On the Precipice of CHANGE

Trans Justice Funding Project

2020 Annual Report
This report and more resources are available at transjusticefundingproject.org.
Acknowledgements

We recognize that none of this would have been possible without the support of generous individuals and fierce communities from across the nation. Thank you to everyone who submitted an application, selected grantees, volunteered, spoke on behalf of the project, shared your wisdom and feedback with us, asked how you could help, made a donation, and cheered us on. Most of all, we thank you for trusting and supporting trans leadership.

A special shoutout to our TJFP team, our Community Grantmaking Fellows and facilitators; Karen Pittelman; Nico Amador; Cristina Herrera; Zakia Mckensey; V Varun Chaudhry; Stephen Switzer at Rye Financials; Raquel Willis; Team Dresh, Jasper Lotti; butch.queen; Shakina; Nat Stratton-Clarke and the staff at Cafe Flora; Rebecca Fox; Alex Lee of the Grantmakers United for Trans Communities program at Funders for LGBT Issues; Kris Hayashi, Xoai Pham, Shelby Pearl Chestnut, Sebastian Margeret and the staff at the Transgender Law Center; Micah Bazant; Glori Tuitt; Colin Laurel; Amy Poehler’s Smart Girls; Kah Yangni; Leigh Bardugo and Kierra Johnson; Pooja Gehi; Ejeris Dixon and the staff at Vision, Change, Win; Carol Cantwell at Fun with Financials; Julie Johnson McVeigh at Fresh Pond Capital; Ona Winet at Tides Foundation; Ninotska Love; Tourmaline; Janet Mock; Laverne Cox; Chani Nicholas; Beth Jacobs; Weston Milikin; Siena Chrismans; Park Slope Copy; and our families: Consuela Foster, Katie Carter and Frank Bacca; Foxxy Cleopatra, Bella Luce, Kylee West-Williams and Suzie; Nelida Collantes, Deesha Narichania, and Malai Wattichania; Clara Lee, Jang Yoon, Joie Deritis, Squid, and Chiquita.
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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:** Trans and Gender Non-Conforming

**QTPOC:** Queer Transgender People of Color

**BIPOC:** Black and Indigenous People of Color

**LGBTQI+:** Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Intersex, and more. Versions of this acronym attempt 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 the societal expectations related to their 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 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, bisexual, transgender, intersex, or gender non-conforming identify as two-spirit. In many Nations, being two-spirit carries both great respect and additional commitments and responsibilities to one’s community.

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

Dear community, friends, and family,

Every year, our esteemed Community Grantmaking Fellows work tirelessly for weeks and weeks reviewing hundreds of applications before the magic of making final decisions happens at our in-person meeting.

But this year, just as we were about to start booking flights for our Fellows, the coronavirus arrived, quickly ravaging our respective communities, homes, and families. Like so many others, we had to put our confusion, stunned feelings, and grief aside, and instantaneously pivot, re-imagining the way we work by moving our funding panel to a virtual format.

On May 16th, from across six time zones, we logged on from our living rooms, closets, home offices, and bedrooms from Tennessee, Florida, Texas, Minnesota, Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, Virginia, Vermont, Hawaii, and Washington State. For nearly a month, TJFP Fellows, facilitators, staff, and support team came together to discuss nearly 300 groups. For days, the Fellows painstakingly discussed the groups they wanted to move forward for funding—the yes’s and the maybes—and the no’s, the groups and projects they felt didn’t quite meet the priorities.
By the end of our process, we may have been worn out from hours and hours of conversation and deliberation, but we were also invigorated by the visionary and essential work we are honored to fund. It was mind-blowing to be able to move a total of $1.6 million to 261 trans-led grassroots groups across the U.S., including in U.S.-colonized territories!

Despite the distance between us, the members of the grantmaking team gave this process their everything. And they did it with exceptional love and care during political unrest, racial justice uprisings, a global pandemic, and impending doom.

I need everyone reading this to understand what a phenomenal task this year’s Grantmaking Fellows carried out. They were willing to push through during unbelievably dire times because they knew what was at stake if they didn’t. Much like the groups and organizations we fund, actual people dedicated their time, energy, and most of all, their care to
make so much possible for others. Once again, TJFP was reminded how dynamic trans BIPOC leadership is and can be!

It’s because of these brilliant Community Grantmaking Fellows, as well as our amazing TJFP coordinating team and facilitators, that we are able to get this done each year. And we absolutely wouldn’t be able to move as much money to the hundreds of incredible grassroots trans justice groups without our amazing friends, family, donors, volunteers, applicants, and grantees!

**On the Precipice of Change**

We released our first annual report in 2013. It was our first year of grantmaking and our annual report was a short read at just 25 pages. With this year’s report coming in at 120 pages, what you hold in your hands is not only a list of 261 names of groups and organizations, it is a story of some of the most notable changemakers from all regions of the nation.

Before COVID-19, before the uprisings, and before this year’s intense presidential election, trans leaders were already fighting for us. These grassroots strategies and solutions have always been essential to our future. In fact, some of us owe our very existence to the visions, strategies, and radical courage of organizers of the past and today.

The groups we fund, the issues they’re addressing, and the movements we’re forming are not going away! Quite the opposite! We are growing, making radically necessary shifts and changes by feeding and housing each other, protesting in the streets or from our beds, challenging policy, healing, creating art, joy, and points of connection for survival. And that’s just scratching the surface. We’re also becoming increasingly unapologetic about who we are and in our demands for justice.

The groundwork has been laid, perhaps by many of you reading this, and though there’s a lot of work ahead to make both small and large systemic change, we have been readying ourselves for this very moment over decades. Our government and the systems that uphold the status quo at our expense were not designed with the intention of our freedom. So instead, WE protect us—because love never gives up.

TJFP has always centered our grantmaking in trusting and supporting trans leadership, in particular the leadership of Black, Brown, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) organizers and communities. For the past two years, our funding panel has been an all-BIPOC activist and organizer team. Prioritizing BIPOC leadership and decision-making felt especially meaningful and crucial this year.

Queer Science, Minneapolis, MN, 2020 TJFP Grantee
An Outpouring of Abundance

Because of you—the community that sustains us—we were once again able to break our own records, funding more groups than ever, spreading even more money to trans and non-binary communities.

There is something so momentous about being supported by a mobilized group of individuals who are in formation to shift the tides. Never before have we seen such innovative fundraising for TJFP sweep the nation. Our supporters used their celebrity status and platforms to shout out to us and encourage others to give, you hosted show-stopping events and drag shows, held bake sales, sold art, books, clothing, coffee, and so much more, all to raise money for TJFP. And then there were the long-time supporters, always showing up, right on time with your annual, quarterly, and monthly donations. You really wow’ed us once again with how you have made the power of community into a force to be reckoned with.

You gave in abundance, driven by a desire to see our communities make it through these times well-resourced and ready to survive to see another day. You gave with such abandon that our website and donation page crashed! (They quickly recovered.) We are forever grateful!

As fascism and injustice never seem to rest, neither shall we. So much has come into the light in 2020, from inadequacies in the health care system and economic injustice to blatant and rampant anti-Black and anti-Asian racism that included a stark series of murders and violence. And somehow, after every atrocity we’ve witnessed or endured under the rule of Trump, who has left us to suffer—somehow, the people of the United States still voted for and supported his hate at alarming rates. The New York Times reported that Trump won 28 percent of the LGBTQ vote compared to the 61 percent won by Biden. It bears repeating that we STILL have work to do.
At the same time, you might also agree that this country has arrived at a historic turning point. We might not yet know the direction we’re headed, but I’m confident that if we all do our parts individually and collectively, we just might be able to map out and reshape the outcome. I suspect you believe this too or you might not have made it this far into this letter.

Still we have questions, we have needs, demands, and new visions. Perhaps this is what it means to be forced to grow and transform, to endure growing pains as we take on new forms, shapes, and sizes. Perhaps this is the revolution we’ve been preparing for all along.

**Marking Change and Loss**

We lost so many legends this year, including the over 30 trans people murdered by people who knew them and people who did not. We mourn you all, we speak your names, and we light our candles invoking your spirit. As much as I hope our recent ancestors might rest, I’m also quite certain they’ll be guiding us for years to come.

As I close this letter and as we closed out this life-altering year, I want to dedicate this year’s annual report to three people who we at TJFP are holding close to our hearts.

**Nico Amador** This was your final year as our grantmaking meeting facilitator, moving aside to make room for other leaders to step in as facilitators, especially for Black and Indigenous women to take the reins. When I first approached you, asking you to take a leap of faith to join our team, I had no idea how intrinsic to our process you would become. Through the past eight years, you have led us as steady as a heartbeat, keeping us on track (and on time!) and focused. We absolutely would not be where we are today without you as our “North Star.” We admire you so. You will always be family.

— Munroe Bergdorf, trans model and social activist

“The number of people shocked at the level of votes that Trump received is concerning to me. It shows how many people are still unaware of what is actually going on right now. This isn’t even really about Trump anymore. It’s much, much deeper than Trump.”

Nico Amador, outgoing grantmaking meeting facilitator

— Munroe Bergdorf, trans model and social activist

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— Munroe Bergdorf, trans model and social activist
Lorena Borjas  A Mexican-American transgender and immigrant rights activist; founder of the first community organization for TransGNB and LGBTQI people in Queens, Colectivo Intercultural Transgrediendo; and inspiration and namesake of the Lorena Borjas Community Fund. When I first met you over a decade ago while working at the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, you never failed to serve “your girls,” the trans Latinas of Queens. A mother to a community and a movement, you persisted for your people and you did not stop. Available around the clock to all who needed you, every time I think of your warm, yet fierce dedication and roaring laughter, I still find myself crying, knowing that COVID-19 took you away from us far too soon.

“There’s reason to think we are on the precipice of change, but there’s no guarantee. But wherever human beings are, we at least have a chance. We are not only disasters, we are miracles.”

– Eddie Glaude (from Being Again: James Baldwin’s America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own)

And Monica Roberts  Our paths crossed regularly over the years. A founding member of the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition and the creator of TransGriot, a blog unlike any we had ever seen. You birthed TransGriot as, “A proud unapologetic Black trans woman speaking truth to power and discussing the world around her since 2006,” and it shook the world—even saving lives, as some of our most isolated community members found strength to continue on in your words. You were a bold force of nature, making a way for us early on. When you left this realm this fall, we all felt your absence immediately. You will never be forgotten.

I offer the following as a reflection and a reminder that our visions and our movements are not small or insignificant: As we come together, our shape becomes larger and more expansive. There is room for you here. We will make room for you here. We will release any mindset of defeat and failure, remembering our power—yours and mine and, especially, our collective power: the power of our own communities to bring about change. So here we go, moving forward. Don’t stop, keep going.

In solidarity and in love,

Gabriel Foster
Executive Director
Our Grantmaking Year in Review

1. What We Do and Why We Do It

The Trans Justice Funding Project 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 convening a panel of six trans justice activists from around the country to carefully review every application. 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. 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
In the last eight years, we’ve received 1425 applications and distributed 1166 grants through our community-led process, with funds totalling over $4.5 million!

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 eight years, we’ve received 1425 applications and distributed 1166 grants through our community-led process, with funds totalling over $4.5 million!

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

2. Our Eighth Year

In 2020, 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, radical organizing work, support systems, and all the ways our communities are fighting injustice, cultivating life, and caring for one another.

In TJFP’s eighth year of funding, we moved over $1.6 million to 261 trans justice groups—compared to last year, that’s more than twice the funding and 75 more groups! As our communities continue to care for one another through the COVID-19 crisis, adjust to the 2020 elections results, and continue to work towards true liberation and justice, we know that our responsibility as a funder is to move as much money out to the grassroots trans leaders across the country paving the way for communities to build power in these times.

More Applications and New Processes!

The trans justice movement is growing! We see it every year in the increase in applications that pour in from all over the country. In the past eight years, we’ve seen

TJFP staff works with Vision Change Win Consulting to develop a three year strategic plan! Left to right; Gabriel Foster, Cathy Kapua, Ejeris Dixon (VCW), and Marin Watts
a 195 percent increase in applications, from 104 applications in 2013 to a total of 307 applications in 2020.

As one of the few funders whose sole mission is to resource grassroots trans leadership, we can absolutely say with certainty that the trans justice movement is powerful, beautiful, and building. It is essential now more than ever to support all the bold, radical, and brilliant ways that our communities are envisioning justice and liberation.

Of this year’s 307 applications, 120 came from first-time applicants! This signals growth, a remarkable amount of community-building, and fortification. We’re here for it!

Because we have seen a consistent pattern of applications increasing annually, we decided to try something new this year: the “ReUp.” The ReUp is an optional way for grantees to renew their grant for an additional year at the same funding level.

The ReUp should make things a little easier for everyone involved.

We encourage grassroots trans-led groups to apply annually, and with no restrictions on how many years in a row they can apply, many groups apply for and receive grants several years in a row. TJFP does not currently offer multi-year grants, but the ReUp will include some of the benefits of a multi-year grant while avoiding some of the drawbacks. With no reapplication, the ReUp process will save grantees time and allow them to better plan for the year ahead, just like a multi-year grant. However, most multi-year grants only fund a smaller pool of established organizations. ReUps will allow more groups access to a second year of funding, including those that are newer and less well-known.

In applications from near and far—from our home base in Brooklyn, NY, to American Samoa—we read about the tremendous, visionary work our communities are dreaming up and putting into action, along with the stable projects that have existed for years and serve as a foundation of care for our trans and gender non-conforming, and non-binary communities.
Supporting Our Communities Through the COVID-19 Pandemic

Each of this year’s 307 applications, from groups that are seasoned or just emerging, came in before our communities were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, before quarantines and physical distance measures took place, and before we moved online. We can’t imagine all the ways in which folks have pivoted since then, but we know that each and every one of these groups are finding innovative and radical ways to care for one another and keep each other alive and safe. No matter where they are and how they manage to do it, it’s absolutely essential.

In response, we gave each of our 2020 grantees an additional $2,500 unrestricted emergency support to help navigate these new conditions. We also provided emergency support funds to our 46 TJFP panelists past and present, our remarkable facilitators, and our support staff, who show up for us no matter what.

The grassroots communities are growing, building power, and continue to be the foundation of support for our transgender communities.

In TJFP’s eighth year of funding, we moved over $1.6 million to 261 trans justice groups!

Our Fabulous Grantmaking Team

We brought together another brilliant panel of trans justice activists to make this year’s grant decisions: Christopher Cuevas, Nicole Fernandes, nathaniel gonzalez, Kayla Rena Gore, Agaiotupu Isyss Viena, and Emmett Schelling. Our panelists are engaged in providing access to healthcare, education, employment, and resources for sex workers; organizing and uplifting healing justice work; fighting for housing equity and prison abolition; and so much more!

We were truly blown away by our panelists and grateful that they brought their entire selves to the virtual table. This year, as our grantmaking team had to make some really hard funding decisions, we were also in the midst of racial and political uprisings, adjusting to the COVID-19 pandemic, and mourning the loss of some of our dearest community members. While we moved our meetings entirely online and felt so many outside pressures mounting, our Fellows remained present and steady, bringing their lived experience, radical brilliance,
Our Fellows remained present and steady, bringing their lived experience, radical brilliance, regional understanding, and commitment to the decision-making process.

Our annual grantmaking meeting transformed from a weekend-long in-person meeting to a nearly month-long series of virtual sessions. For the eighth and final year, Nico Amador was our facilitator, navigating the online space while also passing the baton to our fabulous alumni Zakia McKensey and TJFP’s Deputy Director Cathy Kapua. We are so excited for this new team to bring their energy, experience, and love towards creating space and holding down TJFP’s values with future Grantmaking Fellows.

We can’t thank Nico enough for being TJFP’s first grantmaking facilitator; for eight years of magically envisioning and building the unique ways we move through our annual grantmaking meeting, always gracefully and lovingly holding the experiences that have unfolded over the years.

We were also supported by two amazing contract coordinators this year: our online meeting conductors were Cristina Hererra, of TransLatina Network, a previous TJFP grantee, and longtime TJFP fam, V Varun Chaudry, who has worked with us in multiple capacities for four years! Cristina and V did
a fabulous job taking care of our Fellows’ food needs, endless logistics and technology needs, and making our meetings move seamlessly from one hour to the next through the decision-making process!

An endless amount of love and appreciation to the talented facilitators, coordinators, and the entire grantmaking team!

**About Our Grants and Grantees**

The 2020 grantmaking process distributed 261 grants, totaling $1 million. The overall grants were allocated as follows: 168 grants for $2,500, 70 grants for $5,000, and 23 grants for $10,000.

We also sent $2,500 to each group in emergency relief, totaling $652,500 in additional unrestricted financial support.

That’s a total of more than $1.6 million that we moved to our community in 2020!

This year we did things a little differently, so here’s a bit more about the process. During our standard grantmaking cycle, which culminates in the grantmaking meeting at the end of May, we moved $555,000 to 153 groups. Through the new ReUp process—a way for 2019 grantees to easily request a 2020 renewal grant for 2020, we distributed 108 ReUp grants. ReUps were intended to be distributed along with the other 2020 grants in June, but we expedited them because of COVID-19 and were able to get $445,000 in ReUp funds to those 108 groups in April.

All grantees are small organizations with budgets ranging from zero to $250,000. This year, 27 percent of grantees were 501(c)(3) non-profits, 31 percent had fiscal sponsors, and 42 percent had no non-profit status at all. This range of incorporation status shows us that we are meeting our goal of funding groups organizing in whatever ways work best for their communities. There were also 122 first-time applicants, 75 percent of whom were funded.

Seventy-seven percent of our grantees had a budget of less than $50,000, 69 percent had a budget under $25,000, and 38 percent had a budget below $5,000. Many of those had no budget at all; in fact, 18 percent of our grantees are doing their work with nothing or paying for it out of their own pocket.

Year after year, our Grantmaking Fellows continue to hold true to our commitment to prioritize support for groups led by Black trans women; groups run by Black, brown, and Indigenous folks; and groups working
We are so proud to be able to support our grantees’ ongoing work! Of our 186 2019 grantees, 155 applied again in 2020, and 145 of them were funded again in 2020, whether through a ReUp or through our standard application.

We encourage groups who were not funded 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.

The applications we receive contain an enormous amount of information about the state of trans justice organizing in the country. We publish this report in part to share this valuable information, so that others can learn, connect, and be inspired.

Most trans justice groups understand that their communities survive at the intersection of multiple oppressions. The infographics on the following pages show some of the issues our applicants work on and how they intersect in trans justice organizing.

**Who Gave?**

From June 1, 2019, to July 31, 2020, we raised over $1.5 million to redistribute to grantees in our 2020 grant cycle.

Our co-founder Karen Pittelman continues to cover TJFP operational expenses and all four staff salaries, which means that every penny raised from our supporters goes directly to our grantees!

In June 2020, we saw a huge uptick in donations as increased global attention to Black-led
justice organizations led many folks to us for the first time, buoyed by a desire to fund the movement. An astonishing 6,587 individual donors contributed to us this year—nearly nine times as many as last year! **Our monthly sustaining supporters, who provide us a reliable annual base of donations, have more than doubled, to over 500 sustainers!** About 6 percent of our supporters this year are monthly donors, and their donations compose 10 percent of our annual grantmaking.

Much of our work is supported by very generous family funds and foundations, accounting for 40 percent of our grantmaking. Businesses, schools, and other non-philanthropic organizations contributed about 10 percent, including many small and trans-owned businesses!

We are so grateful for every gift you give, no matter the amount. Raising money as a grassroots organization means that many of our donors are in the same communities as our grantees, living under similar conditions and stresses. This year, all of us have been touched by the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet we’ve also been blessed with an enormous outpouring of support in all sizes. People giving under $50 made up 67 percent of all our individual donors—that’s thousands of people giving ten, five, even just two or three dollars. It just goes to show how much we can accomplish together, no matter how big or small our actions may seem by themselves.

We are so thankful for the outpouring of gifts from our community. It has been a trying time for our communities but your generous financial support helps fortify resources for the trans justice movement. Thank you for your generous donations and support!
3. What’s Next?

With all that’s going on in the country and around the world, we plan on keeping as steady a course as we can, while continuing to refine our grantmaking process and sprucing up our outward-facing resources—perhaps you’ll see a new website and more videos in the coming year!

We like to emphasize the “Project” part of Trans Justice Funding Project and this year is no exception. As the needs of the trans justice movement shift, so must we. Any changes we make are with a goal to better accommodate our grantees and Grantmaking Fellows. For example, we will continue to offer ReUp requests for at least another year, and to refine the process so it is as easy and stress-free as possible.

As our staff grows, we are also refining our internal processes and developing a remote work environment that supports everyone and allows us to remain connected and committed to our mission of trusting and supporting trans leadership. We have had the great pleasure of working with Vision Change Win consulting this year to finalize our strategic plan and move towards a more digitally secure work environment. We see remote working as more of a norm while we continue to physically distance and take the necessary steps towards wellness.

As we move into our ninth year of funding, we are more inspired and fired up than ever to do radical funding work, raising and moving as much money as we can with little restriction, so our community can bring their visions of trans justice and liberation to life.

Please consider reaching out to trans-led groups in your community. Information about our grantees are within the pages of this report and on our website. We encourage you to learn about the brilliant grassroots groups building support and networks of care in your area, donate, volunteer, and spread the word!

Applications for the next grantmaking cycle are typically open in English and Spanish on our website at transjusticefundingproject.org, starting in late December and always due on February 15. Please spread the word to your friends, family, and community and encourage trans-led groups to apply for funding!

And we hope you’ll also join us by making a donation. Once again, every penny you give will go directly to our grantees.

2020 went by in a flash. As we dive into 2021, we hope you continue to dream, vision, build, and support this powerful trans justice movement with us.
2020 TJFP Grantees

Focus Areas

- 261 grantees
- 127 First Time Applicants
- Anti-Violence & Crisis Intervention: 37 grantees
- Arts, Culture & Media: 68 grantees
- Community Building & Visibility: 203 grantees
- Criminalization & Policing: 32 grantees
- Disability Justice: 16 grantees
- Economic Justice: 74 grantees
- Education & Safe Schools: 29 grantees
- Elder Issues: 3 grantees
- Family & Parenting Support: 11 grantees
- Gender Justice & Reproductive Justice: 117 grantees
- Healthcare: 68 grantees
- Immigration: 23 grantees
- Indigenous Rights: 14 grantees
- Intersex Rights: 4 grantees
- Legal Services: 29 grantees
- Racial Justice: 109 grantees
- Religion & Spirituality: 17 grantees
- Rural Issues: 12 grantees
- Youth Issues: 55 grantees

By Region

- Anti-Violence & Crisis Intervention (14%)
- Arts, Culture & Media (26%)
- Community Building & Visibility (78%)
- Criminalization & Policing (12%)
- Disability Justice (6%)
- Economic Justice (28%)
- Education & Safe Schools (11%)
- Elder Issues (1%)
- Family & Parenting Support (4%)
- Gender Justice & Reproductive Justice (45%)
- Healthcare (26%)
- Immigration (9%)
- Indigenous Rights (5%)
- Intersex Rights (2%)
- Legal Services (11%)
- Racial Justice (42%)
- Religion & Spirituality (7%)
- Rural Issues (5%)
- Youth Issues (21%)
2020 TJFP Grantees

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- Religion & Spirituality (7%)
- Rural Issues (5%)
- Youth Issues (21%)
**The 2020 TJFP Team**

**GRANTMAKING FELLOWS**

**Christopher Cuevas**  
they/them/ellx

As the LGBTQ Equality Program Officer at Laughing Gull Foundation (LGF), Christopher guides LGF’s grantmaking supporting the LGBTQ community in the U.S. South to exist without discrimination and live full lives. Prior to joining the LGF team, they were the Executive Director of QLatinx, where they worked to advance the visibility of and empower LGBTQ+ Latinx communities and create spaces that foster growth and healing.

A lifelong peace practitioner, educator, and community organizer, Christopher leads their work for cultural transformation by centering the unapologetic and unwavering power of radical love. As a child of undocumented immigrants and a queer person of color, Christopher interconnects their lived experience and drives the necessary heart work of building a culture of peace, compassion, and change through advocating for LGBTQ+, immigrant, and racial justice movements.

Through their work with state, national, and transnationally recognized initiatives and organizations, Christopher has led conversations and facilitated education campaigns specifically addressing structural racism, health equity, and LGBTQ+ issues.

**Nicole Fernandes**  
she/her

Nicole Fernandes is a South Asian Trans Woman new to the world of philanthropy. She comes from a direct service / grassroots background, having worked at the LGBT Center of New York and participating as a Sylvia Rivera Law Project Fellow. Currently, she is the Finance and Administrative Associate at Funders for LGBTQ Issues where she is beginning her career in philanthropy. Nicole finds joy in binge watching shows with her sisters and making a mess with acrylic paints. She is thrilled to become a part of the TJFP family in any capacity and is eternally grateful for this amazing opportunity to connect with her community.

**nathaniel gonzalez**  
he/him

nathaniel is a facilitator and organizational development consultant whose work focuses on supporting local and national progressive non-profits in growing their work.

Rooted in healing justice practices, nathaniel specializes in facilitating intersectional process consultation, strategic planning, leadership development, organizational culture change, program development, and decision-making strategies. He also has a deep familiarity with Board development, conflict mediation, and onboarding processes.

He observes silence most Mondays, spells his name lowercase, is the founder of For the Culture, listens to music loudly, and giggles deep belly giggles at inappropriate moments. He questions capitalism but loves new sneakers. And truth be told, when he asks how your day is, he genuinely wants to know.
Kayla Rena Gore
she/her

Kayla Rena Gore helps coordinate homeless services, conduct direct outreach, and advocate for the rights of TLGBOQ people, especially transgender women, as the co-founder and executive director of My Sistah’s House. She studied Sociology at Southwest University. Her organizing work includes fighting for housing equity for all people who are chronically homeless, advocating for the just treatment of transgender people by law enforcement, prison abolition, and anything tied to white patriarchy or rooted in anti-Blackness. Her work has and always will be intersectional not only in theory but in action.

Agaiotupu Isyss Viena
she/her

Agaiotupu Isyss Viena is an unapologetic fa’aafine and trans woman from Amerika Samoa. She is a fa’aafainest, descendant of celestial navigators, cat mama, and lover of all things Pasifika. Isyss works as the Director of TRANSform Washington, a program of Pride Foundation, using public education, community organizing, and political advocacy to shift culture to keep trans communities safe by changing norms, hearts, and minds one story at a time. She is a Board Co-Chair for her political home, UTOPIA Seattle (United Territories of Pacific Islanders Alliance), a fa’aafine and trans womxn of color-led organization in Washington that serves the QTPI (Queer and Trans Pacific Islander) community; she has been on the board since 2012. She is co-chair of the first ever Washington State LGBTQ Commission and is honored to serve alongside fellow co-chair and community icon Marsha Botzer, and a truly brilliant group of commissioners eager to put in the heart work. She is also co-founder and core team member of the Trans Women of Color Solidarity Network in Washington, which provides low to no-barrier funds to cover the basic needs of Two-Spirit, Black and brown trans women and femmes. She uses her lived experience to fight like hell for trans and gender diverse sex workers in Washington affected by lack of access to healthcare, education, employment, housing, and more. Seeing trans people in love, starting families, and traveling the world brings her joy.

Emmett Schelling
he/him

Emmett Schelling is a South Korean trans immigrant by way of foreign adoption who leads the largest statewide trans-led advocacy org in Texas. While his primary focus is trans issues, his passion is an understanding that individuals at their most whole and full are not impacted by single issues, but rather by myriad issues that often manifest in oppression and marginalization.

Before entering movement/nonprofit work, Emmett was in corporate management, after studying Business Management and Marketing in college. He felt compelled to invest more deeply in ongoing work towards collective liberation of trans folks after engaging in various levels of community organizing, combined with a series of eye-opening events that pulled him into his current work.

As well as serving as the Executive Director of Transgender Education Network of Texas, Emmett serves on the Community Council for Transform Houston; is a board member of Deeds Not Words; and is Co-Director for the TransFORWARD, a statewide trans-powered research collective in Texas.

He resides in Houston with his better half, child, and two dogs.
FACILITATORS AND MEETING COORDINATORS:

**Nico Amador, Facilitator**  
he/him

Nico Amador comes to TJFP with over fifteen years’ experience as a community organizer, activist trainer, and movement worker. Between 2008-2015, he served as the Director for Training for Change, where he founded a fellowship program for trainers and facilitators of color, led over 300 workshops and trained over 7,000 organizers on four continents. His prior work has also included efforts to fight mass incarceration, win a living wage, establish sanctuary policies, and end a public transportation system policy that discriminated against trans and non-binary passengers in Philadelphia. In addition to his role with TJFP, Nico currently supports online training for movement builders at PeoplesHub and is an organizational development coach for grantees of the Fund for Trans Generations.

**Zakia (Jemaceye’) McKensey, Facilitator**  
she/her

Zakia (Jemaceye’) McKensey, a native of Richmond, VA, is an advocate for L.G.B.T.Q. equality, with special interest in the Transgender community and those affected by HIV/AIDS.

Zakia started her career in HIV prevention in 2001 at Fan Free Clinic as the MSM (Men who Sleep with Men) Coordinator, and from there served for six years as the first Transgender Women of Color to work for the Richmond City Health District, as a Disease Intervention Specialist. She has also worked as a Transgender Community Advocate at the Virginia Anti-Violence Project where she provided support and advocacy to LGBTQ survivors of dating violence and intimate partner violence, and facilitated a healthy relationships curriculum.

Zakia is currently the Executive Director and Founder of Nationz Foundation, an organization that offers free HIV testing and links to care services and a food pantry to assist clients in need or experiencing hardships in life. She is also the C.E.O. of Nationz Pageantry System, a pageantry system for male entertainers and female impersonators to showcase their talents, erase HIV stigma, and promote healthier lifestyle changes through entertainment and fashion.

Zakia is the current reigning Sweetheart International at Large, former Miss Scandals, Miss Fieldens, Miss Godfreys, Miss Club Colours, Miss Black America Plus, Miss Nationz, and Miss Black National, and has captured over 180 national, state, regional and club competitions throughout her career in pageantry.

**Cristina Herrera, Community Grantmaking Meeting Coordinator**  
she/her

Cristina founded the Translatina Network back in 2007, to organize and empower the transgender immigrant community through leadership development and education. Over the years, she has served on countless panels, committees, and boards to provide expertise on effective HIV prevention and community organizing. Cristina has been presented with awards and recognition by the New York City Council and Department of Health, the Queens (NY) Borough President, the AIDS Institute, and many organizations.
Cristina was formerly the Trans Program Coordinator at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center (The Center) in New York City, where she worked for 11 years. She oversaw a workforce development program specifically designed to meet the needs of the TGNC community. She has been working in the field of HIV prevention, advocacy, and community organizing for almost 20 years.

V Varun Chaudhry, Grantmaking Meeting Zoom Conductor

he/him

V Varun Chaudhry, PhD, is a brown trans boi with all kinds of feelings, which, thanks to the Lorde (Audre Lorde, that is), he believes are "our most genuine paths to knowledge." V is currently on faculty in the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department at Brandeis University, where he teaches courses in queer and transgender studies. V has published on the racial politics of trans organizing, specifically the relationship between black feminism and transgender studies, and on trans inclusion and affirmation efforts in organizations. V is the primary author of Transforming Inclusion: An Organizational Guide, published by the Leeway Foundation in 2018. V lives outside of Boston, MA, with his family.

STAFF:

Gabriel Foster, Co-founder and Executive Director

he/him

Gabriel Foster is a black, queer, trans, 'momma's boy' who’s returned to his home Seattle, WA, most recently from New York. From age 15 to 26, he went from a program constituent to program staff in the American Friends Service Committee's GLBTQ Youth Program. Gabriel has worked with the Northwest Network of Bisexual, Trans, Lesbian and Gay Survivors of Abuse, helping to create their youth programming in Seattle; at SPARK Reproductive Justice Now with LGBTQ youth of color and allies in Atlanta, GA; at the Leeway Foundation, supporting women and trans people creating art and social change in Philadelphia, PA; and provided outreach for the Jonathan Lax Fund at the Bread and Roses foundation in Philadelphia. Gabriel is also a former staff member of the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, a retired disco dancer extraordinaire, and lover of memes!

Cathy Kapua, Deputy Director

she/her

Cathy has worked with the transgender community since 2003, first as a Peer Educator at Kulia Na Mamo, then eventually as the Transgender Service Manager at the Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center. Cathy is proud of her academic accomplishments in the University of Hawaii - West Oahu, where she received a B.S. in Public Administration; she continues to use these skills to help her Native Hawaiian community. She has been successful in advocating for transgender programming and providing culturally competency trainings around the nation, but prides herself mainly on being a role model for younger transgender women in Hawai‘i.
Marin Watts, Operations and Communications Director  
he/him, they/them  
Marin is a queer, trans, Filipinx-American multimedia artist who is deeply committed to social justice. Over the years, he has been involved with many grassroots media projects, as an artist and media educator. He is constantly exploring art and media as a tool for change and can often be found getting messy in his art studio exploring how personal and political everyday experiences and intergenerational histories impact our sense of self—our physical body, emotional landscape, and spirit.

When he’s not in the office or his studio, he can be found walking his dog somewhere in Brooklyn and day dreaming of the ocean, the mountains, or a long country road.

Demian Yoon, Database and Communications Coordinator  
he/him  
Demian Yoon is a bi and trans Korean-American from New York. After studying English and Religion at Haverford College, he has worked in education (both indoor and outdoor) and philanthropy (both queer-focused and not), and is thrilled to be on staff at TJFP, his political home. Currently, he resides in suburban Connecticut with his partner and two sweet fur babies—a dog and a geriatric cat. In his free time he writes, reads sci-fi, takes long walks, and makes a mean frittata.

Karen Pittelman, Co-founder  
she/her  
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.
Creating a Vision for Funding Trans Justice

A letter to the Grantmaking Panel

Trusting and supporting trans leadership: that is at the core of everything we do, both internally and externally at Trans Justice Funding Project.

We understand that when our Grantmaking Fellows are charged with moving money, they may feel a lot of pressure to make the right decisions. This year, with the COVID-19 pandemic, the uprisings, and the elections, that pressure was even greater. It can feel overwhelming and can bring up wild emotions, because we know deeply that our communities are fighting every day to simply exist in an oppressive system that tries to erase and muffle the breath and brilliance of our trans siblings. The scarcity of resources and the increased need makes it feel even more important to do this right.

What’s right for TJFP is to move the money and then let people decide what works best for them.

But we have to do it right by TJFP’s standards. Not by the standards of what’s right in the rest of philanthropy.

For TJFP, what’s right is what’s right for the survival of our community, whatever that looks like. It looks different in every single place around the country. What’s right for TJFP is to move the money and then let people decide what works best for them.

We know thinking this way can feel risky, especially with all the pressure. It’s easy to start worrying about getting it wrong. But risk is not necessarily a bad thing. We just need to shift the way we think about it. We ask that you try to let it feel more expansive, like taking a chance, like believing in our community. Let’s take that chance and give our trans siblings and elders an opportunity to build the things they envision.
What’s so great and so simple about TJFP is that we are here to move money to folks. We don’t think of it as our money—we’re just helping to distribute it to the folks that it really belongs to, so they can decide, build, dream, and create the systems and support they need. We might not even be able to imagine what this new vision for trans liberation and justice will look like. But for those who are making these visions a reality, we believe in you and need you!

The fact that we have no reporting or restrictions, that we are flexible about how and who we move money to, that we don’t impose any kind of timeline, that we just move the money and then get out of the way—we hope that this can give our grantees a little bit of relief. We want them to know that these resources are there for them when a need, desire, interest, or idea comes up. That they can let their dream surface without doing a song and dance about it for us.

It’s the difference between saying: prove to us that you’re worthy of this and saying: what can we do to help support your vision?

Because, yes you are worthy. Yes, you are deserving. Your existence is our transcestors’ wildest dreams come true. Your dreams are our future. TJFP’s role is to ensure you have what you need to take us there.

When confronted with the hard decisions of moving money, making the right decision, you can rarely go wrong by saying yes to our community’s visions, dreams, solutions and movement towards trans justice! Yes is what’s right for TJFP: saying yes as much as we can and trusting and believing in our beloved community.
Welcoming Growth

2020 was a big year for TJFP in so many ways. We had to do a lot of learning and shifting in the moment, and we couldn’t have done it without two of our long-time TJFP fam, who we’re lucky to now have on our full-time team!

Former grantee Cathy Kapua joined the 2017 Community-led Grantmaking Fellowship. After completing her Fellowship, Cathy enthusiastically agreed to work with TJFP as a contractor, to welcome and provide training and one-on-one support to our 2018 and 2019 Fellows. In 2020, we’re overjoyed that Cathy said yes to us one more time; we’re honored to have her vision and leadership as our new Deputy Director!

Demian Yoon arrived at TJFP’s office in 2017, eager to volunteer and help in any way he could. Month after month, he proved his dedication and care for TJFP. He has shown up as a volunteer, part-time administrative assistant, and now, we are so lucky to have him onboard as our full-time Database and Communications Coordinator!

Cathy and Demian have given so much of themselves to make TJFP what it is today and we can’t imagine doing this work without them.

The Path Towards You

Cathy Kapua, Deputy Director

Over the past decade, I have seen so many freedom fighters and warriors of justice emerge and take their stance against oppression and discrimination. It is wonderful to feel the fire and passion of our people rising up and standing up for racial justice and trans justice. I learned early on in community advocacy work that it is important to hear and support the energy from the frontline leaders, as they have the most courageous voices.

I was mentored and taught by many strong, empowered trans women, and I believe that is how I found my own voice and courage. Through transcentral knowledge, I carry their teachings with me, and they helped me get through the past 17 years of direct service.
and law-changing advocacy. With this realization, I knew that I needed to make space for other trans leaders to use their voices and it was time for me to give up my space for others to grow forward.

In February 2020, I proudly joined the staff of the Trans Justice Funding Project as the Deputy Director. It has been a dream come true for me to work alongside a brilliant and loving team who cares so much about the people we stand with and we serve. Trans justice looks different for different folx. I get to work with a team that is always thinking about how to hold up our people with respect and love. TJFP is moving resources to folx in rural areas that don’t always get access to financial resources; coming from a rural island, I appreciated this a lot. I am so excited to keep supporting the community Grantmaking Fellows and connecting with groups across the country doing frontline leadership work. I am inspired by the emerging voices and shall continue to find ways to make space for new leaders to grow forward.

I was a TJFP Grantmaking Fellow in 2017, then a part of the support team in 2018 and 2019. I am so honored and blessed to be able to introduce myself as TJFP Deputy Director in 2020. This is where I plan to spend my next few decades supporting trans liberation.

**Growing Into Now**

**Demian Yoon, Database and Communications Coordinator**

I’ve been at TJFP for three years as a volunteer, an intern, and an employee, and I’ve been out as trans for over a decade—and in many ways, I still feel brand new to the trans justice movement, and to trans community in general. I am still understanding who I am, gathering the pieces together, finding the places where I am able to explore, grow, and experience change.

While I first started volunteering with TJFP in 2017, it wasn’t my first time meeting Gabriel, the Co-founder and Executive Director of TJFP. That had been several years earlier, in 2011, when I was in high school. Freshly out and exploring social transition, I visited Sylvia Rivera Law Project (SRLP), a free legal service provider for trans and GNC folks, with my parents, to learn more about the process of a legal name change. Gabriel, who at the time was the SRLP Director of Outreach and Community Engagement, welcomed us into the space, and in doing so became one of the first few trans people I had ever met in person.

I had already been exploring my identity online for years by that point. Online spaces have been a refuge for trans, queer, and questioning people since pretty much the beginning of the internet—places where vital information can be accessed from nearly anywhere, about nearly anything, and with total anonymity, if need be. The internet was where I could go for anything I couldn’t talk to anybody in my face-to-face life about: fanfiction, facial piercings, what exactly all the words in “La Vie Boheme” from “Rent” meant. Then, in seventh grade, I came across the phrase “genderqueer female to male.” Curious, I gave those words a Google. That one search began my long exploration through blogs, forums, and pages telling the stories of people like me, giving me life-changing language to describe myself and how I wanted to move through the world. And I met other trans people online, people who could mirror what I felt about gender, could relate to my frustrations and successes.
But being in that room with Gabriel back in 2011, actually meeting the other cool trans people at SRLP helping us out, brought up a wild mix of emotions I hadn’t felt before. Awe and intimidation at the history and experience contained in that room—folks whose journeys towards discovering their transness likely didn’t look like mine. Insecurity about my youth, the fact that so much of my transness involved the internet and online spaces. Wondering whether I wanted my future, my career, to involve being out as trans, feeling ashamed for not having an answer for myself immediately. When our meeting was over, I asked Gabriel if SRLP had any volunteer opportunities for a high schooler like me. There were opportunities galore! …but I had anxiety, very little faith in myself, and a deep fear of not being good enough. Not trans enough, not smart enough, not useful enough for these people who (I thought) had it all completely together. So I never stopped by SRLP again.

In the years after that meeting, I transitioned at school, went to college, and lived stealth in most facets of my life, living as male and keeping my trans history very private. Having been outed several times before without my consent, and wanting to experience life with my trans identity far from the forefront, I chose to avoid in-person trans spaces for a lot of my young adulthood. Online spaces provided an important outlet for me, again, to process what it meant for me to be stealth, to maintain a connection to being trans that could be on my own terms—though, in my mind, I denigrated this as not good enough. My anxiety about being seen as trans had looped back on itself and become shame about even the ways I was trying to protect myself, even my choice to live stealth. I was scared of entering trans spaces and being rejected for not living up to some imaginary ideal of the perfect trans person in every sense of radicalness, outness, etc. But as time went on I began to recognize the ways in which fear was ruling my life and how many of these ideals were inauthentic projections I had put on myself.

By the time I graduated college in 2017, I was no longer stealth to many people in my life. I made rules and guidelines for myself as to who and how to tell, then put those aside as I figured out what my own authentic boundaries were. I found tentative pleasure, then joy, in connecting with other trans people, face to face, to share common gripes and complaints, in-jokes and laughter. I wasn’t as afraid, anymore, of the idea of being in queer- or trans-specific spaces. When my mom connected me with Marin, TJFP’s Director of Operations and Communications, who she’d met at a conference, it was still a big step out of my comfort zone to begin volunteering.
with TJFP and have “trans justice” in my work history forever. But I found myself drawn towards the “by us, for us” ethos of this organization—intrigued by the seemingly simple but deeply thoughtful way TJFP understood itself in relation to the movement as a whole.

To introduce me to TJFP’s philosophies, Marin sent me a piece by co-founder Karen Pittelman, “A Grassroots Theory of Funding.” (Available on our website here: https://www.transjusticefundingproject.org/resources/) As an ecology nerd, I remember loving the metaphor that serves as the essay’s backbone. She describes the landscape of groups and organizations doing justice work as a dynamic and ever-changing grassland, full of small, literally “grassroots” groups, some of which may grow into larger, bigger-budgeted “trees.” Mainstream funding usually prioritizes the “trees,” or only focuses on the “grass” that might grow to that scale. Yet every group, including those who might stay small or not last long, is important in this ecosystem to keep it growing and thriving.

To see an organization embrace diversity not just in strategies, structures, and philosophies, but even in different ways to measure “success,” felt thrilling and new. And to do this work I would need to understand myself as “good enough,” too. In my time as a volunteer, I would spend a few hours a week doing data entry, learning some of the administrative tasks, but also eating lunch with Marin, talking about our lives, being humans together. As I took on further responsibilities and met more and more of the people that make up the far-flung TJFP family, I would be struck by how much generosity and welcoming energy I felt. I made errors in my work, stumbled over my words, did so many things that my perfectionism couldn’t accept, but found ways to learn, and was always met with sincere appreciation for the work that was done.

When I was approached to take notes for the 2018 grantmaking meeting, it felt like I was fifteen, visiting SRLP all over again—I was so intimidated and starstruck. Reading the bios of all the Fellows, researching their work, left me a bit nervous to meet everyone! But as they entered the room, as the door shut behind us all so that three days of intense, heartfelt work could begin, I saw all of them, all of us, so clearly. Trans people united in a shared understanding of the importance of trans needs, making decisions and providing support to move money to trans organizers around the country. The things I was afraid of being judged for didn’t feel so scary now.

With the skills I had learned from volunteering and interning at TJFP, I began working in other philanthropic spaces and expanding my knowledge of what the funding landscape looked like. I felt honored to be trusted with the work I was given as a volunteer and intern, and felt additionally held, trusted, and invested in when I was offered a position at TJFP as Administrative Assistant in the latter half of 2019. Through it all, I kept thinking of something I heard Gabriel say at a particularly knotty point during the deliberations:

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When we listen to grassroots expertise, that’s when we can see real, generative, vital change built by the people who need that change most.

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Trans Justice Funding Project Report 2020
of the 2019 grantmaking meeting: “One of the most important things about the Trans Justice Funding Project is that it’s just that—a project. We’re always going to be evolving and changing things, and we won’t get it perfectly right every time.”

TJFP extends a lot of freedom and trust through participatory grantmaking because the folks making funding decisions, and the folks applying for funding, are our community. We support people doing what makes sense for their communities and trusting that they are the experts on that. When we listen to grassroots expertise, that’s when we can see real, generative, vital change built by the people who need that change most. We don’t believe in living in the terror of failure, in demanding that someone in need must show their worthiness by adhering to standards set by someone distant and unconnected to their reality. We believe in trusting people who might not otherwise get much trust. In allowing for a bit of messiness and dirt, because that’s where the grasslands grow from. In acknowledging that where people are, right now, is good enough. To learn and work in this atmosphere has fundamentally shaped not just how I see the field of philanthropy, but my morals and my value as a human being.

So it didn’t worry me too much, when I learned that TJFP was moving the grantmaking panel online this year. I knew that on top of having the time and resources to make it work, we were already a flexible, scrappy team, good at bending to fit the circumstances. I don’t spend as much time on the internet in the same ways I did five or ten years ago, but I’m familiar enough with how online spaces, though with their own challenges, can be safer or more comfortable than some folks’ in-person situations—and how trans and queer people in rural areas, or disabled people, or youth and elders, have already been mobilizing in these ways. Trans and queer communities are used to making do with what we have. We go further, we go big, we fight for what we deserve. And this year we made the magic of the grantmaking room happen, even when it was a Zoom call, even when our Fellows were calling in from cities in pain erupting in protests and uprisings. We took care of our people, supplying meals and tech so that even while calling in from different states we’d still feel held in our basic needs.

This year has taught us that even when it’s not possible to gather in person in the same way as before, we can still mobilize in huge ways that are absolutely right for this moment. Online spaces that were already vital for trans people continue to serve a profound purpose in connection and activism. Information can spread fantastically quickly online, increasing our reach and our audience exponentially. I’m so grateful for all the folks who have used the internet to create Zoom fundraisers, streamed benefit performances, raffled off merch for their bands to raise money for us. I’m dying to return to in-person gatherings again, to dance with a bunch of other queer people in a sweaty club, to attend conferences and meet the brilliant trans minds shaping the movement today. But for now, online spaces aren’t inherently worse or better than in-person communities. All we have are the tools available to us and the situations we need to fit those tools around.

And we have ourselves. We have you, reading this. You’ve lasted this far, you’re part of a long journey of life seeking to thrive. I want to encourage you to look at what you’ve already been doing, and examine it from a standpoint where it is enough. Where success can be continuing to exist against the odds. What inside you tells you that you don’t measure up, aren’t deserving, aren’t enough? Instead, trust yourself that right now is good enough--right now is just right.
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; American Samoa; Guam; Northern Mariana Islands; U.S. Virgin Islands; 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; American Samoa; Guam; Northern Mariana Islands; U.S. Virgin Islands; and Puerto Rico
- Programs within an organization (other than a fiscal sponsorship agreement) with a budget over $250,000
Some of the Things We Think About When We Make Grants

This was written for our 2014 annual report, and we wanted to bring it back because six years later in 2020, we still hold true to these seven principles!

Determining if a group fits our criteria is the first part of our activist panel’s job. As they get into deeper conversations about the applicants, here are some other things that help guide their decision-making.

1. Trans justice work can take many forms.

The way people organize may look very different across different communities. In a big city with lots of services, a support group might not seem like the most radical or innovative trans justice work. But, as one of our applicants reminded us, if you are in a small town in Iowa, the fact that a support group even exists can be a radical success in itself. What matters to us is that communities are organizing themselves and setting priorities based on what feels most urgent to them.

2. 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. Many 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. Sometimes it’s easy to be most swayed by an application that reads the same way you would say it. But we don’t want our decisions to be based on who is the best writer or who has access to
We try to look past the writing and vocabulary and make a decision based on what the group is actually doing.

3. **We want to support groups across the country, not just in big cities or 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.

4. **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 is often an important step in bringing communities together. Providing services can also make it possible for people to participate who might otherwise be unable to join in because they are busy meeting their survival needs.

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

6. **We reject the idea that grantees should be accountable to funders. 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. Our job is to trust and support trans leadership and to provide resources that leaders need to serve their communities.

7. **We are here to provide resources, not to pit everyone against each other in the Thunderdome.**
   
   Funding in the non-profit world sometimes turns us all into competing activist-gladiators, fighting each other for scarce resources. We try instead to read these applications as a friend. As someone who is shepherding resources to nurture a growing movement and to nurture the people and the communities that are making that movement happen.
From Grantee to Fellow to Facilitator
A conversation with Zakia McKensey

“When I hear those two words together—Trans and Justice—I think about us as a community completely united pushing forward for justice and equality for all trans people. That’s really just what comes to mind. All trans people united.”

Zakia Mckensey is a community leader who has, like many others, sacrificed many of her personal endeavors to help fulfill a need for the trans community. She founded Nationz Foundation in Virginia, as a response to the many gaps in services for the trans community she saw while working for the state health department. She can recall the moment she “stepped out on faith” and left her job to fill these gaps.

It was 2015. Zakia and her cousin founded the Nationz Pageantry System, which raised the start-up money and laid the foundation for Nationz Foundation, as well as acquiring physical space to provide direct services for trans folks. But that wasn’t enough to keep things going. She drove for Uber to support herself and to put money into Nationz Foundation.

It was around this time, she shared, that she “was applying for a bunch of [other grants]. We hadn’t been approved because we didn’t have the track record, we didn’t have 990s, we didn’t have all these other things that other orgs have... the funds were getting low, and I was getting discouraged.” It was then that she applied for a Trans Justice

Zakia founded Nationz Foundation in Virginia, as a response to the many gaps in services for the trans community she saw while working for the state health department. She can recall the moment she “stepped out on faith” and left her job to fill these gaps.
Zakia continues to be a role model for the trans community, as she is living her dream as a Black trans woman running her organization with her community always in her heart.

Funding Project grant. When she got the news that Nationz Foundation was approved, she said, “it felt like we won the million dollar lottery!”

At that time, there was no other support for Black and Indigenous trans people in the area. Nationz Foundation used the TJFP funding to increase their services and community support. Over time, they built out their HIV services and an emergency food pantry, expanded office space, and hired more staff. From there, they launched their first mobile testing unit, allowing for a wider range of services.

Nationz Foundation was given a grant by other trans leaders who recognized their work. Rather than jumping through hoops as other funders may require, TJFP trusted that the Nationz Foundation set out to help trans people, and that was enough. That trust in community from other community members was what felt so special to Zakia.

Zakia recalls, “what was so amazing was the first year’s grant award was for $2,500, then the second year we received another $2,500. After that, we received $10,000 two years in a row—which was extremely helpful as a Black trans-led org in Virginia, the capital of the Confederacy, where we already deal with a lot of racial injustice, oppression, and discrimination against marginalized communities.”

TJFP grants were a lifeline that allowed Nationz Foundation to keep their doors open and provide quality care and support. She says, “When you do good, good continues to happen. I’m thankful for the work we’ve been able to do, the relationships we’ve been able to build, like with TJFP, Gilead, and the Virginia Department of Health. These relationships all amplify our work, propelling us to greater heights. Five years ago, I never would have imagined we would be where we are now as an organization.”

Zakia continues to be a role model for the trans community, as she is living her dream as a Black trans woman running her organization with her community always in her heart. When asked about the impacts of her work, she lists some of her many proud accomplishments: She fought to legalize hormone replacement therapy in Virginia in 2004, and she is proud to say that every bill she has ever lobbied for has passed this year. These laws established protections for trans people in housing, employment and education, as well as state health service protections, and most recently, a 2020 bill allowing transgender people to get a new birth certificate reflecting their correct gender and name. Zakia’s leadership and vision has made Virginia more inclusive for trans people.

When Zakia was asked to be a 2019 TJFP Fellow, she describes the moment as both an honor and as her duty to her transcestors who came before her.

“If any trans person ever has the opportunity to be asked to be a part of TJFP in any capacity, they should be honored and do that work with pride.” She says she took
the opportunity in order to pay forward the blessings that Nationz Foundation was granted years before—the Fellowship would allow her to make a change for other trans-led groups and stand up for equity and equality for our people across the nation.

TJFP Grantmaking Fellows each bring their own priorities to the work they do when they read and review each application. Zakia describes a lot of shifting and prioritizing of the 241 applications she read as a 2019 Fellow. She remembers feeling drawn to groups creating employment for trans people and those providing support to youth and housing stability. Geographic considerations were important, as rural areas have less access to funds than larger cities. And then at the grantmaking weekend, all that she and the other Fellows found they wanted to do was say yes to as many groups as they could.

“Being a grantee and then being a fellow... it was educational, it was enlightening, it just gave me a whole new sense of purpose. Because I could never have imagined all of these people... all over the country, doing amazing work to support people who look like me. And giving away that money was just exhilarating... I just don’t think I could ever feel the way I felt that weekend.”

In 2020, just a year after she and her cohort of Grantmaking Fellows moved $750,000 around the country, Zakia returned to TJFP, as part of the facilitation team. Her role this year was to help nurture that same sense of purpose she had felt the year before and to support the new cohort of trans leaders making big funding decisions as they “continue to build our people up.”

TJFP couldn’t have asked a better and more thoughtful team to hold up our vision and values and to create a container for trans organizers and activists.

Zakia concludes with a reflection: “I loved to look at that map and all those little pins all over it; all those states and cities and counties where I know we’re making a difference in those individuals’ lives, making life less stressful, helping people with lifesaving services they might not have gotten had TJFP not blessed them and planted seeds in those communities.”
Listen to folx when they tell you the work they are doing is CRUCIAL and NECESSARY.

Reflections from the Table
Thoughts from the 2020 Grantmaking Fellows

What an amazing experience this has been! I am incredibly grateful to have been a part of something so special and meaningful.

As a trans woman, particularly a trans woman of color, you don’t often find yourself ‘in the room,’ making decisions that will have major impact on your community. This nuanced feeling of proximity to money and the responsibility of dispersing it was initially quite overwhelming. It was all theory at first, as I had never been in the role of a ‘grantmaker’ before. And as I read through all the applications, the only thing I thought was: it’s not going to be enough [money]... it sounded like so much... where did it all go?

Trans people all over the country are doing crucial work with limited-to-no resources and yet they have had and continue to have such an impact on the lives of their community members. Listen to folx when they tell you the work they are doing is CRUCIAL and NECESSARY.

The community and resources I have gained from having access to trans-led trans justice groups has and continues to be essential to my wellbeing. And though we are seeing an increase in funding to trans communities, it is nowhere near enough. I am so appreciative to the TJFP family for this opportunity to witness this model of philanthropy that refuses to gatekeep or put up barriers!

To the philanthropic decision makers: Fund trans justice orgs, trust trans leadership, specifically Black trans leadership, and limit the barriers that are doing more harm than good!”

—Nicole Fernandes
It is the greatest honor and blessing to be a witness to the magic that the TJFP grantees inspire in their communities. The work they do, the lives they touch, and the culture they change ignites my spirit and promises a hope that one day, very soon, we will be able to collectively steward the movement toward true and absolute freedom and liberation. To be in service of these grantees, and by extension the millions of trans siblings that are touched by this work, is a precious gift that I have the fortune of holding in my heart for all my life. Thank you for your incredible work, for the tender and gentle ways you provoke change, and for the thoughtful way you guide our community forward.

—Christopher Cuevas

“Until 2018, I worked in or with well-meaning non-profits for my entire career. I remember in 2007, arguing with the ‘progressive’ organization I worked for in New York where I was trying to start a support group for self-identifying trans youth experiencing homelessness, a supervisor explained to me that we already had a LGBT group and they didn’t think anyone would come. After months of youth coming to the new group, in 2008, I advocated for funds to pay for gender affirmation supplies. The initial response was a ‘no’ and the insinuation was clear: trans people’s need/desire to experience comfort in our bodies was a luxury. We eventually received funds for the supplies, but the experience itself was not one in isolation.

Having my opinions both heard and trusted in a funding context without having to prove myself or any of my identities was a bit of salve for my soul.
With each new organization, it has been a battle to explain to staff, outside agency partners, boards, and funders why Black transfolx, trans youth, trans folks struggling with mental health, and more recently, even trans healers deserve to be heard and respected. As recently as 2018, here in Minnesota, when I requested that the clients and board of an healing organization where I was the co-director use the correct pronouns for the staff, I was told flat out by the founder that I was ‘perpetuating the transgender agenda.’

What I have learned from these experiences is that despite the performative politics of the group or person, working and organizing at the intersections of identities often asks more time, emotional labor, and funds than folks either know how to give or are able or willing to. The onus of that labor often comes upon trans leaders. Being a part of the TJFP grantmaking panel was a transformative experience that offered me time with organizers that I admire but had never met, to make hard yet thoughtful decisions that didn’t question whether supporting transpeople is important, but rather asked how to best support current and existing trans leadership moving powerful work in their local communities. I’m not exaggerating when I say that it was an honor to be gifted this task as a part of larger trans organizing. And as an individual, having my opinions both heard and trusted in a funding context without having to prove myself or any of my identities was a bit of salve for my soul.”

—nathaniel gonzalez

“TJFP was the first successful grant awarded to the organization where I currently serve as executive director. Coming from my previous corporate background into the nonprofit sector had its own unique complications for me, and navigating the funder landscape still continues to be an ever-challenging aspect of my role.

I can still recall the moment we received the email informing us that TENT (Transgender Educational Network of Texas) had been awarded a grant to support the work we were doing and our vision to move forward. Knowing that my people had collectively made a decision to support us was so much more than just the money in that moment. (Don’t get me wrong—the money was, and still is, crucially important to our ability to carry it out!) It gave me a glimmer of hope in my own journey in undertaking leadership of TENT.

I came to America by way of international adoption, and grew up in a very small, conservative, extremely religious community that was predominantly white. Navigating my own journey as who I am, with an acute awareness that I always felt like I existed in a gray margin, has allowed me to understand as best as I can the ways that intersecting issues compound and create their own unique beauty within the sum of an individual. They also create steeper obstacles, due to the stigma that surrounds them. The TJFP Grantmaking Fellowship was one of the first experiences that I’ve had where those facts felt truly understood.

I cannot express how humbled and grateful I am for this experience and each person involved in it. I learned so much from each individual, and continue to be inspired by the work that our people are leading throughout the country, including in Puerto Rico and the American Samoa territory.”

—Emmett Shelling
Our Funding Model as a Non-Charitable Trust

We’re entering into our ninth year and we’ve learned a great deal about the in’s and out’s of moving money. After years of evolving the structure in which we work, we’ve stayed steady with our current iteration as a non-charitable trust. Functioning as a non-charitable trust allows us to move the money with more flexibility, whether a group has non-profit status, a fiscal sponsor, or neither. It remains our priority to resource the movement of grassroots trans-led organizers and activists in whatever ways work for them, no matter what structure of organizing they choose. We especially want to ensure that groups that are doing the most radical organizing work, outside of the nonprofit structure, have money to realize their visions and create pathways towards a more just and liberated future.

Throughout TJFP’s history, we’ve experimented with different models to see what would work best to meet the needs of our grantees. When we were just getting started in 2012, we operated like a non-profit with a Collective Action Fund at the Tides Foundation. This worked for a while, but didn’t meet all of our needs, so we had to make some changes to stay true to our mission of funding grassroots groups, many of whom are not incorporated. After some creative thinking, we shifted into 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! Sounds pretty good, but this too had its limitations, and it turns out the IRS gets worried when an LLC or small business doesn’t make any money and just gives it all away. Finally, after some time and conversations with our team of lawyers, accountants, and trusted advisors, TJFP’s co-founder and biggest donor Karen Pittelman discovered a solution, and one that has proven to be most effective for the past five years: the non-charitable trust.

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. 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.
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.

TJFP also still maintains the Collective Action Fund at the Tides Foundation, established in 2012. With their help, we are able to move even more money to more groups around the country.

Our goal is to make the process easy for all our grantees, whether they are funded by our non-charitable trust or by the TJFP Collective Action Fund at Tides.

**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, the support we’ve received has been inspiring. This year, over 6,000 individuals gave donations ranging from $1 to $20,000 to half a million dollars to TJFP’s non-charitable trust.

**What about donors who need their contribution to be tax-deductible?**

Although the majority of our donors chose to give through our non-charitable trust, donors who need their contribution to be tax-deductible can still give to TJFP via our Collective Action Fund at Tides Foundation. The Collective Action fund is like a donor-advised fund, which simply means that TJFP advises that all donations to the fund be distributed to our grantees.

The Collective Action Fund, established in 2012, can accept contributions from a variety of funding sources, such as private foundations, corporations, and individuals. Donations are tax deductible because Tides Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity.

The Tides Foundation Collective Action Fund is how we made all our grants in TJFP’s 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 2020, we made about a third 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 Collective Action Fund 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.

This year was an unpredictable whirlwind and we worked tirelessly to move all 261 grants—including standard and ReUp grants, along with the one-time emergency support money—as quickly as possible to our community. There were certainly a lot of hurdles, in terms of post office closures, working remotely, moving money to groups electronically for the first time ever... it was tough, but we believe it’s our job as funders to pivot and deal with the logistics so that our grantees can focus on the important work of trans justice.

We couldn’t have done this without the help of our friends at the Tides Foundation and the Self-Help Credit Union in North Carolina, where TJFP has an account. These folks went above and beyond this year to help make sure folks had access to their money.
2020 TJFP Grantees

Choosing Our Roots
Anchorage, AK

AllowMe
Pike Road, AL

The Knights & Orchids Society
Selma, AL

The TRANShue Project
Faunsdale, AL

Visibly Trans*
Birmingham, AL

IMPACT
Pago Pago, American Samoa

Arkansas Transgender Equity Collaborative
Little Rock, AR

inTRANSitive
Little Rock, AR

Chukshon Healing Network
Tucson, AZ

Equality Arizona
Phoenix, AZ

The Outlaw Project
Phoenix, AZ

Peacework Medical
Phoenix, AZ

Southern Arizona Gender Alliance
Tucson, AZ

Transcend Arizona
Paradise Valley, AZ

#BlackGirlzRule Coordinating Committee
San Francisco, CA

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

API TransFusion
Oakland, CA

Beyond Binary Legal
Long Beach, CA

Deaf Queer Resource Center
San Francisco, CA

Dem Bois Inc.
San Pablo, CA

Gender Justice LA
Los Angeles, CA

Health Justice Commons
Richmond, CA

Homobiles
San Leadron, CA

Indigenous Pride LA
Los Angeles, CA

Intersex & Genderqueer Recognition Project
Richmond, CA

Kween Culture Initiative
Oakland, CA

Los Angeles Spoonie Collective
North Hills, CA

Mirror Memoirs
Los Angeles, CA

National Queer and Trans Therapists of Color Network
Oakland, CA

Northstate Trans*/GNC Project
Chico, CA

Peacock Rebellion
Oakland, CA

Quest House Community Healing
Pacifica, CA

San Francisco Transgender Film Festival
San Francisco, CA

The SisTrahood
La Mesa, CA

Somos Familia Valle
Sun Valley, CA

T4T Caregiving
Pacifica, CA

Trans and Nonbinary Housing Collective
Cameron Park, CA

Trans and Queer Youth for Gender Justice
Oakland, CA

TRANSend
Bolinas, CA

TRANSceding in Nature
Greenfield, CA

Unique Woman’s Coalition
Los Angeles, CA

Welcome
San Francisco, CA

Black Masc
Lauderhill, FL

Bridging the gap!
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Florida Coalition for Trans Liberation
Tallahassee, FL

The Halfway Point
Tallahassee, FL

LIPS Tampa
Apopka, FL

New Beginnings TLC, Inc.
Winter Haven, FL

Orlando Trans Collective
Orlando, FL

QLatinx
Orlando, FL

Rooted Resistance
Tallahassee, FL

Social Film Projects LLC
North Miami Beach, FL

TransInclusive Group
Pembroke Pines, FL

TransSOCIAL, Inc.
Miami, FL

Unity Coalition|Coalicion Unida
Miami Beach, FL

Unspoken Treasure Society
Brooker, FL

Community Estrella
Acworth, GA

Community Roots
Decatur, GA

Freedom Overground
Marietta, GA

The International Association of Trans Bodybuilders and Powerlifters (IATBP)
Atlanta, GA

Q&A
Sandy Springs, GA

QTPOC Birthwerq Project
Seattle, GA

Queer Culture[s]
Atlanta, GA

Sexual Liberation Collective
Decatur, GA

Southern Fried Queer Pride
Atlanta, GA

TMBLM, Inc.
Duluth, GA

Trans Housing Atlanta Program
Atlanta, GA

Trans-Individuals Living Their Truth
Decatur, GA

Trans(forming)
Atlanta, GA

Trans*Visible
Covington, GA

TRANSceding Barriers Atlanta
Atlanta, GA

Ubuntu Incorporated
Lithia Springs, GA

Anuenue Alliance
Honolulu, HI

HEARTS Maui
Wailuku, HI

Kuaana Project
Honolulu, HI

Brave Space Alliance
Chicago, IL
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Our 2020 Grantees

**Alabama**

**AllowMe** (Pike Road) seeks to create long-term spaces to build future LGBTQIA+ leaders and creatives of color.

**The Knights & Orchids Society** (Selma) builds the power of trans, GNC, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and queer communities of color throughout Alabama to obtain justice and equality through group economics, education, leadership development, and organizing.

**The TRANShue Project** (Faunsdale) provides safe spaces for the LGBTQ+ community through parties, housing for homeless youth, and a non-judgmental environment for LGBTQ+–led competitive dance teams to compete.

**Visibly Trans*** (Birmingham) provides black transmasculine individuals with the brotherhood, education, and resources that they need in order to express themselves fully and transition safely.

**Alaska**

**Choosing Our Roots** (Anchorage) uses a community host home model emphasizing youth leadership and empowerment, with the goal that all queer and trans youth have access to safe homes and opportunities to thrive.

**American Samoa**

**IMPACT** (Pago Pago) provides a safe space for the LGBTQIA+ student population to congregate and plan activities for the advancement of the population.

**Arizona**

**Chukshon Healing Network** (Tucson) is building a community network dedicated to accessible and empowering healing justice for TGNC POC.

**Equality Arizona** (Phoenix) builds the cohesion of the community by working for collective and individual safety, wellness, and inclusion in the state of Arizona.

**The Outlaw Project** (Phoenix) prioritizes the leadership of people of color, transgender women, gender non-binary people, and migrants, for sex worker rights.

**Peacework Medical** (Phoenix) is a free primary care and gender clinic for LGBTQ undocumented immigrants in greater Phoenix.

**Southern Arizona Gender Alliance** (Tucson) supports, advocates, and promotes justice for southern Arizona’s transgender, non-binary, and gender creative people.

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

**Arkansas**

**Arkansas Transgender Equity Collaborative** (Little Rock) provides “trans 101” trainings, connects community to resources, conducts legal clinics, and provides a community relief fund.
inTRANSitive (Little Rock) supports, educates and celebrates the Arkansas Trans community and its narratives through community building, organizing, and political education.

California

#BlackGirlzRule Coordinating Committee (San Francisco) is an annual convening of Black Trans women that examines how the intersections of racism, criminalization, and transphobia impact Black Trans women, and works to develop a national platform to fight back against attacks.

APIENC (San Francisco) builds power for trans, GNC, and queer Asians and Pacific Islanders in the Bay Area through skill-building workshops, oral history storytelling, and trans and GNC API-centered resources and spaces.

API TransFusion (Oakland) provides an opportunity for Asian and Pacific Islander transmasculine individuals to build community, share resources, and live authentically with pride.

Beyond Binary Legal (Long Beach) is a Southern California-based legal advocacy organization founded by and for non-binary people, offering direct legal services, resources, and trainings.

Deaf Queer Resource Center (DQRC) (San Francisco) is a national nonprofit organization that works to inform, support, empower, and bring more visibility and awareness to marginalized Deaf LGBTQ communities.

Dem Bois, Inc. (San Pablo) offers financial and economic assistance to POC who identify as female-to-male in order to obtain chest reconstruction and/or genital reassignment surgery.

Gender Justice LA (Los Angeles) is a member-based, grassroots social justice organization led by and for GNC, genderfluid, genderqueer, two spirit, questioning, Black, Indigenous, and trans POC in LA.

Health Justice Commons (Richmond) organizes trans/gender non-binary people, especially disabled/sick/crip, BIPOC, and/or low income trans people, to disrupt and transform the medical industrial complex, alongside other multiply-marginalized communities, rad healthcare workers, healers, and scholars.

Homobiles (San Leandro) provides safe transportation, regardless of ability to donate, to members of the LGBTQ communities and their allies, who may, due to their perceived sexuality or gender, be at risk on the street or on other forms of transportation.

Indigenous Pride LA (Los Angeles) is LA’s only Pride event that celebrates, honors and uplifts two spirit, indigiqueer, and indigenous LGBTQAI people.

Kween Culture Initiative (Oakland) promotes the social and cultural empowerment of transgender women of color.
Los Angeles Spoonie Collective (North Hills) is a grassroots group of Trans, Queer, and Intersex disabled, chronically ill, and neurodiverse folks working to elevate the voices of the trans community and educate the world.

Mirror Memoirs (Los Angeles) is a national storytelling project centering the narratives, healing, and leadership of transgender, non-binary, queer, lesbian, gay and/or bisexual Black, indigenous and POC survivors of child sexual abuse in movements for social justice.

National Queer and Trans Therapists of Color Network (Oakland) is a healing justice organization committed to transforming mental health for queer and trans people of color.

Non-binary and Intersex Recognition Project (Richmond) works to shift the culture and political system to recognize and celebrate non-binary and intersex people, including through advocacy for people to identify as non-binary on government-issued documents, and for a ban on intersex genital mutilation.

Northstate Trans*/GNC Project (Chico) expands access to basic necessities, mental health care, peer support, and medical care for rural trans* folks across the Northern California Valley.

Peacock Rebellion (Oakland) is a trans/genderqueer/GNC POC-centered team of artists, cultural workers, and community organizers using the arts to build cultures of safety and healing for QTPOC.

Quest House (Pacifica) provides sliding scale lodging and supportive wraparound services to folks on the transmasculine spectrum going through lower surgery in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The San Francisco Transgender Film Festival (San Francisco) screens films and conducts media arts programs that build awareness of transgender history, identity, rights movements, and culture.

The SisTrahood (La Mesa) equips trans feminine people with the ability to defend themselves through practical striking, grappling, and simple weapon combat, while minimizing identity erasure.

Somos Familia Valle (Sun Valley) is a QTPOC-led community organization that supports and empowers trans and queer people, immigrants, their families, and allies for racial, gender, environmental, and economic justice.

T4T Caregiving (Pacifica) are trans surgery and transition doulas who support and tend to physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of trans people undergoing gender-affirming surgeries.
Trans and Non-binary Housing Collective (Cameron Park) supports trans, non-binary, and GNC people, especially those most vulnerable to violence, in accessing and establishing safe, affordable, permanent housing, through mutual aid, collective liberation, and alternatives to policing.

Trans and Queer Youth for Gender Justice (Oakland) is a national youth-led organization offering leadership development, field mobilization, and resources so TGNC youth can lead lasting change in their own communities.

TRANScend (Bolinas) builds leadership and strengthens wellness through community-built events to help participants heal from transphobia, celebrate and affirm their authentic selves, and connect to peers, allies, and resources.

TRANScending in Nature (Greenfield) is an emerging collective of transgender and two-spirit humans creating spaces for healing for their communities of color in nature.

Unique Women’s Coalition (Los Angeles) is an organization for and by Transgender POC, creating supportive spaces and platforms to elevate their voices and narratives.

Welcome (San Francisco) uses art, community organizing, and creative advocacy and education projects to improve the lives of low-income and homeless trans individuals.

Florida
Black Masc (Lauderhill) is a platform to foster productive conversations in the Black community aimed at reducing transphobia by providing knowledge on gender and sexuality.

Bridging The Gap (Fort Lauderdale) empowers Queer and Trans youth to reach their academic goals and navigate areas of support with friends, families, and allies.

Florida Coalition for Trans Liberation (Tallahassee) fights anti-trans, gnc, and enby policies and transphobia in Florida and advocates for affirming policies and liberation.

The Halfway Point (Tallahassee) is a zero waste market and hub for queer culture and art.

LIPS Tampa (Apopka) is for and by trans women, and promotes health and wellness through support groups, educational workshops, links to HIV prevention and treatment, and a re-entry program for formerly incarcerated trans women.

New Beginnings (Winter Haven) is a unique surgical recovery center providing food, activities, transportation, financial and emotional support, along with pre-surgery support including a binder program and counseling.

Orlando Trans Collective (Orlando) is a collaboration of local leaders advocating for the rights, empowerment, and visibility of trans-identified and non-binary community members.

QLatinx (Orlando) is a grassroots racial, social, and gender justice organization dedicated to the advancement and empowerment of Central Florida’s LGBTQ+ Latinx community.

2020 TJFP Grantees: left: Somos Familia Valle, Mission Hills, CA; right: Bridging the Gap, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Rooted Resistance (Tallahassee) is committed to creating socially-just wellness environments for the trans, queer, GNC, non-binary, and gender-queer community.

Social Film Projects, LLC (North Miami Beach) produces LGBT projects with a social cause. These stories are told by their own protagonists, who educate the community through their life experiences.

TransInclusive Group (Pembroke Pines) works collaboratively to "build trust and relationships" within the trans/GNC community, and end discrimination, mistreatment, and racial disparities in healthcare, employment, education, and housing.

TransSOCIAL, Inc. (Miami) works to expand safe and affirming resources for the Trans, GNC, and LGBTQ+ community.

Unity Coalition|Coalicion Unida (Miami Beach) advances equality and fairness through education, leadership, and awareness for the South Florida Latinx/Hispanic and Indigenous TLGBQ community.

Unspoken Treasure Society (Brooker) is committed to the African-American Trans community, providing free HIV testing and counseling, support groups, awareness events, and training and technical assistance.

Georgia

Community Estrella (Acworth) is an independent project dedicated to defending and advocating for the rights of the Georgia Latinx Trans and GNC community in all of its diverse social, legal, fiscal, and spiritual aspects.

Community Estrella (Acworth) es un proyecto independiente que se dedica a defender y abogar por los derechos de la comunidad Trans latino/a y género no conforme de Georgia, en todos sus diversos aspectos sociales, legales, físicos, y espirituales.

Freedom Overground (Marietta) works to improve the quality of life and life expectancy of the TGNC incarcerated community during and after incarceration.

International Association of Trans Bodybuilders and Powerlifters (Atlanta) is an organization created for bodybuilders and powerlifters who identify as Trans.

QandA (Sandy Springs) is a student organization that works to make the school safer for LGBTQ+ students and faculty through inclusive education and community building.

QTPOC Birthwerq Project (Seattle) provides doula trainings for trans and non-binary BIPOC and runs workshops on health and QTPOC family issues.
Queer Culture[s] (Atlanta) utilizes artivism and wellness to engage progressive movement-builders in caring for one's self as an act of political warfare to fight racism, shaming, sexism, homophobia, and transphobia.

Sexual Liberation Collective (Decatur) is a collaboration of professional sex educators who provide holistic sexuality education and transformative healing for QTPOC.

Southern Fried Queer Pride (Atlanta) builds community in the South through artistic and social justice-based programming, prioritizing Black and brown folks.

TMBLM (Atlanta) fosters and creates leadership, empowerment, acceptance and healing to effectively change the everyday narratives of Black Transgender men, Black Transgender women, Cisgender women, Intersex, and Cisgender men, in alignment with our vision.

Trans Housing Atlanta Program (Atlanta) provides the transgender and gnc communities with education, direct services, and resources to fight the epidemic of homelessness.

Trans-Individuals Living Their Truth (Decatur) advocates for and addresses the total mental and physical wellness needs of the Trans/GNC community, giving them the tools to heal, become educated, and prosper.

Trans(forming) (Atlanta) is an intergenerational Atlanta membership-based organization led by trans, intersex, GNC, non-binary POC assigned female at birth providing advocacy, leadership development, coalition-building, peer support, and service.

TRANScending Barriers Atlanta (Atlanta) advocates for and empowers the transgender and GNC community in Georgia through holistic healing, harm reduction from the prison industrial complex, and leadership development.

Ubuntu Incorporated (Lithia Springs) supports the trans community and allies by providing programming, opportunities, and events to increase education, visibility, and support community building.

Hawaii

Anuenue Alliance (Honolulu) supports transgender and GNC persons who are in financial need to access medical procedures not covered by insurance.

HEARTS Maui (Wailuku) provides transgender services in Maui County, including Moloka‘i, Lana‘i, and other rural areas.

Kuaana Project (Honolulu) provides programming with a Native Hawaiian cultural lens to address unmet health, legal, and socioeconomic needs of indigenous trans populations, including intensive leadership development for rural Native Hawaiian transwomen.

Illinois

Brave Space Alliance (Chicago) is a collective by and for transgender women and gender non-conforming people of color, to empower them to become changemakers in the fight for trans liberation.

Masjid al-Rabia (Chicago) is a trans-led, women-centered, queer-affirming Islamic community center building a safer world through education, advocacy, and outreach, with a focus on incarcerated LGBTQIA+ Muslims.
Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois (Chicago) provides free legal services, creates and distributes information, and supports community survival and organizing of trans people locked up in prisons and jails.

Transilient (Chicago) is a traveling photo and interview-based project that candidly documents transgender and GNC people in their day-to-day lived realities.

Youth Empowerment Performance Project (Chicago) provides a safe environment for LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness to explore their history, struggles, and strengths through programming incorporating art expression.

Indiana

GenderNexus (Indianapolis) empowers transgender and non-binary persons to lead authentically healthy and holistic lives by providing connections to supportive services in all areas of wellness.

TREES, Inc. (South Bend) is a mobile education organization working to create safe communities in rural and small towns through education and resource-building.

Louisiana

Black and Brown Biennale (New Orleans) is an exhibition opening January 2021 and based in Houston, Texas, of original artworks from Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous people of color contemporary artists from the Gulf-South region.

CANScantSTAND (New Orleans) was created to eradicate the Crime Against Nature laws in Louisiana and support Black trans women disproportionately impacted by these discriminatory laws and practices.

Deep South Wellness Project (New Orleans) is a group for and by queer/trans/non-binary Indigenous and POC that offers therapeutic sessions, musical performances, curates healing retreats for wellness practitioners, and hosts community care gatherings.

Imagine Water Works (New Orleans) reimagines the future through art, science, and human connection, focusing on climate justice, water management, and disaster readiness and response.

LOUD (New Orleans) is a radical trans and queer youth theater company utilizing theater-making to fight oppression, build youth leadership, and increase LGBTQ youth wellness.

New Legacy (New Orleans) creates a safe space to document the stories of overlooked and underserved individuals via media advocacy and the arts.

Maine

Maine Transgender Network (Portland) provides peer support groups, community events, and advocacy for the Maine transgender community, and trains service providers, educators, and employers on transgender cultural competency/allyship.

Portland Outright (Portland) builds the power of LGBTQ+ youth in Maine to fight issues like homelessness and criminalization through gender, racial, and economic justice organizing.

Maryland

Baltimore Safe Haven (Baltimore) believes that every transgender, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and queer person should live free from stigma, violence, and oppression.
Maryland Trans Resilience Conference (Baltimore) aims to build solidarity in the Maryland transgender community while providing networking opportunities for community-building, empowering trans people of color while highlighting communities that have been historically marginalized.

Sistas of the "t" (Baltimore) is a peer-run, all-volunteer resource center, information exchange, and gender rights organization that promotes wholeness through outreach, advocacy, and education.

Trans Maryland (Gaithersburg) promotes trans wellness throughout Maryland, increases access to affirming services and resources, and nurtures young trans leadership.

Trans-Latinx DMV (Baltimore) is a Two-Spirit-led organization centering needs of Black and Indigenous Trans-Latinx people living in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia.

Massachusetts

Black and Pink Boston Chapter (Boston) is part of a nationally-networked grassroots organization working to abolish the prison industrial complex while meeting immediate needs of LGBTQIA+ and HIV+ prisoners and court-involved individuals.

Rebel Cause, Inc. (Brighton) presents social and economic opportunities to disenfranchised black and brown, queer, immigrant, refugee, orphan, and disabled young adults.

Sonrisas (Cheshire) is a collective land project providing a rural place of refuge, education, and intimacy with land that centers (im)migrant, BIPOC, queer, and poor communities.

Trans Asylum Seekers Support Network and Ministry Alliance (Amherst) provides support, sponsors and housing, and una comunidad de refugio for and with trans people seeking asylum, through a collective of activists, community members, and an alliance of interfaith congregations seeking to abolish borders and binaries.

Michigan

Grand Rapids Trans Foundation (Grand Rapids) supports the local Trans community by removing financial barriers to both legal document updates and quality education, and by hosting affirming community-building events.
Grassroots Activism Direct Emergency-GADES (Pontiac) provides need- and want-based direct emergency support to the trans and greater rainbow community.

Native Justice Coalition (Manistee) works on social and racial justice in rural and remote Anishinaabe communities in Michigan and around the Great Lakes.

Nuui Waav Brotherhood (Detroit) hosts events and meetings to help transmen mentally, physically, and emotionally, including providing needed resources.

Salus Center UCC (Lansing) strives to cultivate radical communities of care and empower people to authentically live into their whole selves.

TGNC Emotional Wellness Providers' Summit (Detroit) will convene TGNC therapists and other emotional and mental health workers in Detroit for community building and collaborating to strengthen their work.

Trans Sistas of Color Project (Highland Park) uplifts the voices of trans women of color through political organizing, police and legal intervention, sex worker success work, and emergency assistance funds.

Transcend the Binary (Ferndale) models and advocates for community-driven solutions, including a peer counseling program, artivism workshops, summer camps for trans youth, and community-led research.

Minnesota

20% Theatre Company (Minneapolis) is committed to supporting and promoting the work of female and transgender theatre artists and celebrating their contributions to social justice and human rights.

For the Culture (Minneapolis) are community-based bodyworkers, healers, and seers practicing decolonization through rest, relationship-building, and resource-sharing.

Open Flame Theatre (Minneapolis) is a queer/transgender theatre ensemble creating original, multidisciplinary performances rooted in queer/Trans experience.

Queer Science (Minneapolis) organizes free multidisciplinary science outreach events for trans and queer high school students to work alongside trans and queer scientists.

shOUT: Minnesota's Trans and Gender Diverse Voices (Minneapolis) is a choir and community support group for transgender and non-binary people in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

SPIRAL Collective (Minneapolis) provides free, compassionate, non-judgmental support to the full spectrum of people across all pregnancy outcomes and reproductive experiences.

Mississippi

Bois of the Sippi (Corinth) brings visibility to masculine-of-center women of Mississippi.
Missouri

**Feed the People Garden Project** (St. Louis) is a trans-created and -operated garden that builds community, creates opportunity and space for self-care, and provides fresh produce to folks that need it.

**Gabriella Rosé Justice Support System** (Columbia) provides monetary and non-monetary support to transgender and non-binary students at the University of Missouri, Columbia, to improve their access to and success in education.

**Kansas City Center for Inclusion** (Kansas City) is Kansas City’s only LGBTQ+ community center, providing programming, resources, and a community space inclusive of the transgender population and allies.

**Lot’s Wife Trans and Queer Chaplaincy** (St. Louis) serves the transgender, polyamorous, kink, and queer communities by providing emotional and spiritual care, connection, and community.

**Metro Trans Umbrella Group** (St. Louis) brings together the community of transgender, non-binary, gender queer, androgynous, and intersex humans and allies through community, visibility, advocacy, and education.

**Mid Missouri Transgender Support** (Jefferson City) offers financial assistance for trans-identified individuals to legally change their name and to get legal documentation matching their gender identity.

**Our Spot KC** (Kansas City) provides resources, programming, events, leadership development, and outreach to marginalized communities on the LGBTQ+ spectrum.

**St. Louis Anti-Violence Project** (St. Louis) raises awareness of relational and sexual violence within and against LGBTQ+ communities, and LGBTQ+ inclusion within anti-violence spaces, through consulting, training, and education.

**Trans People of Color Coalition** (Washington) advances justice for all trans people of color, amplifies their voices and leadership, and challenges racism, transphobia, and transmisogyny.

**Trans Queer Flat STL** (St. Louis) is a radical, prosocial, anti-racist, intentional, affirming, and affordable living option for trans and trans-expansive adults.

**Transformations** (Kansas City) is a TGNC youth social/support drop-in group for young people who are TGNC or questioning their gender identity, and offers a separate guardian support group for adults caring for TGNC youth.

**Transfuturism** (St. Louis) is a photography, oral history, and art activism project aimed at humanizing trans and gender fluid people through a mass digital media campaign and traveling pop-up exhibit.
Nebraska

Trans Collaborations Community Board (Kearney) is a community/academic partnership that aims to reduce health disparities in the Central Great Plains Transgender and Gender Diverse community.

Nevada

Gender Justice Nevada (Las Vegas) is dedicated to changing law, policy, and attitudes so that all Nevadans can live free from fear, violence, and mistreatment, regardless of sex and gender identity or expression.

Las Vegas TransPride (Las Vegas) provides services to bring awareness, dignity, and value to the Trans-expansive community of Las Vegas.

Trans Pride Foundation (Las Vegas) provides housing and resources to the trans community, including resources, referrals, advocacy, and legal name changes, with a particular focus on political asylum refugees.

New Jersey

Black Excellence Collective (Newark) uses art, activism, and awareness to organize around issues facing trans, GNC, and queer people of color.

New Jersey Red Umbrella Alliance (Long Branch) is a sex worker-led group, which centers POC Trans/GNC/Non-binary leadership, and advocates for and provides harm reduction in diversion programs to address incarceration of sex workers.

Tertium Quid (Jersey City) is a weekend sleepaway camp for transgender, GNC, and questioning youth and their families that fosters a welcoming and supportive environment.

New Mexico

Albuquerque Queer Trans Community Yoga (Albuquerque) offers a monthly free Queer and Trans Yoga gathering focused on anti-isolation, healing justice, honoring intersectionality, and community resilience.

Decolonize Massage (Albuquerque) is a team of Queer and Trans POC bodyworkers, serving Queer, Trans, Black, Brown, Indigenous, and POC communities, and decolonizing access to wellness through the hands of QTPOC healers.

SW Two Spirit Society (Albuquerque) was established for Native Indigenous LGBTQ Two Spirit people from the Southwest to advocate, grow in community, be in ceremony, and host the Two Spirit Grand Entry at the Gathering of Nations.

Trans Liberation Coalition (Albuquerque) supports Trans asylum seekers upon release from detention centers in New Mexico, Colorado, and Washington, until they can travel to be with family.
New York

Activation (Woodridge) is a mutual aid residency and reparations project activating creativity in low-income Black and Brown trans and queer artists through collective care and healing justice.

Awakening Trans Art Coalition (Boiceville) was built and run by trans artists to empower trans artists, through events, collaborating on resources, organizing, attending protests and actions, and facilitating trans healing art groups.

Black Trans Blessings (Bronx) works to support TGNC folks of color in crisis.

Black Trans Femmes in the Arts (Brooklyn) is a collective for black trans women and non-binary/GNC femmes dedicated to creating space for black trans femmes in the arts.

Black Trans Media (Brooklyn) is a project led by and for Black TGNC youth, community organizers, and artists, using media to organize, strategize, and build power to address violence, racism, and transphobia.

Black Trans Travel Fund (Bronx) helps Black trans women self-determine safer options for travel in New York and New Jersey, as a direct response to the heightened relentless, unacceptable violence experienced by Black trans women across the country.

BlackCuse Pride (Syracuse) creates unified spaces for QTPOC communities in Syracuse through entertainment, community resources, and social justice advocacy.

Caribbean Equality Project (Queens) empowers and strengthens LGBTQ of Caribbean origin and descent through advocacy, community organizing, education, cultural, and social programming.

El Colectivo Intercultural TRANSgrediendo (Jackson Heights) es reconocido a nivel nacional como un movimiento bilingüe y multicultural que defiende y promociona los derechos humanos de las diversas poblaciones TransGNC y todos con identidades de género diversas en los EEUU.

Community Kinship Life (CK Life) (Bronx) assists transgender men and women in the South Bronx with necessary life skills, medical needs, counseling, and access to the resources needed to expand economic opportunities and build resilience.

Crystal LaBeija Organizing Fellowship (Brooklyn) empowers Fellows to address the issues impacting transgender women and men and GNC people in the house ball community, via community-building and economic empowerment through a social justice lens.
**Cuir Kitchen Brigade (Brooklyn)** is a QTBIPOC collective that promotes food justice, bodily autonomy, and tools to combat climate change by educating QTBIPOC on canning and fermentation in a healing justice framework.

**Dorian Corey Project/Transgressions (Kenmore)** is a local watchdog organization serving black and POC youth and adults on the LGBTQ spectrum in Western New York.

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

**For The Gwors (Brooklyn)** is a Black transgender collective hosting monthly community events, healing spaces, and rent parties to assist Black transgender people with paying rent and gender-affirming surgeries.

**The G.H.O.S.T. Project (Brooklyn)** provides support and empowerment to the transgender community of color who are struggling with or have overcome gender identity-related issues.

**Gender and Sexuality Therapy Center (New York)** provides individual, relationship, and group psychotherapy, specializing in working with queer and trans people, sex workers, and those engaging in kink, BDSM, and non-monogamy.

**GLITS (Brooklyn)** is a transwoman-led organization providing crisis intervention, post-incarceration support, leadership training, health care advocacy, and safer sex education for transgender women who engage or have engaged in sex work.

**LEGION (League for Equity of Gender In Our Neighborhoods) (Rochester)** represents trans, non-binary, and gender-expansive people in the Greater Rochester area who demand workplace equity and respect, economic security, entrepreneurial support, and equal opportunities to thrive.

**Lighthouse Mutual Aid (Saugerties)** is a trans-led accessible community resource for sharing clothes and other gender-affirming supplies to combat clothing and economic instability, ease dysphoria, and facilitate community self-reliance and mutual aid.
metaDEN (Brooklyn) is a QTPOC-centered healing incubator and shop, providing affordable co-creating space, classes, wellness and spiritual services, events, and conferences.

Mirror Trans Beauty, LLC (Brooklyn) is New York’s first immigrant- and transgender-led worker cooperative, providing a safe space for LGBTQAI+ and low-income communities of color to access quality cosmetology services.

Newburgh LGBTQ+ Center (Newburgh) focuses on leadership development programs and engaging QTBIPOC who live, work, and play in the mid-Hudson Valley to become politically active.

NYC Trans Oral History Project (New York) is a volunteer collective of activists, artists, scholars, and community members committed to oral history as anti-oppression work.

The Okra Project (Brooklyn) aims to bring home-cooked, healthy, and culturally-specific meals to Black Trans people experiencing food insecurity.

Organización Latina Trans de New York (Brooklyn) strengthens health and safety in the trans Latinx community through outreach and by providing workshops on sexually transmitted infections.

La Organización Latina Trans de New York (Brooklyn) apoya los servicios comunitarios de personas transgénero de descendencia Latinx acerca de su salud y seguridad mediante talleres sobre infecciones de transmisión sexual y actividades de extensión comunitaria.

Princess Janae Place, Inc. (Bronx) helps people of trans experience maximize their full potential as they transition from homelessness to independent living.

Radical Joy and Mental Health x Emulsify (Brooklyn) invites participants to engage in an interactive cultural experience, in addition to wellness and art practices for sustainable joy and mental well-being.

Strategic Trans Alliance for Radical Reform (STARR) (Schenectady) was founded by movement mothers Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson in 1969, and empowers trans and GNC individuals, especially those who are sex-working, poor, unhoused, and disabled, through advocacy, mutual aid, and education.

T-FFED (Trans Folx Fighting Eating Disorders) (Brooklyn) addresses eating disorders in trans and gender-diverse individuals via radical community healing, recovery institution reform, empowerment, and education.
Trans Lab (New York) provides fellowships to trans and non-binary theater artists, shares work by trans artists with the larger theater and TGNC communities and fights for more trans people to be recognized and employed in the arts.

Trans Resistance Through Media (Bronx) is a black trans-led media production company that uplifts the stories, experiences, and resilience practices of the trans community.

TransGenerational Theatre Project (Queens) is a multigenerational theatre project in which trans, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people create theatre from their own experiences, culminating in a final event.

**North Carolina**

House of Pentacles (Durham) is a film training program and production house that launches Black trans youth into the film industry and tells stories at the intersection of being Black and Trans.

Name Change Project (Asheville) advocates for and facilitates legal name changes for non-binary and transgender individuals in Western North Carolina and the surrounding areas.

NC Trans Leadership Network (Asheville) funds and facilitates organization between transgender, non-binary, queer, and PoC activists in North Carolina.

Pansy Collective (Asheville) is an all-trans artist collective that hosts shows and workshops all year, and Pansy Fest, an annual benefit music festival.

QORDS (Queer-Oriented Radical Days of Summer) (Durham) is a weeklong summer camp for queer youth and the youth of queer parents to experience empowering and affirming music education.

Radical Kindred (Boone) centers the leadership of transgender people in Boone and actively creates space for trans folks to organize, heal, and share resources.

There's Still Hope (Charlotte) provides temporary shelter, meals, counseling, and referrals to transgender adults who are homeless.

Transformers (Asheville) is a support network for individuals who are non-binary, GNC, transgender, questioning, and their friends, partners, and families.

Trans*Visible (Durham) challenges binarism/cissexism in our movements by nourishing the leadership of TGNCNB2-Spirit healing/arts justice practitioners and facilitators.

WNC QTPOC Support Group (Asheville) offers peer-led and professional support to some of the most intersectionally-marginalized people in the community.
Ohio

Black Queer and Intersectional Collective (Columbus) works towards the liberation of Black queer, trans, and intersex people through direct action, community organizing, education, and creating spaces to uplift their voices.

Margie’s Hope (Akron) offers resources, training, and support to help transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming individuals in need.

META Center, Inc. (Akron) creates regular programming for transgender and GNC youth ages 7-19 to create social change and foster acceptance.

TRANSlate (Cleveland) works to help Cleveland hospitals provide equitable healthcare for transgender people that is responsive, safe, and up-to-date.

TransOhio (Columbus) is Ohio’s only statewide transgender equality group, providing services, education, support, and advocacy, improving the experience of the Ohio transgender individual and community.

Oklahoma

Transpire Oklahoma, Inc. (Tulsa) dispels stereotypes about gender, promotes health and well-being, and facilitates involvement in the Oklahoma trans community.

Point of Pride (Eugene) supports the international trans community through programs including free chest binders, free femme shapewear, and direct financial assistance towards healthcare needs.

QTPoC Mental Health (Portland) creates healing spaces for queer and trans people of color by hosting a monthly meditation space, an online peer support group, and in-person workshops.

Oregon

Beyond These Walls (Portland) supports LGBTQ prisoners throughout the Pacific Northwest, working to change both the systems leading to incarceration and the treatment of those incarcerated.

Trans*Ponder (Eugene) is a transgender-founded and -led grassroots support, resource, advocacy, and educational organization dedicated to the transgender/gender diverse community and allies.

Glitter Squadron (Portland) is a collective led by disabled, POC and trans people, focused on abolishing ableism.
**Pennsylvania**

**Hearts on a Wire** (Philadelphia) is a collective organizing across prison walls, supporting incarcerated transgender and gender variant people throughout Pennsylvania and engaging local communities affected by mass imprisonment and state violence.

**Lehigh Valley Transgender Renaissance** (Orefield) works to improve the lives of transgender individuals and their families by providing education, peer support, resources, and outreach, as well as education for the public.

**T’DAS: Transgender Domestic Abuse Sanctuary** (Philadelphia) empowers victims to be victorious through rehabilitation, personal resource development, and service navigation.

**Trans Minors Rights** (Lititz) advocates for empowering transgender youth to make their own decisions regarding puberty blockers.

**TransCamp** (Philadelphia) is a one-week summer day camp for transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming youth offered by the Chestnut Hill United Church.

**Transfaith** (Philadelphia) serves at the intersections of race, gender, faith, and practice to support trans folks around the country through community gatherings and individual support.

**TransFamily of NWPA** (Erie) supports the transgender community of northwest Pennsylvania, those who are questioning, their loved ones, family members, and allies, through advocacy, education, and community engagement.

**Puerto Rico**

**Arianna’s Center / Puerto Rico** (San Juan) empowers the Puerto Rican trans community, with an emphasis on undocumented immigrants, people living with HIV/AIDS, and those that have experienced incarceration.

**Editorial Casa Cuna** (Hormigueros) co-creates safe spaces for the trans / non-binary / LGBTQI+ community for collective visibility, healing, and participation in the independent art scene of Puerto Rico.

**Editorial Casa Cuna** (Hormigueros) co-crea espacios seguros para la comunidad transgénero / no binaria / GLBTQI+ para crear una visibilidad colectiva, sanación y participación en la escena artística independiente de Puerto Rico.
EspicyNipples (Guayama) is a transfeminist network that highlights stories of LGBTQIA+ people, particularly the lives of queer single mothers, poor, black, migrant, and indigenous folks, by way of popular and digital media.

Fundación Boreales (Carolina) is a group of activists and writers who provide a safe space for empowering Black Queer LGBTQI+ communities through cultural expression such as art, literature, and performance.

Pólvora Colectiva (San Juan) is a queer collective working on a digital campaign and bringing workshops to schools to visibilize the LGBTQIA+ community in Puerto Rico.

Semillas (San Juan) is a collective co-creating an autonomous, transformational healing space for TGNC and queer communities in Borikén/PR and the diaspora, addressing food and health injustice and chronic isolation.

Trans Feria. San Juan (San Juan) is a safe event for the trans and non-binary community to share stories and past traumas, with the goal of sensitizing others through education.

Trans Feria. San Juan (San Juan) es un evento seguro para la comunidad transgénero y no binaria para compartir historias y traumas pasados para sensibilizar a otros a través de la educación colectiva sobre estos temas.

Rhode Island

Triumphant 2Gether (Providence) prioritizes healing and economic sustainability for women and girls exiting violence such as human trafficking, sexual exploitation, incarceration, and marginalization.

T-Time Transgender Support (Myrtle Beach) is a non-partisan and independent peer-support group for TGNCI individuals in Myrtle Beach and surrounding areas in northeastern South Carolina.

South Carolina

Alpha Omega Kappa Fraternity, Inc. (Lexington) exists to provide leadership, advocacy, education, and community to transgender men.

Transgender Awareness Alliance (Lexington) assists transgender persons in South Carolina with legal name changes and other support for healthy living.
We Are Family (North Charleston) provides microgrants to trans individuals throughout the state for medical, legal, and emergency living expenses.

South Dakota
Two Spirit Nation (Rapid City) advocates for visibility within the Indigenous spectrum of LGBTQ2S+ by reclaiming our sacred space in our Indigenous communities, nationally, tribally, and statewide.

Tennessee
Bold and Beautiful (Memphis) is a social support group that promotes healthy living and educational and employment opportunities.

The Meadow Collective (Liberty) is a rural queer intentional community focused on healing, social justice, and living lightly and cooperatively with the land.

Trans Empowerment Project (Knoxville) supports and empowers trans and GNC communities by providing access to food, clothing, safe shelter, transportation, and more.

WeCareTN (Memphis) serves black trans women of color who have experienced violence, trauma/abuse, have done sex work, and are newly identified, with support meetings, life skills courses, and job readiness training.

Texas
Black Trans Mx. (Carrollton) creates space for building community and advocating for the black GNC, non-binary, and gender diverse community.

Black Transmen, Inc. (Carrollton) works to empower African-American transgender men by addressing the multi-layered injustices faced at the intersections of race and gender identities.

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

Borderland Rainbow Center (El Paso) is a community space where LGBTQI people and their allies can heal, grow, and empower themselves and others in a substance-free space.

Cicada Collective (Lewisville) is a QTPOC-centered reproductive justice organization that provides abortion support, transition care, doula trainings, and comprehensive sex education in North Texas and beyond.

2020 TJFP Grantees: left: Trans Power SA, San Antonio, TX; right: Organizacion Latina Trans in Texas, Houston, TX
Coastal Bend Trans Alliance (Corpus Christi) is a trans-led organization that has met weekly as a support group for over four years, directs the community to resources, and hosts year-round visibility events.

Cons.T.ruct (Houston) is a yearly trade-based job training program and collective for Trans people, including skills in welding/fabrication, carpentry, machining, and 3D drafting.

GenTex (McAllen) provides education, support, visibility, resource facilitation, and advocacy for the transgender, non-binary, Two Spirit, and GNC community of the Rio Grande Valley.

Latinas Trans Austin (Houston) works directly with trans people, providing services and resources. Trabaja directamente con las personas trans, ofreciendo servicios y recursos.

Latinas Trans Dallas (Houston) works directly with trans people, providing services and resources. Trabaja directamente con las personas trans, ofreciendo servicios y recursos.

Organización Latina Trans in Texas (Houston) works directly with trans people, providing services and resources. Trabaja directamente con las personas trans, ofreciendo servicios y recursos.

Revolution Foundation (Dallas) curates spaces that encourage art and expression, challenge systemic oppression, and create connections across identities.

Trans Legal Aid Clinic Houston (Houston) assists trans and non-binary people in Texas to obtain court-ordered name and gender marker corrections and change their identification documents.

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

Virginia

Charlottesville Trans Peer Group (Troy) facilitates monthly support groups, movies and lectures, Pride events, and a yearly conference for trans education and support.

Garden of Peace, Inc. (Newport News) celebrates and elevates the lived experiences of trans and queer folks, caretakers, and families—centering Black/Indigenous/People of Color—through space-making, art, and leadership development.

Minority Transgender Unity (Norfolk) looks for employment and funding to help pay for certifications that can help the transgender community with a source of income.

Power Safe Place Resource Center of Virginia (Front Royal) provides an inclusive and family-oriented environment for the LGBTQ community and helps to prevent youth/adult homelessness, unemployment, and substance abuse.
Southeastern Transgender Resource Center (Norfolk) is the first transgender center in Norfolk.

Stand for Art Foundation (Alexandria) supports individual artists and organizations in creating art that leads to social transformation.

Transgender Assistance Program of Virginia (Virginia Beach) provides safe, emergency housing to adult, homeless, transgender Virginians; provides trans-affirming resources; and provides education and advocacy on trans-specific issues including as homelessness, discrimination, socio-economic status, and racism.

Transgender Education Association (Burke) serves the needs of all those in the gender spectrum in the Washington, DC, area through advocacy and education.

Transgender Veterans Support Group-Virginia (Richmond) serves transgender-identifying veterans in need of guidance, support, and building confidence in themselves and their identity.

Twin Oaks Queer Gathering (Louisa) is a rural camping event for queer folks and allies of all ages to come together, skill-share, make art, build community, network, and dance.

Vermont

Out in the Open (Brattleboro) connects rural LGBTQ people to build community, visibility, knowledge, and power, pushing back against the notion that rural communities are not positive places for trans people.

Washington

Beyond Bars and Binaries (Tacoma) is co-led and created by incarcerated queer people, holds gender education workshops and a support group for transgender individuals in a “women’s” prison.

Black Trans Prayer Book (Seattle) is a cohort of Black Trans artists and spirit workers who center the healing needs of Black Trans people across spiritual traditions.

Heartspark Press (Olympia) is a nonprofit dedicated to amplifying the creative voices of transgender girls, transgender women, and CAMAB (coercively assigned-male-at-birth) non-binary people everywhere.

Rad Care (Seattle) is led by QTBIPOCs who also have disabilities, are sex workers, active drug users, homeless and/or participate in street economies.

Solace (Spokane) enables and empowers transgender individuals to have agency and dignity in gender transition via technological solutions.

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.
TWOC Solidarity Network (Seattle) upholds the self-determination of Two-Spirit, Trans Women, and Femmes of color and creates opportunities to exercise collective and community care.

**Washington, D.C.**

**ARCOIRIS** works on legal advice, care-seeking, access to education, and job searching for trans people in DMV.

**ARCOIRIS trabaja en asesoría legal, búsqueda de cuidado, acceso a la educación y búsqueda de trabajo para personas transgénero en DMV.**

**Black and Indigenous Transgender Safehaus** is a Community Haus for Black and Indigenous Transgender and Intersex POC who have faced chronic housing and employment inequality (centering Deaf, undocumented, and Femme folx, folx 25+ years old, and migrants from the U.S. South), providing housing justice in unceded Piscataway land.

**Bois Modeling Transformative Justice** is a support and accountability group for transmasculine and masculine-of-center people of color in DC to process harm they experience and examine their complicity in perpetuating harm.

**Nelwat Ishkamewe** is a Two-Spirit collective of artists, healers, educators, and advocates, whose Two-Spirit Theatre program offers three fully-produced productions throughout the year.

**No Justice No Pride** mobilizes Trans and Queer activists to create and support community-based solutions based on holistic and abolitionist principles/practices for those most on the margins.

**Pawsitive Palz** is a pet care collective of Black and Brown Trans people providing dog walks, cat visits, and other animal care, along with economic and spiritual opportunities for underemployed, disabled, Trans POC.

**Plantita Power** is a collective bringing together communities from all segments of the food system to remove barriers that keep QTBIPOC from engaging in agriculture as a means of personal sustenance and empowerment.

**Starseed Earthroot** is a collective of Trans and Gender-Expansive Queer folx dismantling imperialist, capitalist, white supremacist, cis-hetero patriarchy through food sovereignty and deep communal healing.

**They them collective** does community work around transformative justice and overcoming state repression in trans, queer, enby and intersex community.

**Trans Terps DC** provides trans-affirming and culturally-sensitive interpreting and translation services to LGBTQIA+, racial, and migrant justice organizations by Black, Native American, and Transgender Interpreters of Color.

**Trans United** is a completely trans-led (majority trans women of color) national organization that seeks to build a world where all trans communities can survive and thrive, live free of violence, and freely define their lives.

**Trans Women of Color Collective** uses art, culture and media as tools to engage community members in exploring and activating their power as transformative change agents.
Donor Reflections

“"I can’t think of another organization as deeply dedicated to LIFE as the Trans Justice Funding Project. In the midst of a mess of a thing, TJFP comes together to offer support to those that need it most. Loudly proclaiming through their tireless actions and service, that our lives are in fact valuable beyond measure. Thank you TJFP for all you do!”
- Tourmaline, long time supporter and former grantee

“"I give to TJFP because they provide resources to some of the most marginalized among us, while at the same time providing an alternative to the non-profit industrial complex. TJFP makes it possible for grassroots groups to do their work without a capitalist model of exponential growth, without being beholden to "deliverables," without providing tax shelters and publicity to problematic foundations. TJFP understands that communities know what’s best for them, that they are experts in their own experience, and funds without strings attached can be a lifeline."
- Vida James, long time monthly donor

“"TJFP’s commitment to funding grassroots community work for and by trans and gender non-conforming people is unparalleled. In a movement that so often reduces us to talking points, TJFP takes an alternative, more dignified approach by investing in the dynamic leadership of TGNC communities. In a political climate of escalating violence and discrimination against TGNC people, resourcing local community organizing is absolutely essential."
- Alok Vaid-Menon, donor
Thank You to Our Donors!

Listed here are the names of most of the amazing donors who supported our eighth grant cycle. We share their names to inspire others to support trans justice around the country. We’ve preserved capitalization choices for those who shared their names in all lowercase. Thank you so much—we couldn’t have done this without you!

Individual Donors

A B
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Aaron Connolly
Aaron Beaty
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Aaron Pinto
Aaron Stanaway
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<td>Ryan Rosario</td>
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Sarah Bourn
Sarah Brettschneider
Sarah Brown
Sarah Brun
Sarah Burton
Sarah Butler
Sarah Charlotte Brown
Sarah Coduto
Sarah Crosky
Sarah DeMattio
Sarah Deprey-Severance
Sarah Dowling
Sarah Durham
Sarah Eck
Sarah Fathallah
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Sarah Gill
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Sarah Heironimus
Sarah Hussain
Sarah Johnson
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Grace Giffune
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Greta LaFleur
Gunner Scott
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Hannah Braley
Hannah Byrd
Hannah Utt
Harbir Singh
Harper Tobin
Hayley Craig
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Illiana Carrillo
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Isaac Levin-Szmonko
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