GROUNDSWELL FUND

# See us. Lift us. Fund us.

## 2021 Impact Report

# Our Liberation is Bound Together.

**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.**

## From the Movement, for the Movement

For nearly 20 years, Groundswell has put intersectional grassroots organizing led by women of color, including transgender and gender expansive people of color, at the center of our giving. Today, we are one of the largest funders of women of color-led organizing in the U.S, and of the Reproductive Justice Movement. Our giving looks different because of who we are: women of color and transgender and gender expansive people of color who directly come out of community, labor, and electoral organizing, and whose lived experience mirrors those of our grantees.

**We are one of the largest funders of women of color-led organizing in the United States and of the Reproductive Justice Movement.**

## Investing in Social Justice Movements

Since 2003, Groundswell Fund and our sibling 501(c)(4) organization, Groundswell Action Fund, have partnered with thousands of individual donors and foundations to move over $100 million to the field.

Over the last two decades, we've built an irrigation system for social justice movements – an essential channel into which donors and funders can pour resources to reach vital work at the grassroots.

## The Path Forward

2021 was the second year of our **Blueprint** – a bold plan to move another $100 million ($80 million via Groundswell Fund and $20 million via Groundswell Action Fund) to the field between 2020-2025. Our Blueprint is an invitation to donors and funders to team with us in supporting movements on a larger scale.

## Revolutionizing Philanthropy

**Groundswell models a remarkable kind of philanthropy – proving that building solidarity and beloved community across all lines of race, class, and gender is possible. We support U.S. movements for reproductive and social justice in three ways:**

### 1. Grantmaking

Our funding centers intersectional organizing and grassroots power building across a wide range of movements and the leadership of women of color (especially those who are Black, Indigenous and transgender). Our funding is almost always general support, and is renewed over many years.

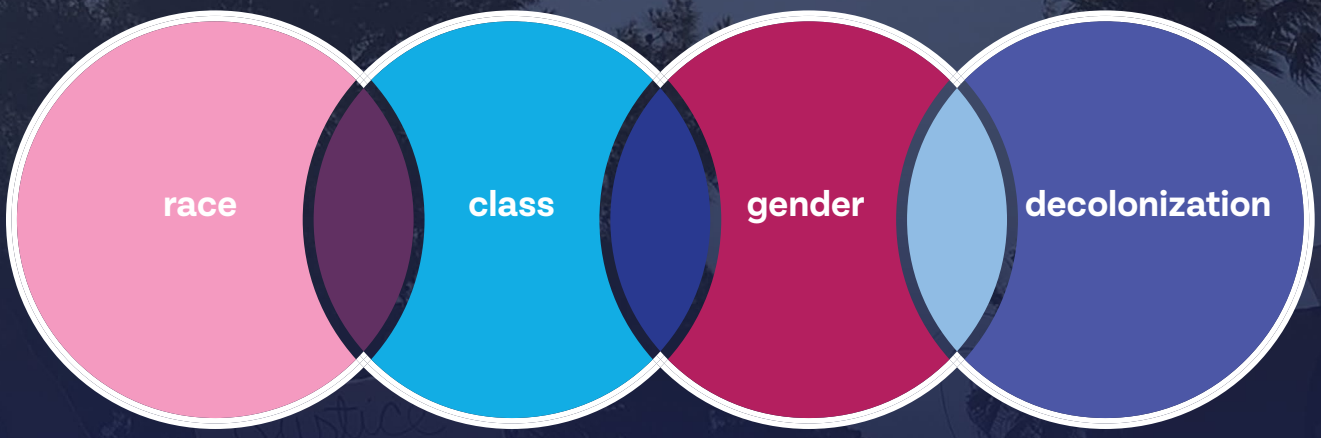
### 2. Capacity Building

For groups who want to increase the impact of their organizing and voter engagement work, as well as strengthen themselves through **Healing Justice** and infrastructure support, we offer an array of programs and resources, including our Integrated Voter Engagement Program and Grassroots Organizing Institute.

### 3. Funder Organizing

We work to transform philanthropy itself by organizing donors and funders. Through this work, we have inspired thousands of individual donors and scores of foundations to increase their giving to racial and gender justice and to grassroots organizing. Our highest purpose is to unlock these resources and flank our movements, whether or not those resources come through our Groundswell's doors.

## Intersectional Organizing




Intersectional organizing that uses a race, class, gender, and decolonization lens is the most effective approach for both energizing a broad grassroots base of support and blocking the use of wedge issues – such as abortion, transgender, and voting rights – to erode the rights of all people.

# *Positioned to Resource the* **Boldest and Most Innovative**

As needs and opportunities emerge in the field, and as more donors and funders look to Groundswell for leadership, **we are positioned to redirect significant resources to the boldest, most innovative, intersectional organizing led by women of color** – particularly those who are Black, Indigenous, transgender, and gender-expansive.

In 2021, after one of the most critical years in history for our country's promise of democracy, the organizing and advocacy work of women of color generally and Black women, in particular, was essential to protecting hard-won progressive victories amidst massive backlash to this progress.

## 2020-2025 Blueprint Benchmarks: Strengthening the field and building power

**42%**

of funds moved to Black women-led organizations in 2021

**By 2025 investment goal is 40-45%**

**13%**

of funds moved to Indigenous-led organizations in 2021

**By 2025 investment goal is 15%**

**5%**

of funds moved to transgender women of color-led organizations in 2021

**By 2025 investment goal is 12%**

**17%**

of funds moved to transgender and gender-expansive people of color-led organizations in 2021

**By 2025 investment goal is 20%**

In 2021, Groundswell moved $13.4 million to 229 organizations across 49 states and territories. This includes $9 million in grants via our five Funds, and $4.4 million in capacity building support (including $2.9 million in capacity building grants) to organizations seeking to boost their grassroots organizing and integrated voter engagement impact.

## Groundswell's 2021 Giving

**$13.4M**
**moved to grassroots**

**229**
**organizations received funding**

**49**
**states and territories house grantees**

**“In this political moment, many of us don’t fully understand the energy that is happening on the ground. But Groundswell does because it has a long-term relationship with base organizations. A partnership with Groundswell can help any funder to be more impactful.”**

– Guillermo Quinteros
Senior Fellow and Director of the IRG Hub at Amalgamated Foundation

# Groundswell's Funds

In every major U.S. social justice movement, there are movement luminaries, bold enough to tackle the toughest fights of our time simultaneously. Like bright flashlights, their leadership illuminates the path movements must take to win freedom for all people. Resources help them shine their lights brighter so more people can see the way. Groundswell's mission is to put resources into their hands. We do this via our five Funds.

### Resourcing the Nation's Strongest Reproductive Justice Organizing

# The Catalyst Fund

*Established 2013*

Groundswell's Catalyst Fund resources the strongest reproductive justice (RJ) organizing led by women of color, low-income women, and transgender people of color across the U.S.

Supporting efforts that use grassroots organizing to advance RJ policy and systems change, particular attention is paid to organizations building cross-movement alliances between RJ efforts and other social justice organizations, such as labor unions, environmental, and economic justice groups.

**Centering efforts led by women of color, the Catalyst Fund 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.

## Preparation for a Post-Roe v Wade Reality

**Black and Brown communities will be most impacted if abortion clinics close and if Roe v Wade is overturned.**

In addition to advancing state-based and national policy and litigation strategies, Catalyst grantees are identifying key solutions in this moment that recognize that *Roe* is never truly secured access to abortion care for women of color, low-income, queer, transgender, and gender-expansive people.

## Reproductive Justice Resistance to Abortion Bans

After the passage of SB8, which bans abortion after six weeks and places a $10,000 bounty on anyone helping someone access abortion care, **several Catalyst grantees sprang into action.**

The following grantees organized to protect access to abortion, which includes running abortion funds in an increasingly anti-abortion climate:

- ARC-Southeast (Southeast region)
- National Network of Abortion Funds
- The West Fund (El Paso, TX),
- ACCESS Reproductive Justice (California)
- The Afiya Center (Dallas, TX)

As we prepare for a post-Roe reality, abortion funding will remain a core strategy of RJ organizations as they work to eliminate the policies and systemic barriers that make abortion funds necessary.

Similarly, we saw **mutual aid and healing justice** become a core part of strengthening other RJ organizations' base-building and leadership development programs.

Photo Credit: Western States Center

## Supporting What Is Just As Attacks on Bodily Autonomy Increase

RJ organizations and Reproductive Healthcare providers risk legal jeopardy and costs thanks to bounty provisions like Texas' SB8. We must create a world where we provide abortion care for ourselves. Grantees are educating folks on self-managed abortion training, building practical support networks to get people to neighboring states for abortion care, and training people to be abortion doulas. This is the exact type of work that could be deemed illegal in a post-Roe reality, and the same work essential to securing bodily autonomy.

*Featured Grantees*

# Catalyst Fund

## *The Afiya Center*

### Organizing For Abortion Access, Voting Rights, and Birth Justice

Located in Dallas, The Afiya Center unapologetically advocates for reproductive justice, HIV issues, voting rights, and Black maternal health. **The Afiya Center is one of the loudest voices in Texas drawing connections between attacks on reproductive freedom and attacks on voting rights by a legislature more interested in silencing the political voices of Black and Brown communities than in expanding Medicaid or addressing Texas' shameful ranking as one of the ten worst states for maternal mortality.**

The Afiya Center is opening a birth center for Black mamas and birthing people seeking culturally-matched doula and midwifery care. As a Black women-led organization, they are raising the issues of abortion access, voting rights, and birth justice within multiple movements. These issues are critical for Black communities and must not be seen as separate or used as wedges to divide and conquer.

Photo Credits: The Afiya Center

**"Partnership with Groundswell has helped us facilitate the next stage of our organizational development and movement-building efforts as we scale up the network with paid staff, robust funding budgets, and the needed support to sustain this growth. In turn, abortion funds remain resilient, creative, vital community-based organizations that are also long-time practitioners of resource redistribution and mutual aid, having built together for nearly three decades."**

– National Network of Abortion Funds

# *Trans Queer Pueblo*

## Making Mutual Aid and Healing Justice Central to RJ Organizing

An autonomous LGBTQ+ migrant organization, Trans Queer Pueblo, has increased its direct service and mutual aid work to support the self-determination, autonomy, wellbeing, and liberation of trans and queer undocumented and documented migrants in Phoenix, AZ. In 2021, the organization provided mutual aid support to its members that went beyond monetary aid or services. Through mutual aid programs and leadership development opportunities, the organization turns folks who come to Trans Queer Pueblo for help today, into tomorrow's empowered community warriors.

**Each of Trans Queer Pueblo's projects is framed around a cycle of power building, in which half of the goals are focused on mutual aid (including providing money, health clinic services, support for detained immigrants, etc.) and the other half are focused on building community power.** During the pandemic, Trans Queer Pueblo's self-governed healthcare clinic, Clínica Liberación, has been a self-sustaining outreach and base-building vehicle, helping the organization bring new community members to bring into its reproductive justice organizing efforts.

### 2021 Catalyst Fund Grantee List

**A list of Catalyst Fund grantees can be found by visiting our website**. You can filter a grantee list by fund, geography, issue, and strategy.

### 2022 Goal

We will fund at least 60 reproductive justice grantee partners. **Join us in resourcing the strongest Reproductive Justice organizing in the country**.

### Catalyst Fund 2021 Giving

**58**

**organizations across the country and territories funded in 2021**

**$4.5M**

**Total amount funded in 2021**

Photo Credit: Trans Queer Pueblo

*Equity, Bodily Autonomy, and Self-Determination*

# Birth Justice Fund

*Established 2011*

By increasing access to culturally-matched birthing options, resourcing innovative models led by midwives, doulas, and birth works of color, and supporting changes in policy aimed at improving perinatal health outcomes, our Birth Justice Fund works to eliminate disparities in pregnancy, birth, and postpartum outcomes experienced by women of color, low-income women, young women, and queer and transgender people.

**We celebrated the Birth Justice Fund's 10-year anniversary by expanding its geographic reach** to Arizona (Cihuapactli Collective) and Puerto Rico (Mujeres Ayudando Madres) in 2021. We're also deepening investment in the Midwest with two new Black-led doula organizations (Birthing Beautiful Communities in Ohio and Jamaa Birth Village in Missouri) and investing more in national organizations that have their roots in underfunded regions like the South.

## *Featured Grantees*

## Birth Justice Fund

### *Black Mamas Matter*

**White House Proclamation of Black Maternal Health Week**

This year, our grantees celebrated a historic milestone when The White House made the first-ever proclamation recognizing Black Maternal Health Week – an initiative that was created by Groundswell grantee Black Mamas Matter Alliance. Vice President Kamala Harris made the declaration on April 13, 2021.

In addition, **we saw the reintroduction of the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act – landmark federal legislation that is the result of the hard work of Black women and people of color in the birth justice movement, whose tireless organizing, expertise, andmovement building made the Momnibus possible.**

While we at Groundswell are excited about the visibility that national efforts bring to maternal health, we know that federal legislation can only do so much. The work continues for grassroots leaders organizing at the state and local levels, where real change for birth justice happens.

**"We understand that supporting the birthing parent and offering loving, safe, culturally-matched care can improve the birthing experience, a sense of belonging and connection to community, access to resources, and can have long-lasting effects on the wellness and wellbeing of the parent and the child."**

– Alaska Native Birthworkers Community

## *Elephant Circle*

### Colorado Passes Historic Birth Equity Package

In 2021, **Birth Justice Fund grantee Elephant Circle successfully advocated for the introduction and passage of Colorado's landmark Birth Equity Bill Package. This momentous victory enhances human rights protections during childbirth, supports equity in data and systems, and continues Colorado's Direct-Entry Midwifery program so that midwifery care is more accessible and integrated into the medical system.** The bill includes several intersectional protections for families, including ensuring families do not face medical interventions without consent, increasing Medicaid coverage from two months to one year postpartum, and increasing data collection and transparency about race and ethnicity disparities.

Elephant Circle has been building relationships in Colorado for years and unapologetically went big, bold, and intersectional, getting over 40 partners, including unexpected allies, to sign on. By taking an intersectional and community-led approach to the policy-making process, Elephant Circle and other grassroots community organizations were seen as the true experts on the full package.

### 2021 Birth Justice Grantee List

A list of Birth Justice Fund grantees can be found by visiting our website. You can filter a grantee list by fund, geography, issue, and strategy.

### 2022 Goal

We will fund at least 28 Birth Justice Fund grantees. **Join us in resourcing the strongest Birth Justice organizing in the country**.

### Birth Justice Fund's 2021 Giving

**28**
**organizations across the country and territories funded in 2021**

**$2M**
**Total amount funded in 2021**

Photo Credit: Elephant Circle

*Supporting the Pinnacle of Intersectional Organizing*

# Liberation Fund

*Established 2016*

The Liberation Fund supports the strongest intersectional organizing by women of color and transgender people of color across a diversity of social change movements in the United States.

**Liberation Fund grantees are doing whole-person grassroots organizing, advocacy, direct action and/or integrated voter engagement to transform policy, institutions, and systems.**

Grantees have a highly engaged and growing membership or constituency base that drives the work's strategic direction.

Liberation Fund grants are awarded at the recommendation of the fund's advisors – fourteen prominent women of color leaders from environmental, racial and economic justice, immigrant, Native, Black Liberation, and transgender rights movements.

## *Featured Grantees*

## Liberation Fund

### *City Life / Vida Urbana*

**Lifting up Housing Justice as Racial Justice in Hyde Park**

In May 2021, City Life/Vida Urbana (CL/VU) organized 100 members and allies who marched through Georgetowne Homes, a complex of 1,000 apartments in Boston's Hyde Park neighborhood. The group demanded owner Beacon Properties drop over 100 nonpayment evictions they had filed in a single day on Black and Brown households negatively impacted by the pandemic.

Georgetown is just one of many such affordable buildings owned by Beacon, a company that routinely forces tenants into court over trivial amounts, then coerces them to sign restrictive agreements as a condition of dropping evictions. **CL/VU's organizing, in tandem with a letter from legal partners and in coordination with a HUD Tenants' organizing group, successfully pressured Beacon to pause nonpayment evictions in all of their properties, and enter negotiations about changing their eviction practices, which CL/VU believe violate Fair Housing law.**

Photo Credit: City Life/Vida Urbana

**"I wanted to make sure to sincerely thank you and the whole team at Groundswell for your amazing boost of support to MUA this year. We are deeply grateful for your solidarity, which allowed us to continue expanding our organizing and simultaneously respond to the needs of our community during the ongoing pandemic."**

– Mujeres Unidas y Activas

## *Native Movement*

### Elevating Indigenous Leadership and Wisdom to Address Climate Crisis

Native Movement continued to raise awareness of threats to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the inter-tribal partnership (Inupiat and Gwich'in, supported by many other Indigenous peoples) to stop Arctic oil extraction in 2021 following their 2020 "Global Day of Action Against Arctic Oil Extraction" across the U.S., Canada, and in London.

**Native Movement maintains a media and grassroots presence to amplify the Arctic Refuge's importance to the rights of Indigenous peoples. When lease sales were announced, the organization was able to quickly organize another day of action opposing the lease sales, which occurred in January 2021.**

Native Movement partners with Gwich'in and Inupiat peoples to build relationships. They also work with Indigenous partners at The Wilderness Society to support dialogues on what meaningful tribal land management and protection could look like in the coastal plain.

### 2021 Liberation Grantee List

A list of Liberation Fund grantees can be found by visiting our website. You can filter a grantee list by fund, geography, issue, and strategy.

### 2022 Goal

We will fund at least 14 Liberation Fund grantees. **Join us in resourcing the strongest Reproductive Justice organizing in the country**.

### Liberation Fund's 2021 Giving

**13**

**organizations across the country and territories funded in 2021**

**$1M**

**Total amount funded in 2021**

Photo Credit: Native Movement

*An Innovative Model Resourcing the Frontlines*

# Rapid Response Fund

*Established 2016*

**Groundswell's Rapid Response Fund provides fast funding to grassroots organizations led by women of color, transgender and gender-expansive people of color, and low-income people. Through it, grants are awarded in critical, but unexpected fights to protect and advance reproductive and social justice.**

Celebrating its five-year anniversary, the Rapid Response Fund has disbursed over $2.8 million in grants to 307 grantees across the country working across multiple issues.

The Rapid ResponseFund was designed on a foundation of trust-based philanthropy, and the belief that people living at the sharpest crosshairs of race, class, and gender injustice often have the clearest insight into systemic oppression and the best solutions for dismantling it for all people.

Read more about lessons learned over the last five years via an external **retrospective analysis of the impacts of Rapid Response funding** on grantees; their allies and larger movements; and the success of their efforts to bring about systems and societal change.

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*Featured Grantees*

## Rapid Response

### *Wotakuye Mutual Aid*

**Responding to Hunger, Housing, and Health Disparities in Indigenous Areas**

Photo Credit: Wotakue Mutual Aid

In 2021, Rapid Response Fund grantee Wotakuye Mutual Aid built out mutual aid infrastructure, community disaster resilience, and food sovereignty and security, providing food and other essential supplies to indigenous members in Rapid City, South Dakota.

**Led by Cheyenne River, Rosebud, and Oglala women working in South Dakota, Wokatuye started as a project of the HeSapa Voter Initiative to encourage Indigenous people to be civically engaged in elections.**

This effort has grown into a mutual aid model that is addressing dire needs in Indigenous communities during the COVID-19 crisis. Building on their organizing work, rapid response infrastructure is being created to address the hunger, housing, and health disparities in indigenous urban areas and throughout the homelands of the Oceti Sakowin indigenous peoples.

**“We were able to increase national cultural and digital organizing strategies uplifting Palestinian calls for the freedom to live in their homes with dignity. This grant was truly a gift to us in a moment of crisis and possibility. Thank you for your commitment to solidarity and freedom to the Palestinian people.”**

– Adalah Justice Project

## *Coalition for Black Trans Economic Liberation*

### Community Care is Core to Organizing

The **Coalition for Black Trans Economic Liberation** (CBTEL) was established by and for transgender people and gender non-conforming people of color in Philadelphia during the COVID-19 crisis. While preparing their headquarters as a hub for community building, CBTEL focused on mutual aid such as monetary, physical, and material resources to Black transgender and gender-expansive people.

**CBTEL builds the infrastructure necessary for ongoing support in communities to meet immediate survival needs, while also building infrastructure will make long-term organizing and advocacy work sustainable.** Their work is about building the necessary infrastructure of ongoing support in communities to meet the immediate survival needs while also creating infrastructure that will make long-term organizing and advocacy work sustainable.

### 2021 Rapid Response Fund

**A list of Rapid Response Fund grantees can be found by visiting our website**. You can filter a grantee list by fund, geography, issue, and strategy.

### 2022 Goal

We will award $700,000 to Rapid Response Fund grantees. **Join us in resourcing the strongest grassroots organizing in the country**.

### Rapid Response Fund’s 2021

**85**

**organizations across the country and territories funded in 2021**

**$795K**

**Total amount funded in 2021**

Photo Credit: Coalition for Black Trans Econominc LIberation

*A Groundbreaking Endeavor Centered in Joy and Resilience*

# Black Trans Fund

*Established 2020, incubated by Groundswell*

**The Black Trans Fund is a groundbreaking endeavor: the first national fund in the country dedicated to uplifting, resourcing, and building the capacity of Black trans social justice leaders.** Black Trans Fund grantees are effective and powerful organizations centered on Black trans joy and liberation. Black transgender, gender-expansive, and non-binary people lead funded organizations, have budgets under $1 million, and represent the vanguard and future of Black trans-led movement building.

Black trans people have been leading the fight for liberation for decades, even when those fights have not centered on valued Black trans identities. **While there has been an increase in donor attention to Black-led work, it has yet to translate into significant gains in giving to Black trans-led work, and even fewer Black trans people are directing the flow of resources.** Built on the legacy of so many Black trans freedom fighters and led by and for Black trans people who come out of movement organizing, Black Trans Fund embodies self-determination in resourcing communities.

Photo Credit: Transgender Advocates Knowledgeable Empowering

*Featured Grantees*

## Black Trans Fund

### *Transgender Advocates Knowledgeable Empowering*

**Empowering Trans Women of Color**

By meeting immediate community needs and organizing to combat discrimination and build political power, Transgender Advocates Knowledgeable Empowering (TAKE) Resource Center empowers trans women of color in Birmingham, Alabama.

TAKE offers a range of services to support members to heal from trauma and love each other, including peer support groups, retreats, life coaching, a drop-in center, and a crisis fund.

TAKE Resource Center's transitional housing program expanded its services to provide housing to those struggling with housing insecurity due to discriminatory housing practices enabled by the Trump administration.

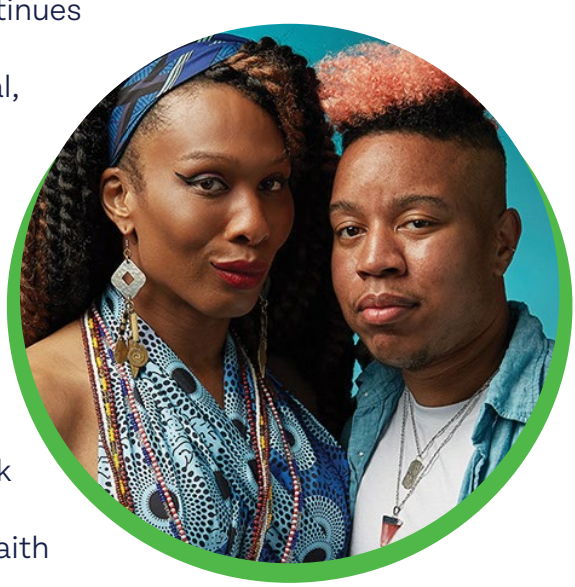
**Peer advocates within TAKE participate in know your rights education, trainings on workforce discrimination, and civic engagement strategies to build member awareness of political issues impacting trans Alabamians.** TAKE is also a new grantee in Groundswell's Integrated Voter Engagement Program.

BLACK TRANS FUND

# *The Black Trans Prayer Book*

## A Tool of Healing and Affirmation

An interfaith, multi-dimensional, artistic, and theological work that collects the stories, poems, prayers, meditation, spells, and incantations of Black trans and non-binary people, the **Black Trans Prayer Book** continues the historical legacy of spirituality legacy in the Black trans community. Black trans people face extreme spiritual, physical, and psychological violence. **The Black Trans Prayer Book is a tool of healing and affirmation centered on uplifting Black trans and non-binary people.**



The Black Trans Prayer Book creates social change for Black trans communities by addressing religion-based violence, giving participants and readers a space to heal from religious anti-queer and anti-trans rhetoric, acknowledge and name the trauma they experience, and demand accountability from religious institutions. In the future, the Black Trans Prayer Book is working on a documentary film highlighting stories of Black trans faith leaders as they navigate complex relationships of faith and trans identities.

## 2021 Black Trans Fund Grantee

**A list of Black Trans Fund grantees can be found by visiting our website**. You can filter a grantee list by fund, geography, issue, and strategy.

## 2022 Goal

We will award at least $700,000 in 2022. **Join us in resourcing the strongest Black trans organizing in the country**.

## Black Trans Fund's 2021 Giving

**46**

**organizations across the country and territories funded in 2021**

**$600K**

**Total amount funded in 2021**

Photo Credits: Black Trans Prayer Book

# Increasing the Impact of Organizing and Voter Engagement

*Groundswell's Capabity Building Programs*

For groups who want to increase the impact of their organizing and voter engagement work and strengthen themselves through healing justice and infrastructure support, we offer an array of programs and resources, including our Integrated Voter Engagement Program (IVE) and Grassroots Organizing Institute (GOI).

**IVE and GOI grantees center on the needs of Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color they serve, prioritizing food security, access to health care, housing security, and climate justice.** Their political education and organizing of the community and voters engage people in more in-depth conversations around issues such as abortion access, comprehensive sex education, health care access, and reproductive care for women in prison.

## *Featured Grantees*
## Capacity Building

*Integrated Voter Engagement Grantee*

### *Khmer Girls in Action*

**Southeast Asian Youth Leading the Way**

**Khmer Girls in Action** (KGA) is community-based organization led by Southeast Asian young women whose mission is to build a progressive and sustainable Long Beach community that works for gender, racial and economic justice.

**In 2021, KGA worked to pass a $1 million budget to support the Youth Strategic Plan, the culmination of five years of the Invest in Youth Campaign, which aims to increase and protect community-based youth programs, particularly in areas impacted by systemic racism, poverty, and gender-based issues.**

KGA also worked with the Long Beach Housing Element Coalition, to organize 100 community members for key housing justice wins, including tenants' rights to legal counsel; dedicated rental housing staff hired to support renters' rights, and increased protection from evictions. Beyond KGA's youth strategic plan and housing justice work, they engaged 4,470 voters in 2021 and continue to respond holistically to the needs of their communities through mutual aid and healing circles for Black, Brown, Asian, and Pacific Islander communities.

Photo Credit: Khmer Girls in Action

*Grassroots Organizing Institute Grantee*

## *SISTA Fire*

### Black Feminism, Reproductive Justice, and Radical Inclusion

Launching a five-part political education series grounded in their foundational frameworks of Black Feminism and Reproductive Justice, **SISTA Fire** evolved and grew into its values-aligned membership framework. The past year brought challenges with the housing crisis, burnout, and continued COVID outbreaks. Healing and grounding work became essential at every meeting and support through mutual aid.

Despite increased challenges, SISTA Fire developed a Black Maternal Health campaign centered around Birth Justice and aimed at the policies and practices at Women and Infants Hospital (WIH). Through a virtual community forum attended by 83 participants, including ten senior leaders from WIH and Care New England (WIH's parent health system), participants provided testimony highlighting inequitable and harmful treatment at WIH. As a result, WIH and Care New England representatives developed an action plan, including public reporting on progress.

**SISTA Fire was key in passing the Rhode Island Doula Reimbursement Act. Through the Act, doula services are reimbursable by every Rhode Island insurance and Medicaid plan, increasing access fofamilies and creating a pathway toward a living wage for working doulas.** The Act also raised the Medicaid reimbursement for doula services from $800 to $1,500, the highest reimbursement rate in the country.

Photo Credit: SISTA Fire

## 2021 Capacity Building Giving List

**A list of Capacity Building grantees can be found by visiting our website**. You can filter a grantee list by fund, geography, issue, and strategy.

## 2022 Goal

We will award $4 million in grants and non-grant support. **Join us in resourcing the strongest U.S.-based interated voter engagement and grassroots organizing.**

## Capacity Building 2021 Giving

**29**

**organizations across the country and territories funded in 2021**

**$4.5M**

**Total amount funded and spent on organizational support in 2021**

# What's Healing Got to Do with It?

*Healing Justice as an Organizing Strategy*

Whether personal, collective, or organizational, healing is a non-linear journey. **Groundswell has been on this journey since 2017, trying to determine how to best support wellness and healing justice work among its grantees.** This process has involved learning from and conversing with healing justice leaders such as **Cara Page** and **Shira Hassan**, working with healing justice practitioners internally, during grantee convenings, and recently resourcing healing justice work.

Grantee partners are hungry for resources to integrate mind-body and wellness practices into their work. Wellness can look like many things, such as taking a sabbatical, developing a safety plan for undocumented activist canvassers, crafting HR policies aligned with their reproductive justice values, etc.

Wellness

Sabbath

Safety

Development

We must address the huge problem of burnout in our sector.

In 2021, Groundswell made its first healing justice learning grants to eight existing grantee partners to learn how Healing Justice has been integral to building power in their communities.

During the 2021 grantee convening, our Liberation Fund and Special Projects Program Officer moderated a fishbowl conversation among five grantees to hear their experiences, practices, and learnings from centering healing justice in their work. Participants left with new healing justice modalities, strategies to strengthen healing and justice, and ways to make space for healing at the organization level.

**We are grateful to the grantees who have consented to be on this journey together.**

## 2021 Healing Justice Grantee List

**A list of Healing Justice grantees can be found by visiting our website**. You can filter a grantee list by fund, geography, issue, and strategy.

## 2022 Goal

We will build on the legacy of learnings from our Healing Justice work. We are exploring the variety of ways this could take shape, such as grantee gatherings, webinar(s), or something different altogether. Regardless of the end product, we will engage grantees throughout the process and produce a white paper highlighting our process.

## Healing Justice 2021 Giving

**18**
**organizations across the country and territories funded in 2021**

**$235K**
**Total amount funded in 2021, included in Catalyst Fund**

# Investing in Revolutionary Change

**Funder organizing is a key piece of Groundswell's work. A hallmark of Groundswell has been our success in raising the visibility of and dollars for intersectional organizing work led by women of color, low-income women, and transgender people across a wide range of foundation and donor communities. Below are some of our 2021 funder organizing highlights.**

**1.** We released an **Open Letter to Philanthropy from People of Color-Led, Movement-Accountable Foundations**. The Open Letter received substantial attention from the philanthropic field, with over 385 foundation executives and individuals, including officials from large and well-known grantmakers such as the Ford Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the California Endowment signing on. Various news outlets covered The Open Letter, including a follow-up feature in the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*.

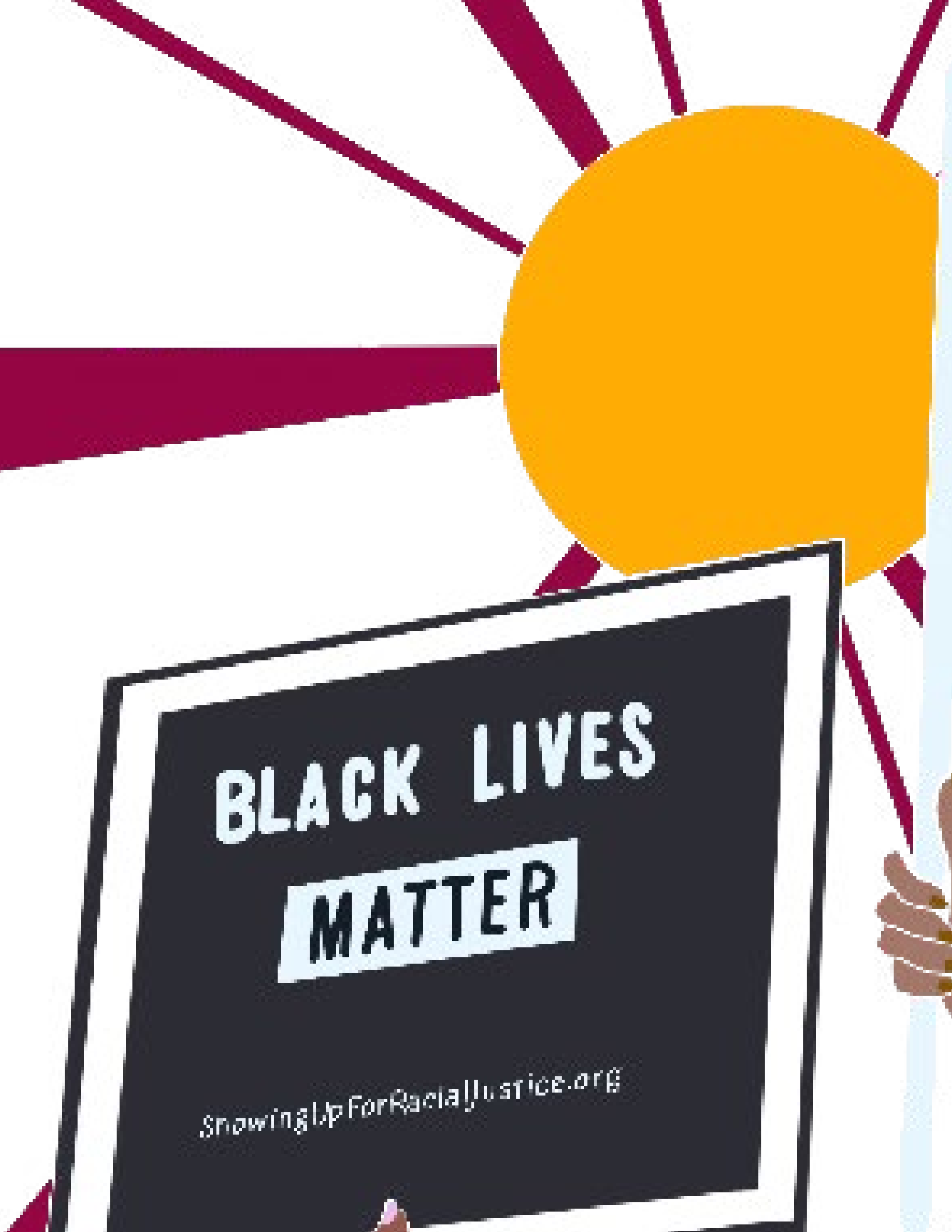
**4.** Along with Funders Concerned About AIDS, Funders for LGBTQ Issues, and Funders for Reproductive Equity, we cohosted *They're Coming for Our Kids: How the Right's Attacks on Trans & Gender Expansive Youth Erode Our Democracy and Threaten Us All*. With nearly 300 attendees, this briefing focused on how the broader social justice community could step up and support trans youth.

**2.** In partnership with the Women Donors Network, Groundswell and Birth Justice Fund grantees Elephant Circle and National Black Midwives Alliance, led the second of a three-part series titled Uplifting Birth Justice. Featuring 15 speakers and partner networks, including Opportunity & Equality Impact Collective, Funders for Reproductive Equity, Midwifery Funders Group, Resource Generation, Solidaire Network, Tara Health Foundation, and Tides Foundation had over 80 attendees. The session highlighted the current opportunity to transform institutions and improve outcomes for birthing people around the world.

**5.** Groundswell Founder Vanessa Daniel's keynote address at the 2020 Bioneers conference continued to receive incredible interest throughout 2021. While there were 2,700 who attended the conference, there were an additional 2,500 views of the recording. FSTV also broadcasted the recording to millions of households via DISH and DirectTV.

**3.** Black Trans Fund hosted its inaugural briefing with over 220 attendees. From the briefing, a partnership with Grantmakers for Girls of Color was born and aptly named Holding a Sister Initiative (HASI). HASI creates space for cis and trans girls of color to build solidarity and thrive. HASI has received incredible media coverage, including a feature on Bloomberg's Black in Focus and broadcast on National Public Radio and numerous local TV and radio stations.

**6.** Groundswell Fund was featured in Inside Philanthropy's The State of American Philanthropy: Giving for Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice. Groundswell was named as one of ten funders to know who is "increasingly visible and influential due to our focus on, and experience with, supporting power-building among grassroots within the Reproductive Justice and allied movements."


BLACK LIVES
MATTER
GrowingUpForRacialJustice.org

# “There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives.”

Audre Lorde, civil rights activist, American writer, self-described as “Black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet”

# Thank you

By joining Groundswell and fighting alongside grassroots movements, you are illuminating the road to liberation for all people.

GROUNDSWELL
FUND

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