together in truth and love
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This report and more resources are available at transjusticefundingproject.org.

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Mariposas Sin Fronteras, Tucson, AZ, 2018 TJFP Grantee
Terminology

Terminology is constantly changing as we grow, expanding our knowledge while finding a 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.

We’ve also provided some clarity on acronyms that you’ll come across within these pages.

**TGNC**: An acronym referring to Trans and Gender Non-Conforming people

**QTPOC**: An acronym referring to Queer Transgender People of Color

**LGBTQI+**: An acronym referring to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Intersex, and more, that attempts to include most all sexual and gender identities.

**Trans**: An umbrella term for people whose gender identity, expression, and/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 (GNC)**: A term for individuals whose gender expression is different from societal expectations related to gender.

**Gender Non-Binary**: A term for individuals whose gender identity is something other than male or female.

**Cisgender/Cis**: A term for people whose gender identity matches the sex that they were assigned at birth.

**Intersex**: A general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn’t seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male. Intersex people can have variations in their gonads, chromosomes, or genitalia.

**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, bi-sexual, transgender, intersex, or gender non-conforming identity as two-spirit. In many Nations, being two-spirit carries both great respect and additional commitments and re sponsibilities 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 in the right to self-determine our gender and gender expression, free from all forms of violence and oppression, including personal and state violence.
We come from somewhere.
We come from everywhere. And our hearts are on fire.
Lead by those who have come before us, making new pathways for those who will follow.
We are not lost.
We are gathering ourselves and each other, continuously moving forward.
And if we’ve ever known anything at all, it’s that we’ve always known how to find a way.

Dearest friends, family, and community,

I write this letter feeling a profound amount of gratitude. We have all experienced so much. As 2018 draws to a close, my mind can’t stop thinking about the notion of faith.

What is faith?
Where does faith come from?
What is the power or promise of having faith in someone or something?
Hope is another word that pulling at me lately. I hear it used on a daily basis and, year after year, I attempt to write hopeful messages, words to encourage beloveds to keep going. But this year I’ve become a bit more curious about the nuances of these words and their sentiments.

From what I understand, hope projects out into the future. People usually say things like, “I hope I get this right” or “I hope things will be different someday,” while faith seems to be about the now. For example, “Don’t worry! Have some faith, things will work out!” or “Oh, I totally have faith in them.”

Even though faith is often used in religious contexts and can even be a seen as a controversial word, I’m struck by how much faith seems at the core, seems to be about trusting in something. At best, faith seems to be a word used to describe something unshakeable, an impenetrable trust or confidence that others can’t take away from us if we don’t let them.

So, after an incredibly reflective year, I think it’s fair to say that I am someone who has faith, which has lead me to hope.

When the 2018 TJFP grantmaking fellows came together in person to distribute $650,000 across the country, funding 182 groups, I felt a sense of hope combined with faith.
The applications we received tell stories of struggle as well as unstoppable strength. I don’t say this to romanticize the journey towards justice and liberation, but instead to lift up the historic strides being made by the very groups and organizations we have had the honor of funding through a community-led process.

Maybe some of us have faith because we need hope?

No matter what the answers to the questions posed above, at the end of the day, TJFP has faith in its grantees, its applicants, and those of you who continue to show up in whatever ways you can, keeping our communities well-loved and resourced.

We are still grieving those who have been taken from us, and collectively dusting ourselves off so we may rise again. We are still making wins large and small, while standing up to and challenging the structures that try to hold us down. But TJFP maintains our faith and hope because we know our grantees, allies, friends, and family make what’s deemed impossible possible all the time.

So please take a moment to join us in celebrating this year’s grantees and grantmaking fellows and getting to know them through this report!

With sincerity and a full heart, I close this letter with the moving words from 2018 TJFP Grantmaking Fellow Everette Renee Harvey Thompson: “Keep living, keep being beautiful, bold, brilliant, and fierce. Keep questioning to move closer to clarity but not to take away what you know, what each of us was born with—our instinctual knowing that we deserve to be free, to be loved, to be whole, and to see each other wherever we are!”

With love and gratitude,

Gabriel Foster
Executive Director
Our Grantmaking Year in Review

1. 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.

For us, community-led means trusting and supporting trans leadership. Each year we work hard to put together a geographically diverse, intergenerational, multi-ability,
multi-racial grantmaking 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. TJFP staff have no decision-making power in this process, and each year, we are humbled by the brilliance of our TJFP grantmaking fellows, grantees, and applicants.

Our grant process is simple. Applicants fill out a short application and we convene a knowledgeable and thoughtful activist panel to make informed funding decisions. We give unrestricted funds because we think our grantees know best how to use the money and, while we love to learn from the leaders we support and share their work with other funders and community members, we don’t conduct site visits and we don’t require any reporting. We do require that our applicants have a budget of $250,000 or less, but we don’t require non-profit status. TJFP moves money to our community as quickly as possible and with very few obstacles, because we know that these groups have more important work to do, and they do it every single day.

The Trans Justice Funding Project is about investing in trans communities who are making decisions by and for ourselves. In the last six years, we’ve received 877 applications and distributed 717 grants through our community-led process, with funds we’ve raised that total over $1.9 million!

Thank you for believing in TJFP and having faith in trans-led grassroots activists and organizers. We’re so excited to share our sixth report with you.

2. Our Sixth Year

In 2018, our communities continue to grow, connect, and create visionary ways to show up for liberation and justice. TJFP is inspired and driven by the beautiful community of passionate trans leadership across the country and we’re committed to funding these dreams and all the ways our communities are cultivating life and caring for one another.
In TJFP’s sixth year of funding, we moved $650,000 to 182 trans justice groups—more than we’ve ever given away. In this era when our community is mobilizing and fighting back against constant attacks from Trump and those emboldened to hate by his administration, it never feels like it enough.

And yet, every day our friends, family, and comrades are living in their truths and moving towards their vision of justice. Every year, we read through application after application and are brought to tears by the strength and resilience, the endless heart, and the many hours of fierce trans leaders who put their lives on the line so that we all may live in our full power.

**More Applications and From More Places**

Over the last six years, we’ve seen an increase in applications and grantees from trans activists and organizers all across the country. It is very clear that our support for grassroots trans justice groups remains vital to the trans justice movement.

This year we received 216 applications. We’ve seen a sizable increase in applications from the South, the Midwest, and Puerto Rico, and we received applications from places we’ve haven’t before, such as West Virginia and Nebraska. There is so much important work happening in our communities—and it looks different in each region.

**Our Fabulous Grantmaking Fellows**

We brought together another brilliant panel of trans justice activists to make this year’s grant decisions: Bré Campbell, Keiva-Lei Cadena, Isabel Sousa-Rodriguez, Ezak Perez, Everette Thompson, and Shawn Reagor. From their work on the decriminalization of HIV at a national level to TGNC community-building in rural communities and so much more, our amazing panelists brought their organizing experience, regional understanding, and love for justice to the decision-making process.

The weekend-long, in-person meeting was facilitated by Nico Amador, for his sixth
year, and Glo Ross, thankfully back for another year, with help from Nico Fonseca. Along with their clear guidance and years of experience, Nico and Glo brought a level of love and intention to the process that was simply magical.

About Our Grants and Grantees
In June, we made 182 grants, giving away a total of $650,000. The 2018 grantmaking panel allocated that as: 128 grants for $2,500, 42 grants for $5,000, and 12 grants for $10,000. The panel also decided to prioritize support of groups led by trans women of color, Native/indigenous groups, and groups working on policy change and fighting criminalization at the highest levels.

All grantees are small organizations with budgets ranging from $0 to $250,000. Thirty-one percent of this year’s grantees were 501(c)(3) non-profits, 34 percent had fiscal sponsors, and 35 percent had no non-profit status.

One hundred eight of last year’s 153 grantees applied again, and all but 10 received another grant. We encourage the groups who were not funded again to get in touch with TJFP staff so we can offer feedback for next year.

We know it can be a challenge to apply year after year—but we do encourage folks to apply again with a different grantmaking panel. Even the shortest application can be tough to get through when you’re pushing all day every day in this work. We see you and we are working on making our application even simpler.

Eighty-one percent of our grantees had a budget of less than $50,000; 70 percent had a budget of less than $25,000; and 38 percent had a budget of less than $5,000. Many of those groups had no budget at all, instead 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 publish this report is that the applications we receive contain an enormous amount of information about the state of trans justice organizing in the country. We hope that sharing this information can help connect, inform, and inspire others.

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. We created the infographics on the following pages to help visualize some of the issues our applicants work on and to provide a clearer sense of how many of these issues intersect in organizing for trans justice.

**Who Gave?**

From June 1, 2017, to June 1, 2018, we raised over $650,000 to redistribute to our grantees in our 2018 grant cycle.

Operational expenses and TJFP staff salaries were covered by co-founder Karen Pittleman, which meant that every penny raised from our supporters went directly to our grantees!

Over the past year, we’ve been challenged to meet the needs of our grantees and increased our base of support, with contributions from 385 donors—nearly double the donors of our last grant cycle!

We are so grateful to the 34 percent of our donors who are monthly sustaining supporters, helping us create a reliable annual base of donations.

This year, we have also received support from some very generous family funds and foundations. Their contributions comprise 37 percent of our annual grantmaking.

Finally, 46 percent of our individual donors give $50 or less, with many people sending in gifts of $10 or $5. We even have a few donors who give $2 monthly! While large donations certainly help us tremendously, these $2 donations remind us exactly why we do what we do—and what is possible when everyone pitches in what we can to support one another.

We are so thankful for the community support, and each and every dollar makes a difference. Thank you for supporting trans justice!

**3. What’s Next?**

Well, with the increase in applications and increase in grantees, we are working on increasing our fundraising efforts so we can raise as much money as we possibly can for our seventh grant cycle! More trans leaders are finding ways to bring our communities together, strengthen our ties to one another, and create spaces and creative solutions to exist in our power. TJFP wants to fund these powerful dreams for as long as our community needs us and to support trans justice in all the ways it looks around the country.
As we move into our seventh year, we’ve really been struck by the growth we’ve seen since TJFP’s first grant cycle. We’ve gone from moving $50,000 to 22 grassroots trans-led groups across the country in 2013 to moving $650,000 to 182 grassroots trans justice groups in 2018. That’s an incredible amount of growth in six years. This year, we reached out to our community to gather information about their hopes for TJFP and whether our goals are in line with our community’s expectations. The responses were overwhelming helpful and will guide us as we develop strategies and implement new systems to sustain this level of growth and move even more money to our communities.

In the fall of 2018, TJFP staff hit the road for another edition of our From the Ground to the Sky Listening Tour, where we sit with trans and gender non-conforming activists and organizers across the country and learn about the work going on in their local community. This time, our drive started in Brooklyn, New York, and took us north to hear from grassroots organizers in the Northeast United States. Over 12 days driving from state to state, we heard about so many exciting, much-needed ways folks are organizing and showing up for one another in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Maine. Stay tuned and follow us online for updates and information about the groups we spent time with.

Our grantees and applicants need the support of long-term donors and volunteers too, so we hope you’ll also consider reaching out to trans-led groups organizing in your area. In 2018, we have continued to update our online map, allowing you to search for and learn more about how people are organizing locally. You can also find our list of grantees within the pages of this report. We encourage you to find out what’s going on in your area, donate, volunteer, spread the word!

Applications for the next grantmaking cycle were posted on our website in English in and Spanish in December 2018 and are due February 15, 2019. Please spread the word to your friends, family, and community and encourage grassroots, trans-led groups to apply for funding! And we hope you’ll also join us by making a donation. Every penny you give will once again go directly to our grantees.

Let’s continue to dream big and fund even more trans justice work in 2019!
2018 TJFP GRANTEES

FOCUS AREAS

- Community Building & Visibility: 80.21%
- Racial Justice: 31.86%
- Economic Justice: 22.52%
- Criminalization & Policing: 14.83%
- Arts, Culture & Media: 21.42%
- Gender Justice & Reproductive Justice: 45.05%
- Healthcare: 29.67%
- Education & Safe Schools: 17.03%
- Legal Services: 13.73%
- Immigration: 8.79%
- Anti-Violence & Crisis Intervention: 14.8%
- Youth Issues: 14.83%
- Religion & Spirituality: 7.14%
- Family & Parenting Support: 4.94%
- Rural Issues: 4.39%
- Indigenous Rights: 3.29%
- Disability Justice: 2.19%
- Elder Issues: 2.19%
- Intersex Rights: 1.09%
The 2018 TJFP Team

Keiva Lei Cadena
Keiva Lei Cadena is a Native Hawaiian Transgender Woman. She was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and has called Honolulu, Hawaii, home for the last 20 years. She works as the community engagement coordinator at Life Foundation in Honolulu, where she plans and facilitates programs, retreats, events, and groups, designed to empower, educate, support, and cultivate leadership and advocacy among the HIV+ community across the state of Hawaii. She has been living with HIV since August of 2014. Keiva works tirelessly across the country for the decriminalization of HIV, eliminating stigma among and against the HIV+ community and rejecting the marginalization of human rights for the Trans community, especially Trans Women of Color. She sits on the Positively Trans National Advisory Board and is a 2017 graduate of NMAC’s Building Leaders of Color Program. At home, along with her partner Kevin, Keiva cares for her 16-year-old daughter Maddisen and her 1-year-old granddaughter Makayla. She is strongly connected to her Native Hawaiian heritage and has been an award-winning Hula dancer since the age of three.

Bré Anne Campbell
Bré Anne Campbell is a black woman of trans experience from Detroit, Michigan. She is the co-director of Trans Sistas of Color Project - Detroit, the first trans-led organization in Michigan dedicated to uplifting and impacting the lives of trans women of color living in the state. Bré is also very active in national HIV work, serving on the board of the Positive Women’s Network-USA and on the national advisory board of Positively Trans. She can be seen in the upcoming web series, “The Femme Queen Chronicles,” a series written and produced by black trans women.

Ezak Amaviska Perez
Ezak Amaviska Perez was born and raised in and around Los Angeles, CA. They are a Two Spirit, Hopi Native American and Latinx community organizer. They have led trainings locally in LA and nationally for the past 12+ years. He is currently the organizational director of Gender Justice LA, a member-based, grassroots social justice organization for and led by gender non-conforming, gender fluid, two-spirit, questioning, and trans people of color. He is currently helping to create the first Indigenous Pride LA and was recently honored by the Sons & Brothers Portrait Series for Native American heritage month. He is a part of a party collective called THrész, creating pop-up fun-draiser parties in LA. Ezak believes that self-care and community care are critical and essential to being able to do this work for the long haul. He loves spending time in nature and thrifting.

Shawn Reagor
Shawn Reagor was born and raised in Montana. He became involved in advocacy work while studying chemistry at Carroll College. Since then, he has facilitated multiple trans and non-binary support groups across the state, spoken at major conferences, testified on the state and municipal levels, and been featured in articles and videos. Shawn is the director for the Montana Gender Alliance and works at the Montana Human Rights
Network. He has worked on campaigns to prevent anti-trans bathroom bills from passing in two states, including serving as campaign chair in Montana. Shawn is especially devoted to providing support and building community for trans and non-binary folks living in rural areas. He coauthored a journal article examining the effects of living in rural areas on TGNC people’s wellness. In his free time, he enjoys camping with his wife, Kasandra, and cat, Copernicus.

Isabel Sousa-Rodriguez
Isabel Sousa-Rodriguez was born in Bogota, Colombia, and moved to Miami with their family at the age of six. They began community organizing against deportations and for immigration reform in 2007 and currently serve as membership and organizing director of the Florida Immigrant Coalition. Isabel has a BA in Sociology from the University of South Florida. As a graduate student at the City University of New York, they published academic articles detailing the effects of legal status and marginalization on undocumented mothers and immigrant adolescents in the transition to adulthood. From 2015 through 2016, they were the state coordinator of New York’s Mexican Initiative on Deferred Action. They also serve on the board of Unite for a Fair Economy.

Everette R.H. Thompson
Everette Thompson has over 20 years of experience in community organizing, organizational development, and movement building. He’s a Southerner by birth and choice, and has dedicated his career to strengthening organizational infrastructure in the South. Currently he serves as an organizer with the Interfaith Organizing Initiative, which focuses on building strategic denominational support for congregation-based organizing on a national, state, and regional level. Everette has a wide array of experiences serving different types and forms of organizations. Justice is his ministry and creating a welcoming table for everyone to dine in their divine ways is his call. Everette lives in East Point, Georgia, with his greatest joy, his sun Elijah, and his much smarter wife, Evelyn.

FACILITATORS:
Nico Amador
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. Nico was formerly the executive director at Training for Change and currently works as a freelance trainer, facilitator, and curriculum writer. He has led workshops in the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Latin America, and has worked with groups such as Choice USA, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Energy Action Coalition, National Youth Advocacy Coalition, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Aquelarre Trans Coalition, Diverse City Fund, Audre Lorde Project, and Global Philanthropy Project. 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.
Glo Ross

Glo is originally from Los Angeles, California, but calls Atlanta, Georgia, home. As a gender-queer lover of all animals and the earth, Glo is committed to building the world we all deserve to live in by organizing power in our communities and actively practicing compassion for all beings. Currently, Glo works in the public sector as a senior policy analyst on environmental issues. In previous lives, Glo directed campaigns at FIERCE! to build power among LGBTQ youth of color in New York City, helped lead anti-police brutality organizing in Atlanta, and facilitated numerous organizing workshops for young people across the country. In the past nine years, Glo has actively supported community-based organizing strategy through technical assistance and issue research and has facilitated numerous retreats and workshops for organizations on a variety of issues including strategic planning and organizational development. Most of all, Glo has a passion for supporting individuals in being their most authentic badass selves in the collective pursuit of social change. When not facilitating or conducting research, you can find Glo hiking with two lovable rescued pit bulls, trying out a new vegan recipe, or practicing Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

STAFF:
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, Washington, with the Northwest Network of bisexual, trans, lesbian, and gay survivors of abuse, helping to create their youth programming. From age 15 to 26, he moved from being a program constituent to working as 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; supported women and trans people creating art and social change through the Leeway Foundation in Philadelphia; and provided outreach for the Johnathan Lax Fund at the Bread and Roses Foundation, also in Philadelphia. He is also a former staff member of the Sylvia Rivera Law Project. Gabriel is a retired disco dancer extraordinaire and lives for laughter and memes.

Marin Watts, Operations and Communications Director

Marin Watts is a queer, trans, Filipino multimedia artist who is deeply committed to social justice. Before joining TJFP’s team, he provided media education and skills to LGBTQ youth throughout NYC, Atlanta, and Oakland through a variety of grassroots projects. Marin lives in Brooklyn and in his playtime, he’s making a mess in his studio, working on his personal art practice.

Karen Pittelman, Co-founder

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. Karen lives in Brooklyn, where she works as a writer and writing coach, and sings with her country band, Karen and the Sorrows.
Letter to the Grantmaking Panel

A letter we sent to the TJFP grantmaking panel to help guide their decision-making process

Dear Panel,

Making funding decisions is always hard. But in a moment like this one, when money is so urgently needed, resources are so scarce, and we have more applications than ever before, it can come with a particular kind of grief, sorrow, and even panic. We want to get this right. We need to get this right. What if we don’t get this right?

Philanthropy has its traditional ways of “getting it right.” And it can be easy to fall into those established patterns without even realizing it, unless we pause first to ask if that’s really how we want to do things. Philanthropy may talk a good game about supporting movements, but when you look at how it actually works, foundations and funders are often controlling and co-opting those movements more than supporting them.

You can see this play out in the two main ways philanthropy answers the question of urgency. One way is to contain the need: cap who can apply, narrow the pool of applicants, hire a consultant to report on how to be more targeted in their funding, and then push their grantees in that direction. The other is to dial up the control, perfectionism, and professionalism. If there is more need, then funders must be more discriminating. They must choose only the best, the most effective, the cream of the crop. And they must ensure, through vigilant oversight and reporting, that they have made the best investments.

Since our goal is to support movements, not control them, we want to do the opposite of all this! Now, more than ever, we have to trust in the leadership and creativity of our applicants. To remember that it’s our job to get as many resources as possible to as many groups as possible and then get out of their way.

We don’t have to run away from this grief and sorrow—together, we can sit with it. Name that sadness at the heart of what it feels like to have power over something that people need. And we can let it show us how to let go. After all, these resources don’t really belong to us—they already belong to our communities. We are just the conduit, the channel that carries this money, like water, to where it was always meant to flow. Let us honor and nurture our beloveds, lift up and celebrate their work, and give at least a thousand bucks to everyone we can.

Remember that it’s our job to get as many resources as possible to as many groups as possible and then get out of their way.
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 501(c)(3) nonprofit or have a fiscal sponsor to apply!

What we don’t fund…

- Individuals
- Groups with a budget of more than $250,000
- Groups that are not led by trans or gender non-conforming people
- Groups outside the United States and Puerto Rico
- Programs within an organization (other than a fiscal sponsorship agreement) with a budget over $250,000

Top: East Coast Two Spirit Society, Lewes, DE; bottom: House of Pentacles, Durham, NC; 2018 TJFP Grantees
Doing Philanthropy Differently

Here is some of what 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. 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 in 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. It’s easy to get excited about applications that are super well-written or use familiar language. But we don’t want our decisions to be based on who is the best writer or who has access to the most current political thinking. We try to look past writing and vocabulary to make decisions based on what the group is actually doing.

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. 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. That 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 501(c)(3) 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 shepherding resources to nurture a growing movement and support the people and communities making that movement happen. This is grassroots funding—we want to try to support the whole field of grass, not just a few blades!

To view this document in Spanish, please visit our website.
Para ver este documento en español, por favor visite nuestro sitio web.

All that matters to us is: are they doing good work?
What does it mean to be community-led?

To us, community-led means trusting and supporting trans leadership. Many people ask what this looks like in practice.

It looks like a lot of things, but the heart of it is that we make sure that our community is at the core of all that we do.

The Trans Justice Funding Project is about investing in trans communities making decisions by and for ourselves. Our leadership team is made up of a majority of black and brown trans and gender non-conforming folks—and that includes our grantmaking fellows, facilitation team, staff, and volunteers. In six years of grantmaking, we’ve received 877 applications from trans-led groups, and raised and given away 717 grants through our community-led process, totaling more than $1.9 million.

The application process

TJFP’s grant applications are open to trans-led trans justice groups with a budget of $250,000 or less, working in the United States including Puerto Rico. We try to remove as many barriers as possible that might get in the way of people having access to funding. We do our best to encourage and support these grassroots groups to apply for funding. We have worked to make our grant applications simple and accessible, providing online or paper applications in both English and Spanish. And we know we can do better, so we’re constantly considering other application methods to meet the needs of our community. We know that not one way works for all of the many brilliant groups out there.

Our deadline for applications is February 15 every year. Once the applications are all in, we begin our community-led grant review process.
Grantmaking fellowship

Through our community-led grantmaking fellowship, TJFP relies on the expertise and first-hand knowledge of the people on the ground doing the work every day to make the funding decisions. We have the honor of working with some of the most brilliant, dedicated, and passionate trans justice leaders and organizers out there. Each year, we carefully and thoughtfully bring together a group of six trans and gender non-binary individuals to work together and make some really tough decisions. We strive to make it a geographically diverse, intergenerational, multi-ability, and multi-racial panel. We believe that these trans and GNC activists and organizers are the most qualified to make funding decisions with and for their communities. The TJFP fellowship is a by-invitation-only position that rotates annually to ensure a wide range of participation. We provide a stipend to make sure fellows are compensated for all the time, energy, and hard work they put into this process.

Over the course of four months, TJFP spends time working with the fellows as they thoughtfully read and review each application. Through those months, the fellows use an online voting system to record their preferences, participate in ongoing individual check-ins, group discussions, and assist with outreach and fundraising. To bring it all together, we convene in New York for a facilitated weekend-long meeting to select grantees using an intersectional and anti-oppressive framework. Throughout the fellowship, our grantmakers are asked to read each applications with generosity and an open heart.

TJFP challenges traditional philanthropy (and some of our own conditioning) by actually practicing what it means to support and trust trans leadership.

The grantmaking fellows that TJFP gets to work with are the people on the “front lines.” They are the experts of their own lives and experiences, and to us it makes the most sense that they are the ones making the funding decisions that affect the movement for trans justice.
Making tough decisions together

At the culmination of the process, we bring our six TJFP fellows from all around the country together around one table to continue to build with one another and make the final funding decisions. They are each asked to share their knowledge and expertise as we move through heavy questions about value and worth. And while doing the work, TJFP challenges traditional philanthropy (and some of our own conditioning) by actually practicing what it means to support and trust trans leadership.

TJFP staff manages the grantmaking process—ensuring that the hotel we choose for our grantmaking meeting is trans-friendly, creating a playlist of panelists’ favorite songs, making sure everyone has their favorite foods, and has accessibility needs met. We work with amazing facilitators to guide the panel’s in-person conversations so that everyone feels grounded about their decisions.

At the end of this weekend-long grantmaking meeting, we’ll have funded lots of grassroots trans justice groups across the country, making sure that our community is at the heart of everything that we do.

Grant distribution

We do not require any documentation or reporting from the grantees. We trust that they know what’s best for their community. We give unrestricted funds, to be used in whatever way is best for their community.

Whether our grantees are an unofficial group of amazing trans-justice activists or an incorporated 501(c)(3) or fiscally sponsored, we are committed to getting the money to them quickly and thoughtfully. Because TJFP is a non-charitable trust, we are able to move money to our community no matter the organization’s structure. We’re also aware that in some cases, receiving a large sum of money could cause complications; to protect the self-determination of our grantees, we’ll happily work with each group to make sure they get their money without it complicating their finances or any member’s social service benefits. It’s our job as a funder to make sure that these amazing and brilliant groups have the resources they need to continue fight for justice and liberation for our people.

TJFP believes 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. 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.
This wasn't my first experience in grantmaking. In the past when I've been asked to decide on grants for other funders, I've always felt like the odd person out, as the only trans person, the only black trans person, the only person living with HIV. So when I joined TJFP's grantmaking team, it was refreshing to know I didn't have to battle with cis people or educate people about what it is to be trans or what's at stake.

I was struggling with coming into this space, understanding firsthand the harm this administration is causing our communities, especially in the South and in rural areas, but I said yes to being on the panel because I wanted to see what work was going on around the country. Reviewing the 216 grant applications was a really great way for me to learn from our communities about what's working, what's not working, and what people are doing differently. Our people have been hit really hard, so it was good to see that people are finding a multitude of ways to fight back and support each other.

During our weekend-long grantmaking meeting, there were disagreements around our ideas about the work—but not around our ideas of who we are as people. In some funding spaces that are not trans centered, cis people shift the work and attempt to shape or define what's important for trans communities. Because TJFP's process is trans-led, that didn't happen, and instead we were able to dive
into deeper conversations about how much money we wanted to give away, why we gave it to the groups, and what it means not only for the grantees that we’re funding, but also considering the larger collective across the country.

Sharing space with the other grantmaking fellows and hearing from people from rural Montana to communities in Hawaii helped to open my mind about how differently the work looks for people in different areas. Sometimes when you’re on the ground, it is easy to lose that perspective, and instead think, “This is what’s working for me and my girls in Detroit, so it should work for everyone, right?”

But, no, it doesn’t always work like that. So when an application came in from a rural part of the country, it was important to hear from someone from that community. These conversations really helped me be more strategic and forward-thinking about who we were supporting and funding.

We did have some really challenging, and sometimes uncomfortable conversations around what we should support while trying to understand each other’s rationale around decision-making. And there were moments when I was like, “Ooh, this is really heavy…” but overall it was a good thing, and we were still able to leave the grantmaking space feeling whole.

People don’t understand that we’re expected to make magic and change the world with small amounts of money.

Lessons for Philanthropy
I want philanthropy to be bold. By being bold, what I mean is taking chances and giving smaller grassroots organizations the opportunities to actually grow. I strongly dislike seeing funders put out requests for proposals (RFPs) that could really change the conditions for a lot of community members—but with some kind of barrier or limitation. For example, often you
have to have a certain budget or you have to be fiscally sponsored or a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

A lot of grassroots organizations that have really great programs and politics cycle through grants of $10,000, $20,000, or $50,000 to do really revolutionary work. As a grassroots organizer, I want people in philanthropy to know that I didn’t wake up one day and decide that I wanted to be an executive director. It was a response that happened as a direct result of the conditions in my community. A lot of us are pulled into these positions and expected to know how to run organizations without getting any real type of leadership development and support.

Anybody who is interested in trans justice also has to realize that there’s a lot more at stake for trans leaders. People don’t understand that we’re expected to make magic and change the world with small amounts of money. That often means people don’t get paid or are paying for things out of their own pockets.

If I could go back in time as the executive director of my organization and do things differently, I’d like to have had a clearer understanding of what philanthropy is, the role of a funder, and what foundations can or can’t do.

I hear a lot of funders talk about building power, and it’s funny because a lot of them are doing the exact opposite. They would rather fund an organization that has a million dollar-plus budget with full staff and all of the things, so they can get their deliverables back. It’s safer, right? When I think about building power, it looks like giving funding directly to the most marginalized and the most stretched-thin organizations and communities.

**When I Think of Trans Justice**

Trans justice to me would mean taking our power back. Changing the records and history books to talk about queer and trans people; how we’ve always been here, contributing to society. Even though people try to deny and kill us in every way shape and form, we’re still resilient.

I think that would be justice: to be able to do and say as I please.
Community is a Verb
Glo Ross, TJFP Facilitator

Each year, TJFP brings together a group of trans and gender non-conforming activists from across the country to choose the grantees. This past year I was honored to serve as a co-facilitator for the fellows’ decision-making process. It was the second year in a row that I had done so and just like the year before, I was feeling, well, nervous.

What if the fellows couldn’t agree on the grantees to fund?
What if they disagreed so deeply that our process reached a stonewall, an impasse, or, worse, the point of indifference?

Facilitator anxiety is real, y’all, but what’s equally real is the need to acknowledge the fears and trust—deeply trust—the process and the strength and resiliency of everyone in the room (including yourself). In those times, I’ve learned to just do it—even if it means doing it nervous.

Facilitator anxiety is real, y’all, but what’s equally real is the need to acknowledge the fears and trust—deeply trust—the process and the strength and resiliency of everyone in the room (including yourself).

So the time eventually came and over the course of a few days, the fellows worked through hundreds of grantee applications, discussing each and every last one until all viewpoints were heard and positions
were expressed. Was it all seamless? Nope. Was it all easy? Nu-uh. But it was powerful, it was real, it was work, and it was a moving reminder that real community takes effort. The fellows dove in deep—relying on their experiences and identities, ancestors and neighbors, movement victories and setbacks, past lessons and liberatory visions, and more, in order to arrive at collective decisions. By the end of the first night, my nervousness was gone—we were going to be OK.

In reflecting on that experience, I think about the fundamental truth of community: decisions made from our collective energy and investment are more creative, powerful, and impactful than if we make them alone. As a card-carrying introvert, it pains me a little to write that—but it’s true! We all know it. The other truth is that it doesn’t end there. To harness that potential, it isn’t enough to just show up; we have to show up fully, authentically, and unapologetically in our truth, AND respect and honor those in the room who are doing the same. Despite our best intentions, sometimes that can be hard and it can feel easy to lose hope. And honestly, the fellows’ decision-making panel is no different. But the difference is in our strength of purpose and vision. It’s abundantly clear to every single person in that room that our work—the collective work of TJFP—extends far beyond the four walls we sit in and far beyond the discomfort that we feel in the moment. So we push through, knowing that on the other side of the hardness is something much greater than our individual selves.
Our Fight and Our Resilience!

Everette R.H. Thompson, 2018 Grantmaking Fellow

Keep living; keep being beautiful, bold, brilliant, and fierce.

Keep questioning, to move you closer to clarity, but not take away what you know and what each of us was born with–our instinctual knowledge that we deserve to be free, to be loved, to be whole, and to see each other wherever we are!

As our people of trans experience continue to feel the impact of violence, spoken and unspoken, we need spaces like Trans Justice Funding Project that honor the worth and dignity of trans people and allow us to determine how we can best serve, support, and strengthen our communities. I cannot express enough how important the “no strings attached” funding model is, and what it means to those of us who have been told that we are not enough, and that our ideas–because they are not packaged correctly–are not impactful. This approach extends faith in our community and provides a level of trust that is given because we, as trans leaders, are addressing a need that exists and that we know through personal experience. No-strings-attached funding breaks down the barriers erected by systemic injustice and, most importantly, it builds the personal and political esteem of our grassroots trans leaders while building philanthropic creditability. This level of trust speaks volumes for our success and for our belonging.

Our fight and our resilience is a testimony that it gets better, not because we pray it so, but because we fight like hell to make it so!

Our fight and our resilience is a testimony that you can only erase what is on paper but not what has roots in the earth and created by Stardust.

#wewontbeerased because we are that Stardust; we are the air, as essential to this ecosystem, and we bring life!

Get Yours!
(Re)Imagining Intersectionality: TJFP’s Radical Vision

V Varun Chaudhry
TJFP Volunteer & Panel Note-Taker (2017, 2018)

V Varun Chaudhry is a Ph.D candidate in the Department of Anthropology at Northwestern University and a Pre-Doctoral Fellow in the Center for the Study of Women in Society at the University of Oregon. He conducts research on transgender advocacy and funding in the United States, working with such organizations as TJFP and the Leeway Foundation (where he served as a scholar in residence from 2016-2018). He is the author of “TRANSForming Inclusion: An Organizational Guide,” published by Leeway in November 2018.

"Intersectionality" is a word increasingly common in our social justice vocabularies. A quick Google search of the term yields articles like, "Why intersectionality now," and explainer diagrams, photos, and videos. Despite the fact that the term is seemingly everywhere, few seem to understand the origins and initial intent of “intersectionality”—not just as a buzzword for funders and nonprofits, but as a framework and approach for advocacy work and scholarship. Many black feminists have detailed the history of the term and critically responded to its circulation (see the work of Jennifer C. Nash for more), but here is a brief overview: legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw coined the term in 1989, centering black women’s experiences to explain how our legal systems do not (and cannot, in their current form) recognize the interactions and relationships between race and gender. She wrote:

Because the intersectional experience is greater than the sum of racism and sexism, any analysis that does not take intersectionality into account cannot sufficiently address the particular manner in which Black women are subordinated.

The now-familiar phrase, “Our feminism must be intersectional” thus stems from Crenshaw (and other black feminists, such as Audre Lorde, upon whose work Crenshaw implicitly and explicitly builds) and her critique of how legal systems have historically subjugated black women.
Intersectional feminism must acknowledge how “gender” does not exist as a single axis of oppression—our experiences and understandings of, as well as policies and advocacy around, “gender” are always also about class, race, sexuality, nation, and a number of other factors. As a concept, “intersectionality” acknowledges how power and oppression can land on different bodies in varying ways. A white transgender woman who comes from class privilege, then, might experience gendered/racialized/classed forms of power radically different from a black gender non-conforming person (who may or may not use “trans” as an identity category) who comes from a working-class or poor background. An organization like TJFP, which takes a truly intersectional approach, takes these differences as a given in making decisions and in building community.

I’ve spent the last few years studying trans and gender non-conforming advocacy and funding for my doctoral research, specifically among trans and gender non-conforming people of color. As you might imagine, I’ve heard the word “intersectionality” numerous times. I’ve heard white development directors use it to describe “intersections” of funding categories, I’ve watched cis- and trans-identified folks insist upon an intersectional approach for their organization, and I’ve seen more grant applications than I can count with intersectionality sprinkled throughout. Most frustrating in most of these examples was the fact that many of these organizations were actually far from intersectional in their approach. They were primarily led by white cis-identified people, and did not deeply consider how race, class, gender, and sexuality interacted in the lives of their constituents.

Given such overuse, when I saw that TJFP listed intersectionality as part of its scoring process, I was a tad bit skeptical. How can you score something that so few people understand, I wondered, and what might it look like for organizations to have a high or low intersectionality score? I trusted, however, that TJFP (as it always does) would surprise and wow me. Sure enough, panelists carefully considered how each grant application represented and discussed its models for leadership, taking into account how different forms of power and oppression played a role in each group’s application. For example, when panelists assessed a small southern
organization led by a black trans woman, they knew immediately that intersectionality was necessarily a part of the leadership. This was not a simple game of what some call “identity politics” or “oppression Olympics”; rather, it was an acknowledgement of the workings of anti-blackness in the United States and globally, and a recognition of how black trans women often fall through the cracks that a concept and approach like intersectionality aims to fix.

The rates of violence that black trans women face, and the continued lack of resources provided to them and other gender non-conforming communities of color, make an intersectionality score and an emphasis on intersectional approaches for trans-focused organizing necessary. TJFP panelists recognized this deeply, and reckoned with the ways gender, race, class, sexuality, and ability (to name just a few) came together in their own lives and in the lives of grant applicants. They challenged one another while they read through hundreds of applications, asking whether organizations centered trans and gender non-conforming people of color, took into account questions of class privilege in their application, considered ability in their programming, and/or included a diverse group of people in their constituency. Often, these conversations were difficult—most people in the room were forced to reckon with their own privileges, and to apologize, acknowledge, and be held accountable for their biases—but in the end, TJFP’s emphasis on intersectionality allowed everyone to feel as if they had thoroughly assessed each grant application.

Kimberlé Crenshaw, in her initial conceptualization of “intersectionality,” recognized how difficult it might be to take an intersectional approach:

Consider an analogy to traffic in an intersection, coming and going in all four directions. Discrimination, like traffic through an intersection, may flow in one direction, and it may flow in another. If an accident happens at an intersection, it can be caused by cars traveling from any number of directions and, sometimes, from all of them.

Like traffic in an intersection, trans lives are messy: we might stand right in the center of the intersection, or we might be in a corner, watching or sometimes inadvertently being complicit in accidents and collisions. TJFP takes such messiness as a given, and asks
panelists to show up honestly in the face of this to examine grant applicants from all possible angles. This, I think, is what makes the work of TJFP radically different from any other organization around today: actually considering and centering intersectionality, beyond using it as a buzzword, is in large part what gives TJFP a radical vision.

Further Reading

Articles

Books
Patricia Hill Collins and Sirma Bilge, Intersectionality.
Audre Lorde, Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches.

Online Resources
Our Funding Model as a Non-Charitable Trust

In the past seven years, TJFP has had a few grantmaking model makeovers. When we were just getting started in 2012, we operated like a non-profit as a Collective Action Fund at Tides Foundation. This worked for a while, but didn’t meet all of our needs. To stay true to our mission of funding grassroots groups, many of whom are not incorporated, we had to think of another solution. We then decided to incorporate as a small business, a limited liability company (LLC), where we were able to fund groups that lacked non-profit status by technically making them our consultants—in the business of trans justice! Sounded good at the time and it definitely worked for a couple of years, but to avoid some possible IRS hiccups or brick walls, we talked with our lawyers and accountants, and found a model that seems to be working quite well: a non-charitable trust.

We’ve been happily functioning as a non-charitable trust for nearly three years. So far, this structure has allowed us to move money quickly and with as little red tape as possible to our grantees, while also making sure that the way we operate meets the needs of our community.

Non-charitable 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. Now that we are functioning as a non-charitable trust, we have the freedom to cut checks to groups regardless of their non-profit status.

Since we are “non-charitable,” we do not claim any deduction for our giving, so our grantees...
don’t need to be certified as charities. Our tax burden will remain low and as a trust, the IRS expects us to be giving away money, not making it. Perfect!

**Will anyone donate if it isn’t tax-deductible?**

Donations to the non-charitable trust are not tax deductible. 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. In 2018, 373 donors—93 percent of total donors—contributed over $371,000 to our 2018 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 means that all contributors to the TJFP fund are eligible for a tax deduction because Tides Foundation is a public charity. And through this fund, TJFP recommends all donations be distributed to TJFP grantees.

This fund is how we made all our grants our first year and we have kept it open as an option since then. Although many of our donors choose to give through our non-charitable trust, some of our biggest gifts still come through the donor-advised account. In 2018, we made about half of our grants through Tides Foundation. Here’s how we did it: groups that had 501(c)(3) status or a fiscal sponsor were funded through the donor-advised account, and we pulled together fiscal information for Tides ourselves, doing our best to keep things simple for those grantees. Groups without non-profit status or with other issues were funded through TJFP’s trust.

With over 182 grants to distribute, the TJFP office and staff had our hands full! But we believe it’s our job as funders to deal with these logistics so that our grantees can keep their focus on taking care of one another and the movement!

**In 2018, 373 donors—93 percent of total donors—contributed over $371,000 to our 2018 grant cycle without requiring a tax deduction.**
2018 TJFP GRANTEES

ALASKA
Transgender Leadership Alaska
Anchorage, AK

ALABAMA
Transgender Advocates Knowledgeable Empowering (TAKE)
Birmingham, AL

Dropzone
Selma, AL

TKO Society Inc.
Selma, AL

ARKANSAS
Out Of The Box: Helpin’ Tranz Form U
Fayetteville, AR

Arkansas Transgender Equality Coalition
Little Rock, AR

Center for Artistic Revolution
Little Rock, AR

House of GG’s
Little Rock, AR

ARIZONA
Transcend Arizona
Paradise Valley, AZ

The Outlaw Project
Phoenix, AZ

Camp Born This Way
Tucson, AZ

Trans Queer Pueblo
Phoenix, AZ

Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA)
Tucson, AZ

Mariposas Sin Fronteras
Tucson, AZ

Peacework Medical
Phoenix, AZ

CALIFORNIA
Trans-E-Motion
Fresno, CA

Transgender Advocates for Justice and Accountability
San Francisco, CA

The Red Shades
Oakland, CA

Los Angeles Queer Resistance
Los Angeles, CA

TransShout
San Francisco, CA

North State Trans/GNC Project
Chico, CA

API TransFusion
Oakland, CA

National Queer and Trans Therapists of Color Network
Oakland, CA

Live It Fully Empowered
Long Beach CA

Trans and Nonbinary Housing Collective
Cameron Park, CA

Dem Bois Inc.
San Pablo, CA

Peacock Rebellion
Oakland, CA

Bloom: Transgender Community Healing Project
Berkeley, CA

API Equality - Northern California (APIENC)
San Francisco, CA

Black LGBTQIA Migrant Project (BLMP)
Oakland, CA

Trans Student Educational Resources
Santa Cruz, CA

Gender Illumination
Berkeley, CA

Transfinite
San Francisco, CA

COLORADO
TYES of the Pikes Peak Region
Colorado Springs, CO

Transformative Freedom Fund
Denver, CO

DELaware
The East Coast Two Spirit Society
Lewes, DE

FLORIDA
Orlando Trans Awareness
Orlando, FL

UC|CU’s TRANSART Artists Showcase & Conference
Miami Beach, FL

Trans Women in need of Services DBA TranInclusive Group
Pembroke Pines, FL

Social Film Projects
North Miami Beach, FL

Arianna’s Center
Fort Lauderdale, FL

TransSOCIAL, Inc.
Miami, FL

GEORGIA
Transforming
Atlanta, GA

Southern Fried Queer Pride
Atlanta, GA

Freedom Overground
Atlanta, GA

Comunidad Estrella
Atlanta, GA

Trans Housing Atlanta Program, Inc.
Atlanta, GA

Sisters Returning Home
East Point, GA

TBLM
Duluth, GA

Sexual Liberation Collective
Decatur, GA

LaGender
Eastpoint, GA

TRANSceding Barriers Atlanta
Atlanta, GA

HAWAIi
Ka Aha Mau
Honolulu, HI

IDAHO
Idaho Transgender Healthcare Advocacy Coalition, Inc.
Boise, ID

ILLINOIS
Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois
Chicago, IL

Brave Space Alliance
Chicago, IL

Youth Empowerment Performance Project (YEPP)
Chicago, IL

RAD Remedy
Chicago, IL

America in Transition
Chicago, IL

Upswing Advocates
Chicago, IL

Masjid al-Rabia
Chicago, IL

INDIANA
TREES, Inc.
South Bend, IN

GenderNexus
Indianapolis, IN

KANSAS
Kansas Statewide Transgender Education Project
Topeka, KS

Transformations KC
Kansas City, KS

LOUISIANA
Louisiana Trans Advocates
Baton Rouge, LA

Intentional Flow
New Orleans, LA

MASSACHUSETTS
Black Trans Love is Black Wealth Writing Retreat
Williamstown, MA

MARYLAND
Maryland Trans*Unity
Brentwood, MD

Sistas of the t
Baltimore, MD

Translatina DMV
Baltimore, MD

MAINE
Maine Transgender Network
Portland, ME

Portland Outright
Portland, ME

MICHIGAN
Detroit REPRENT!
Detroit, MI

Ruth’s Apothecary
Detroit, MI

MINNESOTA
Gender Reel
St. Paul, MN

Queer Science
Minneapolis, MN

Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition
Minneapolis, MN

MISSOURI
Our Spot KC
Kansas City, MO

Gabriella Rosé Justice Scholarship
Columbia, MO

Mid Missouri Transgender Support
Jefferson City, MO

Metro Trans Umbrella Group
St. Louis, MO

Trans Queer Flat
St. Louis, MO

Transfuturism by The Justice Fleet
St. Louis, MO

MISSISSIPPI
The Spectrum Center
Hattiesburg, MS

MONTANA
Montana Two Spirit Society
Missoula, MT

LGBTQ Youth for Gender Equity
Dillon, MT

NORTH CAROLINA
Transmision
Asheville, NC

Transgender Medical Resources and Provider Education
Asheville, NC

Transmision Prison Project
Asheville, NC

The Clearing
Durham, NC

House of Pentacles
Durham, NC

NC Transgender Rapid Response Project
Asheville, NC

Asheville Transformers
Candler, NC

Trans*Visible
Durham, NC

Transcend Charlotte
Charlotte, NC

NEBRASKA
TransLINK
Lincoln, NE

Trans Collaborations Community Board
Lincoln, NE

NEW JERSEY
OtherWise Engaged
Lawrenceville, NJ

Tertium Quid
Jersey City, NJ

NEW MEXICO
Transwoman Empowerment Initiative
Albuquerque, NM

Tres Soles
Albuquerque, NM

NEVADA
Las Vegas TransPride
Las Vegas, NV

Transgender SOS
Las Vegas, NV

Trans Pride Foundation
Las Vegas, NV

NEW YORK
Translatina Network
New York, NY

Translient
Brooklyn, NY

Colectivo intercultural TRANSgrediendo / CITG
Jackson Heights, NY

All youth Inc.
Lancaster, NY

Hudson Valley Creative Trans Wellness Collective
Boiceville, NY

The TransGenerational Theatre Project
Queens, NY

FZL
Brooklyn, NY

The Gender & Sexuality Therapy Collective
New York, NY

G.L.I.T.S.
Brooklyn, NY

NYC Trans Oral History Project
New York, NY

The Gender & Sexuality Therapy Collective
New York, NY

G.L.I.T.S.
Brooklyn, NY

NYC Trans Oral History Project
New York, NY
GRANTEES

2018 TJFP

API TransFusion
Oakland, CA

Cameron Park, CA

Peacock Rebellion
Dem Bois Inc.
Oakland, CA

Trans Queer Pueblo
Tucson, AZ

Tucson, AZ

San Francisco, CA

Mariposas Sin Fronteras
Trans-E-Motion
San Francisco, CA

TranShout
Oakland, CA

Accountability
Fresno, CA

Los Angeles Queer Resistance
The Red Shades

ALABAMA

Birmingham, AL

Transgender Advocates Knowledgeable 
Empowering (TAKE)
Transgender Advocates
Kentucky
(TRANSEXUAL ENABLING CAR"CERATION)

Bloom: Transgender Community

BLACK LGBTQIA MIGRANT PROJECT

صغریه

Transgender Advocates

MINNESOTA

Detroit, MI

St. Paul, MN

Detroit REPRESENT!

MAINE

Baltimore, MD

Kansas City, MO

Minneapolis, MN

Minneapolis, MN

Metro Transgender Support
Mid Missouri Transgender Support

MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Columbia, MO

Kansas City, KS

LOUISIANA

South Bend, IN

Louisiana Trans Advocates

INDIANA

Indianapolis, IN

Sistas of the t

Black Trans Media

MASSACHUSETTS

Black Trans Love is Black Wealth

NYC Trans Oral History Project


NEW JERSEY

Albuquerque, NM

NEW MEXICO

Jersey City, NJ

Trans Collaborations Community

NEBRASKA

Asheville, NC

NC Transgender Rapid Response


OHIO

Beyond These Walls

Sacred Vessle Medicine and The Equi

Institute

TransOhio

TransOhio, Inc.

Cincinnati, OH

Columbus, OH

OKLAHOMA

Tulsa, OK

OREGON

Portland, OR

Sacred Vessle Medicine and The Equi

Institute

The Bridgewalkers Alliance

TransActive Gender Center

Glitter squadron*portland disability bloc

Trans*Ponder

Erin, OR

PENNSYLVANIA

Black Excellence Collective

Philadelphia, PA

The LGBT Center of Greater Reading
Reading, PA

Hearts On A Wire
Philadelphia, PA

Transfaith
Philadelphia, PA

TransFamily of NWPA

Trans Equity Project

Philadelphia, PA

Sisters PGH

Homestead, PA

PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rico Trans Youth Coalition
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Semillas
San Juan, Puerto Rico

RHODE ISLAND

TOI Network of Rhode Island

PROVIDENCE, RI

South Carolina

We Are Family

Charleston, SC

Gender Benders

Piedmont, SC

SOUTH DAKOTA

Trans Action South Dakota

Sioux Falls, SD

TENNESSEE

BOLD & BEAUTIFUL

Memphis, TN

Tennessee Transgender Political

Coalition

Nashville, TN

Trans Empowerment Project

Knoxville, TN

Bois of the Sippi

Knoxville, TN

TEXAS

Trans Legal Aid Clinic Harris County

Houston, TX

Transform Houston

Houston, TX

Organizacion Latina Trans in Texas

Houston, TX

Allgo

Austin, TX

Black Transmen Inc

Carrollton, TX

Gender Infinity

Houston, TX

Black Transwomen Inc

Carrollton, TX

Gender Portraits

Austin, TX

Latinas Trans Austin

Houston, TX

Transgender Education Network of

Texas

Austin, TX

Trans Pride Initiative

Dallas, TX

Latinas Trans Dallas

Houston, TX

VIRGINIA

Transgender Veterans Support Group-

Virginia

Richmond, VA

Transgender Education Association of

Greater Washington D.C.

Burke, VA

Transgender Assistance Program

of Virginia

Virginia Beach, VA

Community Ete’te

Richmond, VA

Lynchburg Transgender Alliance

Lynchburg, VA

Nationz Foundation

Richmond, VA

Garden of Peace Project

Hampton, VA

VERMONT

Green Mountain Crossroads

Brattleboro, VT

WASHINGTON

The Black Trans Prayer Book

Seattle, WA

UTOPIA Seattle

Seattle, WA

QTOPOC Bithwerp Project

Seattle, WA

Gender Justice League

Seattle, WA

Red Care

Seattle, WA

Heartspark Press

Olympia, WA

The Transgender Language Primer

Burien, WA

Lavender Rights Project

Seattle, WA

Stonewall Youth

Olympia, WA

WASHINGTON D.C.

The Marsha P. Johnson Institute

Washington, DC

Trans Women of Color Collective

Washington, DC

WISCONSIN

Center for Community Healing

Madison, WI

EARTH STAR

Nelwat Ishkamewe

Earth Star
Our 2018 Grantees

**Alabama**

**Dropzone** (Selma) teaches the art of dance to bring a voice to transgender artistry and productions to showcase the talents of trans women of color.

**TKO** (Selma) strives to build the power of the TLBG community for African-Americans throughout rural areas of Alabama’s Blackbelt region, to obtain their dream of justice and equality through group economics, education, leadership development, and organizing cultural work.

**Transgender Advocates Knowledgeable Empowering (TAKE)** (Birmingham) works together as a community to empower trans women of color by meeting needs and increasing accessibility.

**Arizona**

**Camp Born This Way** (Tucson) provides a camp experience for gender creative and transgender youth aged 5 to 17 and their families, where everyone can play, be themselves, and find support, without fear.

**Mariposas Sin Fronteras** (Tucson) is a group of LGBTQ immigrants who fight for the freedom of LGBTQ immigrants and a society of freedom and respect instead of detention.

**The Outlaw Project** (Phoenix) is based on the principles of intersectionality, and prioritizes the leadership of people of color, transgender women, gender non-binary people and migrants in the struggle for sex worker rights.

**Peacework Medical** (Phoenix) is a safe and welcoming free clinic that provides a primary care home, gender transition care, mental health evaluations, and STI screening for undocumented immigrants in the Phoenix area who have no health insurance options.

**Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA)** (Tucson) provides education, advocacy, policy advice, and support for transgender and gender non-conforming people in southern Arizona, as well as to agencies, businesses, and organizations seeking to expand their knowledge of and service to the transgender and gender non-conforming community.

**Alaska**

**Transgender Leadership Council** (Anchorage) empowers trans people in Alaska as advocates and leaders in their communities, partners with and educates outside groups around trans and gender diverse issues, and works towards cultural change concerning trans equality and justice in the state.

**Peacework Medical, Phoenix, AZ, 2018 TJFP Grantee**
Trans Queer Pueblo (Phoenix) is an anti-colonial trans queer racial and gender justice organization. Member-led projects develop the power of trans GNC and queer migrants of color to reshape our world by fighting criminalization, creating radical wellbeing, uniting families, building economic justice, and owning their stories.

Transcend Arizona (Paradise Valley) is a group of mostly formerly-detained trans, GNC, and queer migrants and refugees doing solidarity work with people in detention centers and prisons, and building community-based resources for surviving and thriving.

Arkansas
Arkansas Transgender Equality Coalition (ArTec) (Little Rock) is a southern grassroots organization that educates the public in trans competency, builds coalitions with other area organizations, and provides resources to the transgender community.

The Center for Artistic Revolution (Little Rock) provides spaces for leadership and growth for queer/trans youth and immigrant communities to educate, strategize, rally up to resist, heal and empower themselves.

House of GG (Little Rock) provides programs, services, and weekend retreats to organize, educate, and develop skills for Transgender/Q/GNC persons involved in outreach, advocacy, and activism throughout the South, with a primary focus on Transgender people of color.

California
API Equality - Northern California (San Francisco) builds power for trans, gender non-conforming, and queer Asians and Pacific Islanders through values-based skill building workshops, an oral history storytelling project, and trans and GNC API-centered convenings and reflection spaces.

API TransFusion (Oakland) is a retreat for Asian and Pacific Islander transmasculine individuals to build community, develop self-acceptance and self-confidence, share resources, and leave energized to live authentically and with pride.

Black LGBTQIA+ Migrant Project (Oakland) uses leadership development and organizing to address the ways in which trans and queer Black immigrants are criminalized by the criminal law and immigration system and marginalized in the broader immigrant community.
**Bloom: Transgender Community Healing Project** (Berkeley) works to create low-cost and free access to health and wellness providers to heal the trans community from everyday violence and trauma, and offers trainings and direct service events to empower our communities and allies.

**Dem Bois Inc.** (San Pablo) offers charitable economic aid to persons of color who identify as trans, female to male, FTM transgender, and/or trans-masculine to obtain chest reconstruction surgery and/or genital reassignment surgery.

**Gender Illumination** (Berkeley) is designed to create safer spaces for trans, genderqueer, gender non-binary, and gender non-conforming people through education and policy change. The group is founded, organized, and run by trans and GNC people.

**Live It Fully Empowered (L.I.F.E.)** (Long Beach) connects and empowers marginalized transgender, gender non-conforming, and LGBTQIA2S people in Long Beach and the surrounding areas with situation-specific resources to help them lead dignified and purposeful lives.

**Los Angeles Queer Resistance** (Los Angeles) is a queer, trans, and gender non-conforming people-of-color-led art collective that has produced zines and provided them freely to the public for the last five years.

**National Queer and Trans Therapists of Color Network** (Oakland), founded in 2016, is a healing justice organization that works to transform mental health for queer and trans people of color.

**North State Trans/GNC Project** (Chico) is intent on increasing access and availability to medical/mental health and social services for the rural trans/gnc community. It also strives to inform and empower community members and educate the larger public.

**Peacock Rebellion** (Oakland) is a trans/genderqueer/gender non-conforming people-of-color-centered team of artists, cultural workers, and community organizers who use the arts to build a culture of safety and healing for queer and trans people of color.

**The Red Shades** (Oakland) is the world’s first transgender superhero rock opera. Starring trans artists of color, this rock concert collides with musical theatre in an exhilarating tale of a gang of trans superheroes defending their community in 1960s San Francisco.
The Trans and Non-Binary Housing Collective (Cameron Park) seeks to establish safe homes for trans, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people. The collective shares a commitment to the liberation of all oppressed peoples, intersectional feminism, harm reduction, disability justice, transformative justice, and alternatives to police.

Trans Student Educational Resources (Santa Cruz) is a youth-led organization dedicated to transforming the educational environment for trans students through advocacy and empowerment. It educates the public, trains young trans activists, and believes that justice for trans youth is contingent on intersectional activism.

Trans-E-Motion (Fresno) provides education, advocacy, and support to the transgender and gender non-conforming communities of central California.

Transfinite (San Francisco) is a first-of-its-kind collective social justice project that brings together the bold creative voices and talents of Queer, Transgender/Gender Non-conforming People of Color artists and filmmakers to work both in front of the camera and behind it.

Transgender Advocates for Justice and Accountability (San Francisco) is driven by the leadership of trans women of color, along with individual and organizational allies, to stop the genocide of trans women of color.

TranShout (San Francisco) is a grassroots collective of trans and gender-non-conforming people of color organizers and activists formed in 2016 to fight the eviction of trans people of color in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Trans Youth Education and Support of the Pikes Peak Region (Colorado Springs) empowers and supports gender-expansive youth and their advocates by providing resources, education, outreach, and advocacy to create supportive environments that allow youth to experience the fulfillment of authenticity.

Colorado

The Transformative Freedom Fund (Denver) removes financial barriers to transition-related health care by paying directly to the provider the costs associated with surgery, hormone replacement therapy, and related care for trans* Coloradans.

Delaware

East Coast Two Spirit Society (Lewes) is a member of the International Council of Two Spirit Societies in North America. The society serves 10,000 Two Spirit people and their families in the Northeast, providing training, education, and safe spaces.
Florida

Arianna’s Center (Fort Lauderdale) is one of the only trans-led organizations in Florida that combines competency around immigrant experiences, sex workers, HIV and trans competence.

Orlando Trans Awareness (Orlando) is a group representing various LGBT-focused non-profits across Orlando who came together to bring awareness to the beautiful transgender community in Orlando.

Social Film Projects (North Miami Beach) is a social LGBT film company led by gender non-conforming people, which creates documentaries about social justice. The company includes the creators of TransMexico, a film that shows the lives of trans women who defeated the world to find happiness in who they are.

TransInclusive Group (Pembroke Pines) works collaboratively with community partners to build trust and relationships in the transgender and gender non-conforming community to reduce inequalities and disparities for trans/people of color by increasing their abilities to improve their longevity and quality of life.

TransSOCIAL, Inc. (Miami) expands the safe and affirming resources available to the Trans, GNC, and Intersex community in South Florida through cultural sensitivity training for businesses and healthcare providers, providing direct services, and community organizing.

UNITY COALITION|COALICIÓN UNIDA (Miami Beach) is the first and only organization for the South Florida Latinx/Hispanic/LGBT community, advancing equality and fairness through education, leadership and awareness, and offering tools and programming like the TRANSART Artists Showcase and Conference.

Georgia

Comunidad Estrella (Brookhaven/Atlanta) is a support group for trans and gender non-conforming people who come together once a month to discuss different social, political, and cultural issues.

Freedom Overground (Atlanta) improves the quality of life and life expectancy of the trans community during and after incarceration.

LaGender, Inc. (East Point) is a black and trans women of color-led organization dedicated to empowering the trans community through advocacy on the unique issues they face daily, including HIV/AIDS, homelessness, police profiling, court/advocacy, leadership development, and grassroots organizing activities.

The Sexual Liberation Collective (Decatur) is a collaboration of professional sex educators who are passionate about sexual liberation and healing for QTPOC. The Collective provides holistic sexuality education and transformative embodied healing.

Sisters Returning Home (East Point) supports trans women returning from jail or transitional living situations.

Southern Fried Queer Pride (Atlanta) is a queer and trans arts and advocacy organization celebrating and uplifting Southern queer culture via community organizing and intentional programming, specifically for and by queer and trans people of color.

TMBLM (Duluth) provides leadership, education, self-care, empowerment and resources for black transgender men, led by black transgender men.
Trans Housing Atlanta Program, Inc. (Atlanta) provides emergency housing services based on Housing First principles, in motels, boarding houses, and with a vetted network of volunteers. It also provides case management and referrals and conducts community education training on housing rights.

Transforming (Atlanta) is a Metro Atlanta membership-based organization led by/for trans men, intersex, and GNC people of color assigned female at birth. Through leadership, coalition-building, peer support and direct service, it ensures their communities live with dignity, wellness, and connection for liberation.

TRANScending Barriers Atlanta (Atlanta) advocates and empowers the transgender and gender non-conforming community in Georgia to uplift themselves through holistic healing, harm reduction from the prison industrial complex, emergency housing support, name and gender marker change assistance, HIV/AIDS prevention, and leadership development.

Hawaii

Ka Aha Mahu Advisory Council (Honolulu) is a group of professional and community leaders who self-identify as transgender and gender non-conforming people of color who meet to address policies and practices that affect Hawaii’s transgender and non-conforming communities.

Idaho

Idaho Transgender Healthcare Advocacy Coalition, Inc. (Boise) organizes resources, coordinates groups, and reaches out to the trans* community in Idaho to do one thing: make sure healthcare is the safest, most accessible, and best resource possible for Idahoans who are transgender.

Illinois

America in Transition (Chicago) is a trans-led media project and community engagement campaign where trans people of color share stories through media and in real life to build community, develop an analysis around social issues, and mobilize allies.
Brave Space Alliance (Chicago) is a social justice collective run by and for transgender women and gender non-conforming people of color, to teach them to become changemakers in the fight for trans rights and liberation.

Masjid al-Rabia (Chicago) is a trans-led, women-centered, LGBTQIA+-affirming mosque in Chicago. The mosque is a community hub for marginalized Muslims and offers a prolific education/advocacy program supporting transgender and gender diverse Muslims through direct support, spiritual guidance, prison outreach, digital programming, and leadership training.

RAD Remedy (Chicago) connects trans, gender non-conforming, intersex, and queer folks to safe and comprehensive health care. This is done through RAD (Referral Aggregator Database), provider competency and consulting services, and the "Dr. RAD’s Queer Health Show" zine series.

Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois (Chicago) is a group of radical activists, social workers, and organizers who provide support and free holistic advocacy and legal services to poor and street-based transgender people in Illinois.

Upswing Advocates (Chicago) uses a self-as-expert approach to deliver sliding scale, accessible educational programming and community-focused research opportunities that strengthen and support transgender and queer people in Chicago and the surrounding areas.

Youth Empowerment Performance Project (Chicago) offers a safe environment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer youth experiencing homelessness to explore their history, investigate new ways to address their struggles, and celebrate their strengths through the process of developing a theatrical performance piece.

Indiana

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

TREES, Inc. (South Bend) is a mobile education organization that travels in rural communities to conduct transgender awareness events. Its goal is to reduce transgender violence and suicide.
Kansas

Kansas Statewide Transgender Education Project (Topeka) provides education, resources, and support for TGNC individuals and groups, education in numerous venues about what it means to be TGNC in Kansas, a statewide transgender conference, small town full-day workshops, and grassroots leadership and movement building skills.

Transformations Youth Group (Kansas City) is a TGNC youth social and support drop-in group in the Kansas City area for young people (12-18 years) who self-identify as TGNC or are questioning their gender identity.

Maine

MaineTransNet (Portland) is a transgender-led community organization that provides peer-to-peer support groups, social and community events, and advocacy for the transgender community across Maine, and trains medical, mental health, and social service providers on transgender cultural competency.

Portland Outright (Portland) builds the power of LGBTQ+ youth in Maine through gender, racial, and economic justice organizing. It is led by young, queer, trans, people of color and their allies from low-income communities who fight issues such as homelessness and criminalization.

Massachusetts

Black Trans Love is Black Wealth Writing Retreat (Williamstown) develops curriculum and uses inter-generational pop-up classroom spaces to build the capacity of Black trans and GNC writers to participate in current racial and gender justice movements as writers and narrators of their own lives, histories, and futures.

Maryland

Maryland Trans*Unity (Brentwood) is a volunteer-run, peer-facilitated support group and community building organization serving trans* people of all identities, including those who identify as transgender, transsexual, non-binary, genderqueer, agender, bigender, gender fluid, pangender, and other trans* identities.

Sistas of the "t" (Baltimore) is an all-volunteer project that operates with in-kind donations, fundraisers, and grants. Their purpose is to promote wholeness for transgender women, especially transgender women of color, through outreach, advocacy, education, and drop-in services.

Michigan

Detroit REPRESENT! (Detroit) is a collective of queer and trans youth of color that creates media through the lens of racial justice, class consciousness, and youth and LGBT+ liberation in the city of Detroit.

Ruth’s Apothecary (Detroit) is a healing justice initiative in Detroit’s Black LGBTQ+ community (known as the Ruth Ellis Center community), with a specific focus on Black Trans Women.
Minnesota

Gender Reel (St. Paul) is the only grassroots, 100 percent trans-run, film festival in the Twin Cities (St. Paul/Minneapolis). Gender Reel is dedicated to enhancing the visibility of trans and gender diverse people in film and media.

Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition (Minneapolis) is committed to improving health care access and the quality of health care received by trans and gender non-conforming people through education, resources, and advocacy. Equal access, social justice, quality healthcare for transgender people!

Queer Science (Minneapolis) organizes multidisciplinary free science outreach events for trans and queer high school students, where young people interact with and work alongside trans and queer scientists in academic and professional settings.

Mississippi

The Spectrum Center (Hattiesburg) is a LGBTQ+ resource and advocacy center. It works for full inclusion and empowerment for those affected by prejudice and discrimination in and around rural Southeast Mississippi, by combating homophobia, transphobia, misogyny, racism, and classism.

Missouri

The Gabriella Rosé Justice Scholarship (Columbia) is a new scholarship run by and for trans students to help transgender folks at Mizzou continue their education in case of financial hardship.

Metro Trans Umbrella Group (St. Louis) provides social emotional support and advocacy for trans, non-binary, and intersex adults through events, education, and support groups.

Montana

LGBTQ Youth United for Gender Equity (Dillon) serves LGBTQ youth in Montana through advocacy, education, and trainings aimed at prioritizing and winning justice for the most vulnerable: women, transgender citizens, HIV-positive individuals, young people, low-income communities, and people of color.

Mid-Missouri Transgender Support (Jefferson City) offers financial assistance and help for transgender people getting legal documentation to match their gender identity, including legal name changes, updating state ID and drivers licenses, birth certificates, and passports.

Our Spot KC (Kansas City) provides support, resources, and advancement for the LGBTQ+ community from a sustainability framework through empowering and educational programming.

Trans Queer Flat (St. Louis) is a prosocial living alternative for trans and non-binary adults that houses humans credit-free and based on a sliding-scale deposit. The flat provides basic needs upon arrival and wraparound services for residents.

Transfuturism (St. Louis) is a photography, oral history, and art activism project aimed at humanizing Black trans and gender fluid people through a mass digital media campaign and traveling pop-up exhibit spearheaded by a trans and gender fluid duo.
Montana Two Spirit Society (Missoula) advocates, educates and builds community among Native and Indigenous peoples, including LGBTI and allied communities, by sharing two spirit histories and cultural traditions.

Nebraska

Trans Collaborations (Lincoln) is a community-academic partnership that aims to reduce health disparities in the Transgender and Gender Non-conforming community of the Central Great Plains. The group’s Community Board is comprised of six TGNC Nebraskans who run engagement efforts and co-establish the research agenda.

TransLNK (Lincoln) believes that support is naturally born out of community. It links transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming individuals to resources that might benefit them, and connects them to each other by hosting events and encouraging community involvement.

Nevada

Helpin’ Tranz Form U (Las Vegas) offers a healthy environment and service experience for Transgender and Genderqueer individuals, which is shared by both the coaches and the clients being served.

Las Vegas TransPride (Las Vegas) builds community through events, providing a safe place for the community to gather, and through outreach activities such as feeding the homeless, support groups, and activities to bring people together.

Trans Pride Foundation (Las Vegas) is a one-stop shop for history, advocacy, and direct services for the transgender community, providing everything from referrals to advocacy to direct support, as well as a portable transgender history museum and a transgender memorial quilt.

Transgender SOS (Las Vegas) provides short-term emergency assistance, immediate transportation to a safe property, food, shelter, and other basics, along with crisis intervention for up to two weeks. Transgender SOS strives to create an opportunity for people in crisis to regain their self-confidence.

Tertium Quid (Jersey City) is a weekend-long camp for trans* youth and their families. The camp is free to attend and is staffed mainly by the trans* community. It’s a place where trans kids can fully realize themselves in a safe and supportive environment.

New Mexico

Transwoman Empowerment Initiative (Albuquerque) brings trans women together to mentor one another to empower and inspire each other towards higher personal and professional goals. The Initiative works for financial, political and educational advancement through trans leadership.

Tres Soles (Albuquerque) hosts events where two spirit culture, tradition, spirituality, community building, and art are the primary focus. The ultimate goal is to create a two spirit cultural center in Albuquerque to serve individuals from around the world.

New York

All Youth Inc. (Lancaster) provides transitional and emergency housing for all youth, with a focus on homeless LGBTQ youth in need of services, to reduce their risk of victimization or hate crimes.

Black Trans Media (Brooklyn) are black trans and gender non-conforming folks committed to liberation at their many intersections, fusing community, media, and education for racial/gender justice and to shift and reframe the value and worth of black trans people.

New Jersey

OtherWise Engaged (Lawrenceville) is developing a high-quality audio podcast to offer in-depth conversation at the intersection of race, gender, and spirituality; ethics, beauty, and mystery; mental wellness, cultural wellness, and human liberation.
Community Kinship Life (Bronx) is committed to assisting trans and gender non-conforming individuals access resources they need to live the most productive and healthy lives possible, including community/provider training and education.

Dorian Corey Project/TRANSgressions (Buffalo) is a group of black trans community members working for black trans-led liberation.

F2L (Brooklyn) is a volunteer-run project that works to support queer and trans people of color in New York State facing felony-level charges, by providing jail, court, media, and housing aid to those impacted and their support communities.

G.L.I.T.S. (Brooklyn) approaches the health and rights crisis faced by transgender sex workers holistically, using harm reduction, human rights principles, and economic and social justice, along with a commitment to empowerment and pride in finding solutions from our own community.

The Gender & Sexuality Therapy Collective (New York City) provides individual and group psychotherapy specializing in gender, sexual orientation, and sexuality. The Collective offers competency specific to working with queer and trans people, sex workers, parents of queer and transgender kids, and those involved in kink, BDSM, and non-monogamy.

Hudson Valley Creative Trans Wellness Collective (Boiceville) is a trans support group that empowers folks through creative outlets and actions, and wants to push beyond the limited constraints of supporting each other.

Intercultural Collective TRANSgrediendo (Jackson Heights) is a nationally recognized bilingual and multicultural movement that defends and promotes the human rights of the diverse trans* community and gender diverse identities in the United States. El Colectivo Intercultural TRANSgrediendo es reconocido a nivel nacional como un movimiento bilingüe y multicultural que defiende y promociona los derechos humanos de las diversas poblaciones TRANS* y con identidades de genero-diversas en los EEUU.

No Labels Clothing Cooperative (Buffalo) is a worker cooperative owned by and serving the trans and queer community of Buffalo. The collective is an education and action organization which seeks to generate safe spaces for local trans and queer folk.

QTPoC Mental Health (Brooklyn) connects queer and trans people of color to emotional support resources, including community. The group began by creating online and in-person peer support groups, while redistributing existing resources, and now also create and publish original resources.

Queer Detainee Empowerment Project (New York City) is a post-release support, detention visitation, direct service, and community organizing project that works with LGBTQTSGNI/HIV+ immigrant prisoners and their families who are currently in, those that have been recently released from, and those at risk at entering immigration detention.

The TransGenerational Theatre Project (Queens) is a multigenerational theatre project in which trans and gender non-conforming people create theatre from their own ideas and experiences. The project culminates in a final event; last year this included multiple public performances.

Transilient (Brooklyn) is a traveling photo and interview-based project that candidly documents transgender and gender non-conforming people in their day-to-day lived realities though only their voices, using social media to shift the media narrative around trans lives.
Translatina Network (New York City) helps the Trans community with prevention services, advocacy opportunities, and education. The Network encourages its peers to be better activists, to become strong and opinionated leaders, and to be knowledgeable of their rights, safety, and empowerment.

North Carolina

Asheville Transformers (Candler) is a support network for individuals who are non-binary, gender non-conforming, transgender; those who are questioning or exploring their gender identity; and their friends, partners, and families.

The Clearing (Durham) is a community centering, celebrating, and caring for queer, trans, gender non-conforming, black, brown, and indigenous lives and bodies. The Clearing cultivates loving, multifaith spaces and engages in the spiritual alchemy of radical care and support.

House of Pentacles (Durham) is a film training program and production house designed to launch Black trans youth (ages 18-35) into the film industry and tell stories woven at the intersection of being Black and Trans.

NC Transgender Rapid Response Project (Asheville) funds and facilitates organizing among transgender, non-binary, queer and PoC activists in a politically difficult state that has proven geographically costly to organize in.

Trans*Visible (Durham) has a vision to challenge binarism in social justice movements by supporting the development of trans* facilitators and healing/arts justice practitioners as leaders.

Transcend Charlotte (Charlotte) is a trans-led organization that provides programs and direct services for transgender and gender non-conforming individuals in Charlotte and the surrounding region, as well as educational opportunities for the community.

Transgender Medical Resources and Provider Education (Asheville) educates healthcare providers on transgender care and ensures the community is also educated and provided resources on healthcare.

Tranzmission (Asheville) works to increase safety and quality of life—with a focus on building resilience—for non-binary and transgender people in Western North Carolina and the Southeast through education, advocacy, and support.

Tranzmission Prison Project (Asheville) is a queer- and trans*-powered, volunteer-run prison abolition group that provides free resources, literature, and advocacy for incarcerated members of the LGBTQ community nationwide.
Ohio

Black Queer & Intersectional Columbus (Columbus) is a coalition working to secure the liberation of Black queer and trans people that aims to eliminate oppressive forces (e.g. racism, homophobia, transphobia, etc.) through grassroots community organizing, education, and the arts.

Heartland Trans Wellness Group (Cincinnati) empowers the trans community through education, personal support, community visibility, and a strong commitment to social justice.

Margie’s Hope (Akron) assists transgender individuals in need.

TransOhio (Columbus) is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the Ohio gender variant and allied communities by providing services, education, advocacy, and support to promote and improve the health, safety, and life experiences of the Ohio transgender community.

Oklahoma

TransOklahoma (Tulsa) is made up of expert medical and mental health providers on transgender issues who are transgender themselves. They deliver comprehensive training and education for medical and mental health organizations and providers, social service organizations, religious and spiritual communities, schools and universities, and non-profit organizations.

Oregon

Beyond These Walls (Portland) provides life-sustaining direct support to LGBT prisoners and works to address systemic issues affecting their dignity, autonomy, and integrity.

The Bridgewalkers Alliance (Portland) is made up of trans people and people of color who serve as a bridge for marginalized communities to access land at Tryon Farm, a resource for educational community events centered around sustainability, food sovereignty, cultural resilience, and healing from systemic oppression.

Glitter squadron*portland disability bloc (Portland) is a disabled and trans-led collective that centers and uplifts the disabled community’s most marginalized voices. They advocate for disability justice and disabled folks in the community as well as direct support and community-infrastructure building.

Sacred Vessel Medicine and The Equi Institute (Portland) is a developing medical clinic which cares for Trans and GNC patients with a trauma-enforced lens. Each month the clinic serves over 140 transgender patients on Medicaid, and this year their providers will offer over 3,000 gender-affirming medical and social service visits.
Trans*Ponder (Eugene) is a grassroots support, resource, advocacy, and educational organization dedicated to the transgender/gender diverse community and allies. It is one of only two transgender-founded and -led nonprofit organizations in Oregon, and the only one serving adults.

TransActive Gender Center (Portland) provides educational, support, and advocacy services to gender diverse, queer, and transgender children, youth, and their families. The Center focuses on expanding inclusive education, nurturing a sense of community among youth and families, and disrupting transphobic policies and attitudes.

Pennsylvania

Black Excellence Collective (Philadelphia) uses art, activism, and awareness to organize around issues facing trans, gender non-conforming, and queer people of color.

Hearts on a Wire (Philadelphia) is a Philadelphia-based collective organizing across prison walls to support incarcerated transgender and gender variant people throughout Pennsylvania.

LGBT Center of Greater Reading (Reading) provides a variety of services to the adult LGBT community in the Greater Reading area, such as support groups, advocacy, and training to social service agencies.

Sisters PGH (Homestead) is a transgender/non-binary-centered shelter transition program. Sisters PGH offers outreach, accurate trans/non-binary education, advocacy, and emergency sheltering for trans/non-binary youth and adults, with the primary goal of establishing permanent low-income housing for people transitioning out of emergency shelters.

Trans Equity Project (Philadelphia) is the only by-trans, for-trans multi-service program in Philadelphia. Trans Equity Project provides community-building spaces, health and legal service referrals, and advocacy to trans and gender non-conforming people, especially people of color.
Transfaith (Philadelphia) is committed to supporting the viability, vitality, and visibility of trans people who are spiritual/cultural workers.

TransFamily of NWPA (Erie) provides support and advocacy to 13 counties of northwest Pennsylvania, and operates support groups in four of those counties. It also provides educational opportunities and advocates for providing trans healthcare, culturally-competent mental health care, and making schools more inclusive.

Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico Trans Youth Coalition (San Juan) creates a safe and inclusive space where trans youth can participate and establish peer-to-peer contacts, while promoting an intersectional perspective on issues that affect them, to empower, facilitate, and make referrals to services that can meet their needs. // Creamos un espacio seguro e inclusivo donde jóvenes trans puedan participar y establecer contactos entre pares, mientras se promueve una perspectiva interseccional sobre los asuntos que nos afectan para empoderar, facilitar y referir a servicios que puedan satisfacer sus necesidades.

Semillas (San Juan) is a healing project co-creating an autonomous, transformational healing space for transgender, GNC and queer communities in Borikén and the diaspora. Semillas addresses food and health injustice while collaborating with community groups toward liberatory healing work.

Rhode Island

TGI Network of Rhode Island (Providence) provides trans people with information about their rights, helps them to access healthcare services, and works to broaden the local provider network. The Network runs support groups and advocates for trans rights through legislative advocacy, activism, and outreach.

South Carolina

Gender Benders (Piedmont) is a grassroots organization that creates safe and supportive spaces for trans, gender non-conforming, and allied individuals in the South by connecting them to resources, providing support and advocacy, and initiating trans-inclusive community change through social action.

Trans Love Fund (Charleston) is a program of We Are Family, dedicated to supporting the trans community of South Carolina through microgrants to trans identified individuals in the state for medical, legal, and emergency living expenses.
South Dakota

TransAction South Dakota (Sioux Falls) is a community organization that works in coalition to advocate, support, educate, and raise awareness of transgender and gender non-conforming people living in South Dakota.

Tennessee

Bois of the Sippi (Knoxville) creates safe spaces for individuals who identify as masculine-of-centered women or trans men of color fighting for racial and social justice.

Bold & Beautiful (Memphis) provides a safe place for Trans/GNC people of color to meet weekly. It also provides emergency shelter, job resources, name change clinics, legal/medical referrals, and counseling referrals.

Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition (Nashville) is designed to educate and advocate on behalf of the transgender community of Tennessee. The Coalition is dedicated to raising public awareness and building alliances with other organizations concerned with equal rights legislation.

Trans Empowerment Project (Knoxville) empowers the Trans community in Knoxville by providing hormones, shelter, food, and clothing to trans youth and those experiencing homelessness. The Project also provides education on Trans issues to activate resources and allies for Trans people.

Texas

a|l|g|o (Austin) celebrates and nurtures vibrant queer people of color communities in Texas and beyond, through cultural arts, health and wellness, and social justice programming.

Black Transmen Inc. (Carrollton), organized in 2011, is a national nonprofit social advocacy organization working to empower African-American transgender men by addressing multi-layered issues of injustice faced at the intersections of race and gender identities.

Black Transwomen Inc. (Carrollton), organized in 2012, is the only national nonprofit organization established to specifically address the urgent concerns of transwomen in African-American communities.

Gender Infinity (Houston) offers the 3 Cs: Conference, Community Support Services, and Consultation and Training. Its services are grounded in gender affirmative approaches for transgender, non-binary, genderqueer, and gender non-conforming people, along with their families and providers.

Gender Portraits (Austin) advocates for transgender, intersex, and gender-non-conforming people through art, using painted portraits and written stories of trans and gender non-conforming people. It also organizes affirming community events like the Gender Unbound Art Fest, which showcases trans and intersex creators.
Latinas Trans Austin (Austin) creates and develops programs that benefit the transgender population in matters of immigration, health care, housing and legal issues. // Soy Organizadora y Activista Mujer Trans Inmigrante Indocumentada, desarrollo y creo grupos focales con tópicos referentes a las necesidades de la población Trans, Queer y de Genero fluido Inmigrantes.

Latinas Trans Dallas (Dallas) is developed and led by trans latina women and creates support groups, provides know-your-rights trainings, and has developed a leadership and development program for trans latina women. // En la ciudad de Dallas, soy una organizadora y líder comunitaria trans latina inmigrante, dirijo un grupo con aproximadamente 20 participantes mujeres trans latinas, Queer Inmigrantes mayormente. Desarrollo un programa de Liderazgo y Empoderamiento para esta población.

Latina Trans Organization in Texas (Houston) is the first organization for trans people in the state of Texas. It offers know-your-rights trainings for trans immigrants and is a refuge for trans, queer, and intersex people who are street involved. // Soy fundadora de la 1a organización para personas trans en el estado de Texas, mi trabajo, las necesidades de servicios para personas trans así como inmigrantes trans personas trans que viven sin hogar y con el status de HIV.

Trans Legal Aid Clinic Harris County (Houston) helps folks get their legal documents updated in the state of Texas.

Trans Pride Initiative (Dallas) advocates for trans and gender diverse persons in housing, healthcare, employment, and education, and supports survivors of violence. Currently much of its work focuses on access to safe housing and healthcare in Texas prisons.

Transform Houston (Houston) is a grassroots organization dedicated to leading conversations about and building support for an all-inclusive nondiscrimination policy for the city of Houston.

Transgender Education Network of Texas (Austin) empowers, educates, and advocates for gender variant individuals throughout the state of Texas.

Virginia

Community Elet'te (Richmond) provides HIV and domestic violence awareness to the community and provides resources for supportive services through other agencies.

Garden of Peace Project (Hampton) was created to uplift, uphold, and empower the narratives and lived experiences of queer and trans people of color. It exists to create sacred spaces of healing, affirmation, and solidarity through action.

Lynchburg Transgender Alliance (Lynchburg) is a networking group and a safe space serving the needs of Lynchburg and surrounding areas. The Alliance also provides resource and referral for trans-identifying individuals and their families.

Nationz Foundation (Richmond) provides education and information on HIV prevention and overall health and wellness, while inspiring the community to take responsibility for their health and working towards a more inclusive Central Virginia for LGBTQIA+ identified individuals.

Transgender Assistance Program of Virginia (Virginia Beach) is a grassroots support network comprised of transgender people and allies offering emergency housing and resources to homeless transgender adults in Virginia.

Transgender Education Association (Burke) serves the needs and interests of those in the Washington, D.C., area through advocacy and education of all the people in the trans community.

Transgender Veterans Support Group-Virginia (Richmond) assists Transgender veterans with navigating the Veterans Administration as they seek guidance and fill out paperwork in the system. This may involve counseling, hormone treatment approval, and/or surgery referrals.
Vermont

Green Mountain Crossroads (Brattleboro) connects rural LGBTQ people to build community, visibility, knowledge, and power. GMC pushes back against the notion that rural communities are not positive places for trans people and that trans people do not exist in small communities.

Washington

The #BlackTransPrayerBook (Seattle) is an interfaith, multidimensional, artistic, and theological work that collects the stories, poems, prayers, meditation, and spells of Black TGNC contributors. This tool of healing is centered on celebrating our place within faith and dismantling white supremacist ideologies.

Gender Justice League (Seattle) fights systemic injustice across Washington State on behalf of trans and gender diverse people, addressing inequities in healthcare access and insurance, reproductive health, workplace, housing, and public accommodations, standing at the intersection of race, class, and gender.

Heartspark Press (Olympia) is a collective dedicated to lifting the creative voices of transgender girls, transgender women, and AMAB (assigned male at birth) non-binary people.

The QTPOC Birthwerk Project (Seattle) provides birthwerk training for trans and gnc people of color to create access to reproductive care and education. The Project also builds coalition and relationships across Trans and reproductive justice movements, including capacity building.

RAD Care (Seattle) stands for Radical Accessible & Decolonizing Community Care, led by those most disenfranchised, i.e., QTPOCs who also have disabilities, who are also sex workers, are active drug users, are homeless and/or participate in street economies.
Stonewall Youth (Olympia) is a youth-led organization that empowers LGBTQ+ youth to speak for themselves, support each other, survive and thrive, educate themselves and their communities, and create social change. Their work is rooted in social justice and anti-oppression values.

The Transgender Language Primer (Burien) is the most comprehensive lexicon for trans/gender experience to date, making language in the trans and gnc community accessible to other trans folks and allies alike.

UTOPIA (Seattle) is a trans-led organization driven by the expressed needs and aspirations of the Queer and Trans Pacific Islander community.

Washington, D.C.

The Marsha P. Johnson Institute protects and defends the human rights of transgender and gender non-conforming communities by organizing to put an end to violence against our communities informed by race, class, gender, and sexuality.

Trans Women of Color Collective is a grassroots initiative working to uplift the narratives, lived experiences and leadership of trans, gender non-conforming, non-binary people of color while building towards collective liberation of all oppressed people.

Wisconsin

Center for Community Healing (Madison) provides high-quality therapy to people with marginalized or misunderstood identities. The Center specializes in working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning clients and facilitates workshops for service providers on accessibility and inclusion.

Earthstar

Two Spirit Nation Nelwat Ishkamewe is a multicultural/multilingual Indigenous theatre troupe focusing on the narratives of 2TIAQ+ (Two-Spirit, Transgender, Intersex, Asexual, Queer+), Native Womxn, Youth, and Elders of all genders though traditional practices, collaboration with other Indigenous organizations, and building awareness about proper Two-Spirit representation.
Donor Reflections

“I am in love with TJFP’s bottom-up, no-strings-attached funding model. It’s rare to see grantees given this level of autonomy, but I think it’s vital to building true local community and power. I am proud to be able to support these incredible trans-led groups, and this funding model, as a monthly donor.”

– Anonymous Donor

“I tithe to this organization. If you have the means to give anything, please do. TJFP is Black, trans, and queer led. Amazing work happens here.”

- Charlene A. Carruthers, National Director BYP100

“I give monthly to TJFP because I’ve seen their granting transform lives and movements. I give monthly because worlds don’t change from one moment or movement. Their work is powerfully their own because it’s sustainably resourced from individual donors like me.”

- Nicole Myles, External Relations Associate at Third Wave Fund
Thank You to Our Donors!

Listed here are the names of most of the amazing donors who supported our sixth grant cycle. We wanted to share their names to inspire others to support trans justice around the country. Thank you so much—we couldn’t have done this without you!

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House of Pentacles, Durham, NC, 2018 TJFP Grantee
Top: Ka Ahu Mahu, Honolulu, HI; bottom: Mariposas Sin Fronteras, Tucson, AZ; 2018 TJFP Grantees

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