF CONTENTS	6
GRANTEE MAP	8
WE COUNT: BUILDING POLITICAL POWER FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE THROUGH VOTER ENGAGEMENT AND THE CENSUS	10
Women Engaged	10
New Florida Majority	10
URGE	11
Khmer Girls in Action	12
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada	14
South Alabama Black Women's Roundtable	14
Asian American Organizing Project	15
IN DEFENSE OF BLACK LIVES: RJ ORGANIZING FOR BLACK LIBERATION	16
New Voices for Reproductive Justice	16
Black Women for Wellness	16
The Afiya Center	17
Freedom, Inc.	18
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children	20
FROM ABORTION ACCESS TO BIRTH JUSTICE: PROTECTING AND ADVANCING REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM IN A PANDEMIC	21
COLOR	21
Women With a Vision	21
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum	22
Bold Futures	23
Reproaction	25
Native American Community Board	26
ARC-Southeast	27
West Virginia Free	27
ESSENTIAL WORK: WORKERS RIGHTS, REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE, AND GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING FOR THE HARDEST HIT COMMUNITIES IN THE PANDEMIC	28
United for Respect	28
Mississippi Black Women's Roundtable	29
Mothering Justice	29
Miami Workers Center	30
Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative	32

BUILDING POWER AND CARING FOR OUR PEOPLE: REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE, BASE-BUILDING, AND MUTUAL AID IN THE AGE OF CORONAVIRUS	33
El Pueblo	33
Brave Space Alliance.....	35
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice	36
Trans Queer Pueblo.....	36
The Knights and Orchids Society	37
West Fund	37
Sylvia Rivera Law Project.....	38
ACCESS Reproductive Justice	39
OUR BODIES, OUR COMMUNITIES, OUR PLANET: THE FIGHT FOR REPRODUCTIVE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE.....	40
California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative.....	40
Women's Voices for the Earth	40
Alaska Community Action on Toxics	41
International Indian Treaty Center.....	43
SUSTAINING MOVEMENTS: CENTERING HEALING JUSTICE FOR LONGEVITY IN THE RJ MOVEMENT	45
Positive Women's Network.....	45
ACT for Women and Girls	47
Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health	47
POWER U Center for Social Change	48
MOVEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE: ORGANIZATIONS THAT SCAFFOLD AND SUPPORT THE RJ MOVEMENT	49
National Network of Abortion Funds.....	49
Raising Women's Voices	49
Transgender Law Center	50
SisterSong	51
Western States Center	51
Forward Together.....	52
Women's Policy Institute.....	53
National Advocates for Pregnant Women	53
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice	54
CATALYST FUND GRANTMAKING PARTNERS	55
Coming Clean	55
Chicago Foundation for Women.....	55
Ms. Foundation for Women.....	56
New York Women's Foundation.....	56
Third Wave Fund.....	56
Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples	57
Social Justice Fund NW Sub-Grantees (Colectiva Legal del Pueblo and U.T.O.P.I.A. Seattle)	57

2020 CATALYST GRANTEES

- state/local grantees
- regional or national grantees



ALABAMA

Access Reproductive Care-Southeast
The Knights and Orchids Society
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
National Network of Abortion Funds
South Alabama Black Women's Roundtable
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity

ALASKA

Alaska Community Action on Toxics
International Indian Treaty Council

ARIZONA

International Indian Treaty Council
National Network of Abortion Funds
Raising Women's Voices
Trans Queer Pueblo

ARKANSAS

International Indian Treaty Council
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
Reproaction

CALIFORNIA

ACCESS Reproductive Justice
ACT for Women and Girls
Black Women for Wellness
California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
Forward Together

International Indian Treaty Council

Khmer Girls in Action

Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
National Network of Abortion Funds
Positive Women's Network
Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples

Transgender Law Center

United for Respect

URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity

Women's Policy Institute

Women's Voices for the Earth

INDIANA

National Network of Abortion Funds

IOWA

National Network of Abortion Funds

KANSAS

National Network of Abortion Funds
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity

KENTUCKY

National Network of Abortion Funds

LOUISIANA

International Indian Treaty Council
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
Positive Women's Network
United for Respect
Women with a Vision

NEW YORK

International Indian Treaty Council
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
Ms. Foundation for Women
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice
New York Women's Foundation
Positive Women's Network
Sylvia Rivera Law Project
Third Wave Fund

TEXAS

The Afya Center
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice
National Network of Abortion Funds
Positive Women's Network
Raising Women's Voices
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
West Fund

VERMONT

Coming Clean
National Network of Abortion Funds

COLORADO
COLOR
National Network of Abortion Funds
Positive Women's Network

FLORIDA
Access Reproductive Care-Southeast
International Indian Treaty Council
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
Miami Workers Center
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice
National Network of Abortion Funds
New Florida Majority
Positive Women's Network
Power U Center for Social Change
United for Respect

GEORGIA
Access Reproductive Care-Southeast
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Network of Abortion Funds
Positive Women's Network
SisterSong
United for Respect
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
Women Engaged

HAWAII
International Indian Treaty Council

IDAHO
Western States Center

ILLINOIS
Brave Space Alliance
Chicago Foundation for Women
Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Network of Abortion Funds

MARYLAND
National Network of Abortion Funds

MASSACHUSETTS
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children

MICHIGAN
Mothering Justice
National Network of Abortion Funds

MINNESOTA
Asian American Organizing Project
International Indian Treaty Council
National Network of Abortion Funds

MISSISSIPPI
Access Reproductive Care-Southeast
Mississippi Black Women's Roundtable
Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative
National Network of Abortion Funds

MISSOURI
National Network of Abortion Funds
Reproaction

MONTANA
National Network of Abortion Funds
Western States Center
Women's Voices for the Earth

NEBRASKA
National Network of Abortion Funds
Native American Community Board

NEVADA
National Network of Abortion Funds
Positive Women's Network
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
Western States Center

NEW JERSEY
National Network of Abortion Funds
United for Respect

NEW MEXICO
Bold Futures
Forward Together
International Indian Treaty Council
National Network of Abortion Funds
Native American Community Board
West Fund

NORTH CAROLINA
El Pueblo
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
National Network of Abortion Funds
SisterSong
United for Respect

NORTH DAKOTA
International Indian Treaty Council
National Network of Abortion Funds

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

OKLAHOMA
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
National Network of Abortion Funds
Native American Community Board

OREGON
Forward Together
Western States Center

PENNSYLVANIA
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Network of Abortion Funds
New Voices for Reproductive Justice
Positive Women's Network
United for Respect

RHODE ISLAND
National Network of Abortion Funds

SOUTH CAROLINA
Access Reproductive Care-Southeast
Positive Women's Network

SOUTH DAKOTA
National Network of Abortion Funds
Native American Community Board

TENNESSEE
Access Reproductive Care-Southeast
National Network of Abortion Funds

VIRGINIA
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice
National Network of Abortion Funds
Reproaction

WASHINGTON
Colectiva Legal del Pueblo
National Network of Abortion Funds
U.T.O.P.I.A. Seattle
Western States Center

WEST VIRGINIA
National Network of Abortion Funds
West Virginia Free

WISCONSIN
Freedom, Inc.
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
National Network of Abortion Funds
Reproaction

WYOMING
Western States Center

PUERTO RICO
International Indian Treaty Council

WASHINGTON, D.C.
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice
National Network of Abortion Funds
United for Respect
Women's Voices for the Earth



We Count

Building Political Power for Reproductive Justice through Voter Engagement and the Census

Women Engaged

LOCATION: Atlanta, GA

GRANT AMOUNT: \$50,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2016

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: IVE program participant, COVID-19 Emergency Support, 2020 Rapid Response Fund grantee

www.womenengaged.org

Women Engaged (WE) is a reproductive justice organization that advances Black women's rights and nonpartisan civic engagement efforts in GA. A trusted leader in Atlanta's civic engagement space and the chair of ProGeorgia, the state's 501(c)(3) civic engagement table, WE partners with a wide variety of grassroots organizations to ensure that reproductive justice is integrated into its partners' work and values. In 2020, WE scored a huge win for low-income pregnant people across GA with the passage and signing of HB 1114, which expanded Medicaid coverage for pregnant people up to six months postpartum and allocated \$20 million to implement the program. The organization's signature WE Vote, WE Rise campaign increased the participation of Black voters in target communities in the Atlanta metro area in the 2020 election; these communities reflect the new American electorate — 85 percent of Atlanta residents are Black between the ages of 25–44, with an average income of \$28,000. Using multiple platforms, including calls, text, and innovative social media engagement, as well as programming led by young people, WE talked with over 6,000 voters, sent over 100,000 texts, and registered more than 400 people to vote. During the 2020 Census season, WE's canvass team, hired directly from the low-

income Black communities in which WE builds political power, obtained 16,000 pledges to take the Census and sent over 7,000 reminder text messages. In 2021, WE will hold elected leaders accountable, with a focus on ending the forced hysterectomies at the ICE detention center in Irwin, GA and working with partners to win increased protections at the state-level for incarcerated people who are pregnant.

New Florida Majority

LOCATION: Miami, FL

GRANT AMOUNT: \$40,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2019

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: COVID-19 Emergency Support 2020 Rapid Response Fund grantee

www.newfloridamajorityeducationfund.org

New Florida Majority (New-FM) is a multiracial, community-centered organization dedicated to increasing the political voice, power, and wellbeing of communities of color across Florida. By building a powerful base of Black, Afro-Caribbean, Latinx, low-income communities, women, LGBTQ people, and youth, New-FM advances a comprehensive agenda for democratic rights, criminal justice reform, economic justice, climate justice, gender justice, and immigrant justice. In partnership with Groundswell grantees POWER U Center for Social Change and Miami Workers Center, New-FM has led a multiyear campaign to try to secure comprehensive sex ed in Miami-Dade county. New-FM is a leading voice for criminal justice reform in Florida, helping to pass Amendment 4, an historic 2018 ballot measure to restore the voting rights of 1 million returning citizens with felonies. In 2019, New-FM



New Florida Majority

advocated for the passage of the [Dignity for Incarcerated Women and Girls Act](#) that requires prisons to provide necessary menstrual products at no additional cost and restricts male prison employees from conducting pat downs or body cavity searches on incarcerated women. In response to the experience of Tammy Jackson -a pregnant incarcerated woman who was denied medical attention in labor and who delivered her baby by herself in a Broward County isolation cell - the organization also helped to pass the [2020 Tammy Jackson Act](#) that the state legislature's passed unanimously. The law provides stronger protections for incarcerated pregnant women, ensuring that they are transported to an appropriate medical facility without delay, given proper medical care, and not placed in solitary confinement while in labor. Leading up to the 2020 election, New-FM led statewide voter engagement and organizing efforts. It made 1.2 million voter contact attempts, registered new voters, conducted Census outreach, led mutual aid efforts, launched a safe housing campaign to stop the criminalization of homeless people during the pandemic, and organized for COVID-19 emergency accommodations to the state's election procedures. In order to keep communities of color engaged and hold elected officials accountable to the priorities of Black and Brown people, New-FM partnered with Organize Florida on statewide People's Assemblies. During the 2020 election, New-FM turned out Black and Brown voters to pass [Amendment 2, a ballot measure to increase the state minimum wage to \\$15 by 2026](#). After the election, New-FM continued to build power and work for democracy protections in FL, holding a day of action in mid-November against a 2020 anti-protest bill by Governor DeSantis. In 2021, New-FM plans to play defense for reproductive justice issues in the legislative session.

Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity

LOCATION: Washington, DC

GRANT AMOUNT: \$80,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2004

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: IVE program participant, COVID-19 Emergency Support, 2020 Rapid Response Fund grantee

www.urge.org

Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity (URGE) is a national RJ organization that centers the voices and leadership of young people of color and LGBTQ+ youth, working on the ground in AL, CA, GA, KS, OH, and TX. URGE envisions a world where everyone can live, love, create families, express their gender, and enjoy sexuality with liberation, power, and joy. In 2019, URGE leaders helped to win the [College Student Right to Access Act](#) that makes medication abortion available at CA's state university and college campuses and sets a national precedent in an era of abortion restrictions. During the same year, URGE challenged a series of abortion bans in AL, GA, and OH, and an anti-trans bathroom bill in TX. Since then, its base of young people has been fired up to organize against policies that will negatively affect them. The organization launched a national [Young People's Reproductive Justice Policy Agenda](#) focused on the needs of LGBTQ+ youth and young people of color around abortion access, sexuality education, democracy reform, economic justice, decriminalization, and immigrant justice. Through its 2020 IVE programs, URGE phone-banked and led digital organizing efforts that reached thousands of young voters



Khmer Girls in Action

Khmer Girls in Action

LOCATION: Long Beach, CA

GRANT AMOUNT: \$50,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2017

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: IVE program participant, COVID-19 Emergency Support, 2020 Rapid Response Fund grantee
www.kgalb.org

Khmer Girls in Action (KGA) builds the leadership and power of young Cambodian and Southeast Asian women in order to advance gender, racial, reproductive, and economic justice in Long Beach, the second largest city in Los Angeles County. In 2018, KGA celebrated a historic victory when its Invest in Youth campaign got the City Council to divert municipal funds away from criminalization and into initiatives for young people, particularly girls of color, LGBTQ youth, and trans youth. Due to KGA's organizing, the Long Beach City Council allocated \$200,000 to seed the first-ever Long Beach Youth Fund, and \$250,000 for a universal deportation legal defense fund. Since then, KGA has been organizing to win a permanent and fully funded city youth development office. Thanks to its robust integrated voter engagement (IVE) program, KGA was ready in early 2020 to pressure the Mayor and City Council to pass a law to create the office, using the threat of a citywide signature gathering campaign to put an initiative on the November ballot to push action.

Measure US, the local ballot measure, sought to increase revenue for communities most impacted by systemic and environmental racism by raising the

municipal tax that oil companies pay from 15 cents a barrel to 30 cents a barrel, a rate that would be the highest in the region. Measure US passed thanks in part to KGA's dedicated voter engagement efforts. Says Cheun, "In a recession and pandemic, young people of color have challenged the status quo by showing they have a place in our city - and making sure they are a priority in our city's budget! Long Beach has voted to fund infrastructure to support positive youth development, racial equity, and environmental justice for Southeast Asian, Black and Brown youth." Long Beach's public lands are one of the few places oil companies still extract oil. The passage of Measure US will require corporations to pay their fair share in taxes and provide vital funding for low-income communities that historically had to carry the burden of budget cuts during recessions.

As KGA looks to the next year, it will continue to push for an equitable municipal budget that includes funding for a city office of youth development. KGA will continue its youth-led organizing for the City of Long Beach to develop a long-term strategic plan for youth. "What does youth development mean? How do we invest in young people, especially those in communities that have been heavily disinvested?" Early in 2021, KGA's youth leaders will present their strategy proposal to the City Council for approval; if it is approved, it will be an historic first.

When the pandemic began, Cheun says, "The disparities in our neighborhoods became more overt and apparent. So many of our people are essential workers and gig economy workers—people lost their jobs or had to take jobs that put them at risk, and everyone had issues

“Our young people were strong. They would not give up. They said, ‘What are we going to do to move the Mayor? Let’s do it!’ So, we pushed the Mayor and City Council to approve a local measure to go on the November ballot, and we aligned it with our messaging for Prop 13 (the statewide ballot measure to reform Prop 13 to make large corporate commercial property owners pay their fair share of property tax).”

– LIAN CHEUN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KHMER GIRLS IN ACTION

with healthcare and distance learning.” KGA provided mutual aid in the form of food, care packages with PPE since so many families were essential workers, and digital technologies for families who did not have them.

KGA also made mental health referrals, dealing with cases of domestic violence and abuse, helping survivors find housing, and helped people pay their bills since so many community members who were undocumented or who work under the table did not qualify for CARES Act support. Finally, after California enacted an eviction moratorium, KGA worked with the local Legal Aid office to get “everyone in our base a letter from a lawyer to give to their landlords and helped them get together the information they needed to make sure they did not have to pay rent and did not get evicted.” The Long Beach school district is using KGA to help

reach South Asian parents, and KGA continues to press the school district to provide better support to the community.

When Black liberation uprisings happened in Long Beach, KGA young people participated, passing out PPE and supplies on the streets and keeping young people, family members and allies safe. As Cheun recounts, “During one of the biggest protests, the city shut down public transportation at 7 pm, for ‘public safety’ reasons, they said! But then our young people couldn’t get home. Parents were calling us, ‘Where’s my kid?’ Thank goodness we have vans because we do youth work. We took our vans out, and we took dozens of young people back home.”

“Today, Long Beach spends \$10,500 per youth arrest versus \$170 per year for a youth to participate in youth development programs. How do we institutionalize city support to make sure that Long Beach’s policies work for young people and their families? How can we build power by pushing for co-governance? Part of the strategy is to get elected officials to take us seriously or we’ll take it to the voters.”

– LIAN CHEUN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KHMER GIRLS IN ACTION



South Alabama Black Women's Roundtable

often ignored in traditional election outreach. URGE spoke with over 16,000 young voters in GA, OH, and AL, helping them make a plan to vote by sharing resources to help navigate voter suppression and COVID-19 safety concerns. During the pandemic, URGE continued to organize young people around its priorities of abortion access (helping to create the first-ever reproductive health, rights and justice statewide coalition in Alabama), sex work decriminalization and municipal-level abortion access campaigns in TX, and economic justice for young people whose lives have been devastated by pandemic-related shutdowns.

Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada

LOCATION: Las Vegas, NV

GRANT AMOUNT: \$35,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2018

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: COVID-19 Emergency Support

www.planevada.org

Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada (PLAN) brings together 30+ multi-issue organizations from across NV into one coordinated force for social and environmental justice. Founded in 1994 with an explicitly pro-choice stance, PLAN has helped to defeat attacks on reproductive healthcare access in NV, including parental notification for abortion, and continues to collaborate with local reproductive rights organizations to mobilize its base around RJ issues. As other states passed abortion bans in 2019, PLAN helped to win the [Trust Nevada Women Act](#), a law that repeals criminal penalties for abortion and removes barriers to receiving abortion care, such as

preventing physicians from telling patients the “emotional implications” of an abortion or certifying a patient’s marital status and age before performing an abortion. PLAN also helped win several pro-RJ laws in 2019, including laws that require private employers to provide paid leave, establish a statewide Maternal Mortality Review Committee, allocate \$6 million to statewide family planning grants, prevent insurers from denying coverage based on preexisting conditions, and require healthcare providers to provide information about contraception and antibiotics to sexual assault survivors. In 2020, PLAN members led civic engagement efforts focused on Black, Indigenous, and people of color voters in Las Vegas and Reno where formerly incarcerated people, new Americans, and communities of color came out to organize, to protest, and to vote. During the 2020 election, PLAN groups were active in poll watching and led the charge to #CountEveryVote to ensure that the voices of Nevadans were heard. In 2020, PLAN authored [The Danger Within: Right-Wing Violence in Nevada](#), a report on far-right militia and white supremacy groups that threaten democracy and communities of color in NV.

South Alabama Black Women's Roundtable

LOCATION: Dothan, AL

GRANT AMOUNT: \$20,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2019

www.ncbcp.org/who/affiliates/alabama_coalition

South Alabama Black Women's Roundtable (SA BWR) is an intergenerational organization of Black women and girls that combines civic engagement, narrative and policy

change, leadership development, and life skills training. An affiliate of the National Black Women's Roundtable, SABWR builds the power of Black women to advance a comprehensive agenda that includes reproductive justice. Organizing year-round in the Deep South, SA BWR engages Black women on how voting affects their bread-and-butter issues, like access to healthcare, housing vouchers, birth control, and abortion. SA BWR has a particular focus on building Black women's power to voice their vote in local and state elections -such as judges' races and smaller city council races- where a couple hundred votes can make a difference in who is in power and in who determines policies for Black communities. SA BWR has a base of 150 Black women leaders who helped to get out the vote during the historic 2017 Doug Jones-Roy Moore special election and who led phone-banking and no-contact literature drops during the 2020 presidential election, where the organization targeted 20,000 Black inactive voters in 19 predominantly Black rural and Wiregrass counties. In 2019, Alabama passed the most restrictive abortion ban in the nation that made abortion a felony with few exceptions. While the law was blocked by a federal judge, pending consideration by the U.S. Supreme Court, SA BWR intensified its efforts to build a base of Black voters committed to holding elected officials accountable to Black women's bodily autonomy. The Roundtable became a founding member of the first reproductive health, rights and justice statewide coalition in Alabama, alongside Groundswell grantees like URGE. During the pandemic, SA BWR launched mutual aid efforts to give Black families PPE, hand sanitizer, and boxed warm meals (average of 150 meals a day). In response to the murder of George Floyd, AL BWR and its allies organized for police accountability in Alabama, holding a virtual town hall, listening sessions, and meeting with the police chief to demand an end to racial profiling and police secretly planting contraband on community members. Looking forward, the organization will prioritize its organizational development and voter engagement efforts in key statewide and local elections to ensure that lawmakers who passed anti-RJ policies are held accountable to Black women's priorities.

Asian American Organizing Project

LOCATION: Minneapolis, MN

GRANT AMOUNT: \$30,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2018

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: COVID-19 Emergency Support

www.aaopmn.org

Asian American Organizing Project (AAOP) advances Asian, Pacific Islander, and Desi American (APIA) participation in our democracy in order to create a more equitable and just society. Based in MN, the organization provides leadership development opportunities and political education for young women and LGBTQ youth and uses voter engagement, canvassing programs, and non-violent direct action to build and mobilize collective power to advance key intersectional issues, such as defunding the Minneapolis Police Department in the wake of George Floyd's murder, bodily autonomy, mental health and sex ed in schools, and refugee rights. AAOP's Gender Justice program has a base of 100 young people and trains several youth fellows annually. AAOP led Census and election outreach as part of a diverse coalition to reach a universe of 21,000 people. In 2020, AAOP held conversations with young Asian women in the community around abortion access and began community research as part of the [Unrestrict Minnesota Campaign](#) that educates Minnesotans about their rights and access to abortion care. During the pandemic, AAOP worked with a coalition of Black, Latinx, and APIA organizations to provide \$50,000 in COVID relief funding to youth and immigrant communities. In response to the transformative Black liberation uprisings in Minneapolis, AAOP is organizing for police abolition in solidarity with frontline Black-led organizations, including Reclaim the Block and Black Visions Collective, and released joint letters with other API-led organizations to address anti-Blackness within API communities. In 2021, AAOP will continue to confront state violence impacting Black communities, APIA LGBTQ youth, and young APIA women using a multi-strategy approach that includes community conversations, interviews, political education, base-building, direct action training, transformative justice, and healing justice practices to address intergenerational trauma within immigrant APIA communities.



In Defense of Black Lives

RJ Organizing for Black Liberation

New Voices for Reproductive Justice

LOCATION: Pittsburgh, PA

GRANT AMOUNT: \$70,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2013

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: IVE program participant,
COVID-19 Emergency Support
www.newvoicespittsburgh.org

New Voices for Reproductive Justice (New Voices) is building a social change movement dedicated to the health and wellbeing of Black women and girls in PA and OH using four core strategies: leadership development, community organizing, policy advocacy, and culture change. New Voices' core issues include RJ, Black maternal health, and ending gender-based mass incarceration. During the pandemic, New Voices quickly launched a highly popular COVID-19 Relief Fund to provide diapers, menstrual products, and other resources to struggling Black families in Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Philadelphia. After the murders of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, New Voices joined hands with Groundswell grantee Movement for Black Lives to elevate the focus on Black women within national conversations about police violence. New Voices held a Defend Black Women march in Cleveland and a march for Black women and girls that drew 2,000 people in Philadelphia. In 2020, New Voices' Voice Your Vote Project mobilized Black women voters ages 18–49 in PA and OH, reaching out nearly 800,000 times to Black women voters in both states — over half a million times in PA — and reaching 40,000 Black voters through phone-banking and texts in PA's Allegheny, Delaware, Erie, Philadelphia and Washington Counties, as well as OH's Cuyahoga and Summit Counties. In 2021, New Voices

plans to deepen its role in providing consciousness-raising RJ trainings for allied, Black-led organizations and Black communities. It will also pursue comprehensive RJ policy priorities, particularly focused on Black maternal health and mortality, including efforts in PA to expand Medicaid postpartum coverage from six weeks to one year, require implicit bias training for providers, and win Medicaid reimbursement for doulas.

Black Women for Wellness

LOCATION: Los Angeles, CA

GRANT AMOUNT: \$70,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2014

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: IVE program participant,
COVID-19 Emergency Support
www.bwwla.org

Black Women for Wellness (BWW) supports Black women and girls to organize for RJ in Los Angeles and at the state level. For over 20 years, BWW has employed a range of strategies, including policy advocacy, political education, community organizing, and integrated voter engagement to uplift Black women and girls, and, as a result, has emerged as a powerful force in policy advocacy and voter engagement for Black communities across CA. In response to movement pressure to #DefundThePolice, the Los Angeles City Council voted to cut \$150 million from its police budget. Black Lives Matter organizations asked BWW to shape policy recommendations for reinvesting those resources back into L.A.'s Black neighborhoods. During the Census, in one of CA's largest Black Census outreach campaigns, BWW sent over 100,000 text messages to Black women. BWW also published a popular nonpartisan *Vote (Her) Guide* focused on Black women's issues,



New Voices for Reproductive Justice

including information about judges, ballot measures, and propositions. In 2019, BWW built a coalition of over 100 organizations to help pass **California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act** with the legislature's unanimous support. The law aims to improve Black maternal health by requiring that all perinatal providers go through implicit bias training; improving data collection standards; mandating the publication of maternal morbidity data; and requiring hospitals to tell patients how to file discrimination complaints. During the pandemic, BWW convened a statewide perinatal advisory committee to give guidance on the state's plans to publish maternal health data after a 30-year lapse since the last report. BWW also began a survey of Black pregnant people's experiences with pregnancy and birth during the pandemic to support future policy efforts. In 2020, Black Women for Wellness, alongside Groundswell grantees Women's Voices for the Earth and California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative helped to win the **Cosmetic Fragrance and Flavor Right to Know Act** to safeguard the health of women of color. It is the first law in the nation to require ingredient disclosure of toxic fragrance and flavor chemicals found in cosmetics, personal care, and professional salon products. This law will force corporations to reveal allergens, neurotoxins, and other chemicals linked to cancer, birth defects, and reproductive health problems. As state and local budgets struggle with COVID-19 deficits, BWW will fight to maintain funding for reproductive healthcare and RJ priorities in 2021. Moving forward, BWW will leverage its proximity to Hollywood to advance RJ through culture change. BWW will produce a film focused on birthing while Black in order to open up conversations about Black pregnant people's positive and traumatic experiences.

The Afiya Center

LOCATION: Dallas, TX

GRANT AMOUNT: \$60,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2016

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: GOI program participant, COVID-19 Emergency Support

www.theafiyacenter.org

The Afiya Center is a Dallas-based RJ organization that centers low-income Black women, girls, and non-binary people in its work on HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, abortion access, and Black maternal health. The Afiya Center illuminates the connections between reproductive oppression and HIV transmission to cis and trans Black women who face formidable barriers to accessing abortion care, comprehensive sex education, contraception, and health insurance in TX. In 2019, with support from Groundswell grantee Black Mamas Matter Alliance, Afiya Center launched a Black doula training program and increased its advocacy to improve Black maternal health outcomes. It also helped win passage of a law to extend **newborn health benefits** and advocated for a state law to respect the dignity of incarcerated pregnant people by **prohibiting shackling** during pregnancy. The Afiya Center remains a co-plaintiff alongside Groundswell grantee West Fund and other local partners in **The People's Lawsuit**, which challenges several Texas anti-abortion laws that disproportionately harm women of color, immigrants, and low-income women. Taking to the streets during the Black Lives Matter uprisings, Afiya Center was a leading voice for Black cis and trans women who were not prioritized in local or national conversations about police brutality, and organized on the ground to inform Dallas communities



Freedom, Inc

Freedom, Inc

LOCATION: Madison, WI

GRANT AMOUNT: \$30,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2018

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: IVE program participant, COVID-19 Emergency Support

www.freedom-inc.org

Founded in 2000, Freedom, Inc uses a blended service and organizing model, rooted in leadership development, to build power within low-to no-income communities of color and LGBTQ+ communities in Dane County, Wisconsin. Freedom, Inc develops linguistic-, cultural-, and gender-specific programming for Black, Cambodian, and Hmong women, youth, gender non-conforming, and transgender community members, using a “Linked Liberation” political education framework to organize in communities profoundly affected by violence and war. Its approach to ending the root causes of violence is the creation of healthy and thriving communities, in which each community member is empowered as an agent of change.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Freedom, Inc won important victories in 2020, victories enabled by the organization’s persistent, consistent, and effective organizing. These victories happened as the organization pivoted to virtual and digital organizing and outreach; provided flexibility and support to its staff; and created a community food pantry. “Our

community, Black and API women, queer, trans, femmes, children and leaders, they were already struggling before the pandemic hit,” said Nancy Vue-Tran, Director of Grants and Development. Freedom, Inc was able to be present for its community, which was also hard hit by the virus and by the economic fallout of pandemic shutdowns, in tangible ways, and continue to build political power.

Freedom, Inc’s most significant policy wins concerned police in schools: The Madison School District voted unanimously to cancel its contract with the Madison police in late June, followed by a City Council vote to terminate its contract as well. As Co-Director Kabzuag Vaj explains, “We’ve been going to every school board meeting for four years, demanding that they get police out of schools.” Freedom, Inc led this multiyear fight, with its young women leaders front and center, and as of fall 2020, police will no longer be stationed outside Madison’s four high schools. This victory exemplifies Freedom, Inc’s commitment to defunding the police and shifting investment to community services and wellness. The decision frees up some \$360,000 in funding for community services.

In addition, Freedom, Inc’s long-term work in the community convinced Dane County to allow Freedom, Inc to disburse \$850,000 in federal CARES funding earmarked to keep people in their homes. “Our people are queer, trans, elders, Black, and Asian. We had developed enough internal capacity, and deep

“We’ve not stopped, even in the Wisconsin primary during the pandemic, when politicians tried to steal the election, and we had to go out and vote in person.

We helped people find safe ways to cast ballots.”

— KABZUAG VAJ, CO-DIRECTOR, FREEDOM, INC

relationships with community, to disperse that money in six weeks. That’s a win in itself. Queer, femme Black, Asian—these are folks who would not have gotten the money because, too often when money is handled by white-led organizations, there are so many hoops to jump through. We were able to get the money out to people by word of mouth. We also spent \$50,000-\$100,000 out-of-pocket to help people who were undocumented. We had four pop up sessions to give out grocery gifts cards, an extension of our food pantry that serves 100 families every Friday. We also have a network of 30 active volunteer folks who do support like food delivery.”

In response to the pandemic and Black liberation uprisings, Freedom, Inc. created a Community Safety Team of 20 people who meet weekly to determine what is needed to provide mutual aid and services. As Vaj notes, “We were in the streets every week for three months around the uprisings and the pandemic, and from that came the Safety Team to address long-term concerns.”

Freedom, Inc continued its integrated voter engagement (IVE) during the pandemic. As infection rates dropped, Freedom, Inc went back to door-knocking to get people registered, tell them where to vote, and learn their opinions about defunding the police and the uprisings. However, the organization returned to virtual organizing as soon as infection numbers started rising.

During the 2020 election, Freedom, Inc helped to lead historic turnout of Black and Southeast Asian voters to #Vote4BlackLives through a #JoyToThePolls campaign. Alongside BIPOC partners in the Community Power Coalition, Freedom Inc’s nonpartisan voter engagement efforts turned out Black and Southeast Asian Wisconsin voters in 6 of the 7 counties that the coalition organized in. Freedom, Inc made over 44,000 voter contacts in WI using phone-banking, safe canvassing, and community outreach efforts like its food pantry.

“We turned people out in Wisconsin by saying #Vote4BlackLives. We have been organizing Black and Southeast Asian communities for years. We got them into formation. Some elected officials complain that they lost their seat or lost votes because of Black Lives Matter. We remind them that our people turned out to vote **because** we talked about #DefundThePolice and about investing in communities of color.”

— MAHNER DAHNWEI, COMMUNITY POWER BUILDING COORDINATOR, FREEDOM, INC

about the need to #DefundThePolice. In a climate of misinformation and voter suppression, the Afiya Center also took on voter suppression, centering it as an RJ issue. In 2020, it registered over 300 people to vote in support of Black women's safety and reproductive freedom, and its Street Team of organizers connected directly with Black women in culturally competent ways to hear their concerns and to educate them about how their votes could advance such priorities as maternal mortality, HIV/AIDS, state-sanctioned violence, COVID-19, and abortion access. In response to the pandemic, the Afiya Center raised over \$35,000 in bail funds for protesters; operated an abortion fund for Black women; and provided mutual aid for Black families, including rental and utility bill assistance, groceries, school supplies, and other needs. In 2021, the Afiya Center plans to increase its focus on policy advocacy, including partnering with other organizations on a TX Black RJ Policy Agenda to elevate Black women's issues and leadership within the reproductive rights, health, and justice movements.

Legal Services for Prisoners with Children

LOCATION: San Francisco, CA

GRANT AMOUNT: \$60,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2007

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: COVID-19 Emergency Support

www.prisonerswithchildren.org

Since 1978, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (LSPC) has advocated for the human rights and empowerment of incarcerated parents, children, family members, and people at risk of incarceration in CA. Through its 29 All of Us or None chapters across CA and in other states, LSPC's advances a multifaceted strategy that includes grassroots organizing, legal advocacy, policy advocacy, leadership development, and coalition building. During the 2020 summer uprisings for Black liberation, LSPC mobilized its members in powerful, visually compelling actions. For example, in Sacramento members held a Stop Killing Us rally and vigil to stand up for Black lives and honor the Black and Brown family members lost to police violence by placing more than 500 photos of loved ones murdered by police on the steps of the State Capitol. During the grant period, LSPC's work with [Debt Free Justice California led to huge victories](#). In 2018, San Francisco became the first city in the country to

eliminate local criminal justice fees, lifting \$32 million in debt from 21,000 residents. Because of the success of this law, Governor Newsom signed the [Families Over Fees Act](#) in 2020, a first-in-the-nation law that ends the collection of 23 administrative fees imposed against people in the criminal legal system. Fines and fees increase debt on people who cannot pay them, drive people deeper into poverty, and create barriers to successful reentry. At LSPC's annual CA Legislative Session Advocacy Day in May 2020, held virtually due to the pandemic, 300 All of Us or None members shared their personal stories with elected leaders about the importance of expanding the voting rights of formerly incarcerated people and abolishing fines and fees. LSPC also did both Census and voter engagement work to ensure that the voices of Black and Brown people were heard. Building on voting rights work begun in 2003, LSPC/All of Us or None celebrated another tremendous victory with the November passage of Prop 17, which restored the right to vote to 50,000 Californians on felony parole. Led by formerly incarcerated and convicted people, the #FreeTheVote2020 campaign's victory was the result of three years of organizing. In 2020 alone, LSPC engaged one million Californians about the importance of expanding voting rights to Californians on parole. LSPC's current RJ work includes: watchdogging implementation of a statewide ban on shackling pregnant prisoners; stopping forced sterilizations and advocating for improved access to appropriate reproductive and gynecological healthcare; allowing incarcerated parents who do not pose a danger to their children to maintain relationships with them while serving time, which supports family reunification upon release; advocating to *Ban the Box* on housing and employment applications; advocating to remove "indentured servitude" language from the CA state constitution; and challenging mass incarceration by halting prison expansion and increasing alternatives to incarceration.



From Abortion Access to Birth Justice

Protecting and Advancing Reproductive Freedom in a Pandemic

COLOR

LOCATION: Denver, CO

GRANT AMOUNT: \$70,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2007

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: IVE program participant,
COVID-19 Emergency Support, 2020 Rapid
Response Fund grantee, Ms. Foundation for Women
Catalyst sub-grantee
www.colorlatina.org

Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR) is a grassroots organization building a base of Latina advocates committed to reproductive justice in CO. COLOR protects and promotes Latina reproductive health and justice by engaging young Latinas and their families in education, leadership development, civic participation, community organizing, and policy advocacy. In 2018 and 2019, COLOR co-led in efforts to advance a comprehensive bill to ensure access to the full range of reproductive healthcare: HB 18-1438, the Reproductive Health, Rights and Justice Act. The bill would require state regulated health plans to cover the full range of reproductive healthcare, get rid of the five year waiting period for immigrants to get health coverage, and extend postpartum coverage for people who use Medicaid benefits to 180 days. In 2020, COLOR's integrated voter engagement efforts helped to defeat [Proposition 115, a ballot initiative that would have banned abortions after 22 weeks](#) and pass the groundbreaking [Proposition 118, that establishes state paid medical and family leave programs](#) for up to 12 weeks (16 weeks in certain cases). When the pandemic first hit, COLOR quickly created and

widely shared a list of community resources with its base. As part of its COVID response, COLOR and partners worked to expand, emergency Medicaid to cover COVID testing and care. In 2021, COLOR hopes to host the largest gathering of Latinx people in Colorado at its 14th Annual Latino/a Advocacy Day. Nearly 300 Coloradans, largely youth of color, will receive advocacy training and meet with lawmakers about policies that affect Latinx communities. In 2021, COLOR plans to build its power in the legislature via lobbying, cultivating relationships with elected officials, blocking harmful legislation, and advocating for proactive bills to address maternal and infant mortality and morbidity. Using integrated voter engagement strategies, COLOR will expand the electorate by registering and educating Latinx and young voters, with a goal of reaching 8,000 Latinxs in targeted neighborhoods via door-knocking and phone-banking.

Women With A Vision

LOCATION: New Orleans, LA

GRANT AMOUNT: \$70,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2014

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: IVE program participant,
COVID-19 Emergency Support
www.wwav.org

Women With A Vision (WWAV) improves the lives of marginalized people, including Black women and girls, LGBTQ people, formerly incarcerated people, people who use substances, and sex workers, by addressing the social conditions that hinder their health and wellbeing. WWAV views immediate survival and systemic change as interdependent goals and addresses both through a



COLOR

combined services-to-advocacy model. WWAV was part of a huge victory in June 2020 when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a state anti-abortion law. WWAV collaborated with partners across the state and the Southern U.S. to submit amicus briefs from people who would be most affected if the law were allowed to close all but one abortion clinic in the state. An organization with longstanding relationships and relational organizing skills, WWAV's growing integrated voter engagement skills enabled a steady increase in traditionally low voter participation among its base communities. In 2019, a remarkable 73 percent of people contacted by WWAV's get-out-the-vote campaign committed to vote. During the 2020 election, WWAV campaigned to defeat Amendment 1, a ballot measure to add anti-abortion language to the state constitution to ensure that, if *Roe v Wade* is overturned, there would be no constitutional right to abortion in LA. Though the measure passed as expected, WWAV helped to mobilize thousands of voters against it and created infrastructure to meet future abortion attacks. Despite the pandemic, WWAV found creative ways to get out the vote through voter registration drive-bys, tabling with DJs, safe canvassing, and installing voter education billboards urging Black women to **vote like your life depends on it**. Ultimately, over 750,000 people voted to defeat Amendment 1 and to protect abortion access in Louisiana. As part of the Power Coalition, the state's 501(c)(3) civic engagement table, WWAV held a 2020 New Orleans District Attorney Candidates Forum, which put all the candidates on record answering questions about whether or not they would criminalize sex workers and poor pregnant women.

Leveraging the example of progressive DAs across the country, WWAV will organize a campaign to pressure the DA not to criminalize poor pregnant Black women who use drugs or have miscarriages. WWAV's sex worker advocacy efforts are led by an advisory board of sex workers, and, over the next year, the organization will advocate for a statewide Sex Work Decriminalization bill.

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum

LOCATION: Chicago, IL

GRANT AMOUNT: \$60,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2017

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: IVE program participant, COVID-19 Emergency Support, 2020 Rapid Response Fund grantee, Chicago Foundation for Women Catalyst sub-grantee, Ms. Foundation for Women Catalyst sub-grantee
www.napawf.org

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) is building a movement to advance social justice and human rights for API women, girls, and trans people through multi-issue advocacy across the U.S. NAPAWF plays a unique role in the RJ movement as the only API-led and API-focused national organization. NAPAWF weathered the storm of anti-Asian racism that rocked its community when the coronavirus pandemic hit by supporting staff and members to care for themselves and moving to remote working and digital organizing. In response to the Black



Bold Futures

Bold Futures

LOCATION: **Albuquerque, NM**

GRANT AMOUNT: **\$70,000**

GRANT HISTORY: **Catalyst grantee since 2007**

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: **Birth Justice Fund grantee, COVID-19 Emergency Support, Ms. Foundation for Women Catalyst sub-grantee**
www.boldfutures.org

Bold Futures (formerly Young Women United) leads policy change, research, place-based organizing, and culture shift by and for women and people of color in NM. Bold Futures is a leading advocate for reproductive and birth justice in NM. In 2019, as abortion bans swept the South and Midwest, Bold Futures advocated for the removal of a dormant state criminal ban on abortion in preparation for the possible overturning of the federal protections created by *Roe v. Wade*. Though the effort to decriminalize abortion was unsuccessful, it laid the groundwork for efforts to overturn the ban in 2021.

In recent years, Bold Futures has won key policy victories across the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare issues, including a 2019 state law to expand health insurance coverage for contraceptives and another that allows state-licensed midwives to obtain state-mandated pharmaceuticals legally. The organization also won pro-RJ policies related to the criminal legal system, including historic Ban the Box legislation to remove questions

on arrests and convictions from job applications, and legislation to remove prostitution as a delinquent act from the state juvenile code. In addition, Bold Futures helped to bring NM into compliance with federal child abuse prevention laws by helping win a law that allows providers to create a family-centered care plan when there is a positive drug screen at birth, rather than reporting the family to the state Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD). This law does not undermine state abuse or neglect reporting requirements, but instead allows providers to better care for patients and their families.

Three years ago, Bold Futures opened an office in Las Cruces, close to the U.S.–Mexico border and El Paso, TX. This move allowed the organization to expand its focus south to an under-resourced part of the state, where reproductive healthcare infrastructure is limited and so-called sanctuary cities for the unborn exist. Coupled with its new gender-affirming name, Bold Futures saw an influx of dedicated trans and nonbinary members and is building a base of enthusiastic young people of color.

During the pandemic, Bold Futures championed birth justice when the Lovelace Health System, the largest in the Albuquerque region, began a secret COVID-19 policy of automatically and immediately separating Indigenous newborns from their parents if they lived in pueblos or reservations. **Bold Futures organized to hold Lovelace accountable for this racist profiling practice, one that has opened up generational trauma for**

“People are hungry to do this work — they just didn’t know where to go before. They were looking for community as LGBTQ young people and we slowly built trust. We led allyship trainings on how to be an ally to trans people and Black folks. After the pandemic, our base hopped onto doing virtual organizing quickly. We want to get them engaged in the legislative session and policy advocacy process. We’re working on an abortion guide to let folks know, ‘Where can I go for safe care with dignity?’ ‘Who can I take with me?’ because people don’t know where to get an abortion or reproductive healthcare in the southern part of the state.”

– CHARLENE BENCOMO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BOLD FUTURES

Indigenous communities subjected to child separation in the Indian boarding school era. Bold Futures and its partners are developing a first-of-its-kind Emergency Care for Maternal and Child Health plan to ensure that despite the pandemic, human rights are respected by one of NM’s largest hospital systems. Bold Futures wants the plan to inform equitable care provision for birthing families during other emergencies such as wildfires or floods. During the grant period, Bold Futures will continue to advocate for policies to increase community access to birth workers across the state.

Bold Futures blends arts and culture with advocacy and leadership development to change laws, practices, hearts, and minds to achieve reproductive justice for

young Hispanic and Indigenous New Mexicans. In 2019, the organization put up beautiful billboards affirming the right to abortion and respect for NM families, and, through coalition-building efforts, the organization engages families in deep conversation about religious refusals, abortion, and LGBTQ rights.

The organization is close to completing a Hollywood feature film about young women of color and the intersections of parenting, pregnancy, reproductive health, and substance use. The film was crafted and informed by Bold Futures’ young leaders who, after media training, will speak at film festivals, digital panels, and watch parties when the film is released.

“We recently convened a small group of mamas with a history of substance use and parenting to have a meeting with the Children Youth and Families Department about what it feels like from the other side, what it feels like to be a young mama. CYFD came here to listen and learn from these mamas. CYFD asked them to develop parameters based on their lived experiences. CYFD wanted help to be more reflective on its past actions and cultural competence, so it can stop stepping into homes and defaulting to child separation. It was powerful to see our young mamas speak their truth and influence CYFD. Our goal is more community engagement in CYFD decisions.”

– CHARLENE BENCOMO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BOLD FUTURES



National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum

liberation uprising in June 2020, Executive Director Sung Yeon Choimorrow came out boldly to stand in solidarity with Black communities, writing an op-ed in *Colorlines* titled **Solidarity Not Allyship: A Call to the AAPI Community**. The organization also made key strides locally and federally on its RJ issues. In November 2019, NAPAWF, as part of the AMPLIFY GA coalition, won the creation of a Reproductive Justice Commission (RJC) in Atlanta that will make sure that local ordinances reflect RJ needs of women, people who can give birth, and families. The establishment of the RJC was a response to the state's controversial six-week "heartbeat" abortion law, signed by Governor Brian Kemp in May 2019, which would have prohibited abortions once a doctor can detect a fetal heartbeat. The law was struck down by a federal Judge in July 2020. On the federal level, NAPAWF helped to introduce the **Health Equity and Access under the Law (HEAL) for Immigrant Women and Families Act into the U.S. Congress**, with 73 House and 13 Senate co-sponsors. Currently, many immigrants must wait five years before they can enroll in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Furthermore, undocumented immigrants are completely barred from federal health programs, including the purchase of insurance from the Affordable Care Act's online Marketplace. The HEAL act would ensure that access to healthcare does not depend on immigration status. In a key election year, NAPAWF also did multilingual nonpartisan voter engagement of API communities in IL, GA, FL, and IN. In 2021, NAPAWF will work in coalition to launch Reproductive Justice Commissions in Chicago, IL, and Clarkson, GA; reintroduce the HEAL Act in Congress; fight in multiple states against sex and race selection abortion bans that are being used to test and overturn *Roe v. Wade*;

and expand its year-round integrated voter engagement work into a new state.

Reproaction

LOCATION: VA/Virtual

GRANT AMOUNT: \$40,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2018

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: COVID-19 Emergency Support

www.reproaction.org

Founded in 2015, Reproaction's mission is to increase access to abortion and advance RJ nationally. Reproaction builds the direct-action capacity of the reproductive rights and justice movements to make it impossible for decision makers to ignore movement demands. In 2019, Reproaction's organizing efforts helped stop the closure of the last remaining abortion clinic in MO. While Planned Parenthood lawyers continue to fight for the clinic in the courtroom, Reproaction continues the fight outside, lifting up the voices of people in the state who need, want, and deserve access to abortion care. As a direct action organization, Reproaction faced some major pivots amid the pandemic. It will refrain from any in-person activities until June 2021, but has continued its organizing, hosting multiple webinars that include: *Housing Is a Reproductive Justice Issue*; *From COVID-19 Shutdowns to Inequities That Have Always Been There*; *Access to Childcare Is a Reproductive Justice Issue*; and *Criminalizing Our Existence*, a panel jointly organized with the MO HIV Justice Coalition. In August, Reproaction launched its #BadFaithMedicine campaign, which is organizing to expose fake clinics across the country through a variety of creative methods;



Reproaction

its launch tweet chat got 30,000 impressions. Reproaction also demanded that anti-abortion, fake clinic giant Care Net stop in-person mass gatherings taking place in CO and FL. With the launch of its Abortion Pills Are Magic petition, Reproaction grew its list by more than 60,000 names. In 2021, Reproaction will continue to demand an end to racist health disparities and expanded access to reproductive healthcare, prioritizing education and advocacy around self-managed abortion with pills.

Native American Community Board

LOCATION: Lake Andes, SD

GRANT AMOUNT: \$50,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2006

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: COVID-19 Emergency Support, Ms. Foundation for Women Catalyst sub-grantee

www.nativeshop.org

Native American Community Board (NACB) was created in 1985 by Indigenous people living on or near the Yankton Sioux Reservation in SD to protect and sustain the rights, sovereignty, Life Ways, and natural resources of Indigenous peoples. NACB's Indigenous Women's Health and Reproductive Justice Program improves the health of low-income, reservation-based Indigenous women through community education, activist training, leadership development, voter engagement, and federal advocacy to facilitate legal access to emergency contraception, appropriate sexual assault emergency care, abortion and pregnancy prevention, and other reproductive health services. In 2020, Indigenous communities were hit by

the first wave, and then even harder by the second wave, of the Coronavirus pandemic. As a result of quarantine orders, NACB leaders saw a surge in domestic violence cases during the pandemic. The organization's direct response focused on finding transitional housing and food for domestic violence survivors and other community members in need. NACB also organized community members (both in person and virtually) to attend local City Council and school board meetings to demand increased COVID-19 protections, including safe back-to-school protocols and mask mandates. Community education was crucial as well. Through its social media and bilingual (English/Dakota) Dakota Talk Radio KDKO 89.5 FM, NACB kept community members up-to-date and connected on how to take action and stay safe during the pandemic, including addressing the rise in domestic violence. Additionally, NACB virtually convened ten Indigenous women and Two-Spirit leaders from multiple nations and Pueblos across the country to revise its comprehensive *Native Women for Reproductive Justice: Reproductive Justice Agenda*, originally developed in 1990, to guide its organizing, policy, and advocacy work across the country. Core to the agenda is asserting that Indigenous women and Two-Spirit people have the right to live free from violence, and addressing the RJ issues they face through a process of self-determination that respects and restores Indigenous Life Ways. In 2021, NACB's priorities will include hosting sessions with Indigenous organizers across the country on how to use the *Reproductive Justice Agenda* to strengthen community education, organizing, and advocacy efforts; and demanding that the federal Indian Health Services, the largest health provider for Indigenous communities, increase access to sexual assault services and over the



West Virginia Free

counter emergency contraception, and fully implement a child sexual abuse policy that has been in place since 2010.

Access Reproductive Care–Southeast

LOCATION: Atlanta, GA

GRANT AMOUNT: \$40,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2017

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: GOI program participant, COVID-19 Emergency Support

www.arc-southeast.org

Based in Atlanta, Access Reproductive Care–Southeast (ARC–SE) is a regional organization that works at the intersection of reproductive justice and abortion access in GA, MS, AL, FL, SC, and TN. ARC–SE provides gap funding and logistical support to ensure that Southerners receive safe and compassionate reproductive care, including abortion, and builds power through education, leadership development, and organizing to change the material conditions facing communities of color. Like many organizations, ARC–SE took a brief pause in 2020 to assess its programming and how to best support staff and community during the COVID-19 pandemic. The organization pivoted all its programs to virtual, including its *So Now What?* peer support group and *Reproductive Justice: Act, Talk, Listen (RJ: ATL)* political education series. ARC–SE has found that virtual programming is reaching more people, so it will continue virtual programming in the future, but in tandem with in-person work. As part of the Amplify GA campaign, ARC–SE is building off an earlier win – the 2019 establishment of a Reproductive Justice Commission in Atlanta – to establish another

such commission in nearby DeKalb County. In September, when nurse Dawn Wooten blew the whistle on the forced sterilizations being performed on detainees at the Irwin Detention Center operated by LaSalle Corrections Inc. under contract to ICE, ARC–SE mobilized in coalition with other local organizations to demand a halt to the practice, and ensured that messaging and demands centered RJ. Despite the challenges of this year, ARC–SE continues to grow, increasing its abortion funding and adding new staff, including two new positions to be based in MS.

West Virginia Free

LOCATION: Columbus, WV

GRANT AMOUNT: \$60,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2006

www.wvfree.org

West Virginia FREE (WV FREE) is a statewide organization that employs advocacy and education to advance reproductive health, rights, and justice. As one of the only RJ organizations in Appalachia, WV FREE works to increase access to comprehensive sexuality education, abortion, birth control, prenatal care, and an environment free of reproductive toxins. In 2019, WV FREE and its partners helped to pass two pieces of pro-RJ policy: [The Family Planning Access Act](#), which makes WV the tenth state to pass a bill allowing pharmacists to prescribe hormonal contraceptives without a prescription from a physician, and a bill that expands Medicaid and CHIP eligibility to 300 percent of the federal poverty level for pregnant people.



Essential Work

Workers' Rights, Reproductive Justice, and Grassroots Organizing for the Hardest Hit Communities During the Pandemic

United for Respect

LOCATION: Washington, DC

GRANT AMOUNT: \$60,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2017

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: COVID-19 Emergency

Support, 2020 Rapid Response Fund grantee

www.united4respect.org

United for Respect (UFR) elevates the voices of essential workers and those employed in the retail economy to ensure industry leaders and policymakers provide jobs that enable people to live a safe and economically secure life. UFR leverages technology — social media and a digital platform, WorkIt — to support over 300,000 people retail workers across the country and to bring them into community with one another. Through online peer networks and on-the-ground base-building strategies, UFR develops the leadership of its multi-racial base to share their stories and advocate for real solutions to the pressing needs of the country's massive low-wage workforce. In recent years, UFR has won landmark company victories for working people, including paid parental leave for mothers, fathers and adopted parents; bringing a pregnancy discrimination class action lawsuit that improved policies at Walmart; securing a \$20 million fund to provide severance to former Toys 'R' Us employees and creating a Toys 'R' Us Mirror Board, a first-of-its-kind structure that gives employees access to key corporate information and a direct line of communication with the company's top executives and board. At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, UFR was a leading voice for paid

sick leave and [safer working conditions for essential workers](#) at the nation's largest retailers. When Amazon and Walmart workers went on strike in 2020, UFR mobilized its base of predominantly women of color to take action: supporting 500 people working at 60 Amazon warehouse locations to call out from work to protest unsafe working conditions and supporting the largest coordinated call out by Walmart workers since the Coronavirus outbreak. High COVID-19 unemployment rates created a chilling effect among essential workers afraid of retaliation for raising concerns about dangerous workplace conditions, such as rising rates of sexual harassment; failure to provide PPE or paid sick time which forces sick workers to come to work or risk losing their jobs; and higher denials for necessary accommodations requested by pregnant workers. UFR strengthens the collective power of women workers to fight back and organize for reproductive justice and pregnancy accommodations through its Respect the Bump program. For example, in response to Amazon, Walmart and others issuing Black Lives Matter statements, UFR organized to reveal the truth about how retail giants are failing to support Black employees and communities. UFR builds its base store-by-store, with a focus on the South, Midwest, Pacific/West, and Northeast. In the 2020 election, UFR used relational organizing to engage a powerful voting block of people in low-wage jobs in MI, GA, NC, and TX, as part of a larger agenda for building low-wage workers' power to hold corporations accountable over the long-term. In 2021, UFR and its partners will advance a new campaign focused on select cities and states to ensure that essential workers are always treated as essential beyond the pandemic. The campaign will seek to get



United for Respect

companies to increase hourly wages by \$5; provide paid leave; guarantee protection so that workers can speak out about workplace policies that threaten their wellbeing and reproductive health; and include workers' voices in shaping the pandemic policies that affect their jobs and lives.

Mississippi Black Women's Roundtable

LOCATION: Jackson, MS

GRANT AMOUNT: \$20,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2019

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: 2020 Rapid Response Fund grantee

www.msblackwomensroundtable.org

The Mississippi Black Women's Roundtable (MS BWR) is a statewide economic and social justice organizing network led by Black women and girls. It focuses on developing intergenerational leadership and civic engagement to address economic insecurity and the education and health disparities that perpetuate systemic, multi-generational poverty for Black women, their families, and their communities. MS BWR houses the MS Women's Economic Security Initiative, which advances a policy agenda that includes reproductive health issues, like pregnancy accommodations. This past year the Initiative focused on its Equal Pay Committed Cities campaign, partnering with mayors across the state to encourage cities to commit to equal pay for women the city of Jackson became the first city in the state to do so in 2019. MS BWR's long-term Black political and economic power-building strategy includes organizing around the 2020 presidential election and Census. Organizing within childcare centers that are owned and used by Black mothers, MS BWR reaches infrequent

Black women voters. Through dedicated child and parent-focused programming, the organization engages children in mock elections to learn about voting while their mothers learn about voting rights, such as the right to take time off work to vote. MS BWR is now turning its attention to the redistricting process. This past year, it launched its Black Youth Vote program, engaging and training a new generation of civic leaders and political activists in high schools and colleges. MS BWR hosts a popular "Coffee Con" podcast focused on Black women's issues, such as affordable childcare and healthcare, to foster education, community, voter engagement, and base-building among Black women across the state. In addition to its policy work, MS BWR will continue to run its women's leadership institute, the Ambassadors Program, and launch the Eva Thompson Girls Leadership Institute, training youth about advocacy, organizing, and other essential leadership skills for engaging stakeholders and policy makers.

Mothering Justice

LOCATION: Royal Oak, MI

GRANT AMOUNT: \$60,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2006

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: IVE program participant, COVID-19 Emergency Support

Mothering Justice is a statewide organization that uses mother-led advocacy, leadership development, and nonpartisan voter engagement to make sure that Michigan moms, particularly low-income women of color, have a seat at the decision-making table. Mothering Justice (MJ) employs a holistic leadership development model in its robust fellowship programs to politicize Michigan mothers,



Miami Workers Center

Miami Workers Center

LOCATION: **Miami, FL**

GRANT AMOUNT: **\$55,000**

GRANT HISTORY: **Catalyst grantee since 2017**

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: **GOI program participant, COVID-19 Emergency Support 2020 Rapid Response Fund grantee**

www.miamiworkerscenter.org

A strategy and action center that builds the power and self-determination of South FL's low-income Black and Brown women, girls, and femmes, the Miami Workers Center (the Center) supports the growth of movements for social change in FL. The Center organizes to advance domestic workers' rights, RJ, and immigrant rights at the local and state levels. Last year, it flexed its muscle by organizing the second annual Black Girls at the Capitol event, bringing over 100 Black women and girls to meet with their legislators about pressing issues such as the need for restorative justice solutions.

In 2019, the Center helped to pass the Dignity for Incarcerated Women and Girls Act, which requires prisons to provide necessary menstrual products at no additional cost and restricts pat-down or cavity searches by male guards. In 2020, it built upon this success when the state legislature's unanimously

passed the Tammy Jackson Act, in response to the experience of Tammy Jackson -a pregnant incarcerated woman who was denied medical attention in labor and who delivered her baby by herself in a Broward County isolation cell. The law provides stronger protections for incarcerated pregnant women, ensuring that they are transported to an appropriate medical facility without delay, given proper medical care, and not placed in solitary confinement while in labor. The organization also helped win a state law that allows eligible domestic violence survivors to qualify for unemployment benefits if they must leave their jobs to protect themselves and their families.

At the onset of the pandemic, the Center, as part of the FL Housing Justice Alliance, launched a campaign to cancel rent and mortgages and to sustain an eviction moratorium. It also offered direct relief to its base, providing gift cards, shuttles to grocery stores, and food and PPE. It held weekly housing legal clinics, supported members facing housing instability, and organized direct actions to get homeless folks into safe housing.

In response to its members' deep grief and loss during COVID-19, the Center brought a therapist to organizing calls to help members process their trauma. **Women have been hardest hit by COVID-19-related job losses across sectors, particularly domestic workers and other low-wage women workers in informal economies.**

“For us at the Miami Workers Center, we believe that communities first and foremost have the lived experience to lead this work. We need to equip them with the necessary training to organize and lead. We support the leadership development of our members and community so that they understand how policies are connected to their daily lives and how to take action.”

— SANTRA DENIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MIAMI WORKERS CENTER

“We need to meet their basic needs; we can’t talk about elections when they can’t get their bills paid. We held a virtual breathing session recently and members really enjoyed it,” shares Denis.

During the 2020 election, the Center led efforts to get Black and Brown women voters to the polls in Miami-Dade. It held a local candidates forum, produced an RJ candidate scorecard for state elected officials, and sent vote by mail packages with masks to encourage safe voting. In the run-up to the election, the organization hosted a virtual **Here Comes the Boom: Assembly for Black Women and Girls** to build community and the

political power of Black women, femmes, and girls across the state.

In 2021, the Center will defend against attacks on abortion access and affordable housing, while exploring proactive opportunities to improve Black maternal health through midwifery and doula care.

Finally, in partnership with Groundswell grantees POWER U Center for Social Change and New Florida Majority, the Center will continue a campaign to win comprehensive sex ed in Miami-Dade schools.

“The 2020 legislative session had a lot of attacks on repro rights, including a forced parental consent for abortion bill. We know we need to be on constant defense in Florida. We don’t have the numbers in the legislature. We watch what happens in Georgia and the Carolinas: once we see anti-RJ legislation pass in those states, we know it will come here and we prepare to put up a fight.”

— SANTRA DENIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MIAMI WORKERS CENTER

provide basic political organizing trainings, and recruit women of color into campaigns to shift the conditions they face. In 2020, low-income families of color in Detroit needed relief and Mothering Justice responded partnering with local social services agencies to provide diapers and supplies to over 1,800 families. Despite the challenges of 2020, MJ continued its policy research, legislative and civic engagement work. In collaboration with the National Women's Law Center, MJ released two reports, one highlighting the [issues impacting Black women voters](#) and the other uplifting the [havoc of Covid-19 on women of color](#) in Michigan that has been used to strengthen the organization's advocacy and organizing. A key win in Michigan for working families this year was a Federal Judge rejection of Medicaid work requirements in March 2020. Healthcare advocates filed a lawsuit in 2019 citing the illegality of work requirements and the undue burden it creates for people to access quality affordable healthcare. MJ members successfully advocated with Governor Gretchen Whitmer to implement and support the end of Medicaid work requirements that had been signed into law by the previous Governor. MJ members also engaged Detroit Black women and women of color voters. Through its nonpartisan "Mamavist" program, 45 MJ members were able to contact over 3,500 Black women and women of color voters through texting, phone calls, and postcards. Legislative priorities for 2020 and 2021 will focus on supporting efforts to increase protections for incarcerated pregnant people. Michigan State Senate Bills 830, 831, and 1152 would create Pregnancy Standards of Care in prisons, a Community Advisory Oversight Committee for Michigan's only women's prison, and Pregnancy Standards of Care in jails. Additionally, the bills would prevent pregnant people from being shackled during labor and allow them to provide breastmilk for their babies. Looking towards 2021, MJ will fight for a fair state budget that centers the needs of Black mamas and low-income women of color and for accountability on federally-funded local and statewide Covid-19 relief programs. MJ will also lay the groundwork to launch a statewide childcare policy campaign in 2022.

Mississippi Low-Income Child Care Initiative

LOCATION: Biloxi, MS

GRANT AMOUNT: \$30,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2014

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: COVID-19 Emergency Support

www.mschildcare.org

MS Low-Income Child Care Initiative (MLICCI) improves women's economic security in MS by making childcare affordable for low-income working moms, achieving gender and racial equity in the workforce, and making the safety net work for women. MLICCI's Child Care Leadership Team (CCLT), made up of low-income working single moms and their childcare providers, advocates for policy reforms in the state's childcare assistance program. Since the onset of the pandemic, MLICCI has worked tirelessly to get needed sanitation supplies and PPE to the 150 childcare providers in the CCLT, and organized a well-attended series of webinars in partnership with several state agencies, providing much needed information on small business protections, public health guidance, and more to childcare providers across the state. The state has already waived several onerous requirements for essential workers who apply for childcare subsidies because of COVID-19, including a requirement that a single applicant must have filed for childcare support from their child's other parent before they can access the subsidy. MLICCI is currently organizing to build off this temporary win by winning a permanent end to that requirement for all parents seeking a subsidy. MLICCI also launched its Voting Project 2020, sending more than 4,000 voter registration forms to its childcare provider network and supporting providers to develop and implement age-appropriate educational programming around voting for young people in their care.



Building Power and Caring for Our People

Reproductive Justice,
Base-building, and Mutual
Aid in the Age of Coronavirus

El Pueblo

LOCATION: **Raleigh, NC**

GRANT AMOUNT: **\$40,000**

GRANT HISTORY: **Catalyst grantee since 2018**

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: **IVE program participant, COVID-19 Emergency Support, 2020 Rapid Response Fund grantee**

www.elpueblo.org

Now 25 years old, El Pueblo organizes within North Carolina's growing Latinx communities through programs that advance a power-building integrated voter engagement strategy (IVE): base-building and organizing, issue advocacy, communications, and leadership development. Its core issues include immigrant rights and justice (access to drivers' licenses, no cooperation with ICE, reproductive justice, and access to education, including free tuition for all in-state students no matter what their immigration status. El Pueblo runs several leadership development programs: *Líderes en Justicia Reproductiva* to develop and support adult leadership on reproductive justice issues; PARE for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault; the Pueblo Power Program for youth leaders ages 13 to 19; and the Community Leadership Program focused on adult leadership development. El Pueblo is an active member of the progressive state civic engagement table, Blueprint North Carolina, and the Repro Policy Table, ensuring that Latinx people and communities are at key decision-making tables.

Every year, El Pueblo hosts *Fiesta del Pueblo*, one of the largest Latinx festivals in the state, drawing more than 20,000 people. However, like all of its in-person organizing and outreach, the fiesta was reimaged in 2020, with mixed results. According to Executive Director Angeline Echeverria, "It is stressful and difficult working remotely, because it is not familiar for El Pueblo, which was founded as an organization that brings people together physically. There have been many ups and downs. Over the summer, we began having more socially-distanced events. We did a drive through for our annual event, but it was not well attended. We usually host 20,000 people — with food and dancing — and this year, it was just a few hundred. We going to hold a couple of events at early voting sites, with food trucks, music, providing PPE and combatting voter intimidation. We're doing phone canvassing, but we miss the in-person stuff. We are looking for something to fill that need. People are participating remotely to the extent they can. Our youth programs have the same level of participation as before, but for adults, it is tough. We can't provide childcare anymore, and even though folks are home, they still need childcare and we can't provide it. One of the things we did right before the pandemic was create a childcare space in our office."

Despite difficulties, El Pueblo continued its voter registration and Census outreach efforts, represented its community in state and local policy making, and provided extensive mutual aid support, raising \$200,000 for its community, giving out in \$150-\$500 checks. It also participated in a larger mutual aid fund,



El Pueblo

and pressed the state to provide COVID information in Spanish; to issue strong health and safety rules for the poultry processing and meatpacking industries in the state, both of which have a largely Latinx workforce and to get free testing for farmworkers; and to provide financial aid to undocumented people. The organization won in-language information and aid to undocumented people, but the state dragged its heels on regulation. “That’s why,” says Angeline Echeverria, “we are just 10 percent of the population, but 40 percent of the COVID-19 cases.”

While El Pueblo was unable to win new progressive policies, it was able to stop some very regressive ones: helping to defeat a “partial birth” abortion ban passed by the legislature, but vetoed by the Governor, a veto that was sustained, and a bill that would have forced

sheriffs to fully cooperate with ICE, a bill opposed by many sheriffs who had already limited or halted cooperation with ICE. That bill was again passed by the legislature, but vetoed by the Governor in a veto that has yet to be challenged. El Pueblo believes that the power of its organized constituency has forced the legislature to let the veto stand.

Black liberation uprisings and direct actions occurred in several North Carolina cities, and El Pueblo did events in support and educated its members.

“We have been talking a lot about anti-Blackness in Latinx communities for a long time and now we are seeing it. We had responses ready and we were equipped to address that narrative around looting. We are talking about the differences between the words “uprising” and “riot” in Spanish, and engaging people however we can. We have anti-Blackness workshops in all of our leadership trainings and board and staff trainings, so it was a continuation, not something new.”

— ANGELINE ECHEVERRIA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EL PUEBLO



National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice

LOCATION: New York, NY

GRANT AMOUNT: \$90,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2004

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: IVE program participant, COVID-19 Emergency Support, Ms. Foundation for Women Catalyst sub-grantee
www.latinainstitute.org

The National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice (Latina Institute) builds Latina/x power to fight for the fundamental human right to reproductive health, dignity, and justice. The Latina Institute amplifies the grassroots power and thought leadership of Latinas/xs across the country to fuel a larger reproductive justice movement by mobilizing communities, transforming cultural narrative, and driving policy change to advance equal access to reproductive health for Latina/x communities. Headquartered in New York City, the Latina Institute has bases in FL, NY, TX, and VA. In 2020, the Latina Institute continued to build its non-partisan civic engagement infrastructure. Focus was on training new staff and activists to use digital organizing tools such as Every Action and Zoom. The Latina Institute also continued to develop its new Poderos (Might) Mountain leadership development framework, which includes a qualitative assessment of leadership skills and approaches leadership development as a non-linear and collective journey, rather than a linear, individual one. This new framework meets activists wherever they are in their leadership development, linking their contributions, at whatever level, to the collective Poderos Mountain of reproductive freedom for all. In VA, the Latina Institute and coalition partners celebrated a historic, long, and hard-fought victory in 2020 when the Virginia legislature passed the Reproductive Health Protection Act (RHPA), signed into law by Governor Northam. RHPA removed restrictions on access to abortion that disproportionately affected low-income people, and rural, Latinx, and BIPOC communities. The legislation also ended the state's TRAP (targeted restrictions on abortion providers) laws, enacted to shutdown abortion-providing health centers with requirements such as a specified number of parking spaces or clinic hallway width. Prior to RHPA, the state required patients seeking abortion to undergo biased counseling, medically unnecessary ultrasounds, and a mandatory 24-hour waiting period, all of which were huge barriers to those seeking abortion care. In 2021, the Latina

Institute will work closely with its activists at the state level to develop community-informed policy priorities focused on sexual and reproductive healthcare and the removal of barriers facing immigrant Latina/x communities.

Trans Queer Pueblo

LOCATION: Phoenix, AZ

GRANT AMOUNT: \$50,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2017

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: GOI program participant, COVID-19 Emergency Support, 2020 Rapid Response Fund grantee, Healing Justice grantee
www.tqpueblo.org

Trans Queer Pueblo (TQP) cultivates the leadership of undocumented trans and queer Latinx people in Phoenix, AZ. TQP is rooted in radical wellbeing practices, integrating a clinic and direct services with political education to create a pathway to organizing. Mutual aid as an organizing practice is foundational to TQP's work. As a result, in 2020 when the state of AZ issued a no-contact quarantine order, the organization was able to pivot its operations to meet the needs of the community of undocumented LGBTQ people it serves and organizes. In July, nearly 85 percent of TQP's community experienced job loss, and had little or no chance of receiving government relief. TQP distributed funds to nearly 90 people, as well as to people recently released from detention across 11 states to cover rent, food, utilities, medication, and legal costs. For three months, the organization changed its hours and offered individual care via two virtual clinic days and one in-person day at its clinic. Physical care was accompanied by monthly wellness meetings that promoted healing through literature, meditation, yoga nidra in Spanish, and spirituality. TQP also launched an accountability campaign to protect local residents who could not pay their water bills. The City of Phoenix promised not to shut off the water of residents who could not pay their bills; however, the City instead started to limit these household's water use, failing to provide enough water to keep people clean, safe, and sanitary during the pandemic. Over the next year, TQP will continue its long-term advocacy to decriminalize sex work. Also, in response to revelations that ICE is performing forced hysterectomies in detention centers, TQP will partner with the Florence Project to provide education to detained LGBTQ immigrants of color, including information about sexual health and gender identity, to support their bodily autonomy and safety.



West Fund

The Knights and Orchids Society

LOCATION: Selma, AL

GRANT AMOUNT: \$35,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2018

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: COVID-19 Emergency Support, 2020 Rapid Response Fund grantee after COVID-19 Emergency Support

www.tkosociety.com

The Knights and Orchids Society (TKO) is a Southern-centered grassroots organization led by Black trans and queer people in Selma, AL. TKO works at the intersections of racial and gender justice to empower its mostly rural, Black, low-income trans community through HIV and sexual health service provision, voter engagement, and advocacy. In 2019, when Alabama passed the most restrictive abortion ban in the nation that made abortion a felony with few exceptions, TKO's base organized rallies that led to several other groups holding rallies across the state and an outcry from women, trans men, and gender non-conforming people. Ultimately, a federal judge blocked the ban, pending consideration by the U.S. Supreme Court. In 2020, TKO organized its members and successfully collaborated with the Yellowhammer Fund, an AL-based abortion fund, to stop a bill that would have restricted transitional care for transgender and gender non-conforming youth in AL by making it a felony for any doctor or healthcare provider to prescribe medications intended to delay the onset of puberty or to perform gender-affirming procedures for transgender youth. After the bill died in committee, TKO expanded its health and wellness programming to support families with transgender children because the closest TGNC-

friendly provider is 150 miles away from Selma. TKO offers mutual aid support, financial planning, support with legal documentation changes, and connection to a digital network of friendly providers for AL's Black trans communities. The organization's RJ Free Store also provides essential items such as condoms, menstrual products, diapers, and sex ed information for women, children, babies, and trans people. In response to the pandemic, TKO led mutual aid efforts that provided 1,000 pounds of fresh produce to Black communities in Selma. TKO prioritizes civic engagement in Selma to educate and activate Black trans people, youth, and people living with HIV. In the 2020 election, TKO helped to get out the vote, ensuring that marginalized communities historically ignored by traditional campaign outreach had the information necessary to vote and make informed decisions at the ballot box.

West Fund

LOCATION: El Paso, TX

GRANT AMOUNT: \$35,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2018

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: COVID-19 Emergency Support, Third Wave Fund Catalyst sub-grantee

www.westfund.org

Embedded in the border community of El Paso, West Fund is a volunteer-led abortion fund headed by young women of color and queer people rooted in reproductive justice values. Through education, community building, and gap funding, West Fund empowers West Texans to access abortion care and the healthcare they deserve. West Fund strives to be more than an abortion fund, taking



Sylvia Rivera Law Project

a stance on intersectional issues that impact access to abortion for its local communities, such as gentrification, immigrant rights, the environment, sexual health, and voter engagement. In response to the traumatic 2019 mass shooting that targeted Latinx Walmart shoppers, West Fund brought together 14 leading community organizations for a healing event to address white supremacy and racism in El Paso, to build power and relationships for future organizing, and to create a community altar. West Fund's Fronterizx Community Project (FCP) engages in youth-led advocacy to change the sexual health education policies of local School Health Advisory Councils, in order to secure support and funding to implement evidence-based, culturally appropriate comprehensive sex education in regional school districts. Hampered by the pandemic in 2020, FCP still convened student-led town halls on topics ranging from mental health, pleasure, and anatomy. The project also plans to develop the political education and practical advocacy skills of high school students through participation in stipend-supported trainings, meetings, workshops, school district advocacy, and community projects, and hopes to expand in to neighboring Las Cruces, NM, and involving more teen parents. At the onset of the pandemic, Texas Governor Gregg Abbott attempted to deem abortion as nonessential healthcare, which ballooned the volume of West Fund callers seeking abortion care in neighboring NM and forcing the organization to spend a lot of its funding and to prioritize minors calling for support. In 2021, West Fund will continue to strengthen its staffing, volunteer base, and Caller-to-Leadership pipeline. It will also launch a program to build its base through grounded conversations in its predominantly Catholic community about voting, abortion access, and creating the families we choose. West Fund remains a co-plaintiff, alongside

Groundswell grantee The Afiya Center and other local partners, in The People's Lawsuit, filed in 2018 in TX to challenge several anti-abortion laws that disproportionately harm women of color, immigrants, and low-income women.

Sylvia Rivera Law Project

LOCATION: New York, NY

GRANT AMOUNT: \$60,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2013

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: GOI program participant, COVID-19 Emergency Support
www.srlp.org

Sylvia Rivera Law Project (SRLP) was created to guarantee that all people are free to self-determine their gender identity and expression, regardless of income or race, and without facing harassment, discrimination, or violence. SRLP views the policing of gender identity, including discrimination based on gender identity and expression, as a form of reproductive oppression, because it denies the freedom of all people to maintain bodily autonomy, access to necessary healthcare, and meaningful control over their reproductive lives. In 2020, SRLP members, many facing homelessness, were very vulnerable to the health and economic impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic. In response, SRLP launched a mini-grant program that provided mutual aid stipends to 80 members and laptops to 70 of its leaders. Under the banner #HomelessCantStayHome, SRLP's Shelter Organizing Committee advocated for #CancelRent and the need to offer wi-fi at homeless shelters to allow folks to better access resources and services. At the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic, SRLP leaders went out into the community to supply PPE and food, and also paid for hotels



ACCESS Reproductive Justice

for some members. As a result of concerns over COVID-19 safety in prisons, SLRP received over 500 letters from trans and gender non-conforming (TGNC) people who were incarcerated. SRLP volunteers responded, cataloging the issues raised in the letters to inform the development of a future #FreeThemAll Campaign. On the policy front, SLRP is a key leader in the development of recommendations to the NY Board of Corrections on humane treatment of TGNC people in the criminal justice system. SLRP's Prisoner Advisory Committee will release a revised version of its seminal 2007 report, *It's War in Here*, which exposed the conditions that transgender women face in men's prisons. The new report makes recommendations on how to make prisons safer for TGNC people. In 2021, SLRP will continue its Campaign for Safe Shelter #DHSIsAMess, targeting the city Department of Homeless Services (DHS) to improve the support and safety of TGNC people in the shelter system. Additionally, SRLP's work will continue to uplift narrative and social media strategy to end solitary confinement in NY state prisons, centering the need for clemency and prison abolition.

ACCESS Reproductive Justice

LOCATION: Bay Area, CA

GRANT AMOUNT: \$30,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2016

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: GOI program participant, COVID-19 Emergency Support

www.accesswhj.org

ACCESS Reproductive Justice is an abortion fund that combines direct services, community education, and advocacy to remove barriers to reproductive healthcare and build the power of communities to demand health, justice,

and dignity. ACCESS advances legislation in CA, modeling for other abortion funds how to incorporate the experience and expertise of those who use its services in advocacy efforts. In 2019, ACCESS helped win CA's historic [College Student Right to Access Act](#) that makes medication abortion available on all state university and college campuses. With the COVID-19 pandemic, ACCESS saw an uptick in callers to its Healthline, including a noticeable increase of people calling from outside the state. Almost 80 percent of callers had lost income or employment due to the pandemic, and 23 percent had to reschedule a sexual or reproductive healthcare appointment (e.g., accessing birth control, pregnancy testing, and post-natal care). While many organizations have launched mutual aid programs since the onset of the pandemic, abortion funds such as ACCESS have been practicing radical resource redistribution for decades. For example, in 2020 alone, ACCESS's Practical Support Volunteers provided in-kind support to Healthline callers, including rides, overnight homestays, and other logistical supports, as well as taking on fundraising for the organization so it could aid more people. In 2021, ACCESS will expand its base in Southern CA and partner with the National Institute for Reproductive Health on a campaign to secure funding in the Los Angeles County budget for logistical support for people seeking abortion care. Inspired by similar municipal-level models in New York City and Austin, the campaign seeks to create access through funding for lodging, transportation, and childcare for pregnant people from the most marginalized communities and rural areas.



Our Bodies, Our Communities, Our Planet

The Fight for Reproductive and Environmental Justice in the Face of Climate Change

California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative

LOCATION: Oakland, CA

GRANT AMOUNT: \$80,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2008

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: IVE program participant,
COVID-19 Emergency Support, 2020 Rapid
Response Fund grantee
www.cahealthynailsalons.org

The California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative (The Collaborative) educates and organizes nail salon workers and owners to build their knowledge and skills on health, safety, and workplace rights. The Collaborative engages in local and statewide advocacy in support of salon workers, and sprung into action when its base was deeply impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Nail salons, as nonessential businesses, were closed throughout the state for months, leaving workers unemployed indefinitely. The Collaborative provided direct emergency aid to 500 manicurists, and assisted hundreds more in filing applications for relief. It partnered with the UCLA Labor Center to survey 600 manicurists and 90 salon owners on the impacts of COVID-19; unsurprisingly, the survey revealed that since the closures, three-quarters of surveyed workers expressed doubt that they would be able to afford food and other necessities in the next month. As salons began to reopen, the Collaborative developed guidance for how to open safely and maintain rigor in safety practices, as reportedly, many salon owners are not enforcing safety standards consistently. In addition to its COVID-19 response work,

the Collaborative has continued its voter engagement and advocacy efforts. In 2020, the Collaborative alongside Groundswell grantees Black Women for Wellness and Women's Voices for the Earth helped to win the [Cosmetic Fragrance and Flavor Right to Know Act](#) to safeguard the health of women of color. It is the first law in the nation to require ingredient disclosure of toxic fragrance and flavor chemicals found in cosmetics, personal care, and professional salon products. This law will force corporations to reveal allergens, neurotoxins, and other chemicals linked to cancer, birth defects, and reproductive health problems. The Collaborative's "Auntie Squad," a group of worker members, is utilizing deep canvassing strategies in its outreach, engaging community members on a range of issues, including access to reproductive healthcare.

Women's Voices for the Earth

LOCATION: Missoula, MT

GRANT AMOUNT: \$60,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2016

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: COVID-19 Emergency
Support
www.womensvoices.org

Women's Voices for the Earth (WVE) seeks to amplify women's voices to eliminate the toxic chemicals that harm their health and communities. WVE uses corporate campaigns, policy advocacy, litigation, communications, and digital organizing to decrease exposure to toxics and eliminate their use. In 2019, WVE won state legislation



Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT)

Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT)

LOCATION: Anchorage, AK

GRANT AMOUNT: \$85,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2016

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: IVE program participant, COVID-19 Emergency Support, 2020 Rapid Response Fund grantee
www.akaction.org

Founded in 1997, Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT) is a statewide environmental and reproductive health and justice organization whose goal is to reduce toxics, protect ecosystems, and hold government, corporations, and the military accountable to the community. Working primarily with Alaska Native communities, ACAT builds power through an integrated voter engagement (IVE) strategy that includes base-building and grassroots organizing, leadership development, policy advocacy, strategic communications, and alliance building, focusing at the local, state, national and international levels to advance its goals. Alaska is home to 2,000 military and industrial hazardous waste sites, many close to Indigenous communities. High pollution levels are compounded by geography, cold climate, and a fat-based food web, which result in the accumulation of toxins in fish and wildlife and affect the health and fertility of Alaska Natives who rely on wild foods for subsistence.

ACAT advocates for policies that will reduce exposure to the chemicals linked to the major reproductive justice concerns of Native villages: premature and still births, birth defects, poor infant health, infertility, spontaneous abortions, endometriosis, and reproductive cancers. In 2017, ACAT won an Anchorage ordinance banning the use of pesticides in city owned properties, including parks, and helped reduce the use of pesticides in city schools, and will continue its campaign to win a state law that would ban the use of toxic, carcinogenic flame retardants that put children at great risk of a variety of health effects, from cancer to respiratory problems and developmental disorders. Through its leadership in the International Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Elimination Network and participation in the Stockholm Convention on POPs, ACAT has helped win global bans on nearly a dozen reproductive toxicants, all of which accumulate in the Arctic region.

In March 2020, ACAT was poised to win a statewide ban on some flame-retardants, but when the pandemic hit, the legislature essentially shut down, stalling action on for the rest of the year. ACAT rapidly shifted its own gears, stopping all in person organizing and outreach, and moving to virtual strategies. As Founder and Director Pam Miller explains, "We quickly moved to everyone working at home, but it was hard because not everyone had equipment and access. We have had one person in the office because she had no other way to work. We maintained our phone canvasses, which were more

“We tried to provide support to communities. For example, St Lawrence Island has no running water, so we provided people with non-toxic cleaning products and sanitizers, along with information on alternatives to toxic products. So many places in rural AK don’t have running water; it’s a huge challenge. The state did not do much, maybe some funding, but no direct services, no. Most of that was done by nonprofits. We helped with food in Anchorage via our Yard-o-topia toxic-free gardening program. We built neighborhood and community gardens, and provided food to food banks and pantries. We grew and distributed hundreds of pounds of fresh produce.”

– PAM MILLER, FOUNDER & DIRECTOR, ACAT

successful than usual because people are at home. We called every member of our base to check in on them. ACAT staff made those calls directly. People appreciated that.”

ACAT’s robust and successful integrated voter engagement program has grown during this pandemic year. “It’s hard not to meet people face to face, but because of virtual technologies, we’ve actually increased

participation in places that are isolated and expensive to travel to. So many of our communities are not connected by roads, so we have to connect virtually, but they don’t have broadband and bandwidth, so are going back to the phone. And it’s working. Voter engagement is going great. We did canvasses on legislation and on the Census in July and August.”

In late September, ACAT launched a final get-out-the-vote canvass of 40,000 voters, primarily in rural Alaska, and on young voters, voters of color, young indigenous men, and indigenous women. ACAT used phone, text, and other digital outreach methods, and sent a mailer to those 40,000 households informing people about how to vote by mail and vote safely.



International Indian Treaty Council

traditional cultures, environmental justice, and sacred lands, is an international leader in the fight for the rights of Indigenous women to live free from environmental reproductive toxins. In 2019, IITC continued to bring to light the pervasive human rights and environmental health impacts of pesticides in Indigenous communities, carrying out advocacy to create policy change from the tribal/local to the international arenas, and working with grassroots Indigenous food producers to implement safe alternatives based on traditional knowledge and practices. IITC advocacy helped win a prohibition on the import of over 300 highly toxic pesticides by the Government of Mexico, the result of long years of partnership with the Yaqui Nation communities of Sonora, Mexico. As part of its goal to build the engagement capacity of Indigenous peoples, especially Indigenous women from affected communities, IITC organized, co-coordinated, or presented at some 15 workshops and events with community, Tribal, and organizational partners in Indigenous communities and at Indigenous Peoples' regional, national, and international gatherings and conferences. These workshops and events addressed the impacts of toxic pesticides, organizing for policy change, and implementing/restoring sustainable alternatives. In 2020, Indigenous communities faced some of the direst, most deadly impacts of COVID-19. In May, IITC helped provide PPE (96,000 masks and 50,000 units of hand sanitizer) to Indigenous Tribes and communities with high numbers of COVID-19 cases. IITC's

Tucson office received and distributed new PPE to Yaqui communities, elders, youth, and health workers, and to the Yoemem Tekia Foundation in AZ; the eight Pueblos in Rio Yaqui Sonora, Mexico; the Tohono O'odham and Opata communities in AZ; and 11 tribes in MN. Focus areas for IITC's upcoming work include ensuring the protection and defense of Indigenous Peoples food systems, traditional foods and medicines, and food sovereignty in order to increase resilience, health, and independence in the face of climate change, and current and future pandemics. It will also increase the participation of affected Tribal members in UN Convention processes focused on reducing exposure to toxic contaminants that affect reproductive and inter-generational health, such as agrochemicals and mercury, protecting biological diversity, defending intellectual property and cultural heritage, holding corporations accountable for human rights violations, combatting racial discrimination, and addressing climate change.



Sustaining Movements

Centering Healing Justice for Longevity in the RJ Movement

Positive Women's Network

LOCATION: Oakland, CA

GRANT AMOUNT: \$75,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2016

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: GOI Program

Participant, COVID-19 Emergency Support, Healing Justice grantee

Positive Women's Network–USA (PWN) is a multiracial organization led by and accountable to women living with HIV, the majority of whom are Black cisgender and transgender women. PWN works to prepare and involve trans and cis women living with HIV in all levels of policy and decision-making to improve the quality of women's lives, by: combating HIV-related stigma and demonstrating that women living with HIV are part of the solution; training and supporting HIV-positive women leaders; creating and sharing tools for women and HIV advocates; and mobilizing for strategic campaigns to change policies.

The COVID-19 global pandemic reveals challenges that the HIV community is uniquely positioned to solve, including how to create a public health response that is grounded in human rights. For years, PWN led efforts to

make racial justice and bodily autonomy issues — like HIV criminalization and Molecular HIV surveillance — central issues within the national HIV movement. In 2020, PWN built on this foundation by expanding its focus to COVID-19 surveillance and criminalization that disproportionately threaten people of color, transgender people, and low-income communities. In partnership with other HIV organizations, including Groundswell grantee Transgender Law Center, PWN launched [The Health Not Prisons Collective](#) to ensure that the most vulnerable communities, including sex workers and people who use substances, are protected not criminalized during the pandemic. The collective aims to combat anti-Black racism, to end criminalization in both the HIV and COVID-19 pandemics, and to abolish prisons.

Organizing in a highly vulnerable community, PWN pivoted from street outreach to phonebanking for the Census and 2020 election. PWN focused on protecting voting rights and voting by mail as key HIV issues. Leading up to the nomination of Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney-Barrett, PWN put out an action alert calling on people to contact their senators to delay the confirmation and educated its base about her harmful track record on reproductive rights, LGBTQ rights, and racial justice.

“The racial injustices and health disparities we see in COVID are not new — they are the same injustices that underlie HIV and so many RJ issues. Our members across the country are essential workers. Many can't quarantine given their living situations. We've seen a huge amount of loss of community members this year. With the uprisings, there is also increasing anti-Black and anti-trans violence and criminalization facing our members. We're clear that we're in a fight for the survival of our people. It's non-negotiable that we will have to do whatever we can to take care of them.”

— NAINA KHANNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, POSITIVE WOMEN'S NETWORK

The organization also met the material needs of its base by launching a COVID-19 emergency response fund for women living with HIV. In reflecting on lessons learned from HIV movement history, Khanna said, “People living with HIV survived because we had community. Listening to the viral language about COVID has been traumatizing to people living with HIV who are surviving two pandemics. As a response, PWN is centering community this year. We held safe in-person cookouts and jeopardy games to keep up morale when people couldn’t connect virtually. We launched an emergency fund that disappeared quickly to pay for rent, food, and other basic needs. We are being responsive to the higher purpose of this moment and what PWN is being called to do: we are eliminating non-urgent work for our staff. We are focused on meeting the needs of our constituency, not deliverables.”

In 2020, PWN took on fights for reproductive justice and abortion access, contacting 60,000 voters to defeat Colorado’s Proposition 115, a ballot initiative that would have banned abortions after 22 weeks. Many voters PWN spoke to didn’t know abortion access was on the ballot, since the measure was written in a deliberately confusing way. In addition, PWN worked to pass Colorado’s Proposition 118, a historic measure that guarantees 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave paid at 90% of wages.

PWN deepened its internal work around healing justice. Venita Ray, Deputy Director notes, “Although we have always centered racial, economic, and gender justice, in recent years, PWN has increasingly seen the need to elevate and make more explicit our stance as a racial and gender justice organization, requiring substantial, sustained internal work. It is clear that healing justice must be integrated into every aspect of this work. Over the last couple of years, we began to explore ways to integrate healing into all of our organizing and policy activities. We are now constantly exploring strategies to comprehensively integrate healing

justice knowledge, principles and intentional practice into the organization.”

In a year marked by global uprisings for Black liberation, PWN took action to defend Black lives. Externally, PWN’s Colorado chapter organized to get police out of schools in The Western Slope region, leading textbanks, phonebanks, and building a base of support among people of color. PWN’s Black organizers in Colorado faced death threats after being highly visible in leading the uprisings, leading the organization to focus more on safety and security. Internally, PWN strengthened support for Black leaders who make up the majority of the organization. In late 2019, PWN had piloted a Black WLHIV Healing Justice Collective workgroup to address healing and racial justice in the organization. The workgroup held its first healing justice retreat facilitated by BEAM to create a healing justice framework; train 18 Black women from PWN’s current and former staff, board members, founders and members about healing justice principles; and develop a plan to infuse healing justice for Black women within the organization. This laid the foundation for 2020 where PWN was able to retain Erica Woodland, an external consultant from BEAM, to provide support to its Black women’s workgroup who were facing trauma and stress from the pandemic, state-sanctioned violence, and losing access to the direct services they rely on, including mental health and substance use counseling.

Like other Catalyst grantees, PWN tried to live into its RJ values as an employer in 2020: it worked remotely, went down to four day work week until September, gave flexible work schedules and additional laptops to staff who were homeschooling, and provided internet stipends to upgrade staff’s home internet. These organizational development issues helped to create a more sustainable work environment.

“As majority Black trans and cisgender women living with HIV, PWN leaders — including staff, board members, and other key leaders in the organization — need a space to support their own healing and self-care to maintain emotional and spiritual wellness and to reflect on ways to integrate healing justice better into the organization and into community organizing and advocacy as a whole. As a result, increasingly we understand that healing justice is the work — not an addition to the work.”

— VENITA RAY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, POSITIVE WOMEN’S NETWORK



ACT for Women and Girls

ACT for Women and Girls

LOCATION: Visalia, CA

GRANT AMOUNT: \$45,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2017

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: IVE program participant, COVID-19 Emergency Support, 2020 Rapid Response Fund grantee

www.actforwomenandgirls.org

ACT for Women and Girls develops young women's leadership to help eradicate the injustice that lies deep in the roots of CA's Tulare County and Central Valley. Through its multiple leadership development programs, ACT engages young women in campaigns to advance RJ. In 2019, ACT helped win two landmark state laws: the [College Student Right to Access Act](#) that makes medication abortion available on all state university and college campuses, and the [California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act](#) that addresses racial bias in perinatal care. During the pandemic, ACT organized to win rent cancellation; educated its communities about the need to shift local budgets away from policing towards investing in services that help the community thrive (e.g., education, public transportation, and healthcare); and launched a new Youth Parents Program. Its Pharmacy Access ACTion Team also secret shopped Tulare County pharmacies and reported on the barriers facing young people seeking emergency contraceptives. In response to the pandemic, ACT offered online healing spaces through a new Mindful Action Collective and launched a mutual aid fund that awarded over \$26,000 to youth members, alumni, undocumented families, young parents, LGBTQ people,

and community members facing income instability. A participant in Groundswell's Integrated Voter Engagement program, ACT's Know Your Voter Rights online outreach and education program helped young people understand the importance of voting, particularly for local offices that determine resource allocation and affect the criminalization of Latinx youth and youth of color.

Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health

LOCATION: Chicago, IL

GRANT AMOUNT: \$50,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2006

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: GOI program participant, COVID-19 Emergency Support, 2020 Rapid Response Fund grantee, Chicago Foundation for Women sub-grantee

www.icaah.org

Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health (ICAH) promotes access to sexual healthcare, comprehensive sex education, and comprehensive support for pregnant and parenting youth. In 2019, ICAH helped support the passage of the [IL Reproductive Health Act](#) that protects access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare, including abortion, and is one of the most comprehensive RJ laws ever enacted. Over the past year, ICAH developed a #StopPNA website to collect petition signatures and advance digital advocacy for the repeal of Parental Notification of Abortion. 2020 created new challenges for ICAH, whose staff is composed of Black and Brown, TGNC youth, who felt the burden of the social conditions that shaped the year—the pandemic and resultant economic upheaval, rising white nationalism, continuing state violence, and



Power U Center for Social Change

Black liberation uprisings. ICAH quickly pivoted to meet the needs of its staff, many of whom were experiencing burnout, by creating check in spaces, reducing workloads, and taking an intentional month-long break to explore how rest fits into RJ and how to prioritize caring for self, family, and community. During the pandemic, ICAH's sexuality education work continued to evolve. As schools and school-based clinics remained closed—and as misinformation continued to circulate online—ICAH is working to ensure that Chicago youth have access to sexual health resources. As part of its efforts to provide accessible information and education, ICAH digitized its revolutionary sex education curriculum, *A Pleasure Centered Guide to S.L.A.Y.: Sexually Liberated and Affirmed Youth*, which is LGBTQIA+ inclusive and medically accurate, and approaches sex and sexuality from an RJ framework. In addition, ICAH's local mutual aid projects provided contraceptive and sexual health resources for youth and a COVID-19 guide to sexual and reproductive health resources. In early 2021, ICAH will release new episodes of *Time to CHAT*, an RJ podcast created by ICAH youth organizers; the first features members discussing quarantine and a range of topics including politics, family life, self and community care, and disability justice, and the second features members discussing sex ed facts, sex positivity, and adultism during COVID-19. ICAH will adapt its highly sought-after workshops to online platforms and deepen the leadership and organizing skills of 20 youth leaders through its Change, Heal, Act Together (CHAT) Network.

Power U Center for Social Change

LOCATION: Miami, FL

GRANT AMOUNT: \$30,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2015

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: IVE program participant, COVID-19 Emergency Support, 2020 Rapid Response Fund grantee

www.poweru.org

Power U Center for Social Change organizes Black women and Black and Brown youth in Miami to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline, and advance RJ and self-determination for all. Power U's political framework centers public sector budget processes as a key mechanism through which oppressive policies are imposed and as change levers that can increase community self-governance. Power U's youth civic engagement campaigns target the Miami-Dade County Public School Board, advocating for full access to reproductive health services, increased funding for school counselors and other student support systems, and reduced spending on harsh punishment and school policing. In response to COVID-19, Power U began distributing care packages to community members, and is now finalizing a process to continue delivering aid over the medium term. It is also revamping its leadership development program in order to engage in deeper political education and foster more engagement among members. In 2021, Power U will partner with other local RJ organizations to plan for and launch a youth abortion fund, serving parts of South Florida.



Movement Infrastructure

Organizations that Scaffold and Support the RJ Movement

National Network of Abortion Funds

LOCATION: National

GRANT AMOUNT: \$75,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2016

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: COVID-19 Emergency Support

www.abortionfunds.org

National Network of Abortion Funds (NNAF) builds power with its member funds to remove financial and logistical barriers to abortion access for communities that experience ever-increasing barriers to care, including low-income women, people of color, young people, immigrants, and trans and gender nonconforming people. NNAF provides capacity-building support to its 71 member funds and centers people who have abortions within culture change efforts, such as its [Everyone Loves Someone who Had an Abortion](#) video, and intersectional organizing campaigns that address the systemic conditions that create the need for abortion funds in the first place. In 2019, NNAF concluded a second year of its policy cohort that brought together 10 member funds working in hostile and proactive states. The cohort explored the issue of self-managed abortion, focusing on education, legal considerations, and power-building strategies to change existing laws, including decriminalizing self-management and challenging state laws restricting telemedicine. NNAF's policy team provides guidance and training for member funds interested in policy advocacy, including those that in 2019 submitted testimony in favor of IL's landmark [Reproductive Health Act](#) and that successfully organized to secure funding for abortion in the Austin, TX municipal budget. During the Coronavirus pandemic, NNAF funds saw a spike in callers

needing mutual aid and support. NNAF pledged to raise \$2 million to make up the budget gaps facing its struggling member funds, raising the money despite having to cancel its largest Bowl-a-thon fundraiser in response to COVID-19. NNAF demonstrated leadership by living into its RJ values internally and creating a 32-hour work week, extending paid leave, and supporting staff who are caregivers. In response to calls to #DefundThePolice, NNAF drew inspiration from the Movement for Black Lives and made connections for its audience between state violence, abortion, and a nation willing to prioritize funding for policing over funding for safe communities, environmental justice, abortion care, and healthy pregnancies. In the face of increasing state-level abortion restrictions, NNAF continues to strengthen the regional connections and scale the capacity of funds on the frontlines of providing money, logistical support, and nascent policy advocacy. Through its Network Movement Building Lab, NNAF seeks to build up Southern and Mid-Atlantic funds to become locally-rooted organizing groups that can build the power of their communities to take action on diverse reproductive justice issues.

Raising Women's Voices

LOCATION: Washington, DC

GRANT AMOUNT: \$80,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2013

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: COVID-19 Emergency Support

www.raisingwomensvoices.net

Launched in 2007, Raising Women's Voices (RWV) is a national initiative co-led by MergerWatch, the National Women's Health Network, and the Black Women's Health



Transgender Law Center

Imperative that catalyzes grassroots action to ensure that the voices of women and LGBTQ folks, particularly people of color, are heard in healthcare reform debates and decisions. RWV's work is rooted at the state-level thanks to its extensive field network of regional coordinators in 27 states, including Groundswell grantees MS Black Women's Roundtable, Trans Queer Pueblo, The Afiya Center, COLOR, New Voices for Reproductive Justice, and CA Latinas for Reproductive Justice. RWV recruits, trains, and supports these regional coordinators, helping them gain seats at the table in statewide health reform coalitions and on state exchange workgroups and advisory boards. In response to the police murders of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd and an out-of-control U.S. pandemic, RWV's lifted up the intersections of racially targeted police violence, health justice for Black communities, and the need for universal healthcare coverage, including comprehensive reproductive care, to address coverage gaps that are a result of a legacy of racism in the U.S. In an important election year, several of RWV's regional coordinators, in states like PA, OH, CO, MS, LA and elsewhere advanced civic engagement efforts within communities of color that connected with voters about the issues Black women and women of color care about, including Black maternal mortality, ICE-forced hysterectomies, and stopping the use of coercive reproductive technologies. In 2020, RWV will continue advocacy to protect the Affordable Care Act and expand Medicaid coverage in all states, including expanding coverage for doulas, extending postpartum period coverage, and lowering premiums to make the ACA more affordable in order to build towards healthcare for all.

Transgender Law Center

LOCATION: Oakland, CA

GRANT AMOUNT: \$50,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2017

OTHER GROUNDWELL SUPPORT: COVID-19 Emergency Support

www.transgenderlawcenter.org

Transgender Law Center (TLC) works to change law, policy, and attitudes so that all people can live safely, authentically, and free from discrimination regardless of their gender identity or expression. TLC is a leading trans voice in the fight to preserve healthcare access, Medicaid, and funding for reproductive healthcare clinics, many of which are at the forefront of providing medically and culturally competent care to trans communities. Grounded in legal expertise and committed to racial justice, TLC employs a variety of community-driven strategies on issues affecting transgender people, including healthcare access, HIV/AIDS, criminalization, and freedom from abuse and sexual violence for trans people in detention. In 2019, TLC supported a convening of Black, Indigenous, and people of color trans, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming advocates from across the U.S. to develop the Trans Agenda for Liberation, a first-ever national platform that provides a north star for TGNC community organizing, advocacy and litigation to advance a wide array of issues, including migrant justice, disability justice, racial justice, environmental justice, economic justice, and RJ. During the 2020 Black liberation uprisings, TLC held a two-day teach-

in about defunding the police with Groundswell grantees Movement for Black Lives, Southerners on New Ground, and Freedom, Inc, and launched a campaign to urge LGBTQ organizations to sign on in support of defunding the Minneapolis police department. In 2020, TLC also helped to win passage of an historic law that allows transgender, intersex and gender nonbinary people in CA to decide whether to be housed in a men's or women's prison. When the pandemic began, TLC provided digital convening space for its extensive national network of trans-led state and local grassroots partners and provided stipends to those leading mutual aid efforts. TLC leads impact litigation and advocacy against federal and state anti-trans policies, including the Trump administration's rollback of protections for transgender people under the Affordable Care Act. In the future, TLC will advance impact litigation, provide capacity building support for grassroots trans-led organizations, and continue its multi-issue advocacy, particularly focused on housing and criminalization of trans communities, HIV, and sex work.

SisterSong

LOCATION: Atlanta, GA

GRANT AMOUNT: \$30,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2008

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: Ms. Foundation for

Women Catalyst sub-grantee

www.sistersong.net

SisterSong is a membership organization that strengthens and amplifies the collective voices of women of color to achieve RJ. SisterSong is an important movement -building and political -education organization in the RJ movement, playing a thought leadership and culture change role through its RJ framework trainings and online webinars that reach tens of thousands of people each year. In 2019, SisterSong helped to win an important victory in GA when the state enacted an anti-shackling law that prohibits strip searches and shackling of incarcerated people during pregnancy, labor, and postpartum recovery. SisterSong also helped to block a harmful GA state policy that would have created an advisory board to administer licensure and regulation for midwives, making it harder for many already- practicing community-based midwives and women of color to qualify. In 2019, SisterSong, as part of the AMPLIFY GA coalition, won the creation of a Reproductive Justice Commission (RJC) in Atlanta that will make sure that local ordinances that address the RJ needs

of women, people who can give birth, and families. During the pandemic, SisterSong pivoted to online programming, holding an RJ Summer Institute that drew over 10,000 viewers nationally and hosting its popular Mama Talks for birthing families on a wide array of topics. In response to the Black liberation uprisings, SisterSong partnered with other Groundswell grantees to launch RJ for Black Lives and host an In Defense of Black Lives town hall to connect, educate, mobilize, and fund reproductive health, rights and justice advocates in support of Black liberation and calls to defund the police. In 2021, SisterSong will continue its important movement -building role, fostering understanding of RJ, both within and beyond the RJ movement, including influencing the RJ lens of partner Groundswell grantee Movement for Black Lives and deepening relationships with allied organizations in its state chapters (GA, NC, and KY). It will also expand its role in building RJ movement infrastructure by providing funding and capacity building for birth justice organizations.

Western States Center

LOCATION: Portland, OR

GRANT AMOUNT: \$50,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2006

www.westernstatescenter.org

Based in the Pacific Northwest and Mountain states, Western States Center (WSC) works nationwide to strengthen inclusive democracy so all people can live, love, worship, and work free from fear. WSC organizes its programming into four areas: Building Movement, Developing Leaders, Shifting Culture, and Defending Democracy. WSC's RJ work primarily falls under the first two areas. In 2020, as demonstrations in support of Black liberation took place across the country, WSC saw the ensuing crackdown on protest as a precursor to further government repression as the fall elections approached. It sued the federal government for bringing federal charges against progressive protestors when local authorities had declined to bring such charges; that suit is still under review. WSC also continues to deepen its investment in Tribal leadership, promoting and sharing its popular *Indigenizing Love* toolkit, written in partnership with Indigenous youth to equip leaders and allies with resources needed to support Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ communities. WSC remains an active member of the OR reproductive rights coalition, monitoring implementation of and defending the Reproductive Health Equity Act, the



Western States Center

landmark 2017 bill that ensured access to the full range of reproductive health services for all Oregonians. In addition to its leadership development and advocacy work, Western States continues to bring national-level thought leadership around the intersections between white supremacy, misogyny, and anti-Semitism.

Forward Together

LOCATION: Oakland, CA

GRANT AMOUNT: \$75,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2004

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: COVID-19 Emergency Support

www.forwardtogether.org

Forward Together (FT) unites communities to win rights, recognition, and resources for all families through civic engagement, movement building, and culture-shift. FT fights to dismantle the ways society marginalizes people based on race, sexuality, and gender. During the 2019 OR legislative session, FT played a leadership role, successfully advocating for three statewide policies that include HB 2015, which allows anyone to obtain a driver license regardless of immigration status; HB 3310, which reforms the way OR school districts elect board members along the lines of the National Voting Rights Act; and **HB 2005, Paid Family Medical Leave (PFML)**. The new statewide PFML policy will provide paid family and medical leave for all OR workers, using a broad definition of family that recognizes connections by blood and affinity. The PFML victory was

the result of years of coalition work with partners. As part of its 2020 civic engagement work, FT closely partnered with #WeCountOregon to lead outreach for the Census. As one of only two POC-led orgs in the coalition that has worked at scale, FT provided leadership in the planning and data infrastructure of the statewide program. Due to the pandemic, FT pivoted to conduct outreach primarily by phone, and still exceeded its goals, reaching over 13,000 people. In NM, during the 2020 NM legislative session, FT organized multiple advocacy days. With this new strategy, its leaders were a consistently visible presence at the state capitol, advocating 22 days out of the 30-day session! Altogether, FT mobilized 510 people, the vast majority of whom were people of color and Indigenous people, to the capitol, including repeat visits by some. During the grant period, FT launched a new department focused on advancing culture change for RJ and created a Cultural Strategy Lab to support Strong Families Network member organizations to integrate cultural strategy into social justice movements. The organizations in the Cultural Strategy Lab; Fanm Saj, and Groundswell grantees Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity (URGE) and Southern Birth Justice Network, joined FT to lead its 2020 Mamas Day campaign that included five virtual events, three short films uplifting young mamas, over 800 e-cards, and the creation of a 16-card affirmation deck and booklet featuring Mamas Day art. In 2021, FT's priorities in NM include organizing around the decriminalization of abortion by revising old abortion bans and advocating for a Medical Buy-In policy as a pathway to high quality healthcare access for all New Mexicans. In OR, FT plans to improve the health outcomes

for Black and Native Oregonians who give birth, increase access to life saving HIV-prevention medication, and eliminate hair discrimination for Black Oregonians.

Women's Policy Institute

LOCATION: Oakland, CA

GRANT AMOUNT: \$75,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2016

www.womensfoundca.org/policy/wpi

A leadership and public policy training program of the Women's Foundation of CA, the Women's Policy Institute (WPI) trains grassroots leaders to champion progressive state and local policies. More than 500 women and trans grassroots leaders, including several Groundswell grantees, have participated in WPI and its Alumni Network. WPI supports leaders to engage in the legislative process and to become community-based policy experts to address the injustices facing CA women, trans folks, low-income communities, and communities of color. Fellows are developed as leaders and work together on issue-based teams to advance policy change together at the local or state level. 2019 marked the WPI's 20th anniversary, and the organization scored a major win when the [College Student Right to Access Act](#) was signed into law, making California the first state to mandate that student health centers at all 34 state universities and colleges offer abortion medication. The WPI's reproductive justice team also achieved two major victories in 2020 when two bills were signed into law, one improving the quality of the healthcare and accommodations pregnant people receive in CA jails and the other reducing barriers to entry into the midwifery profession. WPI and the Women's Foundation are reassessing and shifting programs to be most responsive to community needs, including providing rapid response and immediate needs funding, engaging in anti-racism training, and diversifying the fellowship program by adding additional issue areas and attracting more TGNC participants.

National Advocates for Pregnant Women

LOCATION: New York, NY

GRANT AMOUNT: \$50,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2005

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: COVID-19 Emergency Support

www.nationaladvocatesforpregnantwomen.org

National Advocates for Pregnant Women (NAPW) combines legal advocacy and public education to achieve a country in which no one is arrested, shamed, or denied constitutional or human rights because they have the capacity for pregnancy, are pregnant, or because of any outcome of their pregnancies, including births, miscarriages, stillbirths and abortions. NAPW is a thought leader and longtime, valued support to many state-level women of color-led organizations, including Groundswell grantee Reproaction with whom NAPW partners to build opposition against WI's punitive Unborn Child Protection Act, which deters pregnant people who use substances from seeking prenatal care or substance abuse treatment for fear of incarceration. NAPW advances advocacy at the national, state, and local levels to ensure that substance use and other issues are addressed as health, rather than criminal, issues; that families are not needlessly separated based on medical misinformation; and that pregnant and parenting women have access to the full range of reproductive health and non-punitive substance treatment services. NAPW advances birth justice education and advocacy efforts, recently releasing a guide called [Birth Rights: A Resource for Everyday People to Defend Us During Birth](#) that has been used by birth workers and families across the U.S. In 2019, NAPW gave advice and signed onto an amicus brief for the June Medical Services, LLC v. Russo case that resulted in a U.S. Supreme Court decision that struck down a Louisiana anti-abortion law that would have closed all but one abortion clinic in the state. In 2021, NAPW will continue to pursue legal advocacy, amicus briefs, and pro-bono legal advice and support for attorneys' representing criminalized pregnant women. In the face of increasing anti-abortion laws and criminalization, NAPW will deepen its relationship with the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers to build the bench of attorneys concerned about the recent wave of anti-abortion bans at the state-level.



California Latinas for Reproductive Justice

California Latinas for Reproductive Justice

LOCATION: Los Angeles, CA

GRANT AMOUNT: \$30,000

GRANT HISTORY: Catalyst grantee since 2007

OTHER GROUNDSWELL SUPPORT: Ms. Foundation for Women Catalyst sub-grantee
www.californialatinas.org

California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ) is a statewide advocacy organization committed to promoting the reproductive and sexual health, rights, and justice of California Latinas/xs through policy advocacy, community education, and community-informed research. In 2019, CLRJ helped to pass two landmark laws: the historic [College Student Right to Access Act](#) that makes medication abortion available on all CA public university and college campuses, and the [California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act](#) that addresses racial bias in perinatal care. In addition, the organization helped to secure several pro-RJ policy wins, including bills that make it easier to obtain medication to prevent HIV transmission and that reduce arrests and criminalization of sex workers, including a bill that clarifies that condoms are not to be used as probable cause for arrest for prostitution charges. CLRJ's strength lies in legislative advocacy; it collaborates with several RJ partners across the state to advance pro-RJ policies and block harmful ones. In 2019, CLRJ began a community organizing pilot in Bell Gardens in southeast

L.A., to engage Latinas in RJ 101 training and political education and to identify issues for a grassroots campaign. COVID halted progress, but in 2021, the organization plans to explore a local housing justice campaign as part of this pilot program. In addition, it will continue advocacy, alliance building, and public education around two important RJ issues: defunding the police and combatting ICE sterilizations.



Catalyst Fund Grantmaking Partners

Chicago Foundation for Women

Since Chicago Foundation for Women (CFW) joined the Catalyst Fund in 2008, it has successfully matched more than \$1.6 million in Catalyst funds to award more than \$3 million in grants to local women of color-led RJ organizations. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, CFW provided hands-on support to Catalyst grantees Illinois Caucus on Adolescent Health, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, and Equal Hope about how to apply for and obtain COVID-19 response funding, including through the Paycheck Protection Program established under the federal CARES ACT. CFW Catalyst grantees also participated in foundation-sponsored board development and individual leadership development programs, and several also received rapid response funding for COVID-19 response work. CFW proposes to fund the following Chicago-based organizations for 2020 work using Catalyst resources:

- > **Arise Chicago**
- > **Equal Hope**
- > **EverThrive Illinois**
- > **Chicago Freedom School**
- > **Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health (ICAH)**
- > **Cabrini Green Legal Aid (CGLA)**
- > **Organizing Neighborhoods for Equality: Northside**
- > **National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) Chicago**
- > **Warehouse Workers for Justice**

Coming Clean

Founded in 2001, Coming Clean is a cutting-edge environmental health and justice collaborative that brings 178 diverse groups together around common causes to better protect public health. People of childbearing age, pregnant women, and children are acutely vulnerable to the hazardous impacts of industrial chemicals. Coming Clean houses the Environmental Justice Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform (EJHA), a nationwide network of grassroots environmental and economic justice groups in communities in 13 states that are disproportionately impacted by toxic chemicals from legacy contamination, ongoing exposure to polluting facilities, and health-harming chemicals in household products. As a Catalyst grantmaking partner, Coming Clean moves resources and provides technical assistance to several women of color-led grassroots environmental justice organizations across the country; these partners also collaborate with Coming Clean on research and campaign work.

Coming Clean proposes to fund the following organizations for work in 2021 using Catalyst resources:

- > **REACT (Rubbertown Environmental Action) (KY)**
- > **Delaware Concerned Residents for Environmental Justice (DCR4EJ) (DE)**
- > **Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (T.e.j.a.s) (TX)**
- > **Organización en California de Líderes Campesinas (CA)**
- > **Los Jardines Institute (NM)**
- > **Agri-Cultura Collaborative Network (NM)**
- > **People Organizing in Defense of Earth and her Resources (PODER) Austin (TX)**

Ms. Foundation for Women

2018 marks the tenth year of the Ms. Foundation's successful partnership with the Catalyst Fund. The Foundation leverages the voice, power, and expertise of women and girls of color, including Indigenous and transgender women, to transform systemic conditions so that they can live full, secure, and healthy lives, and to ensure safety, health, and economic opportunity for all. The Ms. Foundation continues to expand programming under its new strategic plan, launching its Activist Collaboration Fund and embarking on an assessment process to inform a new line of programming in support of RJ and Indigenous women. In response to COVID-19, the Foundation launched a series of webinars, *Financial Resiliency in a Time of Uncertainty*, in partnership with Financial Management Associates. Ms. Foundation proposes to fund the following organizations for work in 2021 using Catalyst resources:

- > **COLOR (CO)**
- > **Bold Futures (NM)**
- > **National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) (national)**
- > **National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice (national)**
- > **Native American Community Board (SD)**
- > **SisterReach (TN)**
- > **SisterSong (national)**
- > **Spark Reproductive Justice NOW (GA)**

The New York Women's Foundation

As a Catalyst grantmaking partner since 2008, the New York Women's Foundation (NYWF) continues to leverage Catalyst funding to generate more local resources for New York City's grassroots RJ organizations. NYWF's three priority funding areas are economic security, anti-violence and safety, and health and sexual rights. NYWF Catalyst grantees have access to NYWF's capacity-building and technical assistance grants and resources to support fundraising, board and organizational development, and leadership development. NYWF houses several collaborative philanthropic initiatives including the NYC Fund for Girls and Young Women of Color, the Fund for the Me Too Movement and Allies, the Resilience NYC initiative,

which looks at the impact of federal policies on women and communities of color locally, and the Justice Initiative and Fund, which focus on reducing the involvement of women and families in all aspects of the justice system. NYWF proposes to fund the following New York City-based organizations for work in 2021 using Catalyst resources:

- > **Black Women's Blueprint**
- > **Parent Legislative Action Network**
- > **Fostering Parent Advocacy**

Third Wave Fund

Third Wave Fund resources and supports youth-led gender justice activism to advance the political power, wellbeing, and self-determination of communities of color and low-income communities in the U.S. Third Wave locates itself at the intersection of gender, racial, and economic justice, and views RJ-focused grantmaking as an opportunity to strengthen young women of color-led organizations. Third Wave's Catalyst grantees are supported through its Grow Power Fund, which provides capacity-building support alongside multiyear general support investment. Grow Power is one of Third Wave's five funding streams; others include the Sex Worker Giving Circle and the Conflict Resolution Fund, which supports transformative approaches to repairing harm. Third Wave proposes to fund the following organizations for work in 2019 using Catalyst resources:

- > **West Fund (TX)**
- > **HEART for Women and Girls (IL)**
- > **Reproductive Justice Action Collective (LA)**

Third Wave will also allocate a portion of its Catalyst grantmaking dollars to support rapid response grants to RJ efforts.

Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Communities

Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Communities (SGF) supports Indigenous community initiatives through an integrated and dynamic program of small grants, issue advocacy, and capacity-building supports. SGF's Thriving Women's Initiative focuses on women-led work that responds to, prevents, and remedies issues of

violence against Indigenous women and, in turn, restores community wellbeing and vitality. The SGF Affiliate Program provides critical capacity building support and peer learning opportunities to grantees, including support for fundraising, organizational development, board development, campaign design, program implementation, and using new technologies. SGF is also a trusted fiscal sponsor of several Indigenous grassroots organizations. All grantees of the Thriving Women's Initiative, including those supported through the partnership with the Catalyst Fund, are a part of the evolving legacy of the larger Indigenous Movement, which is fundamentally rooted in self-determination of Indigenous peoples over their own lands, waters, bodies, and destinies as communities and sovereign nations.

SGF proposes to fund the following organizations for work in 2021 using Catalyst resources.

- > **Changing Woman Initiative, Navajo, Pueblos, urban Indigenous peoples, (NM)**
- > **Brave Heart Society, Ihanktonwan, Oceti Sakowin, (SD)**
- > **Urban Indigenous Collective, urban Indigenous peoples, (NY)**
- > **Sovereign Bodies Institute, Wiyot and Ohlone, (CA)**

Social Justice Fund NW Sub-Grantees (Colectiva Legal del Pueblo and U.T.O.P.I.A. Seattle)

In 2020, Social Justice Fund North West (SJFNW) took a hiatus from the Catalyst Fund grantmaking partner program due to its leadership transitions. As a result, the Catalyst Fund supported SJFNW's two Washington state-based Catalyst sub-grantees directly:

- > **Colectiva Legal del Pueblo** is a non-hierarchical collective organization founded for and by undocumented immigrants working to build

community leadership and power for migrant justice through legal advocacy and education. The organization's RJ policy aims include expanding health insurance coverage for undocumented people who make up nearly 1 in 3 uninsured people in WA state; expanding WA's Pregnancy Medical Program coverage from 60 days to one year postpartum; and increasing the state's Medicaid's "age out" from 19 to 26 years old for undocumented young people.

- > **U.T.O.P.I.A. Seattle** provides sacred spaces to strengthen the minds and bodies of queer and trans Pacific Islanders through community organizing, community care, civic engagement, and cultural stewardship. The organization advocates for bodily autonomy, safety and stability for queer and trans people in sex work, including ensuring equitable access to safer sex services and pushing for the decriminalization and destigmatization of sex work.

**To learn more about Groundswell's Catalyst Fund,
please contact Senior Program Officer Naa Hammond
at nhammond@groundswellfund.org**



GROUNDSWELL FUND

Groundswell Fund strengthens U.S. movements for reproductive and social justice by resourcing intersectional grassroots organizing and centering the leadership of women of color—particularly those who are Black, Indigenous, and Transgender.

www.groundswellfund.org