You Are Where You're Supposed to Be and We Need You Where You Are

Trans Justice Funding Project

2015 REPORT
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This report is available at transjusticefundingproject.org along with more resources.
Acknowledgements

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Graphic design and cover art by Micah Bazant, micahbazant.com
Infographics by Chris Carlon, chriscarlon.com
Panel pictures and videography by Marin Watts, marinwatts.tumblr.com

Staff

Gabriel Foster, Executive Director
gabriel@transjusticefundingproject.org

Karen Pittelman, Administrative Coordinator
karen@transjusticefundingproject.org

Connect with us online at transjusticefundingproject.org

TransJusticeFundingProject
@TransJusticeFP
Terminology

Terminology is constantly changing as we grow, expanding our knowledge while finding home within ourselves and in our identities. We realize the definitions below may not speak for each individual’s experience but we hope they are broad enough to create a useful baseline of understanding for the purpose of this report.

Trans: An umbrella term for people whose gender identity, expression or behavior is different from those typically associated with their assigned sex at birth, including but not limited to transgender people, transsexuals, cross dressers, androgynous people, genderqueers, and gender non-conforming people.

Sometimes Trans* is also used to include a wide range of identities and expressions within trans communities.

Gender Non-Conforming: A term for individuals whose gender expression is different from societal expectations related to gender.

Two Spirit: A contemporary term that references historical multiple-gender traditions in many First Nations cultures. Many Native/First Nations people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, or gender non-conforming identity as Two Spirit. In many Nations, being Two Spirit carries both great respect and additional commitments and responsibilities to one’s community.

Trans Justice: A movement that works to mobilize trans and allied communities into action around pressing issues like access to education, employment, health care and basic needs, incarceration, immigration, disability rights, policy reform, racial and economic justice, art and culture, and coalition building within trans communities. On the simplest level, it is based out of the right to self-determine our gender and gender expression, free from all forms of violence and oppression, including personal and state violence.

"TJFP is crucial to small, rural, organizations like ours"
–2015 Grantee

"On a most basic level, we used your generous $1,000 grant to establish our credibility with local funders, and leveraged that into another $7,500 in grants from community organizations."
–2015 Grantee
Dear Community

2015 was a profound moment for the Trans Justice Funding Project. We made it to our third year and over those three years, we have received 354 applications and given away 174 small grants totaling nearly $400,000.

So whether you submitted an application, made a donation, shared our information, selected grantees, or advocated for trans justice, we exist because of you!

Who could have imagined the multitude of surprises and lessons that have unfolded throughout this year? From the explosion of trans visibility to the continued increase of anti-trans murders and violence spilling over from the previous year, our hearts were forced to hold a tremendous amount of complexity.

In June of 2015, we kicked off our From the Ground to the Sky Listening Tour, sitting down to engage in conversations with grantees, past panelists, trans activists, and allies across the country. Since then, I’ve been on the road non-stop, collaborating with videographer and TJFP 2015 panelist Marin Watts. We’ve been so many places already. To name a few: Detroit, Michigan; Black Mountain, North Carolina; Seattle, Washington; Miami, Florida; Missoula, Montana; Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Oakland, California. And still so many more to go! We’re working on building an interactive digital map of trans justice groups that will include audio and visual clips, photographs, and more. It’s going to be an amazing tool and we can’t wait to share it with you. We’re mapping trans justice!

Along the way, we’ve asked individuals and groups questions like: what issues are you focusing on? What makes organizing challenging and amazing in your area? What is unique about building trans leadership in small towns and rural areas? What are your hopes and dreams for your communities? What does trans justice mean to you?

“...We’re building an interactive digital map of trans justice groups that will include audio and visual clips, photographs, and more...We’re mapping trans justice!”

Our Seattle fundraiser! Photo by Naomi Ishisaka.
“Of course there were things people said that were specific to their locations:

“As a teenager, I was told that we didn’t exist. It was hard to find others [like myself] because we’re all so spread out.”

“Being in the South, especially Mississippi, it’s so conservative, and people do not like to participate or to have people knowing that they’re helping LGBTQ-led work.”

In some places, being able to have a permanent space for their group seemed like a faraway dream. One group shared that because they don’t have a space of their own, they barter their skills and services in exchange for meeting spaces at other organizations. When I asked them what they would do if money and resources weren’t a barrier, they replied that they would get “a nice, stable space with a phone. A place for youth, for people from the community to be able to have a space to deal with crisis or just come over.”

When it came to employment, one person talked about what it’s like even if you’re lucky enough to have a paid position at a non-profit:

“A lot of our groups even out here, people are hustling, selling drugs or sex on the side to pay their bills—and then they have a non-profit job with the trans community during the day. But it doesn’t even pay them enough.”

It hasn’t been a surprise to us that the overwhelming response (so far) to our question “What is trans justice?” has been met with the same reply from small towns to big cities. Trans justice isn’t just about trans people having the right to be trans. The communities we’ve been talking with are led by and for trans people but their focus is intersectional. They’re fighting for access to homeless shelters, bathrooms, and violence-free environments; demanding racial, economic, and disability justice, access to health care, education, and employment; providing direct services; reclaiming stolen traditions; making our own art and media, and so much more.

As you dive deeper into this report, I invite you to read about this year’s fabulous grantees! I can’t even begin to express how deep my admiration and respect is for them as their work tells the story of a movement.

Moving ahead into a new year, we will experience new challenges and opportunities. The world is changing everyday! Even our needs and the way we get things done are changing. Some of the greatest work is being done radically, outside of structures that can no longer hold how powerful we are, and it’s being done in many different
ways, by many different communities. Because I believe this to be true, I look forward to TJFP finding creative and thoughtful ways to make room for change and growth with the intention of supporting our grantees and their work in this ever-changing world.

So to close, I’d like to share one last thing that a friend said to me recently and that has stuck in my mind. After almost a year of interviewing trans leaders and allies I want to tell you this: You are where you’re supposed to be and we need you where you are.

Thank you, community, for all the ways you work to support trans justice.

With love and gratitude,
Gabriel Foster
Executive Director

Tennessee Trans Journey Project, Nashville, TN.
Our Grantmaking Year in Review

What We Do and Why We Do It

The Trans Justice Funding Project (TJFP) is a community-led funding initiative founded in 2012 to support grassroots trans justice groups run by and for trans people. We make grants annually by bringing together a panel of six trans justice activists from around the country to carefully review every application we receive. We center the leadership of trans people organizing around their experiences with racism, economic injustice, transmisogyny, ableism, immigration, incarceration, and other intersecting oppressions.

Many of our grantees don’t have non-profit status or a fiscal sponsor, and they are all small groups with budgets ranging from $0 to $250,000. We believe in the power of local, grassroots groups like these to respond to people’s immediate and long-term needs, to help create compassionate, resilient communities, and to fight for lasting, systemic change. And we believe in the power of community-led grantmaking to redistribute resources to these groups in a way that is accountable, effective, and strategic.

For us, community-led means trusting and supporting trans leadership. We keep our grant process simple and quick, so that groups can get back to their real work. We believe that a short application—and a wise and experienced activist panel to read it—is all it takes to make informed funding decisions. We give unrestricted funds because we think our grantees know best how to use that money. We love to learn from the leaders we support and to share their work far and wide, but we don’t have site visits and we don’t require any reporting. And each year we work hard to put together a geographically diverse, intergenerational, multi-ability, multi-racial panel of passionate new and established trans justice activists to make the grant decisions. We are deeply committed to removing barriers and building access so that community members who are most affected by intersecting oppressions are able to participate in this process with us.

“We believe in the power of local, grassroots groups to respond to people’s immediate and long-term needs, to help create compassionate, resilient communities, and to fight for lasting, systemic change.”
As another year passes, increased mainstream visibility has also led to an increased visibility in the field of philanthropy. We’ve seen new funder convenings and commitments to moving more money to trans organizing. Yet at this moment there is still hardly any funding available for grassroots, trans-led, trans justice groups, especially for those focused on local work. And when wealthy donors and foundations control the giving process, we believe that gives them way too much power over what gets done and how groups do it.

The Trans Justice Funding Project is about investing in trans communities making decisions by and for ourselves.

Over the last three years, we’ve received 354 applications, and raised and given away 174 grants through our community-led process, totaling almost $400,000. We’ve also been making as much noise as we can in funder-only spaces, doing our best to advocate for trans justice groups and challenging foundations and donors to center trans leadership. And this year our executive director Gabriel has been hitting the road non-stop on our first ever From the Ground to the Sky Listening Tour, meeting with trans activists across the country to learn more about the work they’re doing and what kind of support they need.

“Our communities have also been deeply impacted by violence, and the murder of four known trans women of color in California in the past four months, and six known trans women of color nationally in 2015. In the midst of these hardships, community organizing, visibility, and trans women’s leadership has never been more important.”

–2015 Grantee

“The Trans Justice Funding Project is about investing in trans communities making decisions by and for ourselves.”

2013 panelist Bamby Salcedo at our Seattle fundraiser.
All this has been possible because hundreds of donors have joined us and because our communities have supported us in so many ways. Thank you for making it happen! We’re so excited to share our third report with you.

**Our Third Year**

**Even More Applications**
This year we received 141 applications, up from 106 last year. 73% of these were from groups who had never applied before. There is so much amazing work going on out there right now!

**Our Fabulous Funding Panel**
We brought together another all-star panel of trans justice activists to make this year’s grant decisions: M’Bwende Anderson (Kalamazoo, MI), Ruby Corado (Washington, DC), Colin Kennedy Donovan (Seattle, WA), Mel Goodwin (Efland, NC), Trudie Jackson (Phoenix, AZ), and Marin Watts (New York, NY).

Nico Amador returned for his third year as facilitator of our grantmaking meeting. He was also joined by co-facilitator and 2014 TJFP panelist Andrea Jenkins. Nico and Andrea were a dream team, bringing so much skill and heart to the process and expertly guiding the panelists through our weekend-long, in-person meeting at the end of April. And our panelists gave it their all, tirelessly reviewing and discussing each application with care.
About Our Grantees
This June, we made 85 grants, giving away a total of $192,500. The panel allocated that as: 45 grants for $1,000, 21 grants for $2,500, and 19 grants for $5,000. The panel also decided to prioritize supporting groups led by trans women of color at the highest level.

32% of this year’s grantees were 501c3 non-profits, 27% had fiscal sponsors, and 41% had no non-profit status.

Out of last year’s 67 grantees, about a third applied again, and almost all of them received another grant. We know that one reason some groups don’t apply again is that there just isn’t enough time that year for even a simple application. Figuring out how to make multi-year grants is still on our urgent to-do list.

78% of our grantees had a budget of less than $50,000, 62% had a budget of less than $20,000, and 36% had a budget of less than $5,000. Many of those groups had no budget at all, paying for everything out of their own pockets. The amount of volunteer time, effort, love, passion, fierceness, and savvy it takes to make all this work happen across the country continues to blow us away.

One of the main reasons we put together this report is that our applications contain an enormous amount of information about the state of trans justice organizing right now. We hope that sharing this information can help connect, inform, and inspire local groups as they continue their work.

Most trans justice groups understand that their communities survive at the intersection of multiple oppressions. We are continually inspired by the ways these activists expand their experience and understanding into big and bold visions for radical change. To help visualize the way that organizing for trans justice can mean working on many intersecting issues at once, we created the infographics on the following pages. They are a picture of some of the intersecting issues our applicants and grantees were focused on this year.
"It’s hard to see our queer trans POC communities go through so much hurt and loss throughout the year and feel like there’s so little we can do about it because capacity and money is always limited. In all honesty, our challenges right now are really just trying to survive. This work is labor, but it means so much because the outcomes of these endeavors are very tied up in our own identities and existences."

—2015 Grantee

Who Gave?
From June 1, 2014 to June 1, 2015, we raised $192,500 for our 2015 grant cycle to redistribute to our grantees.

Expenses were again covered by co-founder Karen Pittelman, which meant that every penny raised from our supporters went directly to our grantees.

We continued to build a broad base of support, with contributions from 149 donors, many of whom have given to us every year. 48% of those donors gave $50 or less, with many people sending in gifts of $10 and $5. We’re always grateful for the large gifts, of course, but it’s those $5 donations that remind us why we do what we do. When you don’t have a dollar to spare, but you still find a way to send us $5, we get the message, loud and clear: so many lives depend on the work trans justice groups are doing. Get those groups more resources!

What’s Next?
Right now, we’re busy getting the word out about our fourth grant cycle and raising as much money as we can for those grants. Applications are open in English and Spanish on our website and due February 15th. Help us spread the news! And we hope you’ll also join us by making a donation. Every penny you give will once again go directly to our grantees.

Our grantees and applicants need the support of long-term donors and volunteers too, so we hope you’ll also consider reaching out to your local trans justice group. Our directory includes all three years of TJFP’s applicants and grantees and is organized by state so you can find out more about what’s going on in your area.

Let’s continue to dream big and fund even more trans justice work in 2016!
This Is What Trans Justice Looks Like
Here are some of the focus areas our grantees and applicants shared in their applications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus Area</th>
<th>Statistics for Grantees</th>
<th>Statistics for All Applicants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Violence &amp; Crisis Intervention</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art &amp; Creative Expression</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminalization &amp; Policing</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>33%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural Work</td>
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<td>44%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic Justice</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>46%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
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<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family &amp; Parenting</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Services &amp; Education</td>
<td></td>
<td>67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>61%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing Issues &amp; Homelessness</td>
<td></td>
<td>43%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immigration &amp; Immigrant Rights</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leadership Development &amp; Skills Building</td>
<td></td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Services</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Reform &amp; Political Advocacy</td>
<td></td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Education</td>
<td></td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racial Justice</td>
<td></td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spirituality</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support Groups</td>
<td></td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td></td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Regional Breakdown

“Many of our tried and true organizing techniques have been developed in urban landscapes and are not as successful when translated to our rural setting. We are working to combine these organizing techniques with what we know works in our rural setting.”

—2015 Grantee
The 2015 TJFP Team

M’Bwende Anderson, Panelist
(Kalamazoo, MI)
M’Bwende is obsessed with flipping experiences of poverty, sexism, racism, transphobia, and heteronormativity into creative genius, community building, and positive action. An organizer/activist with various non-profit, NGO, and government agencies, their contributions have centered a mix of colored and queer for the past 20 years. Currently a BFA Print Media candidate at Western Michigan University, their work examines institutional impact and survival as a black, queer, masculine-born-female, parent.

Ruby Corado, Panelist
(Washington, DC)
Ruby was born in San Salvador, El Salvador. She fled a civil war when she was 16 years old. Now 45 years old, she has lived in Washington, D.C. for the past 30 years where she has devoted the last 20 as an advocate for the inclusion of Transgender, Gender Queer, and Gender Non-Conforming Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual people in mainstream society. She is a self-made, tireless advocate and leader for social justice, and her hard work has helped gain legal protections for the communities she serves in Washington, DC. She has fought for LGBT Human Rights, Transgender Liberation, Immigration Equality, Access to Health Care, Ending Hate Crimes/violence, and many other disparities and issues facing the communities she represents.

Colin Kennedy Donovan, Panelist
(Seattle, WA)
Colin is a white queer disabled transfag living in Seattle. He is passionate about many things including disability justice, trans activism, speculative fiction, musical theater, and meatball subs. A community activist, writer, poet, and performer for over twenty years, Colin currently works to infuse intersectional transformative politics into the support of students with disabilities in higher education.

Mel Goodwin, Panelist
(Efland, NC)
Originally from Las Vegas, Nevada, Mel moved to rural North Carolina in June 2014 to live with their partner, a black transmasculine revolutionary. They attend law school at North Carolina Central University, and their goal, if they complete law school, is to be a lawyer for the revolution, using their privilege in service to and in solidarity with transgender and queer people of color. Prior to moving to the South, Mel spent ten years working within the non-profit industrial complex, more than half of that time at a predominantly white, gay, non-transgender organization where they generally raised hell by encouraging the politicization of trans and queer youth and unapologetically advocating for, co-creating, and growing transgender programs and services, including one of the first multi-stall gender neutral bathrooms in Southern Nevada. Mel is also a co-founder of Gender Justice Nevada.
Trudie Jackson, Panelist  
(Phoenix, AZ)

Trudie Jackson is an enrolled tribal member of Navajo Nation from Teec Nos Pos, Arizona. Her Clans are Bitter Water Clan born for the Leaf Clan. The Mexican Clan are her paternal clan and Yucca Fruit-Strung-Out-In-A-Line Clan are her maternal clan. Trudie strongly advocates on behalf of American Indian LGBTQ Two Spirited members. She is a non-traditional student at Arizona State University (ASU) pursuing double undergraduate degrees in Public Service Public Policy and American Indian Studies. She is actively involved in ASU Rainbow Coalition as an e-board member and Director of Advocacy, a member of the Native American Student Organization, and a member of ASU TRIO Downtown Campus.

Marin Watts, Panelist  
(New York, NY)

Marin Watts is a queer, trans, Filipino-American videographer, artist, and media educator living in Brooklyn and working in East Harlem, NY. Culturally rooted in the American South, with family ties to the Philippines, he uses video, photography, and textiles to explore the intersections of culture, gender, and ethnicity within his artistic practice. His work has been exhibited in Atlanta, San Francisco, and New York as well as internationally in the UK. In addition to his artistic work he is a tireless advocate for social justice, with a particular emphasis on media education and lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and gender non-conforming communities. He’s spent the last decade working with homeless populations and providing arts and media education and support to LGBTQ youth.

Andrea Jenkins, Co-facilitator

Andrea Jenkins is a Poet and Writer living and working in the Twin Cities. She is currently employed by the University of Minnesota Libraries as staff for the Transgender Oral History Project. Previously she worked for the Minneapolis City Council as a Senior Policy Aide. As an African American, Out Transgender Woman she has faced her share of significant challenges, however she continues to move on with grace, dignity and pride. Andrea has worked on many causes to improve the lives of young TG Women of Color, to help them realize that sex work is not the only occupation they have to rely on. Her work has also appeared in several publications including The International Journal of Transgenderism. Andrea has a B.A. in Human Services, a M.S. in Community Economic Development, and an MFA in Creative Writing at Hamline University.

Nico Amador, Co-facilitator

Nico Amador grew up in California and is now a trainer, organizer, and writer based in Vermont. Nico got his start as a trainer working with youth around issues of oppression and leading workshops on the impacts of militarism and the prison industrial complex on people of color. As part of Training for Change, Nico led workshops in the US, Canada and Europe for groups such as Choice USA, Iraq Veterans Against the War, the Energy Action Coalition, Greenpeace, the National Youth Advocacy Coalition, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the Earth Quaker Action Team, the New Sanctuary Movement, Prometheus Radio Project, and the Diverse City Fund. Nico is also an experienced
community organizer who has participated in grassroots efforts for prison abolition, urban farming, keeping casinos out of residential neighborhoods, and stopping the harassment of transgender riders on Philadelphia’s public transportation system.

Rebecca Wisotsky, Panel Coordinator

Rebecca Wisotsky is currently the Executive Associate and Philanthropic Outreach Coordinator of Funders for LGBTQ Issues. Rebecca has a strong commitment to social justice demonstrated through over 10 years of experience working in national and grassroots organizations in the non-profit and philanthropic sector. Her focus has been on developing social change leaders and strengthening organizations that are working for a more just society. Previously, Rebecca served as the Executive Coordinator at the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, and as Program Coordinator at the Audre Lorde Project where she developed and managed the 3rd Space Support Program, creating sustainable methods of community-based support for LGBTSTGNC People of Color. She was a fellow in the Selah Leadership Program, a national network of progressive Jews who work for social justice and has a Masters in Social Work from the University of Washington. Rebecca lives with her partner and cat in Brooklyn, NY.

Karen Pittelman, Co-founder and Administrative Coordinator

Karen is the author of Resource Generation’s Classified: How to Stop Hiding Your Privilege and Use It For Social Change and co-author of Creating Change Through Family Philanthropy. In 1999, she dissolved her $3 million trust to co-found the Chahara Foundation, a fund run by and for low-income women activists in Boston. She’s been organizing people with class privilege ever since. She lives in Brooklyn where she works as a writer and a writing coach, and sings with her country band Karen & the Sorrows.

Gabriel Foster, Co-founder and Executive Director

Gabriel Foster is a black, queer, trans ‘momma’s boy’ living and loving in New York. Prior to making his way to the Eastern Time Zone, he worked in Seattle, WA with the Northwest Network of bisexual, trans, lesbian, and gay survivors of abuse helping to create their youth programming. From age fifteen to twenty-six, he went from a program constituent to program staff in the American Friends Service Committee’s GLBTQ Youth Program. Before arriving in New York, he worked at SPARK Reproductive Justice Now with LGBTQ youth of color and allies in Atlanta, GA; the Leeway Foundation, supporting women and trans people creating art and social change in Philadelphia, PA; and provided outreach for the Jonathan Lax Fund at the Bread and Roses Foundation in Philadelphia, PA. Gabriel is also a former staff member of the Sylvia Rivera Law Project. Gabriel is a retired disco dancer extraordinaire and lives for laughter and pug memes.
**Funding Criteria**

_Is Your Group Eligible for a TJFP Grant?_

- Are you a grassroots, trans justice group run by and for trans people?
- Is your group’s total budget less than $250,000?
- Are you located in the United States or Puerto Rico?
- Are you centering the leadership of trans people organizing around their experiences with racism, economic injustice, transmisogyny, ableism, immigration, incarceration, and other intersecting oppressions?
- Are you meeting the needs of different local communities and using organizing and/or providing services to help bring people together?
- Do you see your work as part of a bigger picture of trans-led work that seeks dignity and justice for all people?

_You do not need to be a 501c3 non-profit or have a fiscal sponsor to apply!_

“We also don’t speak the language of money that many people speak. We talk about making coin either doing a show or turning tricks, and fundraising means we have to get over some of the fears of asking for money. We have to get over the fear of rejection, the fear of what we think people might think of us, and how we might be seen as charity cases.”

—2015 Grantee
Doing Philanthropy Differently

Here are some of the things we think about when we make grants.

1. **We give unrestricted funds.**
   That means we don’t tell our grantees what to do with the money or put any conditions on it. So when we read about a group’s plans for their grant money, we keep in mind that we’re here to help them not only with exciting program expenses but also with boring stuff like the cost of meeting space, electricity bills, buying a new computer, paying staff, helping a group that feels isolated go to a conference. In fact, we are especially excited about funding the boring stuff!

2. **We know that trans justice work can take many forms. So the way people organize may look very different from community to community.**
   For those of us who live in a big city with lots of services, a support group might not seem like a radical or interesting thing to fund. But, as one of our applicants reminded us our first year, if you are in a small town in Iowa, the fact that a support group even exists may already be a radical success. What matters to us is that communities are organizing themselves and setting priorities based on what feels most urgent to them.

3. **The way people talk about their work can also look very different.**
   Not everyone uses the same political language to describe their work—or to describe themselves. A lot of things factor into the way a grant application reads, including: where the writer is from, their communities, their class and education background, and their experiences with intersecting oppressions.

4. **We aim to keep our grant process as simple, easy, and quick as possible.**
   Our grant application is only a few pages. We don’t have site visits. We don’t require reports. People just fill out our form online and that’s it. Why? Because we know these groups have more important work to do than spending all their time trying to romance us. We believe that a short application—plus a community panel of wise and experienced trans justice activists!—is all it takes to make informed funding decisions.

5. **We want to be sure to support groups across the country, not just in the big cities on the coasts.**
   We especially want to have a balance between rural and urban, small town and big city, and to keep in mind that groups in more isolated areas often have less access to funding.
6. Providing services can be an important part of organizing.
Some grantmakers, especially more social-justice oriented funds, see organizing as separate from providing services. But we’ve seen how providing services can sometimes be an important step in bringing communities together. Providing services can also make it possible for people to participate who might otherwise be unable to because they are busy meeting their survival needs.

7. There is more than one way to define success.
A lot of funders see grantmaking as an investment. And the return on their investment is their grantees’ success. They want tangible results from their grantees (like big numbers or big policy changes) so that they can prove they made a good investment.

But we know that grassroots social justice movements are messy. Endless. Complicated. Tangible results may be the flower at the end of a long process, but you don’t expect to see a flower when you are looking at the roots. Movements need sustainable groups that will be there for the long run, and they also need short-term, kitchen-table groups that may only be around for a year or two. A group that may look like a failure to some funders may have in fact trained a crucial future leader, provided important resources in the moment, or done inspiring work that others will build on. So we try to take the long view of the movement and remember that there is more than one way to define success in grassroots organizing.

8. We fund groups that aren’t incorporated.
This means that even if a group is not a 501c3 non-profit and does not have a fiscal sponsor, we can still fund them. Sometimes it makes sense for a group to be incorporated, sometimes it doesn’t. It depends on what their goals are. All that matters to us is: are they doing good work?

9. We reject the idea that grantees should be accountable to funders. We think funders need to be accountable to grantees.
Above all, we believe that grantees must be accountable to the communities they serve, especially to those who are most affected by oppression.

10. We are here to provide resources, not to pit everyone against each other in the thunderdome.
Funding in the non-profit world usually turns us all into competing activist-gladiators, fighting each other for scarce resources. Instead, we ask our panelists to read the applications as a friend. As someone who is shepherding resources to nurture a growing movement and to support the people and the communities that are making that movement happen. This is grassroots funding—we want to try and support the whole field of grass, not just a few blades!

“I support TJFP because on all levels they are practicing social justice and liberation: the power of funding being in the hands of trans and gender non-conforming communities themselves; the way that TJFP makes the grant application process simple and accessible in a world where philanthropy is usually unduly complex and vague; and the way that TJFP is a project of solidarity—in its founding, its fundraising, and its community-building—that cuts across seeming barriers of race, gender, class, and more.”

–Jessie Spector, Donor
On Giving 
Without Strings

Karen Pittelman 
Co-founder and Administrative Coordinator

We sent this letter to our community panel members as part of the preparation for this year’s grantmaking meeting.

Dear Community Panel Members,

Right now you might be feeling the heaviness and stress of the decisions you’re going to be making this weekend. How can we know if a group is really doing a good job by just discussing a simple application? How can we be sure they are doing what they say they are doing? Or ensure that they will live up to what they promise? How can we be sure that, in the end, we’ve made the best decisions possible? And what does it mean to be a responsible gatekeeper for these resources, especially when this is some of the only money available for trans justice work out there right now. Each of you struggles every day to make this movement happen—you know all too well about the scarcity of resources for trans justice. You feel it in your bones! What could be more painful than imagining that the money we give away this weekend might not be used well? What can we do to prevent that from happening?

Traditional philanthropy’s answer to these kinds of questions is to require More, More, More: long, detailed grant applications, extensive documentation, in-person visits, and lots of reporting. On the surface, it seems simple enough: more information and more regulation will lead to better decisions and more accountable use of the funds.

But all of us who have ever been grantees know that the power dynamics behind More, More, More are not that simple. This is because philanthropy regulates its grantees in the same way that other institutions regulate people in need of services. For example, think about government institutions that offer public assistance. The welfare office may provide needed resources, but their policing and regulating also serves another purpose: to make it clear who really has the power and so enforce the status quo. Philanthropy may fund social justice, but as an institution, it also serves that same purpose: to make it clear who really has the power (the donors) and to enforce the status quo.

So how can we do it differently? TJFP says that we are about “trusting and supporting trans leadership.” But what does that really mean? For us, to trust and support trans leadership means to give this money without strings, without requiring More, More, More. To think of the money not as belonging to TJFP or to the donors who gave it to us, but as always already belonging to the movement itself.

“We also are working to become more engaged with larger-scale donors. Although we’re only a year old, we want to become less dependent on foundations.”

–2015 Grantee

“We also are working to become more engaged with larger-scale donors. Although we’re only a year old, we want to become less dependent on foundations.”

–2015 Grantee

Opposite page: Gabriel’s mom and TJFP donor Consuela Foster with Mara Keisling, celebrating TJFP’s Community Builder Award from National Center for Transgender Equality.
“For us, to trust and support trans leadership means to give this money without strings, without requiring More, More, More. To think of the money not as belonging to TJFP or to the donors who gave it to us, but as always already belonging to the movement itself.”
The danger of trusting and supporting leadership is that sometimes grantees will let us down. Maybe they will do a bad job. Maybe they will make mistakes. And maybe they will learn from those mistakes in the future but maybe they won’t. Maybe not every group and every leader who receives our trust and support will turn out to be worthy of it. It’s a scary thought especially remembering how scarce these resources are.

But instead of meeting that fear with More, More, More, with policing and regulating, we are choosing to meet that fear with faith in the power of community accountability. We want to turn philanthropy’s power dynamics inside out. Trusting and supporting trans leadership also means trusting in your leadership, in the wisdom and experience you are bringing to the table, and your accountability to the communities you are a part of. When TJFP’s grantmaking decisions are grounded in our panel’s collective wisdom and experience, we are truly doing philanthropy differently.

“Too many of us remain isolated and disconnected from each other, unaware of community resources and legal supports which exist, and scared to be visible. Historically, we have been geographically distant from each other—there is no ‘queer district’ where persons live or congregate, and our state is large, mostly rural, and struggles with long-standing divisions between North and South.”

–2015 Grantee

Gabriel with Detroit REPRESENT!
Visibility Does Not Equal Justice

Nico Amador
TJFP Community Panel Facilitator

On the evening of April 24th, ABC’s 20/20 aired an interview between Diane Sawyer and former Olympian Caitlyn Jenner about her coming out as a trans woman. Afterward, news outlets reported that just under 17 million people watched the interview, making it the largest audience for that program in 15 years.

On the same night as this news sensation, a very different process was also taking place: six panelists, two facilitators, and two staff members gathered at the offices of the Sylvia Rivera Law Project in New York to begin the third grantmaking cycle of the Trans Justice Funding Project. Unlike Caitlyn Jenner, the members of this team were not TV stars or people with the clout to generate the attention of mainstream media. However, I would argue that their contributions and the collective contribution of the 85 trans-led organizations that were funded by TJFP this year (and the many more who were not) represent something far more important about the history of trans activism and the future of our movement.

After the first grant-making cycle of TJFP in 2013, I wrote about how most social movements go through a period in which those who are most affected by an injustice labor for years at the margins of society to bring attention to the need for change. That labor is certainly represented in the stories of trans elders such as Sylvia Rivera, Marsha P. Washington, Leslie Feinberg, Lou Sullivan, Jay Toole, Miss Major, and many, many others who fought the early battles for trans inclusion and gender liberation. Their work is what built the foundation for many of the gains we’ve experienced and the recent expansion of services, networks, and organizing projects created by and for the trans community. While these contributions and the people behind them have gone largely uncelebrated, they’ve steadily pushed us toward the breakthroughs that we see today.

This year, the wide-scale media attention on trans identity signaled a shift in the visibility of trans issues and an opportunity to mobilize a broader segment of the public in support of trans rights. However, for those of us watching from the sidelines of the media frenzy, there seems to be frustratingly little space for more than a handful of people to control the spotlight. Those that do are often self-interested and not in a position to represent the day-to-day realities that most trans people experience.

While we can celebrate that trans people are now more widely acknowledged and that mainstream assumptions about gender are being called into question, at the heart of the matter is the fact that curiosity and visibility in the mainstream does not equal
justice. We still have a long road to walk before all members of our community are free from the violence caused by bigotry, racism, and lack of access to employment, housing, and health care.

In this new era of trans organizing, it is critical that our movement is defined by people who will push for changes that dig deeper than cultural acceptance. That means we need leadership that includes a large and meaningful representation of people from all parts of the gender spectrum, people of color, indigenous people, poor and working class people, people with disabilities, youth, immigrants, and those who live outside of the country’s queer urban centers.

Projects like TJFP and the many organizations that apply for funding each year are so important because they represent the source of that leadership. TJFP is not just a funding organization but a way of taking collective responsibility for putting resources where they are most needed in our community. Our panelists are part of the work happening at a grassroots level and bring identities and experiences that shape the thoughtful, nuanced, and often difficult deliberations about who to fund. Our grantees are groups that center the leadership of trans women of color, give support to trans people in isolated areas, create safe spaces for trans youth, build networks for indigenous and Two Spirit people, and engage in an array of other activities that promote healing, access, and influence over the policies that impact trans lives.

As awareness of trans identities and issues grow, it is helpful for our allies to understand that trans celebrities, while courageous in their own ways, are not the ones who are driving the movement. In fact, it is the movement that has made it possible for these individuals to be received positively in the public eye and it is the ongoing work of the hundreds of trans-led groups that create a safer and more equitable society for trans people.

Our hope with TJFP is that we are not only channeling funds to groups who achieve tremendous things with little to no financial backing, but also serving as a reminder that all of us who participate in trans organizing are part of an important legacy of trans activism and leadership. It is in that spirit that we continue to grow, listen, learn from our mistakes, and embrace the experiment of struggling together to bring our best thinking about how to serve our community in the years ahead.
Reflections from the Table

Trudie Jackson, Navajo
2015 TJFP Panelist

American Indian Two Spirit/Transgender communities are often overlooked for funding opportunities, especially rural tribal communities. Trans social justice work in Indian Country is much needed and can be controversial. With persistence, education, and advocacy by Two Spirit/Trans activists throughout Indian Country, there has been slow progress made in urban areas, but not as much success in rural communities.

I was very blessed to be on the 2015 TJFP Grantee Panel. My voice at the table was well-embraced, and deciding and allocating grants to organizations was a memorable experience. It also made me realize the importance of native representation and advocacy for my American Indian Two Spirit/Transgender community.

I commend the great work throughout America by fierce Transgender activists that are creating change in their communities by utilizing their voice, leadership, and actions. I hope to one day witness throughout Indian Country full equality and inclusion by bringing back Two Spirit traditional roles in tribal communities, as we were once revered and embraced as Third/Fourth/Fifth Genders prior to colonization and Christianity.

“This has been a fabulous experience for me. So inspiring and fun. I feel lucky.”

–Colin Kennedy Donovan, 2015 TJFP Panelist
A New Model: The LLC Becomes a Non-Charitable Trust

Over the last three years, we’ve been on a quest to create an alternative funding structure that will best serve our grantees, giving them the maximum amount of freedom with the minimum amount of red tape. Join us for the latest installment in our ongoing adventure!

Why create a new model in the first place? Does non-profit status help trans justice groups succeed? Or does it make it harder for them to stay true to their missions? We believe groups should have the freedom to chose for themselves what financial structure works best, based on their own goals. And so that meant we had to answer a similar question for ourselves: what structure works best for a fund that grants money to grassroots groups regardless of whether or not they have non-profit status?

Technically, any foundation can make grants to groups without non-profit status. However, for that foundation to keep their own non-profit standing, they must prove to the government that all the money they give away goes to the “public good.” For a grantee without non-profit status, the foundation must submit much more documentation to prove this, including receipts demonstrating how the money was spent.

One of TJFP’s core values is to keep things as simple as possible for our applicants and grantees. We want groups to spend their time fighting for trans justice, not filling out forms. That’s why our application is short and we don’t require any reports. So swamping grantees without non-profit status in paperwork and requiring receipts was the last thing we wanted to do. We didn’t want to force them to get a fiscal sponsor either, especially since most fiscal sponsors charge for their services and require all kinds of paperwork of their own. We saw how all this worked our first year, when we made our grants through a foundation, and we knew we had to find another way. We also felt that a closer look at the history of institutional philanthropy in the United States revealed plenty of reasons to try something new. Like most American institutions, philanthropy in the United States was designed to protect privilege and property and to shelter assets. For example, until 1969, private foundations weren’t even required to give any money away! Today, foundations only have to distribute 5% of their assets annually from which they can also deduct their operating expenses. It’s a big deal that institutional philanthropy uses non-profit tax status to determine...
who is eligible for funding and how they can spend that money. This means that the government, together with the wealthy funders who follow these rules to get their own tax benefits, are the ones deciding what movement legitimacy and accountability look like. They are the ones defining what “the public good” means. They also tend to have the highest stake in preserving their power and making sure things stay the way they are. As Frederick Douglass explained, “Power concedes nothing without a demand.” How can we make the radical demands we must if we are waiting first for power to determine our eligibility for a grant?

Trans communities are the real experts in trans justice. We should have the power to decide for ourselves what gets funded and why.

Exit the LLC, Enter the Non-Charitable Trust
So in 2014, our second year, after lots of questions, conversations, research, and consultations with lawyers and accountants, we decided to try venturing outside of the non-profit world altogether and incorporate as a small business—a limited liability company (LLC), one of the simpler forms a business can take.

At first, we were feeling pretty happy with our new LLC. Funding groups without non-profit status was simple: they became our consultants in the business of trans justice! And our tax burden stayed low. Then this summer we hit an interesting snag. We learned that if co-founder Karen Pittelman kept making donations to the LLC, it might be a red flag for the IRS. Turns out the IRS gets worried when someone keeps putting money into a business and never gets any of it back. The good news was that Karen had unexpectedly inherited more money and could keep covering TJFP’s operating expenses. The bad news was that this meant we had to revisit the question of our structure.

So we went back to the drawing board and spent even more time with even more lawyers and accountants, including a tax law specialist. Finally we came up with a new solution: a non-charitable trust. As a non-charitable trust, we are able to do everything we could do as an LLC. Non-charitable means we do not claim any charitable deduction for our giving, so our grantees still don’t need to have non-profit status. Our tax burden will also remain equally low. And because it’s a trust, the IRS expects us to be giving away money instead of making it, so it solves our red flag problem.

Trusts are usually a way for the wealthy to preserve and pass on their assets to the next generation. But we are hoping that a structure that was created to preserve wealth, when guided instead by community leadership, can also become a powerful means of redistributing it.
Will anyone donate if it isn’t tax deductible?
Donations to the LLC were not tax deductible and neither are donations to the non-charitable trust. We know this is a fundraising risk. What if no one wants to contribute without a tax deduction? But once again this year, the support we’ve received has been inspiring. 130 donors—87% of all our donors—contributed a total of $47,950 to our 2015 grant cycle without requiring a tax deduction.

What about donors who need their contribution to be tax-deductible?
Donors who need their contribution to be tax-deductible can still give to TJFP via our Collective Action Fund at Tides Foundation. This is a donor-advised fund, which is like having a philanthropic bank account at a public charity. This fund is how we made all our grants our first year, and we have kept it open as an option for our donors since then. When donors contribute this way, they are eligible for a tax deduction because Tides Foundation is a public charity.

Although the majority of our donors chose to give through our alternative structure last year, some of our biggest gifts still came through our donor-advised account. This meant that, as in 2014, we made about half of our grants through Tides Foundation. Here’s how we did it: groups that had 501c3 status or a fiscal sponsor were funded through the donor-advised account, and we pulled together the information Tides would need ourselves, doing our best to keep things simple for those grantees. Groups without non-profit status or with other issues were funded through our new trust.

With a total of 85 grants to make, sometimes things got pretty complicated! But we believe it’s our job as funders to take on these complicated logistics so that our grantees can keep their focus on the movement. Each year we learn more and come up with new ways to streamline the process. 2016 will be our easiest, simplest application process yet! We know that together we can continue to build new models that move resources—and the decision-making power over those resources—to the communities that need them most.
Our 2015 Grantees

20% Theatre Company Twin Cities (Minneapolis, MN) supports and vigorously promotes the work of female and transgender theatre artists and celebrates the unique contribution of these artists to social justice and human rights.

allgo (Austin, TX) celebrates and nurtures vibrant queer people of color communities in Texas and beyond through cultural arts, wellness, and social justice programming.

Arcoíris Liberation Team (Phoenix, AZ) seeks the collective physical and mental liberation of trans and queer migrants in and outside of the migratory detention system through mutual support and public campaigns to pressure authorities to liberate detained communities.

Arizona Queer and Undocumented Immigrant Project (Phoenix, AZ) fights to bring justice to our communities through civic engagement as well as civil disobedience, and to end the oppression of the transphobic and homophobic government-operated immigration system.

Arkansas Transgender Equality Coalition (Little Rock, AR) is a statewide, transgender-led organization that works to advance equality, justice, and inclusion for transgender and gender non-conforming people and build educational awareness, resources and community.

Black Trans Media (Cherry Hill, NJ) is committed to building the power of black trans people and our trans/communities of color. We are creating a world where black trans folks are uplifted in our communities and in control of our own narratives and stories.

Black Transmen Inc (Dallas, TX) works to ensure that all Transgender men and SGL/G/B/T/QI individuals are acknowledged and provided equal access and protection under the laws to contribute to a productive society.

Bois of the Sippi (Corinth, MS) increases the visibility of the LGBTQ community through education.

Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center (Lehigh Valley, PA) provides programming, outreach, and services to strengthen and support the LGBT community of the Greater Lehigh Valley.

Bridgewater Committee (Portland, OR) works to connect Trans people with each other and the Earth through community gatherings, art events, and spiritual rituals occurring in wilderness areas.

Cicada Collective (Lewisville, TX) is a queer and trans* people of color-centered organization that aims to provide access to reproductive resources and address the immediate needs of our red-state and southern communities.
Colorado Springs Queer Collective (Parker, CO) aims to enrich the lives of those who identify within the LGBTQ spectrum by providing comprehensive resources and advocating for those in need of access to health care, employment, and legal services.

Community Kinship Life (CK Life) (Bronx, NY) provides the Trans community with the tools needed to achieve their personal goals while having a sense of community and Kinship.

Criminal Queers (San Francisco, CA) is a film that visualizes a radical trans/queer struggle against the prison industrial complex and toward a world without walls, growing our collective liberation by working to abolish the multiple ways our hearts, genders, and desires are confined.

Destination Tomorrow (Brooklyn, NY) works to address the stigma that exists within the Trans male community regarding SGL/MSM/Bi Trans Men and to build dialogues that strip misconceptions about sexual orientation as it relates to gender identity.

Detroit REPRESENT! (Detroit, MI) inspires and supports community organizing efforts lead by LGBTQ youth of color from Detroit that create a revolutionary media alternative that authentically portrays our communities, our lives, and our selves.

DOPE Collective/TRANSgressions (Buffalo, NY) is a Buffalo-based D.I.Y. millennial peer group organization that aims to build a stronger alternative music and art community for People of Color, Women, LGBTQAI, and Disabled individuals of All Ages.

Garden of Peace Project (Homestead, PA) uplifts, upholds, and empowers the narratives and lived experiences of LGBTQIA+ individuals, and addresses the impact of violence and the lack educational, employment, healthcare, and housing resources on their lives.

Gender Expansion Project (Missoula, MT) promotes gender-inclusive education and awareness through evidence-based care, education, research, advocacy, public and private policy, and respect in transgender health and wellbeing.

Gender Infinity (Houston, TX) creates affirming spaces for families, learners, advocates, and providers to advance relationships, knowledge, and resources that empower gender diverse individuals.

Gender Justice LA (Los Angeles, CA) is a member-based, grassroots social justice organization for and led by gender non-conforming, genderfluid, two spirit, questioning, and trans People of Color in LA County, centering low-income folks.

Gender Justice Nevada (Las Vegas, NV) champions the healing, dignity, and justice of diverse trans, intersex, and gender non-conforming persons and communities by offering inclusive anti-violence programs.

GenderNexus (Indianapolis, IN) empowers people who are gender diverse to lead authentically healthy and holistic lives by connecting them with supportive services to meet their physical, emotional, social, spiritual, intellectual, occupational, and environmental needs.

Green Mountain Crossroads (Brattleboro, VT) builds strong, healthy, and visible rural LGBTQ communities throughout Northern New England. We work so rural queer people can survive and thrive!
Happy Birthday, Marsha! (Brooklyn, NY) is a short film that highlights the work of best friends and pioneering transgender rights activists Sylvia Rivera and Marsha “Pay it No Mind” Johnson.

Heartland Trans* Wellness Group (Cincinnati, OH) aims to meet trans* needs and promote comprehensive, accessible health, wellness, and educational resources for Midwestern people in the greater trans community.

Henderson Fuerza Activa/HendFact Henderson (Henderson, NC) works to make changes in immigration law for the Latin@ community, to support the community in lifting its voice, and to create space for the leadership of immigrants, transgender and gay people, youth, and the undocumented.

Immigrant Youth Coalition (Los Angeles, CA) is an undocumented and queer/trans youth-led group that organizes to end the criminalization of immigrants and people of color.

Invisible to Invincible API Pride of Chicago (i2i) (Chicago, IL) celebrates and affirms Asians and Pacific Islanders (APIs) who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Queer (LGBTQ) in the Chicago area.

Jay’s House (Brooklyn, NY) believes that shelter/housing is a basic right and is committed to helping our adult queers transition to permanent housing in a safe environment that is free of harassment and physical violence on the basis of sexual orientation and/or gender presentation.

JustUsATL (Atlanta, GA) is an LGBTQQA youth-led space of affirmation, liberation, and safety which empowers young people to lead our own movement.

LaGender (Eastpoint, GA) serves the unique needs of the Transgender community in Metro Atlanta by providing services for HIV prevention and intervention, substance abuse, mental health disorders, homelessness, intimate partner violence, Spiritual counseling, and legal advocacy.
Lorena Borjas Community Fund (Jackson Heights, NY) provides bond assistance and other financial support to low-income transgender and gender non-conforming immigrants so that they can avoid the collateral consequences associated with criminal convictions, jail time, and court appearances.

Lower Columbia Gender Alliance (Astoria, OR) builds a supportive community for transgender and questioning people and their families and friends in Astoria, Oregon, and the Lower Columbia Region.

Maine Transgender Network (Kennebunkport, ME) provides support and resources for the transgender community, families, and significant others, and raises awareness by providing training and consultation for mental health and social service professionals.

MAJOR! (San Francisco, CA) is a documentary film exploring the life and campaigns of Miss Major Griffin-Gracy, a formerly incarcerated Black transgender elder and activist who has been fighting for the rights of trans women of color for over 40 years.

Mariposas Sin Fronteras/Butterflies Without Borders (Tucson, AZ) works to put an end to the systematic violence and abuse of incarcerated LGBTQ people in prison and the detention of immigrants.

Metro Trans Umbrella Group (St Louis, MO) brings together trans, gender queer, androgyous, and intersex people and our allies in the St. Louis metro area through community, visibility, advocacy, and education.

Missouri GSA Network/The Sisterhood (St. Louis, MO) empowers young trans women and gender non-binary people of color under the age of 23 with leadership skills, resources, and space to feel validated.

Montana Two Spirit Society (Missoula, MT) advocates, educates, and builds community among Native and Indigenous peoples, including LGBTI and allied communities, by sharing our two spirit histories and cultural traditions.

Name and Gender Marker Change Clinic (Houston, TX) partners members of trans communities with pro bono lawyers to get their legal documents to line up with their presentation, if they desire.

New Legacy Ministries (New Orleans, LA) documents the stories of overlooked and under-served minorities through media, advocacy, and the arts.

New York City Trans Oral History Project (Brooklyn, NY) preserves the vast wealth of historical knowledge in NYC’s trans communities by centering the insights, experiences, and direction of those who have been most peripheral to existing histories.

OTHER (Washington, DC) increases access to adequate and competent healthcare and employment opportunities for transgender and gender non-conforming people.

Out Boulder (Boulder, CO) works to educate, advocate, and provide services, programs, and support to Boulder County’s LGBTQ communities.

OUTreach Resource Centers (Ogden, UT) is dedicated to transforming communities and saving lives through programs designed to promote positive outcomes for LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness, family rejection, or victimization.
Queer Detainee Empowerment Project (Brooklyn, NY) is a collective alternative-to-detention program and community organizing group for trans/queer/ HIV+ immigrant detainees, undocumented folks, and asylum seekers and their families in New York City.

RAD Remedy (Chicago, IL) connects trans, gender non-conforming, intersex, and queer folks to accurate, safe, respectful, and comprehensive care in order to improve individual and community health.

S.G. Reichen Trans Assistance Fund (San Diego, CA) enhances and enriches the lives of the trans community through advocacy, education, and assistance.

San Francisco Transgender Film Festival (San Francisco, CA) helps build a strong and diverse community through the power of transgender cinema.

Sistas of the “t” (Baltimore, MD) helps transgender women who seek to live with dignity and character turn their dreams into realities through education, activism, and advocacy.

Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (Tucson, AZ) provides support groups, advocacy, community education, and training for employers and businesses, service providers, community members, and their families on how our allies can be supportive and inclusive.

T-FFED (Trans Folx Fighting Eating Disorders) (Los Angeles, CA) makes visible, interrupts, and undermines the disproportionately high incidence of eating disorders in trans and gender-diverse communities through radical community healing and recovery institution reform.

Tennesse Trans Journey Project (Nashville, TN) shines a light on inequalities suffered by the transgender community and networks to create access to trans-friendly healthcare services, access to safe housing, and advocates for fair hiring.

TGI Justice (Transgender, Gender Variant and Intersex Justice Project) (San Francisco, CA) works to challenge and end the human rights abuses committed against transgender, gender variant and intersex people, especially transgender women, in California prisons and beyond.

TGI Network of Rhode Island (Providence, RI) serves the needs of the transgender, gender-variant, and intersex (TGI) communities in Rhode Island and surrounding areas through support, advocacy, and education.

The Altar/Ki’tay Lives (Los Angeles, CA) works to center the spiritual work and healing of trans* people of color, provide spiritual and creative space to honor transcestors, restore relationship with food and nature, and co-learn healing arts practices.

Third Root Education Exchange (Brooklyn, NY) envisions healing as imperative to social justice work and works to keep the change-makers healthy so that collectively we facilitate vibrant individuals, communities, and society.

Trans and/or Women’s Action Collective Portland (Springfield, OR) is a free annual camp-out in the forest for trans women, trans men, genderqueer, genderfluid, gendervariant, non-binary people, and cisgender women to build community and activist skills.

T-FFED: Trans Folx Fighting Eating Disorders, Los Angeles, CA.
Trans Health PDX (Portland, OR) provides health care, health education, and health referrals to anyone who self-identifies on the transgender, genderqueer, and intersex spectrum, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.

Trans in Action (New York, NY) builds community through grassroots organizing and teaching queer history, and challenges our young people to be leaders and mentors among their peers in finding solutions to the dilemmas we face today.

Trans Lifeline (San Francisco, CA) is building a community of supportive individuals and other resources for suicidal transgender people, especially African American and Latina transgender women.

Trans Pride Initiative (Dallas, TX) supports and advocates for trans and gender non-conforming persons in housing, healthcare, employment, and education.

Trans Student Educational Resources (Claremont, CA) is a youth-led organization dedicated to transforming the educational environment for trans and gender non-conforming students through advocacy and empowerment.

Trans Women of Color Coalition (Baltimore, MD) promotes the unity of all Trans Women of Color. We strive to use our visibility and power to combat the epidemic of violence TWOC face.

Trans Worker Center (Long Beach, CA) aims to build power and resources for the working-class trans* community, increase access to quality employment, and transform the Los Angeles economy so that we do not have to rely on survival sex work in order to survive.

Trans(forming) (East Point, GA) is an Atlanta membership-based FTM community organization led by people of color and focused on building community resources that address our members’ needs.
Trans* Advocacy Group (Olympia, WA) works to make Olympia and the surrounding area more Trans inclusive through education and by providing advocacy, support, information, resources, and social and cultural opportunities to our transgender community.

Trans*farming VT (Winooski, VT) works to increase food system access for queer and trans people of color in Vermont while also improving land accessibility through community building and collective empowerment.

TransActive Gender Center (Portland, OR) provides a holistic range of services and expertise to empower transgender and gender-diverse children, youth, and their families in living healthy lives, free of discrimination.

Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois (Chicago, IL) is a collective of radical lawyers, activists, and community organizers providing holistic criminal legal services for transgender and gender non-conforming people who are targeted by the criminal legal system.

Transformers (Asheville, NC) supports trans and non-binary people through peer support groups and events. We believe that meeting in groups increases resiliency in our communities.

Transgender Allies Group (Reno, NV) provides education, resources, counseling, advocacy, and support of transgender individuals and families in order to ensure equality, integration, and an exceptional quality of life for all transgender people in Northern Nevada.

Transgender American Veterans Association (Akron, OH) addresses the growing concerns of fair and equal treatment of Transgender Military Veterans and Active Duty service members.

Transgender Education Advocates of Utah (TEA) (West Valley City, UT) works to eliminate prejudice and discrimination of transgender individuals within Utah and surrounding states through education and advocacy.

Transgender Education Network of Texas (College Station, TX) is dedicated to furthering gender diverse equity in the State of Texas through education and networking in both public and private forums.

Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico (Albuquerque, NM) strives to exist as a clearinghouse for resources which can support, assist, educate, and advocate for the transgender population of this state and their families and loved ones.

Translatina Network (Brooklyn, NY) promotes equality with fair and lasting rights for all Latina transgender women at a local, state, and federal level.

TransOhio (Columbus, OH) serves the Ohio transgender and ally communities by providing services, education, support, and advocacy which promotes and improves the health, safety, and life experience of Ohio transgender individuals and community.

Tranzmission (Asheville, NC) improves the lives of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals through education, outreach, advocacy, and healthy community building.
**TSTAR (Louisville, KY)** works to expand the availability of mental health, medical health, and inclusive/safe space resources through self-advocacy, community organizing, and trainings for professionals who work with trans populations.

**Unheard Voices (Roswell, GA)** provides less fortunate and homeless individuals in the Transgender Community with a safe place to receive various resources like job skill training, resume writing, interviewing skills, and job leads as well as meals and emergency shelter.

**Unity Coalition/Coalición Unida (Miami Beach, FL)** is dedicated to the Leadership, Protection, Equality, and Fairness of the South Florida Latino/Hispanic LGBTQ community.

**We Are Family’s Trans* Love Fund (Charleston, SC)** finances the care and support of trans* lives in South Carolina through need-based micro grants for legal expenses, healthcare, and emergency assistance.

**WI Trans Health (Madison, WI)** is dedicated to improving the lives of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals in south-central Wisconsin by amplifying the voices of community members in order to build supportive, inclusive community resources.

**ALABAMA**
- **Alpha Sigma Omega Fraternity Inc.**
  - Selma, AL
  - 2013 Applicant

**ARKANSAS**
- **Arkansas Transgender Equality Coalition**
  - Little Rock, AR
  - 2015 Grantee

- **GEAR (Gender Equality Arkansas)**
  - North Little Rock, AR
  - 2013 Grantee

**ARIZONA**
- **Arcoiris Liberation Team**
  - Phoenix, AZ
  - 2015 Grantee

- **Arizona Queer and Undocumented Immigrant Project**
  - Phoenix, AZ
  - 2015 Grantee

- **Camp Born This Way**
  - Tucson, AZ
  - 2014 Grantee

- **Fluxx Studio & Gallery**
  - Tucson, AZ
  - 2014 Grantee

- **Mariposas Sin Fronteras/Butterflies Without Borders**
  - Tucson, AZ
  - 2015 Grantee

- **Rainbow Defense Fund**
  - Tucson, AZ
  - 2013 Applicant

**CALIFORNIA**
- **Southern Arizona Gender Alliance**
  - Tucson, AZ
  - 2015 Grantee

- **La Oportunidad**
  - Los Angeles, CA
  - 2014 Grantee

- **Los Angeles Transgender Film Festival**
  - Los Angeles, CA
  - 2013 Applicant

- **MAJOR!**
  - San Francisco, CA
  - 2014 Grantee, 2015 Grantee

- **Pacific Pride Foundation**
  - Santa Barbara, CA
  - 2013 Applicant

- **PASSING: Living As Me**
  - Studio City, CA
  - 2014 Applicant

- **San Diego Gender Coalition**
  - San Diego, CA
  - 2014 Applicant

**MAJOR!**
- **S.G. Reichen Trans Assistance Fund**
  - San Diego, CA
  - 2015 Grantee

- **San Diego Gender Coalition**
  - San Diego, CA
  - 2014 Grantee

- **San Francisco Transgender Film Festival**
  - San Francisco, CA
  - 2015 Grantee

- **SICK**
  - San Francisco, CA
  - 2013 Grantee
St. James Infirmary  
San Francisco, CA  
2013 Applicant

Stockton Transgender Alliance  
Stockton, CA  
2013 Applicant

T-FFED (Trans Folx Fighting Eating Disorders)  
Los Angeles, CA  
2015 Grantee

TGI Justice (Transgender, Gender Variant, & Intersex Justice Project) (TGJJP)  
San Francisco, CA  
2013 Grantee, 2015 Grantee

The Altar/Ki’tay Lives  
Los Angeles, CA  
2015 Grantee

The TransGen Times  
Los Angeles, CA  
2015 Applicant

Topsy Turvy: A Queer Circus Extravaganza  
Oakland, CA  
2013 Applicant

Trans Lifeline  
San Francisco, CA  
2015 Grantee

Trans March  
San Francisco, CA  
2013 Applicant

Trans Student Educational Resources  
Claremont, CA  
2015 Grantee

Trans United with Family and Friends  
Los Angeles, CA  
2014 Grantee

Trans Women of Color Network Gathering  
San Leandro, CA  
2014 Grantee

Trans Worker Center  
Long Beach, CA  
2015 Grantee

Trans*H4CK  
Oakland, CA  
2014 Grantee

Trans*Mission  
Santa Rosa, CA  
2015 Applicant

Transgender Day of Remembrance  
North Palm Springs, CA  
2014 Applicant

Transgender Law Center  
San Francisco, CA  
2013 Applicant

TransYouth Speak  
Los Angeles, CA  
2015 Applicant

Trikone  
San Francisco, CA  
2014 Applicant

Who We Know  
Oakland, CA  
2013 Applicant

Your True Gender  
Grover Beach, CA  
2015 Applicant

COLORADO  
Boulder County Public Health OASOS Transgender Health Task Force  
Boulder, CO  
2014 Applicant
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<td>Transformations</td>
<td>Des Moines, IA</td>
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<td>Affinity Community Services</td>
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Beyond the Binary Radio
Carbondale, IL
2015 Applicant

Chicago Women’s Health Center
Chicago, IL
2013 Applicant

Invisible to Invincible API Pride of Chicago (i2i)
Chicago, IL
2015 Grantee

KokumoMedia Inc
Chicago, IL
2013 Applicant

RAD Remedy
Chicago, IL
2015 Grantee

The Greyson Telander Chapbook Award for Emerging Trans Poets
Chicago, IL
2015 Applicant

Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois
Chicago, IL
2013 Grantee, 2014 Grantee, 2015 Grantee

True To You: LGBT Support and Referral Services
Algonquin, IL
2014 Applicant

WeHappyTrans.com
Chicago, IL
2014 Grantee

Youth Empowerment Performance Project
Chicago, IL
2013 Grantee, 2014 Grantee

INDIANA
Gender Warriors
Evansville, IN
2013 Applicant

GenderNexus
Indianapolis, IN
2015 Grantee

KANSAS
Kansas Statewide Transgender Education Project (K-STEP)
Topeka, KS
2013 Grantee, 2014 Applicant

KENTUCKY
TSTAR
Louisville, KY
2015 Grantee

LOUISIANA
BreakOUT!
New Orleans, LA
2013 Applicant, 2014 Grantee

Louisiana Trans Advocates
Metairie, LA
2013 Grantee, 2015 Applicant

New Legacy Ministries
New Orleans, LA
2015 Grantee

MASSACHUSETTS
Black and Pink
Dorchester, MA
2014 Grantee

BodyImage4Justice
Boston, MA
2014 Grantee

GLBT Youth Support Project
Brockton, MA
2013 Applicant

Inn Motion Inc.
Boston, MA
2015 Applicant

Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition
Boston, MA
2013 Applicant, 2014 Applicant

Out Now
Springfield, MA
2014 Applicant

The Binding Health Project
Somerville, MA
2015 Applicant

Transcending Boundaries Inc.
Springfield, MA
2014 Applicant

Transgender Emergency Fund
Worcester, MA
2013 Applicant

Umbrella Program of OUT MetroWest
Framingham, MA
2014 Grantee, 2015 Applicant

MAINE
Maine Transgender Network
Kennebunkport, ME
2015 Grantee

Trans Youth Equality Foundation
Portland, ME
2013 Applicant, 2015 Applicant

MARYLAND
Sistas of the “t”
Baltimore, MD
2015 Grantee

Bois of Baltimore
Baltimore, MD
2014 Grantee

Diversity In Transition Inc.
Baltimore, MD
2015 Applicant

Equality Maryland
Baltimore, MD
2013 Applicant

Trans Women of Color Coalition
Baltimore, MD
2015 Grantee
**MICHIGAN**

- Detroit REPRESENT!
  Detroit, MI
  2014 Grantee, 2015 Grantee

- Gender Identity Network Alliance
  Warren, MI
  2015 Applicant

- Trans* Leadership Project
  Okemos, MI
  2015 Applicant

**MINNESOTA**

- 20% Theatre Company
  Minneapolis, MN
  2015 Grantee

- Gender Reel
  St. Paul, MN
  2015 Applicant

- Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition
  Minneapolis, MN
  2013 Applicant, 2014 Grantee

- RECLAIM
  Minneapolis, MN
  2013 Applicant

- Shades of Yellow (SOY)
  St Paul, MN
  2014 Grantee

- Trans Youth Support Network (TYSN)
  Minneapolis, MN
  2013 Grantee, 2014 Grantee

- Visible Bodies: Twin Cities
  St Paul, MN
  2014 Grantee

**MISSOURI**

- LGBT Center of St. Louis
  St. Louis, MO
  2013 Applicant

- Metro Trans Umbrella Group
  St. Louis, MO
  2014 Grantee, 2015 Grantee

- Missouri GSA Network/ The Sisterhood
  St. Louis, MO
  2014 Grantee, 2015 Grantee

- Transgender Inclusion STL
  St. Louis, MO
  2015 Applicant

**MISSISSIPPI**

- Bois of the Sippi
  Corinth, MS
  2013 Applicant, 2015 Grantee

**MONTANA**

- Gender Expansion Project
  Missoula, MT
  2013 Applicant, 2014 Grantee, 2015 Grantee

- Montana Two Spirit Society
  Missoula, MT
  2013 Grantee, 2014 Grantee, 2015 Grantee

- Rural Gender Mental Health Project
  Bozeman, MT
  2014 Applicant

**NORTH CAROLINA**

- Asheville Trans Healthcare Assistance
  Fairview, NC
  2015 Applicant

- Durham Gender Alliance
  Durham, NC
  2013 Grantee

- Greensboro Health Cooperative
  Efland, NC
  2013 Applicant

- Henderson Fuerza Activa/ HendFact Henderson
  Henderson, NC
  2015 Grantee

- 20% Theatre Company
  Minneapolis, MN
  2015 Grantee

- Gender Reel
  St. Paul, MN
  2015 Applicant

- Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition
  Minneapolis, MN
  2013 Applicant, 2014 Grantee

- RECLAIM
  Minneapolis, MN
  2013 Applicant

- Shades of Yellow (SOY)
  St Paul, MN
  2014 Grantee

- Trans Youth Support Network (TYSN)
  Minneapolis, MN
  2013 Grantee, 2014 Grantee

- Visible Bodies: Twin Cities
  St Paul, MN
  2014 Grantee

**NEVADA**

- Gender Justice Nevada
  Las Vegas, NV
  2013 Applicant, 2014 Grantee, 2015 Grantee

- Transgender Allies Group
  Reno, NV
  2015 Grantee

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

- Those Queers
  Hanover, NH
  2013 Applicant

- Transgender New Hampshire
  Dover, NH
  2014 Grantee

**NEW JERSEY**

- Black Trans Media
  Cherry Hill, NJ
  2015 Grantee
Gender Spectrums Support Network
Oakhurst, NJ
2015 Applicant

Hudson Pride Connections Center
Jersey City, NJ
2014 Grantee, 2015 Applicant

Trans Women of Color Collective of Greater New York
East Orange, NJ
2014 Grantee

Transfaith (Interfaith Working Group)
Lawrenceville, NJ
2013 Applicant, 2014 Grantee

NEW YORK

Audre Lorde Project
New York, NY
2013 Applicant

bklyn boihood
Brooklyn, NY
2013 Applicant

Community Kinship Life (CK Life)
Bronx, NY
2015 Grantee

Destination Tomorrow
Brooklyn, NY
2013 Applicant, 2014 Grantee, 2015 Grantee

DOPE Collective/TRANSgressions
Buffalo, NY
2015 Grantee

FIERCE
New York, NY
2013 Applicant

Gender Proud
New York, NY
2014 Applicant

Happy Birthday, Marsha!
Brooklyn, NY
2015 Grantee

Harvest Rest
Bronx, NY
2015 Applicant

Jay’s House
Brooklyn, NY
2015 Grantee

Lorena Borjas Community Fund
Jackson Heights, NY
2015 Grantee

New York Citizens for Transgender Rights (NYCTR)
Delmar, NY
2013 Applicant

New York City Trans Oral History Project
Brooklyn, NY
2015 Grantee

Otter Activism
New York, NY
2014 Grantee, 2015 Applicant

PERSIST Health Project
Brooklyn, NY
2013 Applicant

Project I Am Enough
Baldwin, NY
2014 Grantee

PRYDE: A project of Make the Road New York
Jackson Heights, NY
2014 Grantee

Psychotherapy Center for Gender and Sexuality
New York, NY
2015 Applicant
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Mazzoni Center’s Trans Wellness Program
Philadelphia, PA
2015 Applicant

Sisterly L.O.V.E
Philadelphia, PA
2014 Grantee

Trans Oral History Project
Upper Darby, PA
2013 Applicant

TransCentralPA
Harrisburg, PA
2015 Applicant

**RHODE ISLAND**
TGI Network of Rhode Island
Providence, RI
2013 Applicant, 2015 Grantee

**SOUTH CAROLINA**
Gender Benders
Greenville, SC
2013 Applicant

Palmetto Transgender Association
Myrtle Beach, SC
2015 Applicant

SC TransAction
Columbia, SC
2014 Grantee

Transcendents
Bluffton, SC
2013 Grantee

We Are Family’s Trans* Love Fund
Charleston, SC
2015 Grantee

**TENNESSEE**
Daffodil Meadow Collective
Liberty, TN
2015 Applicant

Idyll Dandy Arts
Dowelltown, TN
2014 Applicant

Passionflower Distro
Altamont, TN
2015 Applicant

SisterReach
Memphis, TN
2014 Applicant

Tennessee Trans Journey Project
Nashville, TN
2015 Grantee

The STAY Project (Stay Together Appalachian Youth)
New Market, TN
2014 Grantee

The Vanderbilt Trans Buddy Program
Nashville, TN
2015 Applicant

Work Hard Stay Hard
Dowelltown, TN
2015 Applicant

**TEXAS**
Algo
Austin, TX
2014 Grantee, 2015 Grantee

Black Transmen Inc.
Dallas, TX
2014 Grantee, 2015 Grantee

Cicada Collective
Lewisville, TX
2014 Grantee, 2015 Grantee

Gender Infinity
Houston, TX
2015 Grantee

Gender Journey
Carrollton, TX
2014 Applicant

Name and Gender Marker Change Clinic
Houston, TX
2015 Grantee

Texas Transgender Nondiscrimination Summit
Baytown, TX
2014 Applicant, 2015 Applicant

Trans Pride Initiative
Dallas, TX
2013 Applicant, 2014 Grantee, 2015 Grantee

Transgender Day of Remembrance Unite!
Dallas, TX
2014 Grantee

Transgender Education Network of Texas
College Station, TX
2013 Applicant, 2014 Applicant, 2015 Grantee

Transgender Foundation of America
Houston, TX
2014 Applicant
UTAH
Transgender Civic Engagement Project
Payson, UT
2015 Applicant

OUTreach Resource Centers
Ogden, UT
2014 Grantee, 2015 Grantee

TransAction Utah
Salt Lake City, UT
2015 Applicant

Transgender Education Advocates of Utah (TEA)
West Valley City, UT
2015 Grantee

VIRGINIA
Ladies and Gents of the Blue Ridge LLC
Roanoke, VA
2014 Applicant

The Williamsburg Queer Center for LGBTIQAA Liberation and Social Justice
Williamsburg, VA
2013 Applicant

VERMONT
Green Mountain Crossroads
Brattleboro, VT
2014 Grantee, 2015 Grantee

WASHINGTON
Camp Ten Trees
Seattle, WA
2013 Applicant

CoG
Seattle, WA
2015 Applicant

Entre Hermanos
Seattle, WA
2013 Applicant

First Rain
Seattle, WA
2013 Grantee, 2014 Grantee

Gender Alliance of the South Sound
Gig Harbor, WA
2013 Applicant, 2015 Applicant

Gender Diversity
Bellingham, WA
2013 Applicant

Gender Justice League
Seattle, WA
2013 Applicant, 2014 Grantee

Gendercast
Seattle, WA
2013 Applicant

Ingersoll Gender Center
Seattle, WA
2013 Applicant

LGBTQ Allyship
Seattle, WA
2013 Applicant, 2014 Applicant

Partners in Prevention Education
Olympia, WA
2014 Applicant

Prison Doula Project
Olympia, WA
2013 Grantee, 2014 Grantee

Queer Art Heals Your Heart
Olympia, WA
2013 Applicant

Queer Liberation Network
Bellingham, WA
2015 Applicant

Reteaching Gender & Sexuality
Seattle, WA
2013 Applicant

Stonewall Youth
Olympia, WA
2013 Applicant, 2014 Grantee

Trans* Advocacy Group (TAG)
Olympia, WA
2015 Grantee

Three Wings/Queer Youth Space
Seattle, WA
2013 Applicant

Trans FTM
Snoqualmie, WA
2015 Applicant

U.T.O.P.I.A. Seattle (United Territories of Pacific Islanders Alliance)
Seattle, WA
2013 Grantee, 2014 Grantee

We Are Family
Seattle, WA
2013 Applicant

Writing Resistance
Seattle, WA
2013 Applicant

WISCONSIN
FORGE, Inc.
Milwaukee, WI
2013 Applicant

WI Trans Health
Madison, WI
2015 Grantee
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