



within us all along

Trans Justice Funding Project
2017 REPORT

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This report is available at transjusticefundingproject.org, along with more resources.

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 believing in this project.

A special shout out to our TJFP panelists and facilitators: Karen Pittelman; Andrea Jenkins; Ben Reichman; Roan Boucher; V. Chaudhry; Cori Parrish, Jodi Doff, Laura M, and everyone at North Star Fund for the use of space for our community grantmaking meeting; Sierra Spingarn; Tali Petschek; Demian Yoon; Stephen Switzer; Peterson Toscano; Amy Ray; Rebecca Fox, Funders for LGBT Issues; Kris Hayashi, Isa Noyola, Elliott Fukui, Ola Osaze, Shelby Pearl Chestnut, and the staff at the Transgender Law Center; Ejeris Dixon and Lindsey Charles at Vision, Change, Win; Chani Nicholas; Sara Ramirez; Kiyomi Fujikawa; Ryan Li; Carol Cantwell; Tiffany Brown; April Suwalsky at Tides Foundation; Lena Afridi; Emma Heaney; Harvey Katz; Topher Gross; Casey Llewellyn; Naimah Johnson; Mechi Estevez; Johanna Ocaña; Holly Fetter; Mitchell Singer; Ezak Perez; Pooja Gehi; Micah Bazant; Nisha Eswaran; Veronica Garcia; Leeway Foundation; Nora Rasman; Caitlin Breedlove; Arcus Foundation; M.A.C AIDS Fund; Doc Society; Siena Chrisman; Park Slope Copy; and our families: Nelida Collantes, Larry Watts, and the Fosters.



NC Queer TROUBLMakers, Greensboro, NC, 2017 TJFP Grantee

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API Equality Northern California (APIENC), San Francisco, CA, 2017 TJFP Grantee



Terminology

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

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

Intersex: A general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male. Individuals who are intersex 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 in the right to self-determine our gender and gender expression, free from all forms of violence and oppression, including personal and state violence.

Southern Arizona Gender Alliance, Tucson, AZ, 2017 TJFP Grantee



Dearest friends, family, and community,

I know, I know... what a year!

If 2017 did anything, it shook the majority of us to the core. Forcing us to work and fight harder than ever before, and maybe even at times shaking our faith.

But I want to ask you a question... have you ever believed in something or someone? Have you ever witnessed something so powerfully necessary that you found a way to support it in whatever way you could? Did you ever believe in something you couldn't see or touch but that didn't diminish your commitment?



If you're reading this report right now, it's because you believe in *something*.

When TJFP was newly forming, we were acutely aware that trans justice groups in the US (and globally) urgently needed resources, and with as few obstacles as possible. But in late 2012 we didn't know if anyone would apply for a grant, donate to, or advocate for such an "experimental" project. As you might imagine, in early 2013, that first year of grantmaking, when 104 applications flooded our inbox and we were able to spread approximately \$55,000 among 22 trans-led grassroots trans justice groups, we were amazed!

From TJFP's first year to now, our fifth, a wide network of people has continued to believe in funding grassroots organizing led by trans leaders, community-led giving, ensuring non-501(c)(3)s stand a chance to receive support, and, ultimately, funding the trans justice movement. Everyone who found a way to support TJFP's applicants and grantees demonstrated what trusting and believing in trans leaders can look like.

As you will learn in our *Grant Making Year in Review* section, in 2017 we gave away HALF A MILLION DOLLARS as we roll into our fifth anniversary! Once again, breaking our own record! While we cannot ignore or deny another year of unacceptable violence, exclusion from public



Bold and Beautiful, Memphis, TN, 2017 TJFP Grantee

spaces, and the criminalization of our bodies we're experiencing on nearly every level, we also want to take a minute to uplift all those working for justice all the time -- as well as this milestone.

It feels extremely celebratory to know that in five years so many of you chose to believe in trans justice with us! **Over the last five years, we've had the honor of bringing together 30 amazing trans and gender non-conforming individuals from across the country to distribute over \$1.3 million. In this time, we received a total of 661 applications, made 429 grants and funded 140 non-501(c)(3) grassroots groups.** We really mean it when we say we couldn't have done this without you.

We hope you'll spend time with the report learning about this year's grantees and their incredible work, along with articles written by the 2017 TJFP Fellowship members! There's so much to share.

As winter sets in and we move forward, I'm still pausing on what it means to believe.

Believing isn't just feeling in your chest, it's a continuous practice - and an extension of love. Strongest when there is action to back up what you believe in.

On the receiving end, there's something powerfully transformative that can occur when even one person believes in someone or something so strongly, they're willing to commit to it. That indescribable feeling when someone witnesses something special in you - sparking a different kind of confidence that can even help you see your own potential. A magic that was within you all along.

To everyone who's ever believed in trans justice work and what TJFP is all about, we



Top: Allgo, Austin, TX; bottom: Brave Space Alliance, Chicago, IL, both 2017 TJFP Grantees

are so thankful. We exist because of you and we remain because you're still with us.

We hope you know that we choose to believe in you with each breath, every day.

And because of you, we know we will win.

With love and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Gabriel Foster".

Gabriel Foster
Executive Director

Our Grantmaking Year in Review

1. What We Do and Why We Do It

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

For us, *community-led* means trusting and supporting trans leadership. Each year we work hard to put together a geographically diverse, intergenerational, multi-ability, multi-racial grantmaking panel of passionate new and established trans justice activists to make the grant

TJFP wants to move money to our community as quickly as possible and with very few obstacles because we know these groups have more important work to do.



Baltimore Transgender Alliance, Baltimore, MD, 2017 TJFP Grantee

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.

We keep our grant process simple, with a short application and 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 that money. And though we love to learn from the leaders we support and share their work with other funders and community members, we don't have site visits or require any reporting. We do require that our applicants have a budget of \$250,000 or less, but we don't require applicants to have non-profit status; in fact, over half of our grantees don't have a 501(c)(3) or a fiscal sponsor. TJFP wants to move money to our community as quickly as possible and with very few obstacles because we know these groups have more important work to do.



TJFP Grantmaking Panel 2017

TJFP believes in the power of local, grassroots groups to respond to people's immediate and long-term needs, to help create compassionate, resilient communities, and to fight for lasting, systemic change. And we believe in the power of community-led grantmaking to redistribute resources to these groups in a way that is accountable, effective, and strategic.

The Trans Justice Funding Project is about investing in trans communities making decisions by and for ourselves. Over the last five years, we've received 661 applications, and raised and given away 429 grants through our community-led process, totaling more than \$1.3 million.

Thank you for believing in TJFP and having faith in trans-led grassroots trans justice groups to continue to fight for liberation and justice. We're so excited to share our fifth report with you.



The Meadow Collective, Liberty, TN, 2017 TJFP Grantee

2. Our Fifth Year

Trans communities were hit hard in 2017. In this harsh political climate, President Trump and his cabinet are actively working to deprive our communities (and all intersections of communities who are not predominantly white and cis-male) of their dignity. With abusive rhetoric and violent political actions, the purported leaders of this country have made it clear they do not value queer and transgender lives. And each day around the country, trans-led grassroots organizers and activists are fighting back.

2017 was TJFP's fifth year of funding and we were able to give \$500,000 to 153 trans justice groups - more than we've ever given away. We were even able to increase grant amounts, in awards of \$2500, \$5000, and \$10,000, doubling our previous grant sizes and making this a monumental fifth anniversary.

With all that is happening in the world, there is a clear need for increased support for grassroots trans justice groups. TJFP is proud to have been able to quickly move funds where they are most needed.

Once Again... More Applications

This year we received 175 applications from all around the country. We've seen a sizable increase in applications from the **Southeast and the Midwest**. There is so much important work happening in our communities and it looks different in each region.

Our Fabulous Grantmaking Fellows

We brought together another brilliant panel of trans justice activists to make this year's grant decisions: Quentin Bell, Wriply M. Bennet, Nina Chaubal, Mattee Jim, Drew Jones, and Cathy Kapua. Our amazing panelists brought their organizing

experience, regional knowledge, and love for justice to the decision-making process. Each of our TJFP fellows pored over the applications, tirelessly reviewing and discussing each group with care.

Nico Amador returned for his fifth year to facilitate our annual grantmaking meeting and was joined by the amazing Glo Ross. Nico and Glo were a dream team and moved this beautiful and complicated process through the weekend with ease and thoughtfulness. Their guidance and experience facilitating made this in-person meeting magical.

About Our Grants and Grantees

In June, we made 153 grants, giving away a total of \$500,000. Typically, we give small grants in the amounts of \$1000, \$2000, and \$5000. But this year we were able to

increase the award amounts to \$2500 (120 grants), \$5000 (26 grants), and \$10,000 (seven grants). The panel decided to prioritize support for groups led by trans women of color, native/indigenous groups, and groups working in regions whose trans and gender non-conforming communities are under the greatest threats from policy changes.

Many of our grantees don't have non-profit status or a fiscal sponsor, and all are small, with budgets ranging from zero to \$250,000. Thirty-two percent of this year's grantees were 501(c)(3) non-profits; 27 percent had a fiscal sponsor; and 41 percent had no non-profit status.

Out of last year's 102 grantees, 73 applied again, and almost all received funding. We know one reason some groups don't reapply is that there just isn't enough time in the year for even a simple application.

We are looking into making our application process easier, but we know we still have some work to do to make that happen.

Eighty-two percent of our grantees had a budget of less than \$50,000, 71 percent had a budget of less than \$25,000, and 45 percent had a budget of less than \$5000. Many of those groups had

no budget at all, paying for everything out of their own pockets. The amount of volunteer time, effort, love, passion, fierceness, and savvy it takes to make all this work happen across the country continues to blow us away.



Left: TJFP Grantmaking Panel 2017. Right: Detroit REPRESENT! Collective, Detroit, MI, 2017 TJFP Grantee

Who Gave?

From June 1, 2016, to May 26, 2017, we raised \$500,000 for our 2017 grantees—more than we’ve ever given before, making our fifth anniversary pretty phenomenal!

Every year, operational expenses and TJFP staff salaries are covered by co-founder Karen Pittelman, which is amazing—and means every penny raised from our supporters goes directly to our grantees.

We continued to build a broad base of support, with contributions from 205 donors, many of whom have given every year. Fifty-eight percent of those donors gave \$50 or less, with many people sending in gifts of \$10 and \$5. We’re always grateful for the large gifts, of course, but it’s those \$5 donations that remind us why we do what we do. We’ve

Fifty-eight percent of our donors gave \$50 or less, with many sending in gifts of \$10 and \$5.

also increased our monthly sustainers and now have an awesome group of 62 monthly donors who help us create a consistent and reliable base of donations. We are so thankful for the community support!

Each and every dollar makes a difference and supports grassroots trans justice and movement building across the country.

Another Country Music Festival and TJFP Fundraiser, Brooklyn, NY



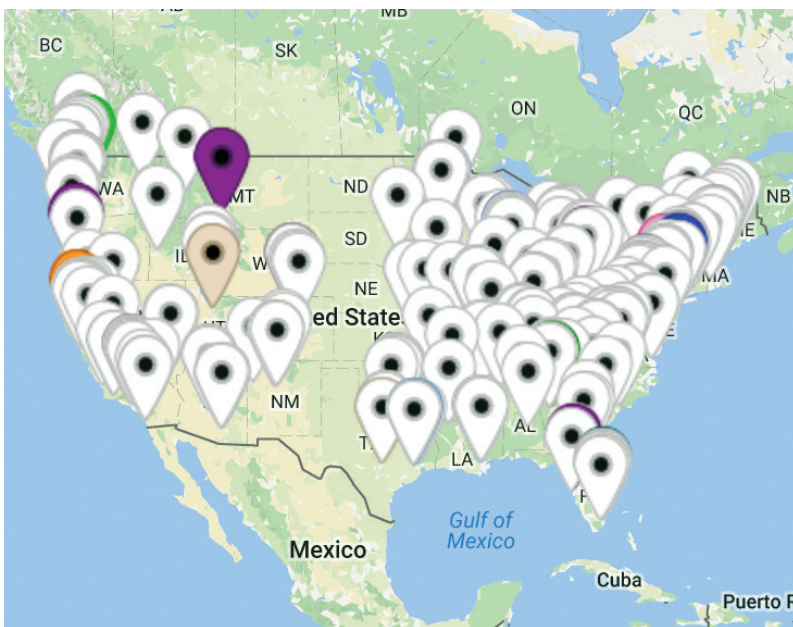
3. What's Next?

During the 2017-2018 winter months, TJFP is opening the application process and spreading the word about our sixth grant cycle. We're reaching out and encouraging folks to apply - and all the while, raising as much money as we can for the next round of grants. Applications are open in English and Spanish on our website and are due February 15. Please spread the word to your friends, family, and community, and encourage trans-led groups to apply! We hope you'll also join us by making a donation. Every penny you give will, once again, go directly to our grantees.

As we celebrate TJFP's fifth anniversary, we are reflecting on how much we've changed and evolved as a community-led funding initiative, and thinking about TJFP's future. We're gathering information on community hopes for TJFP and whether our work and mission is meeting our communities' expectations. We hope to be around for as long as our communities need us to be. To that end, we're working on a strategic plan to guide our future of funding trans-led grassroots organizing.



Top: Camp Born This Way, Tucson, AZ; bottom: Black Excellence Collective, Philadelphia, PA, both 2017 TJFP Grantees. Below left: Interactive map of TJFP's applicant and grantee directory.



We've continued to work very closely with the Transgender Law Center in its ongoing leadership training and support for transgender and gender non-conforming organizers and activists around the country through the National Training Institute.

In 2017, we also released a searchable online map (transjusticefundingproject.org/map/) that allows you learn more about how people are organizing at the local grassroots level. The map includes all TJFP applicants and grantees (with their permission), and is searchable by focus area and location. Eventually, it will also have videos and articles highlighting our grantees. The map is a work in progress, so bear with us as we work out all the kinks. Stay tuned and keep up with our progress!

TJFP funding applications contain an enormous amount of information about the

We are continually inspired by the ways trans justice activists expand their experience and understanding into big and bold visions for radical change.

state of trans justice organizing. Along with our new map, this annual report is another important way to share that knowledge, which we hope will help connect, inform, and inspire local groups as they continue their work.

We are continually inspired by the ways trans justice activists expand their experience and understanding into big and bold visions for radical change. Most understand that their communities exist at the intersection of multiple oppressions. To visualize how intersectional organizing for trans justice can and does look, we created the infographics on the following pages to show the issues our applicants and grantees focused on this year.

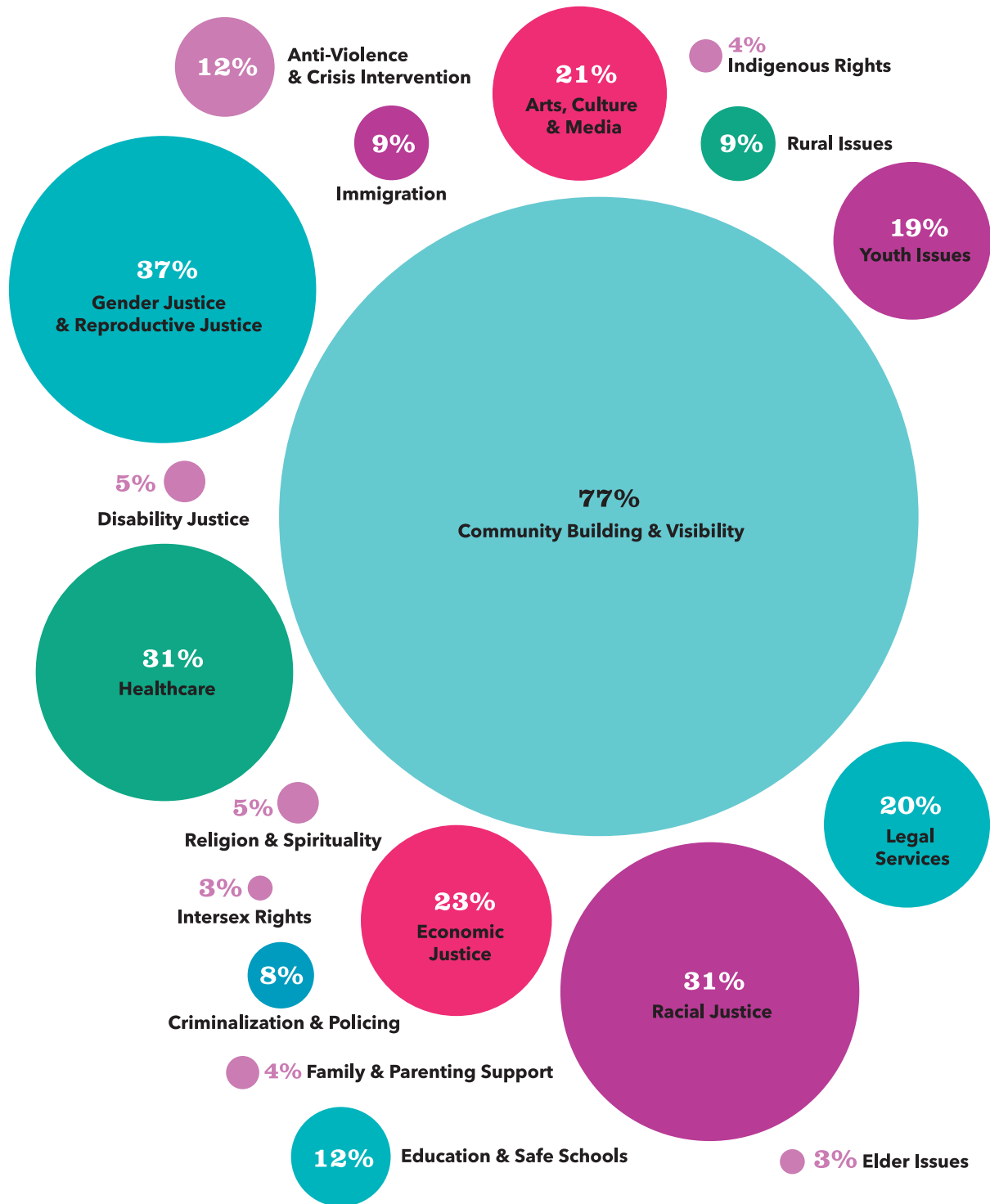
Our grantees and applicants need the support of local long-term donors and volunteers too, so we hope you'll also consider reaching out to trans-led groups organizing in your area—find out what's going on, and donate, volunteer, and spread the word!

We need each other more than ever right now, and together we can create the kind of world we want to see. Let's keep on fighting, dreaming, and supporting trans justice work in 2018!

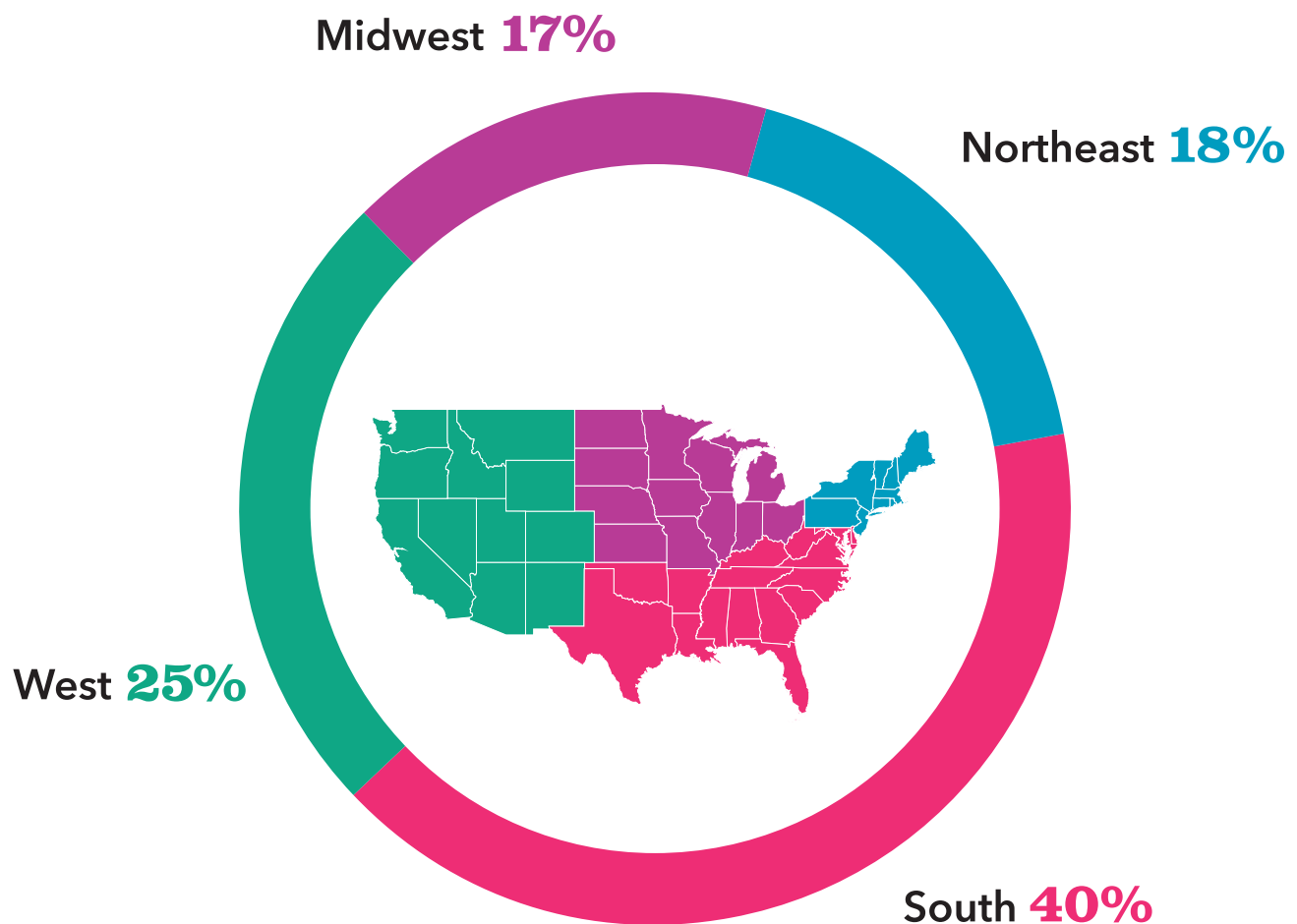


TJFP and family at the Funders for LGBTQ Issues Pride in Philanthropy Awards

Grantee and Applicant Issue Areas of Focus



Grantees and Applicants by Region



The 2017 TJFP Team



Quentin Bell

Quentin "Que" Bell is a Black Trans activist, entrepreneur, and mentor born and raised in historic Selma, Alabama. Que received his bachelor's degree from Alabama State University in Business Administration with an Entrepreneurial Concentration. In the fall, Que will be attending Auburn University pursuing a Master of Public Administration degree focusing on non-profit management. While at ASU, Que found a way to combine his entrepreneurial spirit with his passion for advocacy and founded The Knights & Orchids Society (TKO), a southern-centered grassroots startup led by black, queer, transgender, and gender non-conforming people fighting at the intersections of racial and gender justice. Since 2012, Que's goal remains unchanged: to improve the quality of life within the LGBTQ+ community by creating safe spaces that empower, educate, and unite Trans, GNC, and Queer role models of color. Que has dedicated his adult life to actively serving in leadership positions to advance the fight for LGBTQ equality and inclusion while increasing visibility for Trans men of color.



Wriply M. Bennet

Wriply Marie Bennet is a painter and illustrator born and raised in Ohio. She uses her art to uplift her sisters in the black lives/black transgender lives movement. She works in ink, watercolor, and other media, and her art comes from an untrained perspective. She never aspired to attend college to study art, and she has no degrees to speak of other than a high school diploma. Her art is proudly self-taught. Her organizing work started with the Trans Women of Color Coalition, and she has been an activist since the protests in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014, when she was a freedom rider traveling to stand with the family and community of Mike Brown. Wriply's work expresses the power, strength, and resilience that trans women of color have to persevere, and the grace and beauty of her culture. Her work uplifts the young black trans women we've lost and continue to lose every year, and sheds light on the fact that there has been no national outcry. Wriply's art has been used in countless social justice flyers, and in November will be making its film debut in *MAJOR!*, a documentary that was screened at the 2015 San Francisco Transgender Film Festival. Wriply is much more than a visual artist; she's also a singer/song writer, actor, screenplay writer, story teller, cartoonist, and fashion designer. She continues to work and fight for justice! For art will travel.



Nina Chabal

Nina Chabal is a queer, South Asian trans woman who is the co-founder and Director of Operations of Trans Lifeline, the first national crisis hotline for transgender people by transgender people. Her work focuses on preventing suicide and building a more resilient trans community. An immigrant from India, Nina also works on issues facing trans immigrants. Prior to her work with Trans Lifeline, Nina was a software engineer on

Google's Search team. As Trans Lifeline's resident geek, she has used her technical and entrepreneurial skills to provide resources, build community, and draw attention to issues faced by trans people. In whatever counts as her spare time, she enjoys playing with her dogs; building all kinds of things with her wife, Greta; complaining about bad user interfaces; and obsessing about dumplings.



Mattee Jim

Mattee Jim is of the Zuni People Clan and born for the Towering House People Clan; this is how she identifies herself as a Navajo person. Mattee currently works as a supervisor for HIV Prevention Programs for First Nations Community HealthSource in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Mattee is also a board member for the Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico, and a member of the Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition LGBTQ Advisory Council. Mattee has been blessed to have many years of sobriety and also takes honor in being a mentor, advocate, role model, trainer, consultant, leader, and a strong Native transgender woman.



Drew Jones

Drew is a white trans queer parent who started engaging in community advocacy work 15 years ago, starting with founding the first trans youth support group in Dallas. He received his bachelor's degree in anthropology with a minor in ethnic studies from the University of North Texas. He completed his master's degree in Deaf cultural studies at Gallaudet University, with an award-winning ASL-based documentary made with a young Black Deaf trans girl about her experiences at her Deaf school in Washington, D.C. (*A Brutal Awakening*, 2007) After eight years in D.C. and Philadelphia, sudden illness brought him back to Texas, where he is focusing on raising his young kids and supporting social justice work and community through Dharma teaching.



Cathy Kapua

Cathy Kapua hails from O'ahu, Hawai'i, and has worked with the transgender community since 2003. Cathy started as a Peer Educator and Employment Specialist at a transgender social service organization called Kulia Na Mamo. She then moved on to become an HIV Prevention Specialist at the Life Foundation, working with transgender women who engage in survival sex work. Cathy has since worked on several federally-funded projects for the transgender community and has provided cultural competency trainings to medical service providers to raise awareness of transgender community needs in Hawai'i. Cathy is currently Life Foundation's Kuaana Project Coordinator, offering social services to the Native Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Island trans community by utilizing peers to empower others in the transgender community. Being a role model for the young transgender community in Hawai'i drives Cathy's passion to continue her advocacy in the healthcare and social service fields. For more information on the Kuaana Project, please visit www.kuaanaproject.org.



Nico Amador

Nico Amador grew up in California and is now a trainer, organizer, and writer based in Vermont. Nico got his start as a trainer working with youth around issues of oppression and leading workshops on the impacts of militarism and the prison-industrial complex on people of color. Nico was formerly Executive Director at Training for Change and currently works as a freelance trainer, facilitator, and curriculum writer. He has led workshops in the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Latin America, and has worked with groups such as Choice USA, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Energy Action Coalition, National Youth Advocacy Coalition, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Aquelarre Trans Coalition, Diverse City Fund, Audre Lorde Project, and Global Philanthropy Project. Nico is also an experienced community organizer who has participated in grassroots efforts for prison abolition, urban farming, keeping casinos out of residential neighborhoods, and stopping the harassment of transgender riders on Philadelphia's public transportation system.



Glo Ross

Glo Ross is originally from Los Angeles, California, and now lives in Atlanta, Georgia. As a full-time gender-queer lover of all animals and the earth, Glo is committed to building the world we all deserve to live in by organizing power in our communities and actively practicing compassion for all beings day to day. Currently, Glo works in the public sector as a policy analyst on environmental issues. In previous lives, Glo directed campaigns at FIERCE! to build power among LGBTQ youth of color in New York City, helped lead anti-police brutality organizing in Atlanta, and facilitated numerous youth organizing trainings for college students across the country. In the past eight years, Glo has also supported community-based organizing strategy through technical assistance and issue research. When not facilitating or conducting research, you can find Glo hiking with their pups (two lovable rescued pit bulls), trying out a new vegan recipe, or road-tripping to the beach.



STAFF:

Gabriel Foster, Co-founder and Executive Director

Gabriel Foster is a black, queer, trans "momma's boy" living and loving in New York. Prior to making his way to the Eastern Time Zone, he worked in Seattle, Washington, with the Northwest Network of bisexual, trans, lesbian, and gay survivors of abuse, helping to create their youth programming. From age 15 to 26, he went from being a program constituent to working as staff in the American Friends Service Committee's GLBTQ Youth Program. Before arriving in New York, he worked at SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW! with LGBTQ youth of color and allies in Atlanta; supported women and trans people creating art and social change through the Leeway Foundation in Philadelphia; and provided outreach for the Jonathan Lax Fund at the Bread and Roses Foundation, also in Philadelphia. He is also a former staff member of the Sylvia Rivera Law Project. Gabriel is a retired disco dancer extraordinaire and lives for laughter and pug memes.



Marin Watts, Operations and Communications Director

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



Karen Pittelman, Co-founder

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

TJFP Grantmaking Panel 2017 funding map



Letter to the Grantmaking Panel

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

Dear Panel,

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

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

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

Since our goal is to support movements, not control them, we want to do the opposite of all this! Now, more than ever, we have to trust in the leadership and creativity of our applicants. To remember that it's our job to get as many resources as possible to as many groups as possible and then get out of their way. We need to take the word "grassroots" literally and keep the wild grass in mind. The rain doesn't think it's getting it right by watering just one or two perfect blades. When the rain comes down, it waters the whole prairie.

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

Now, more than ever, we have to trust in the leadership and creativity of our applicants.

Funding Criteria

Is Your Group Eligible for a TJFP Grant?

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

You do not need to be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit or have a fiscal sponsor to apply!

What we don't fund...

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

"I am literally surprised and in tears. This grant gives us the boost of confidence we've been needing in these terrible times. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

– 2017 TJFP Grantee



Queer Trans Pueblo, Phoenix, AZ, 2017 TJFP Grantee

Doing Philanthropy Differently

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

1. We give unrestricted funds.

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

2. We know that trans justice work can take many forms. So the way people organize may look very different from community to community.

For those of us who live in a big city with lots of services, a support group might not seem like a radical or interesting thing to fund. But, as one of our applicants reminded us in our first year, if you are in a small town in Iowa, the fact that a support group even exists may already be a radical success. What matters to us is that communities are organizing themselves and setting priorities based on what feels most urgent to them.

3. The way people talk about their work can also look very different.

Not everyone uses the same political language to describe their work—or to describe themselves. A lot of things factor into the way a grant application reads, including: where the writer is from, their communities, their class and education background, and their



Green Mountain Crossroads, Brattleboro, VT,
2017 TJFP Grantee

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

4. We aim to keep our grant process as simple, easy, and quick as possible.

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

5. We want to be sure to support groups across the country, not just in the big cities on the coasts.

We especially want to have a balance between rural and urban, small town and

big city, and to keep in mind that groups in more isolated areas often have less access to funding.

6. Providing services can be an important part of organizing.

Some grantmakers, especially more social-justice oriented funds, see organizing as separate from providing services. But we've seen how providing services can sometimes be an important step in bringing communities together. Providing services can also make it possible for people to participate who might otherwise be unable to because they are busy meeting their survival needs.

7. There is more than one way to define success.

A lot of funders see grantmaking as an investment. The return on their investment is their grantees' success. They want tangible results from their grantees (like big numbers or big policy changes) so that they can prove they made a good investment.

But we know that grassroots social justice movements are messy. Endless. Complicated. That tangible results may be the flower at the end of a long process, but you don't expect to see a flower when you are looking at the roots. Movements need sustainable groups that will be there for the long run, and they also need short-term, kitchen table groups that may only be around for a year or two. A group that may look like a failure to some funders may have in fact trained a crucial future leader, provided important resources in the

moment, or done inspiring work that others will build on. So we try to take the long view of the movement and remember that there is more than one way to define success in grassroots organizing.

8. We fund groups that aren't incorporated.

This means that even if a group is not a 501(c)(3) non-profit and does not have a fiscal sponsor, we can still fund them. Sometimes it makes sense for a group to be incorporated, sometimes it doesn't. It depends on what their goals are. All that matters to us is: are they doing good work?

9. We reject the idea that grantees should be accountable to funders. We think funders need to be accountable to grantees.

Above all, we believe that grantees must be accountable to the communities they serve, especially to those who are most affected by oppression.

10. We are here to provide resources, not to pit everyone against each other in the Thunderdome.

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

We try to take the long view of the movement and remember that there is more than one way to define success in grassroots organizing.

Introducing TJFP's Fellowship Model

Every year we bring together a facilitation team and a new group of grantmaking fellows to thoughtfully review applications, select grantees, and award amounts. These trans and gender non-conforming (tgnc) grantmaking panelists are a geographically diverse, inter-generational, multi-ability, multi-racial group of trans justice activists and organizers that rotate each year to ensure a variety of participation in the TJFP funding process.

TJFP staff and facilitators do not select grantees, rather, we see it as our role to support the grantmaking fellows in their decision-making process. Assembling and coordinating a funding panel can take quite a bit of behind-the-scenes magic, but always results in a moving and invaluable experience! It is an honor to work with some of the most talented, devoted, and passionate trans justice leaders and organizers out there.

Having those most affected at the center of our grant decision-making process is the heartbeat of TJFP. For us, it's not a radical notion, it's our way of doing things. The grantmaking fellows we work with are the people on the "front lines." These are the experts of their own lives and experiences as tgnc people and organizers, making them the most qualified to make funding decisions for their communities.

Why a Fellowship?

Participating as a TJFP grantmaking fellow requires a tremendous amount of intuition, time, commitment, and care. A large part of the participatory grantmaking process involves sharing knowledge, growing skills, asking questions, and engaging in sometimes difficult conversations. What we found with the fellowship model is that even though people started off as strangers, a certain amount of trust must be built with one another—and rather quickly. Most of the people in the room have never been invited to make such weighty decisions about moving money to trans communities. This can be an extremely stressful and emotional experience, but also one that is incredibly meaningful.



TJFP 2017 Grantmaking Fellows

This year our grantmaking fellows were asked to read and be prepared to discuss 175 applications in detail. They were each trained to use an online voting system, participate in ongoing check-in's (individually and as a group), assist in outreach and fundraising, and were brought to New York for a facilitated weekend-long meeting to select grantees using an intersectional and anti-oppressive framework.



TJFP Grantmaking Fellows, Mattee Jim (l) and (r) Wriply Bennett

Therefore, given the amount of responsibility and development, we decided to start calling it what it is: a fellowship.

Through this fellowship, TJFP is training grantmakers using a community-led process and challenges traditional philanthropy (and some of our own conditioning) by actually practicing what it means to support and trust trans leadership.

However severe the lack of resources and uncertain these times are for the safety of our community, this doesn't mean that trans communities are not resilient or capable of coming up with our own solutions. In fact, we have a long history of being our own answers and creating what we desire in whatever way we can.

We are very thankful to all thirty TJFP grantmakers we've worked with over the past five years. You inspire us and show a deep dedication for trans justice!

Through this fellowship, TJFP is training grantmakers using a community-led process and challenges traditional philanthropy (and some of our own conditioning) by actually practicing what it means to support and trust trans leadership.

Reflections from the Table

Thoughts from the 2017 Grantmaking Fellows

When I was a kid, I was disregarded... in many ways, but mostly because of my gender and my intelligence. To know that I was a part of a group of trans folks sitting in conference rooms in a city I couldn't dream of living in (mostly because I don't want to), and given complete faith to be able to decide how to fund the work being done by black, brown, and native trans folks across the country... reaffirmed my faith in myself and our family.

I'm so grateful to have been able to have done this with folks I now know and love! Changed my life for the light!!!

-Wriply Bennet

TJFP: Where Dreams Become Reality!

TJFP has been much more than just a source of developmental funding that enhances the quality of life for Trans people. TJFP has literally been the foundation on which our success as an organization was built. It is a program that is essential to the fundamental growth and sustainability of Trans work because it invests without fear and restriction. Where other organizations place requirements and stipulations, TJFP is breaking down barriers and actively changing the ways we are able to show up and do this work. Where other organizations use difficulty/strain as a tool to minimize and deter applicants, TJFP is determined to bridge the gap between what we have and what we need.

Being a part of the 2017 Half Million-Dollar Grantmaking Panel will always be



TJFP Grantmaking Fellowship Members from left to right: Nina Chaulbal, Quentin Bell and Cathy Kapua

"It is because of TJFP that I have a visual and clear understanding of what leadership is, how it works in relation to organizational values, and how it should be shared or passed down through generations, just like folklore and oral traditions.."

one of my most cherished memories. As both a previous grantee and a panelist, I am humbled and grateful to have had the opportunity to be a part of such an amazing experience and family. I will never forget the feeling of walking into that conference room with so many great and passionate Trans leaders—and the realization of what we were there to do! Just as I will never be able to explain how those moments of power impacted my personal views about goals of leadership. I feel personally indebted to the TJFP team because they provided an opportunity not only for me to follow my dreams and love what I do, but to be able to support others. They made an investment in The Knights & Orchids Society far greater than any numerical value could measure. They invested in the dream and paid upfront in leadership. The relationships/networks we've built because of our TJFP connections have become the residual income that keeps that dream operational.

It is because of TJFP that I have a visual and clear understanding of what leadership is, how it works in relation to organizational values, and how it should be shared or passed down through generations, just like folklore and oral traditions. I have never met a more passionate group of individuals willing to give with no regrets. I affirm that a piece of their grace is forever etched into my spirit and that I will always be compelled to act with others as they have with and for me.

-Que Bell



TJFP Grantmaking Panel 2017

Our lives are on the line
but I see each of you
doing everything you can
to pick up the pieces,
make it easier for one more
to get through another day
or empower another to
pursue their greatest dreams
What I want most is
for you to live with the
nicest person you've ever met
the one who validates everything you feel
your true gender, without constraint
your deepest, rawest self
knows your wants
meets your needs
I want you to
know that person, the nicest person
in your very own heart.
You can place your warm healing hand
right on your chest and tell yourself
"I'm here for you, I love you
Right now thousands around the world
share a similar experience as mine.
We may never meet but
we are generating power together
just being willing to love ourselves fully
is full on resistance work right now."
I want the nicest person in your heart
to tell you everyday that
you have a right to go after the life you want
relentlessly, unabashedly, and persistently,
no matter what transphobia tells you,
we love you and want for your happiness.
Empowerment and liberation are your
Birthright.

Suicide and murders, prison abuse
Inadequate mental and physical healthcare
Homelessness, poverty and hunger,
disability and barriers, we won't look away
from what you've endured,
what you're enduring

I want you to know I said yes,
yes in my heart, yes to all you seek to do
yes to your hearts, your dedication, passion
yes to every project, idea, group
that applied, in our hearts, yes.

We weren't able to fund them all,
with the intention to support those
needing it the most.
The applications I read and
shouted Yes! with tears down my face,
were those showing the way, integrating
true leadership from our most marginalized
communities. I'm so hopeful to see the
prioritization of trans women of color in
leadership positions, making access real with
ASL interpreters and accessibility
information, disabled leaders,
getting a little extra food or transportation
money to trans family somewhere
barely getting by.
You all are incredible change-makers.
With great heartache, I read the many
in our communities
grieving losses from this past year
reeling from fighting on the front lines
of battleground states
I wish we could do so much more.
Each of you deserve a million dollar grant!!

This community is so incredibly strong,
so magnificently beautiful
I need each of you to stay so bad it hurts.
The impact of you simply living your life, and
those organizing your communities is
incalculable, vast, powerful beyond measure.
I wish you could see the amount of
resilience and determination you show
all over the country
to create the lives you deserve
Your applications proved that
This community is Unbreakable
I know this year has made us stronger, and
we will only continue to grow
more powerful from here.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you,
thank you for being you,
and all the work you do.
Please get your much needed breaks
everywhere you can,
keep up the amazing work,
dearest trans family and allies, and
apply again next year!

-Drew Jones

A'ohe hana nui ke alu 'ia

**No task is too big when done
together by all**

As a Native Hawaiian transgender woman, my community and I are often forgotten on the national level as transpeople of color, either because we may not be in the color category highly affected by the HIV epidemic, or because our state is an island further west than California. This has made our fight for trans equality detrimental to our survival.

Historical and cultural evidence of *māhū* (transgender person) in pre-colonial Hawai'i includes persons who were *ali'i* (royalty), *maka'ainana* (common people), *kāhuna* (priests), and *kāula* (prophets or wizards). Many *māhū* had a special *kūlana* (status or rank) because they embodied both sexes of spiritual hermaphroditic gods and goddesses. In ancient Hawaiian culture, the *māhū* were valued as strong, powerful, compassionate, and dutiful with special *mana* (spiritual power).

In modern Hawaiian society, Native Hawaiian transgender women are more likely to be arrested and incarcerated in their search for their role in society. The lack of access to medical care, unstable housing situations, and lack of emotional support are detrimental to the self-esteem and societal success for the Native Hawaiian transwoman trying to make it in mainstream society. The once-revered *māhū* is now seen as a dishonorable burden on society, oftentimes forced to engage in survival sex work because they aren't able to obtain gainful employment. Additionally, *māhū* without supportive networks are forced to live in the streets or they end up in jail or prison because they were forced out of their families' homes at a young age. The *māhū* who was honored and revered in traditional Hawaiian culture has now become ostracized and banished from their own people.

The Native Hawaiian transgender community has been fighting for social justice since the early 1960s, when transwomen were killed, sexually assaulted, and left for dead in rural



**"The TJFP
grantmaking
process fueled my
passion to support
trans-led groups
and their efforts
for transrights,
transequality, and
transliberation."**

parts of the island. The lawmakers and local police force felt the answer to stop these killings was to make all transwomen wear a large red button that said, "I am a BOY," so that men were not "fooled" by their femininity. In the 50 years since then, Native Hawaiian trans communities have made significant progress to protect the rights and lives of our trans people.

Many Hawai'i state laws and policies have been passed that protect transgender and gender non-conforming persons: the employment discrimination law in effect since 1991; the 2015 gender marker amendment law for Hawai'i birth certificates; the Board of Education's development and implementation of transgender student guidelines pushed forward in 2016; and the 2017 medical insurance discrimination laws. But even with all these protective laws and policies, we are still not fully accepted into society. Families are still disowning and shunning their trans children. Employers are still reluctant to hire transgender or gender non-conforming people because their physical characteristics aren't aligned with their birth gender.

Stigma, shame, and the lack of societal acceptance in mainstream society has caused a lower self-esteem in people who were once honored and revered. This is why grassroots programs are so important to the survival of trans communities of color like the Native Hawaiian transgender people. Through peer-led social support and trans-led advocacy group efforts, culturally appropriate services are giving our trans communities a place of respect in society.

Being a part of the TJFP grantmakers panel 2017, I was able to see the continuous efforts that trans-led groups have been

making across the nation. I was given the opportunity to read grant applications that shared their fight for survival to be a part of a society that doesn't want them to exist alongside the cis and hetero-normative society. Over 170 applications were reviewed and through this process I was able to see groups of transgender communities being formed to rise up against societal oppression. Each of these applications held stories of trans communities fighting society to be given an equal and fair right to exist. Seeing the continuous efforts of trans-led groups creating social change for their communities reminded me of why we must continue to strengthen our voices against discrimination and harassment and support grassroots programs across the nation.

Through TJFP's 2017 grant awards, I found that there are: trans leaders being developed; groups of transgender communities being supported; historical collections of transgender stories being shared; and anti-discrimination laws being advocated for. The TJFP grantmaking process fueled my passion to support trans-led groups and their efforts for trans rights, transequity, and trans liberation.

The beautiful culture of our transgender people of color across the nation is still being forced into survival mode and it is up to us, transpeople of color, to stand together and support each other's fights. Thank you, TJFP, for changing the way we stand for social justice.

-Cathy Kapua

There are groups that benefit from existing outside of the system so that they have the freedom and flexibility to organize in radical, loose, and informal ways.

We Have Been the Answer All Along—Thinking About the 501(c)(3)

Marin Watts

Director of Operations and Communications

Since I started at TJFP three years ago, I've read 451 grant applications—each and every one that has come through the door. Every application that I've read has filled me with inspiration and restored my faith in the world. The challenges our communities face are immeasurable. But what kicks me out of bed every morning are the amazing trans leaders around the country that organize and live for their vision of justice and transformation. There's so much brilliance in these applications!

Lately, I've noticed that more and more groups are planning to use their grant money to apply for non-profit status. For example, this year we had 63 grantees who were not 501(c)(3)s and did not have a fiscal sponsor. 19 percent of those groups mentioned that they were planning to apply for 501(c)(3) status. In addition, 41 of our grantees were fiscally sponsored, and 14 percent of those groups were also hoping to use TJFP funds to become a 501(c)(3). I'm also hearing an increased desire for non-profit status from folks I meet at conferences or in conversation.

Why are so many groups prioritizing becoming non-profits? I've been reading *The Revolution Will Not Be Funded* and wondering about this and what it means for the trans justice movement. What are the benefits of non-profit status? Does it actually help groups find funding? Once they have access to certain



Mariposas Sin Fronteras, Tucson, AZ, 2017 TJFP Grantee



Black Trans Media, Brooklyn, NY, 2017 TJFP Grantee

funding streams, what changes? Also, what are the downsides of having 501(c)(3) status or a fiscal sponsor? Are there dangers to becoming this type of organization? What might non-profit status cost the movement in the long run? What other structures can people turn to instead?

Since TJFP was founded five years ago, we have received 661 applications from trans leaders pushing and fighting, no matter what stands in their way, to get what they want and need for survival. Every one of these groups are powerful, bold, and fight like hell for our people. 47 percent of these groups also had no fiscal sponsorship or non-profit status. But that doesn't stop them from organizing in rural communities where they are running car pools to and from health clinics, and providing support services for those who are in need of trans-affirming health care. Or from hosting monthly legal workshops to assist with personal documents and name changes. Or working near border towns to

make sure that immigrant trans and gender non-conforming people have support, food, and legal assistance available to them. It doesn't stop youth-led groups from coming together in and out of schools to create spaces where they can emotionally support one another and have access to safe housing. Or from creating infrastructures of support for our trans elders and envisioning micro communities that are self sustaining. These brilliant organizing strategies and more have emerged because trans lives are overlooked, neglected, and—most often in communities of color—violently threatened, and these strategies also exist and even thrive outside of traditional non-profit structures.

However, this transformative work can only be done on a shoestring budget out-of-pocket, running on fumes and people power for so long, before most groups decide to try their luck with philanthropic institutions for additional resources. Usually, though, these foundations and wealthy donors aren't

directly impacted by transphobic violence and ongoing structures of neglect and oppression, and they don't have as much engagement with the work that's being done on the ground. But these are the funders who dictate which groups get support, and more often than not, they will only fund groups with non-profit status. In fact, most foundations won't even let you apply without it. When your group is looking for philanthropic resources, it isn't just an advantage to have a non-profit structure. Most of the time, it's the only option. That's where the money is.

Non-profit status also means that many people—not just funders—tend to view your group's work in a different light. Becoming a 501(c)(3) can be seen as a milestone. You've been doing amazing work, getting things done all along, and you want to formalize and get recognized for all the heart and time you put into the everyday grind. It means you've taken the time and gotten some sort of formal internal structure laid out, created bylaws, a budget, and developed a plan for the future. Plus, you've gotten an actual stamp of approval to validate the hours and energy that you put in.

But non-profit status may not always be the right fit. It can be hard to stick to your guiding mission and values when you are forced to prioritize a funder's deliverables, budgets, and timelines. Sometimes we even see foundations imposing their vision for justice onto the groups that they are funding. Also, some work understandably needs distance from the formalities of the non-profit structure. There are groups that benefit from existing outside of the system so that they have the freedom and flexibility to organize in radical, loose, and informal ways.

When you apply for non-profit status, you are also required to hand over information to the government about your group and how you're organizing. Especially in this moment,

we've heard folks raise concerns about how information might be used against them in the future. For some groups, it isn't helpful to be recognized or formalized by the U.S. government—instead it becomes yet another way for our government to monitor our movements. But then again, where else are you going to find the money to do the work that needs to get done?

We're stuck between a rock and a hard place. Is non-profit status the only way to go? How do we uplift, validate, and recognize all the ways this work is being done to help our communities? What are alternative ways we can fund our comrades? How can we share resources and support each other?

Whatever you decide to do and whichever form your group takes, there's no right or wrong way, and TJFP is here to encourage you and be your cheerleader. Our trans ancestors have given their lives and paved the way for our movements to grow and work together towards a collective vision of liberation. And for as long as TJFP has existed, one thing has always been clear in each and every application: no matter how it gets done, everyone wants justice for our people. It will take all of us to achieve it—it's not done alone. Together we are what we want and need.

We have always been the answer.



Cólectivo intercultural TRANSgrediendo (CITG), Jackson Heights, NY, 2017 TJFP Grantee

Our Funding Model as a Non-Charitable Trust

We are hoping that a structure that was created to preserve wealth, when guided by community leadership, can also become a powerful means of redistributing it.

Over the past five years, TJFP has had several makeovers in search of a structure to best allow us to move money quickly and with as little red tape as possible to our grantees. We also wanted to be sure that the way we operate fits the needs of our community.

At first, we operated as a non-profit and opened a donor-advised account at Tides Foundation. Formally, TJFP would then recommend that all donated funds be distributed to TJFP grantees, via Tides. This meant that all contributors to the TJFP fund would get a tax deduction, because Tides Foundation is a public charity. But after the first round of applicants, we ran into quite a few bumps and realized that to stay true to our mission of supporting local, grassroots work, we had to create a structure to make it much easier to fund unincorporated groups

We decided to incorporate ourselves, as a small business—a limited liability company, or LLC. Sounds good and worked well for a little bit. We were able to fund groups without non-profit status by technically making them our consultants—in the business of trans justice! But after some time, we learned that if TJFP co-founder Karen Pittelman kept making donations to the LLC, it might be a red flag for the IRS. In their eyes, we were a failing business. Turns out the IRS gets worried when someone keeps putting money into a business and never gets any of it back. After further exploring our options, we decided to form as a 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,



Detroit REPRESENT, Detroit, MI, 2017 TJFP Grantee



Brutha's Rising, Inc., Pittsburgh, CA, 2017 TJFP Grantee

when guided instead by community leadership, can also become a powerful means of redistributing it.

Now that we are functioning as a non-charitable trust, we have the freedom to cut checks to groups regardless of their non-profit status. Since we are "non-charitable," we do not claim any deduction for our giving, so our grantees don't need to be certified as charities. Our tax burden will remain low and as a trust, the IRS expects us to be giving away money, not making it.

This also means that any donations to TJFP's trust are not tax deductible. We still have our donor-advised account at Tides

Foundation (formed in 2013), so donors who need their contribution to be tax-deductible can do so there.

One of TJFP's core values is to keep things as simple as possible for our applicants and grantees. Our application is short and we don't require any reports. A non-charitable trust allows us the freedom to give money to groups without forcing them to get a fiscal sponsor or have non-profit status, especially since both require all kinds of paperwork and reporting. We would rather groups focus their time on fighting for trans justice, not filling out forms, and so far on our end, things are working out with the non-charitable trust.

Will anyone donate if it isn't tax-deductible?

Donations to the non-charitable trust are not tax deductible. We know this is a fundraising risk. What if no one wants to contribute without a tax deduction? But once again this year, the support we've received has been

inspiring. In 2017, 205 donors -88 percent of the total - contributed over \$252,500 to our 2017 grant cycle without requiring a tax deduction.

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

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

Although many of our donors chose to give through our non-charitable trust, some of our biggest gifts still came through our donor-advised account. In 2017, we made about

half of our grants through Tides Foundation. Here's how we did it: groups that had 501(c)(3) status or a fiscal sponsor were funded through the donor-advised account, and we pulled together fiscal information for Tides ourselves, doing our best to keep things simple for those grantees. Groups without non-profit status or with other issues were funded through TJFP's trust.

With over 150 grants to distribute, the TJFP office and staff had our hands full! But we believe it's our job as funders to deal with these logistics so that our grantees can keep their focus on taking care of one another and the movement!

One of TJFP's core values is to keep things as simple as possible for our applicants and grantees. We would rather groups focus their time on fighting for trans justice, not filling out forms.

2017 Grantees

Transgender Advocates Knowledgeable Empowering (TAKE)
Birmingham, AL

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

Arkansas Transgender Equality Coalition
Little Rock, AR

Transcend Arizona
Paradise Valley, AZ

Trans Queer Pueblo
Phoenix, AZ

Camp Born This Way
Tucson, AZ

Mariposas Sin Fronteras
Tucson, AZ

Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA)
Tucson, AZ

North State Trans/GNC Project
Chico, CA

Trans*Visible
Columbia, CA

Trans-E-Motion
Fresno, CA

Four Direction Fire Keeper - Eagle Evolution
Long Beach, CA

Live It Fully Empowered (LIFE)
Long Beach, CA

Gender Justice LA
Los Angeles, CA

Immigrant Youth Coalition
Los Angeles, CA

La Oportunidad
Los Angeles, CA

Trans Student Educational Resources
Monterey Park, CA

Peacock Rebellion
Oakland, CA

Trans*H4CK
Oakland, CA

Brutha's Rising, Inc.
Pittsburgh, CA

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

San Francisco Transgender Film Festival
San Francisco, CA

The Transgender College Fund
San Francisco, CA

Santa Barbara Transgender Advocacy Network
Santa Barbara, CA

Trans Women of Color Collective
Washington, DC

Good Sense Farm & Apiary
Washington, DC

The Marsha P. Johnson Institute
Washington, DC

Trans United
Washington, DC

Trans-Latina Coalition DMV
Washington, DC

East Coast Two Spirit Society
Lewes, DE

Arianna's Center
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Jacksonville Transgender Action Committee, Inc.
Jacksonville, FL

TransSOCIAL, Inc.
Miami, FL

TRANSART program at Unity Coalition|Coalicion Unida
Miami Beach, FL

Kinetic Collective
TAMPA, FL

Trans Latina Florida
Victoria Park, FL

FTM Foundation
Atlanta, GA

Tiger's Eye Collective
Atlanta, GA

Trans Housing Atlanta Program, Inc.
Atlanta, GA

Trans(forming)
Atlanta, GA

Comunidad Estrella
Brookhaven/Atlanta, GA

LaGender Inc.
Eastpoint, GA

Tent City Kweenz
Kailua, HI

Idaho Transgender Healthcare Advocacy Coalition
Boise, ID

Brave Space Alliance
Chicago, IL

RAD Remedy
Chicago, IL

Trans Oral History Project
Chicago, IL

Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois
Chicago, IL

Upswing Advcoates
Chicago, IL

Youth Empowerment Performance Project (YEPP)
Chicago, IL

GenderNexus
Indianapolis, IN

Kansas Statewide Transgender Education Project
Topeka, KS

Kentucky Health Justice Network and TSTAR
Louisville, KY

Louisiana Trans Advocates
Metairie, LA

New Legacy Ministries\Media
New Orleans, LA

Transitions Louisiana
New Orleans, LA

Sistas of the "t"
Baltimore, MD

Baltimore Transgender Alliance
Baltimore, MD

MaineTransNet
Portland, ME

Portland Outright
Portland, ME

Detroit REPRESENT!
Detroit, MI

Trans+ (Trans Plus)
Duluth, MN

Area 425
Minneapolis, MN

Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition
Minneapolis, MN

RARE Productions
Minneapolis, MN

SPIRAL Collective
Minneapolis, MN

Mid Missouri Transgender Support
Columbia, MO

Our Spot KC
Kansas City, MO

The Trans Queer Flat
St Louis, MO

Metro Trans Umbrella Group
St. Louis, MO

Bois of the Sippi
Corinth, MS

The Spectrum Center
Hattiesburg, MS

Montana Two Spirit Society
Missoula, MT

NC Trans Leadership Council
Asheville, NC

Transformers
Asheville, NC

Tranzmission
Asheville, NC

Tranzmission Prison Project
Asheville, NC

trans.formation
Charlotte, NC

Transcend Charlotte
Charlotte, NC

Durham Gender Alliance
Durham, NC

The Clearing
Durham, NC

Greensboro Community Care Collective
Greensboro, NC

NC Queer TROUBLMakers
Greensboro, NC

Fuerza y Union Multiple
Henderson, NC

The Eagles' Nest
Liberty, NC

Trans-Generational Oral History Project
Albuquerque, NM

Transwoman Empowerment Initiative
Albuquerque, NM

Tres Soles
Albuquerque, NM

Gender Justice Nevada
Las Vegas, NV

Las Vegas TransPride
Las Vegas, NV

Community Kinship Life (CK Life)
Bronx, NY

bklyn boihood
Brooklyn, NY

Black Trans Media
Brooklyn, NY

Kaffir Bois
Brooklyn, NY

New York City Trans Oral History Project
Brooklyn, NY

No Labels Clothing Cooperative
Buffalo, NY

Transgressions/Dorian Corey Project
Buffalo, NY

Cólectivo Intercultural TRANSgrediendo / CITG
Jackson Heights, NY

Transcend Legal
Jackson Heights, NY

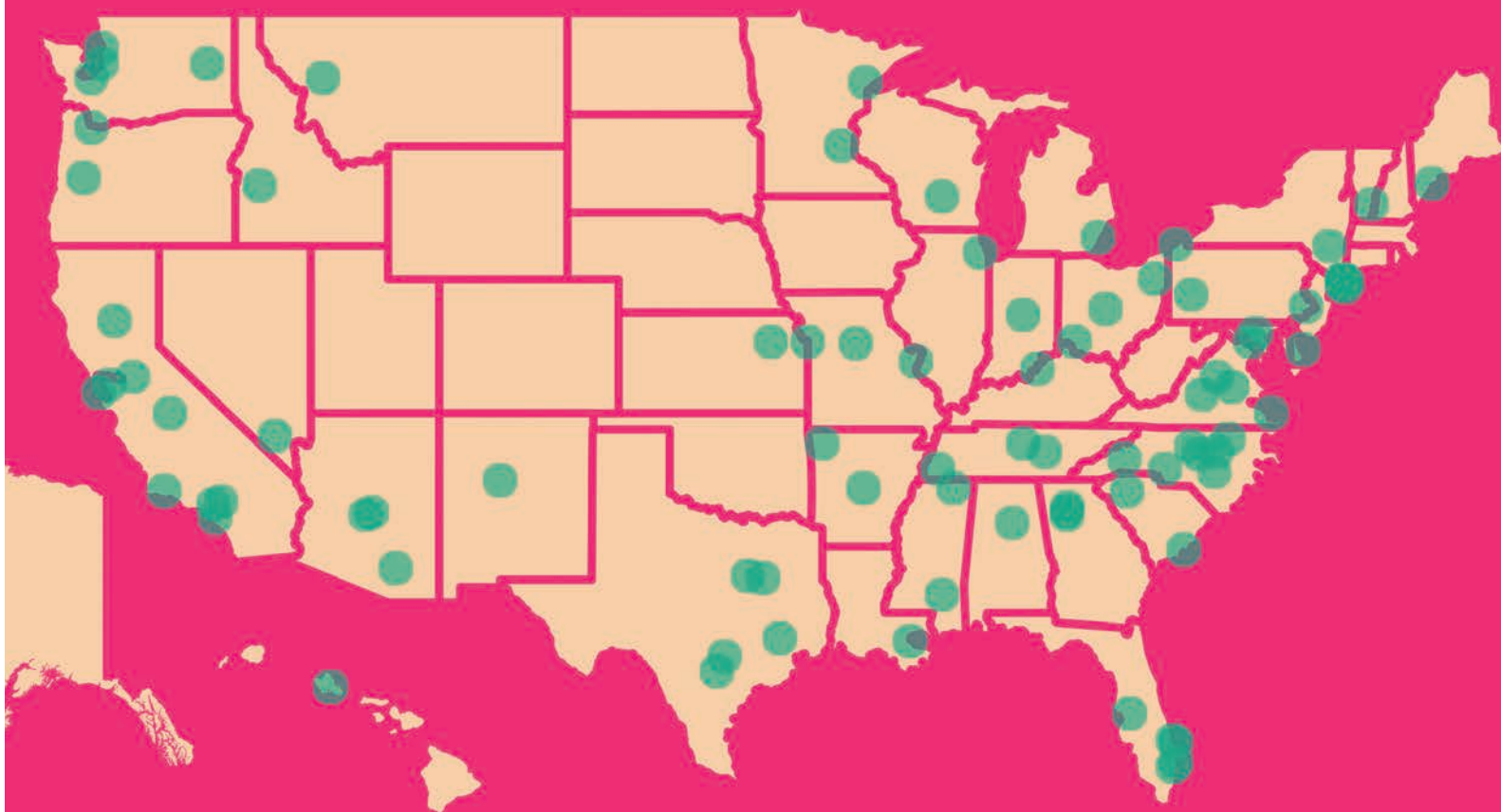
Queer Detainee Empowerment Project
New York, NY

TGNC Financial Empowerment Project
New York, NY

Translatina Network
New York, NY

TransGenerational Theatre Project
Queens, NY





Jay's House
Woodbourne, NY

Heartland Trans Wellness Group
Cincinnati, OH

TransOhio
Columbus, OH

Transform Ohio
Youngstown, OH

Trans*ponder
Eugene, OR

Beyond These Walls
Portland, OR

Bridgewalkers Alliance
Portland, OR

Sankofa Collective NW
Portland, OR

The Equi Institute
Portland, OR

Trans Assistance Project
Portland, OR

TransFamily of NWPA
Erie, PA

Black Excellence Collective
Philadelphia, PA

Hearts on a Wire
Philadelphia, PA

**Interfaith Working Group (doing
business as Transfaith)**
Philadelphia, PA

Garden of Peace Project
Pittsburgh, PA

**School of Liberation Healing and
Medicine/Queering Herbalism**
Pittsburgh, PA

We Are Family- Trans Love Fund
Charleston, SC

Gender Benders
Piedmont, SC

The Meadow Collective
Liberty, TN

Bold & Beautiful
Memphis, TN

**Tennessee Transgender Political
Coalition**
Nashville, TN

The Trans Buddy Program
Nashville, TN

allgo
Austin, TX

**Central Texas Transgender Health
Coalition**
Austin, TX

Cicada Collective
Austin, TX

Black Transmen Inc.
Dallas, TX

Black Transwomen Inc.
Dallas, TX

Trans Pride Initiative
Dallas, TX

Latinas Trans Dallas
Fort Worth, TX

Gender Infinity
Houston, TX

**Organizacion Latina de Trans en
Texas**
Houston, TX

Trans Legal Aid Clinic Houston
Houston, TX

Transform Houston
Houston, TX

**Transgender Education Network
of Texas**
San Marcos, TX

SPART*A, Inc.
Alexandria, VA

Lynchburg Transgender Alliance
Lynchburg, VA

Community Ele'te
Richmond, VA

Nationz Foundation
Richmond, VA

**Transgender Veterans Support
Group-Virginia**
Richmond, VA

CVille
Troy, VA

**Transgender Assistance Program of
Virginia**
Virginia, VA

Green Mountain Crossroads
Brattleboro, VT

Outshine NW
Burienc, WA

Stonewall Youth
Olympia, WA

Collective of Geniuses
Seattle, WA

Gender Justice League
Seattle, WA

Ingersoll Gender Center
Seattle, WA

Rising Up
Seattle, WA

Spokane TALL
Spokane, WA

Center for Community Healing
Madison, WI

Our 2017 Grantees

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

API-Equality North California (San Francisco, CA) builds power for trans, gender non-conforming, and queer Asian and Pacific Islanders through values-based skill building workshops, oral history projects, and trans and GNC API-centered convenings and reflection spaces.

Area 425 (Minneapolis, MN) is a Minneapolis DIY arts collective that centers trans and queer folks of color to provide community visibility and a platform for expression for queer/trans artists.

Arianna's Center (Fort Lauderdale, FL) delivers key services through an integrated case management model with combined capacity around immigrant experiences, sex workers, HIV, and trans competence.

The Arkansas Transgender Equality Coalition (ArTEC) (North Little Rock, AR) aims to advance equality, justice, and inclusiveness for transgender and gender non-conforming Arkansans.

Baltimore Transgender Alliance (Baltimore, MD) is a coalition of trans-led and trans-inclusive organizations in Baltimore City working towards the upward mobility and empowerment of transgender residents through advocacy and education.

Beyond These Walls (Portland, OR) is a trans-led and trans-run network of LGBT prisoners and free-world volunteers who support each other.

bklyn boihood (Brooklyn, NY) works to create spaces where black and brown queer and trans bois (an umbrella term embracing the diaspora of queer masculinity) and their communities can cultivate stories, dreams, and creative work.

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



Allgo, Austin, TX, 2017 TJFP Grantees

Black Trans Media (Brooklyn, NY) exists to shift and re-frame the value and worth of black trans peoples by creating community, media, and education for racial and gender justice.

Black Transmen, Inc. (Dallas, TX) is a national non-profit social advocacy organization that works to empower African American transgender men by addressing multi-layered issues of injustice.

Black Transwomen, Inc. (Dallas, TX) is a national non-profit organization established to specifically address the urgent concerns of transwomen in African American communities.

Bois of the Sippi (Corinth, MS) helps create safe spaces for masculine-of-center women and trans men.

Bold & Beautiful (Memphis, TN) provides a safe space for trans women of color to be free and express themselves; advocates for those experiencing HIV criminalization; and provides referrals for domestic and sexual violence counseling, HIV/STD testing, and workshops on prevention, education, jobs, and name changes.

Brave Space Alliance (Chicago, IL) is a grassroots-funded initiative created, led by, and geared towards trans and gender non-conforming people of color to generate opportunities, engage in healing, build community, and create kinship.



Bridgewalkers Alliance, Portland, OR, 2017 TJFP Grantee

Bridgewalkers Alliance (Portland, OR) serves as a bridge for marginalized communities to access land at Tryon Farm and as a resource for educational and community events centered around sustainability, food sovereignty, cultural resiliency, and healing.

Bruthas Rising, Inc. (Oakland, CA) provides a monthly support group, resources, community outreach, and peer support to improve the quality of life for Transmen of color.

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

Center for Community Healing (Madison, WI) provides art therapy/mental health services to LGBT individuals, consulting services for transgender and gender non-conforming people, and trainings for trans-competent care across systems.

Central Texas Transgender Health Coalition (Austin, TX) supports the health and wellbeing of the transgender and gender non-binary community by facilitating access to quality healthcare resources and educating healthcare, mental health, and social service professionals.

Cicada Collective (Austin, TX) is a queer and trans people of color-centered organization that aims to provide access to reproductive resources and transition-related care in Texas.

The Clearing (Durham, NC) is a community centering and celebrating queer, trans, non-binary, black, brown, and indigenous lives and bodies. The Clearing is an emerging home for all expressions of faith and non-faith in the spiritual alchemy of radical care, support, and love.

Collective of Geniuses (Seattle, WA) provides infrastructure for community-based organizing, and is led by those most disenfranchised, i.e., queer and trans people of color, folks with disabilities, sex workers, active drug users, and people who are homeless and/or participate in street economies.

Community Ele'te (Richmond, VA) conducts community outreach to bring HIV awareness to the LGBTQ community, provides trans-friendly resources through a resource linkage program, and assists victims of domestic violence by providing emergency housing.

CK Life (Bronx, NY) is a non-profit organization committed to providing services and resources to the trans community during and after transition.

Comunidad Estrella (Brookhaven/Atlanta, GA) has a support group of five to ten trans women who come together once a month to discuss different issues that impact the community.

CVille (Troy, VA) is a small group for anyone on the trans* spectrum seeking support and information.

Detroit REPRESENT! (Detroit, MI) is a collective made up of LGBTQ youth of color and supportive adults who work to create youth-led media about the experiences of queer youth of color from Detroit.

Durham Gender Alliance (Durham, NC) is a gender issues support group that has online meetings and in-person meetings in Durham.

The Eagles' Nest (Liberty, NC) provides love, support, encouragement, emergency housing, and resource connections to LGBTQIA youth that are disenfranchised and/or displaced.

The East Coast Two Spirit Society (Lewes, DE) is devoted to Two Spirit Native American and First Nations communities and combating the impact of oppression through education, visibility, and building community spaces.

The Equi Institute (Portland, OR) offers holistic primary care, hormone therapy, sexual and reproductive healthcare for transgender, gender non-conforming, and intersex people.

Four Direction Fire Keeper - Eagle Evolution (Long Beach, CA) is a collective of 12 Indigenous Transmasculine Brothers that create safe space for communities to build with one another and receive support.



Detroit REPRESENT, Detroit, MI, 2017 TJFP Grantee

Project FOCUS (Freedom, Opportunity, Compassion, Unity, Stability) (Atlanta, GA) is a program of the FTM Foundation, which stems from the philosophy that everyone deserves a decent life.

Fuerza y Union Multiple (Henderson, NC) works across race, nationality, and gender to cultivate a united community where everyone has equal rights and a better quality of life through education, activism, and resources.

Garden of Peace Project (Pittsburgh, PA) was created to uplift, uphold, and empower the narratives and lived experiences of queer and/or trans folks of color.

Gender Benders (Piedmont, SC) is a grassroots support and advocacy group for trans and GNC folks in the southeastern U.S., based in upstate South Carolina, including chapters in Hattiesburg, Mississippi; Hendersonville, North Carolina; and Clemson and Greenville, South Carolina.

Gender Infinity (Houston, TX) offers affirming services in conferences, consultation and training, and community support for transgender and gender diverse people of all ages, along with their families and providers.

Gender Justice LA (Los Angeles, CA) is a member-based, grassroots social justice organization led by and for gender non-conforming, gender fluid, two-spirit, questioning, and trans Black and Native people of color in LA County, centering low-income, unemployed and under-employed communities.

Gender Justice League (Seattle, WA) is a multi-disciplinary civil and human rights organization that engages in community building, education, leadership development, legal aid, and advocacy by, for, and about gender diverse and trans people.

Gender Justice Nevada (Las Vegas, NV) is a statewide advocacy and anti-violence organization that champions the healing, dignity, and justice of sex/gender diverse persons and communities.

GenderNexus (Indianapolis, IN) empowers gender diverse individuals to live authentically healthy and holistic lives in all components of individual wellness.

Good Sense Farm & Apiary (Washington, D.C.) is a collectively-run, trans-led urban farm and food brand specializing in nutrient-dense local snacks.

Green Mountain Crossroads (Brattleboro, VT) connects rural LGBTQ people to build community, visibility, knowledge, and power.

Greensboro Community Care Collective (Greensboro, NC) improves access by queer and trans people of color to affirming mental health resources and builds collective capacity for sustainable support.



Grantees from across regions saying hello at the Philadelphia Trans Health Conference



Left: Ingersoll Gender Center, Seattle, WA; right: Jay's House, Woodbourne, NY; 2017 TJFP Grantees

Heartland Trans Wellness Group (Cincinnati, OH) provides a variety of services to the trans and LGBQPIA communities, including professional training to peer support groups, workshops, and an LGBT center.

Hearts on a Wire (Philadelphia, PA) is a Philadelphia-based collective that organizes across prison walls to support incarcerated transgender and gender-variant people throughout Pennsylvania and engage local communities affected by mass imprisonment and state violence.

Idaho Transgender Healthcare Advocacy Coalition (Boise, ID) provides transgender Idahoans with a healthcare database, education to organizations on transgender issues, and political advocacy with other organizations in the interest of transgender healthcare justice.

Immigrant Youth Coalition (Los Angeles, CA) is an organization of undocumented and queer/trans youth that mobilizes youth and incarcerated people to be their own advocates to organize for societal change.

Ingersoll Gender Center (Seattle, WA) hosts a weekly peer-led support group for transgender and gender non-conforming people to build community and connect folks to resources and ongoing advocacy efforts.

Jacksonville Transgender Action Committee, Inc. (Jacksonville, FL) seeks to improve the quality of life for transgender, intersex, and gender-variant people.

Jay's House (Woodbourne, NY) runs support groups in the NYC shelter system for LGBTQ individuals and helps LGBTQ communities access resources for maneuvering through the different systems.

Kaffir Bois (Brooklyn, NY) provides a safe and affirming space for Trans and gender non-conforming Muslim (spiritual, secular, practicing, Sunni, Shia, etc.) youth (people under 30) living in New York City.

Kansas Statewide Transgender Education Project (Topeka, KS) works to end discrimination against transgender Kansans through outreach and community building, an annual conference, recognizing trans and gender non-conforming activists, and education by and for transgender people of color.

Kentucky Health Justice Network (Louisville, KY) is a reproductive justice organization that works with TSTAR, a grassroots organization, to empower trans and LGB people through community outreach, health trainings, and affirmative research.

The Kinetic Collective (Tampa, FL) provides empowering training services for the trans community, including personal and group strength training services, political education workshops, food, and mind-body-self sustainable living.

La Oportunidad (Los Angeles, CA) is an outreach ministry related to the United Methodist Church that provides for the material and spiritual needs of poor, homeless, undocumented, and transgender people living in central LA.

LaGender, Inc. (East Point, GA) is a black and trans women of color-led organization based in Atlanta dedicated to empowering the trans community on the unique issues of HIV/AIDS, homelessness, wrongful incarceration, mental health, and societal discrimination.

Las Vegas TransPride (Las Vegas, NV) provides services, including a six-day TransPride event, drop-in services, workshops, support groups, and food, to the Trans-Expansive community of Las Vegas.

Latinas Trans Dallas (Fort Worth, TX) works towards visibility and leadership for trans women, promotes racial, social, and gender justice, and provides legal advice for trans Latinas.

Live It Fully Empowered (LIFE) (Long Beach, CA) connects and empowers marginalized transgender, gender non-conforming, and LGBTIQ people with situation-specific resources.

Louisiana Trans Advocates (Baton Rouge, LA) is a statewide organization of people in the trans community working toward support, education, and information/social justice through monthly meetings, an information site, and a very active protected Facebook page.

Lynchburg Transgender Alliance (Lynchburg, VA) is a networking group and safe space that services and provides resource and referral for trans identifying individuals and their families in Lynchburg, Virginia, and surrounding areas.

MaineTransNet (Portland, ME) provides support, education, and advocacy to Maine's transgender and allied communities through peer-to-peer support groups across the state; social programming; cultural competency training with mental health, social service, and medical providers; and political advocacy.



Top: Latinas Trans Dallas, Dallas, TX;
bottom: Mariposas Sin Fronteras, Tucson, AZ;
2017 TJFP Grantees





Top: Montana Two-Spirit Society, Missoula, MT;
bottom: Nationz Foundation, Richmond, VA;
2017 TJFP Grantees



Mid-Missouri Transgender Support (Columbia, MO)

provides financial support for transgender people in Missouri to get legal name changes and documentation.

Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition (Minneapolis, MN)

is committed to improving healthcare access and the quality of health care received by trans and gender non-conforming people through education, resources, and advocacy.

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

Nationz (Richmond, VA) is an organization that provides rapid HIV and syphilis testing, provides food to LGBTQ community members, and advocates for the rights of transgender people.

NC Queer TROUBLMakers (Greensboro, NC) are dedicated to statewide education and sustainable support to Trans leadership.

NC Trans Leadership Council (Asheville, NC) is a leadership consortium that ties the work of transgender groups across the state together, uplifts people of color, and mentors future leaders.

Mariposas Sin Fronteras (Tucson, AZ) is a group of LGBTQ immigrant people who fight for the liberty of LGBTQ immigrants and for a free society instead of detention.

Marsha P. Johnson Institute (Washington, D.C.) is a leadership and educational institute that provides fellowships and organizing training to support black trans people, with priority toward the needs of black trans women and GNC femmes.

The Meadow Collective (Liberty, TN) is a low-income queer and trans collective located on 53 acres in rural middle Tennessee, focused on food and housing security, medical autonomy, and collective leadership.

Metro Trans Umbrella Group (St. Louis, MO) is a by-trans, for-trans organization bringing together the community of trans, gender queer, androgynous, intersex, and allies in the St. Louis metro area through community, visibility, advocacy, and education.

New Legacy Ministries and Media (New Orleans, LA)

creates a safe space to document the stories of overlooked and underserved individuals of color through media, advocacy, the arts, and by providing spiritual guidance.

NYC Trans Oral History Project (Brooklyn, NY)

is a collective of activists, artists, scholars, and community members, working in partnership with the New York Public Library, who are committed to oral history as anti-oppression work.

No Labels Clothing Cooperative (Buffalo, NY)

is a retail gift and thrift clothing shop, community space, and worker cooperative by and for trans and gender non-conforming folk.

North State Trans/GNC Project (Chico, CA)

breaks down the financial barriers for transgender folks to gender-affirming health care and supplies.

Organización Latina de Trans en Texas (Houston, TX)

fights for visibility and equality for the trans population in Texas, which too often experience transphobia and the deprivation of equal rights.

Our Spot KC (Kansas City, MO)

provides support, resources, educational programming, and advancement for the LGBTQ+ community.

Out Of the Box: Helpin' Tranz Form U (Fayetteville, AR)

improves the quality of life for LGBTQ people in and near northwestern Arkansas by celebrating the lives of young transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination.

Outshine NW (San Francisco, CA)

promotes trans health and equity by engaging and training medical professionals, researchers, social service providers, and communities to build skills that advance evidence-based gender education.

Peacock Rebellion (Oakland, CA)

is an East Oakland-based, trans/genderqueer/gender non-conforming people of color-centered team of activists, artists, cultural workers, healers, and community organizers who build collective power for queer and trans people of color liberation.

Portland Outright (Portland, ME)

builds the power of LGBTQ+ youth in Maine through gender, racial, and economic justice organizing led by young, queer, trans, people of color, and their allies from low-income communities.

Queer Detainee Empowerment Project (New York, NY)

works with LGBTQSGNC and HIV+ folks and their families currently in detention centers, those recently released from detention centers, and undocumented folks, providing direct services, community organizing, and an alternative to detention.

RAD Remedy (Chicago, IL)

connects trans, gender non-conforming, intersex, and queer folks to care, helps providers build affirming forms and practices, and helps organizations build capacity by centralizing referral list maintenance.

RARE Productions

(Minneapolis, MN) is an art and entertainment production company that promotes, produces, and co-creates opportunities and events for artists of color, specifically Queer and Trans artists of color.

Rising Up (Seattle, WA) is a theater production about the lives of seven Queer and Transgender People of Color in Seattle.

San Francisco Transgender Film Festival (San Francisco, CA)

is the world's first and longest-running transgender film festival. It supports emerging and established trans filmmakers, fights transphobic and under-representation of trans people in film, and works for justice in media arts.

Sankofa Collective Northwest (Portland, OR)

promotes the liberation of Black/African LGBTQ folks in the Pacific Northwest and beyond through education, organizing, and advocacy.

Santa Barbara Transgender Advocacy Network (Santa Barbara, CA) works along California's Central Coast to educate individuals and organizations on best practices and how to create spaces, actions, and policies for transgender and gender expansive clients, patients, students, and congregants.

School of Liberation Healing and Medicine/Queering Herbalism (Pittsburgh, PA) conducts anti-racist health and wellness education from a decolonial perspective by connecting QTBIPOC to their indigenous, black, brown, queer, trans, non-binary, and gender non-conforming ancestral healing histories and legacies.

Sistas of the "t" (Baltimore, MD) focuses on education, advocacy, and outreach to work toward self-empowerment and helping women make their dreams into realities.

SAGA (Southern Arizona Gender Alliance) (Tucson, AZ) is a grassroots organization of trans activists that provides peer support and social activities for trans* people and seeks to educate and persuade the larger community of the value that trans people bring.

SPART*A (Alexandria, VA) advocates for and supports actively-serving LGBT military members, veterans, and their families through policy advocacy, direct peer support, and professional development and networking.



Stonewall Youth, Olympia, WA, 2017 TJFP Grantee

The Spectrum Center (Hattiesburg, MS) is a resource and advocacy center for the LGBTQ community in southeastern Mississippi.

SPIRAL Collective (Minneapolis, MN) provides free, compassionate, non-judgmental support to the full spectrum of people across all pregnancy outcomes and reproductive experiences, centering the experiences of marginalized communities, to promote bodily autonomy, collective liberation, and reproductive justice.

Spokane TALL (Transgender Advocacy, Learning and Leadership) (Spokane, WA) advocates for safe spaces, provides visibility, and offers education and training to businesses, schools, businesses, and organizations.

Stonewall Youth (Olympia, WA) is an organization of youth, activists, and allies that empowers LGBTQ+ youth through education and community support.

Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition (Nashville, TN) is an organization designed to educate and advocate for transgender-related legislation at the federal, state, and local levels.

Tent City Kweenz (Kailua, HI) works to indigenize trans/queer liberation, digital self-determination and environmental justice by organizing displaced/houseless/landless and otherwise Native home-free queer and trans people of color living without formal shelter in contemporary Hawai'i.

TGNC Financial Empowerment Project (New York, NY) empowers trans, gender non-conforming, and non-binary people with financial literacy and comprehension.

Tiger's Eye Collective (Atlanta, GA) is a cultural and educational project that seeks to engage our community in creating physical and community sanctuary.

Trans and Muslim Project of Transfaith (Philadelphia, PA) brings together transgender Muslim leaders and key allies to strategize and implement steps to address the specific needs of transgender Muslims in the U.S.

Trans Assistance Project (Portland, OR) manages a permanent fund that provides financial assistance, via a team of volunteer advocates and lawyers, to all trans folks seeking legal document and ID changes, medicine, and medical care.

Trans Buddy Program (Nashville, TN) is a trans-founded, trans-led healthcare advocacy program located in the south that pairs transgender people seeking healthcare with peer advocates who provide resources and attend clinical visits.

Trans Housing Atlanta Program, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) provides emergency shelter, supportive services, direct legal assistance, community education, security deposit and utility assistance, and transportation assistance to the transgender and gender non-conforming community of Atlanta.

Trans Latina Florida (Victoria Park, FL) works to advocate for the specific needs of and amplify education and resources for the Trans Latinx Community.

Trans Legal Aid Clinic Houston (Houston, TX) helps trans and gnc folks file for a legal name and gender marker change in court.

Transgender College Program (San Francisco, CA) is an innovative project to fund the college applications of high-risk transgender youths between 18 and 24 years old.

The Transgender Oral History Project (Chicago, IL) is a community-driven resource that promotes a diversity of stories from transgender and GNC communities through grassroots media projects, documenting people's experiences, and teaching media production skills.

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

The Trans Queer Flat (St. Louis, MO) is a pro-social, intentional low-cost, inclusive, safer, and affirming living opportunity for Trans and gender non-binary adults.

Trans Queer Pueblo (Phoenix, AZ) is a trans and queer migrant community organizing for collective liberation in and out of detention that identifies injustices and addresses them with community-based solutions.



Trans-Latina Coalition DMV, Washington DC, 2017 TJFP Grantee



Trans*Ponder, Eugene, OR, 2017 TJFP Grantee

Trans Student Educational Resources (Monterey Park, CA)

is a youth-led organization dedicated to transforming the educational environment for trans students through intersectional advocacy, activism, and empowerment; educating the public; and training young trans activists.

Trans United (Washington, D.C.)

is a multi-racial, multi-class, and multi-generational trans-led organization working to unite trans leaders across diverse communities, deepen relationships and understanding across difference, clarify shared values, and mobilize resources to realize justice.

Trans Women of Color Collective (Washington, D.C.)

is a grassroots initiative working to uplift the narratives, lived experiences, and leadership of trans, gender non-conforming, and non-binary people of color and our families and comrades.

Trans-E-Motion (Fresno, CA)

is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides support, education, and advocacy to transgender persons and their family and friends.

The Trans-Generational Oral History Project (Albuquerque, NM)

strives to preserve and share the stories and experiences of the diverse and intersectional trans* community.

Trans-Latina Coalition DMV (Washington, D.C.)

works on rallies, community advocacy, peer advocacy, trans awareness campaigns, and immigration issues with Trans-Latina women and Trans-Latino men.

trans.formation (Charlotte, NC)

co-creates sanctuary and healing with transgender and gender non-conforming people of color in a collectively run, community-oriented house.

Trans(forming) (Atlanta, GA) is a people of color- and volunteer-led organization that offers, provides, and receives peer support, resources, activism, advocacy, and social group connections.

Trans*H4CK (Oakland, CA)

creates technology that economically empowers, improves access to social services, promotes gender safety and community sustainability, and brings visibility to trans tech innovators and entrepreneurs.

Trans*Ponder (Eugene, OR)

is a grassroots, transgender-founded and -led non-profit that provides monthly meetings, special events, exclusivity trainings, and advocacy services for the Trans/Gender Diverse community and allies.

Trans*Visible (Columbia, CA)

increases the visibility of political education, gender justice, and queer liberation trainers, their work, and trans*-responsive social justice strategies they lead.

(Trans+) Trans Plus (Duluth, MN)

is a social and support group in Northern Minnesota and Wisconsin that provides support and assistance to all trans-identified people, including genderqueer/nonbinary, Two Spirit, and intersex individuals.

TRANSART at Unity Coalition|Coalicion Unida (Miami Beach, FL)

is for the Latino|Hispanic|LGBT community and advances equality and fairness through education, leadership, and awareness.



Transcend Arizona, Paradise Valley, AZ, 2017 TJFP Grantee

Transcend Arizona (Paradise Valley, AZ) is made up of mostly formerly-detained trans, GNC, and queer migrants who do solidarity work with people in detention centers and prisons and build community-based resources for surviving and thriving.

Transcend Charlotte (Charlotte, NC) is a trans-led organization that provides programs and direct services to transgender, gender non-conforming individuals, and their loved ones in Charlotte and the surrounding region.

Transcend Legal (Jackson Heights, NY) cultivates equitable social, medical, and legal recognition of transgender people by offering culturally competent, transgender-led legal representation, public policy advocacy, community education and organizing, and public education.

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

Transform Houston (Houston, TX) runs a long-form canvass program designed to reduce prejudice against transgender, GNC, and LGB people in Houston and educate residents about the need for nondiscrimination laws.

Transform Ohio (Youngstown, OH) is a group of TGNCQ community organizers who seek to expand safety and power for TGNC people in Ohio while navigating increased visibility, increased anti-trans violence, and rapidly shifting governmental conditions.

Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois (Chicago, IL) is a Chicago collective that responds to the urgent need for legal services for trans people targeted by the criminal legal system.

Transformers (Asheville, NC) is a peer support group for gender variant, transgender, and questioning people that meets twice a month in different locations in western North Carolina and hosts twice-monthly activities.

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

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

Transgender Education Network of Texas (San Marcos, TX) works to empower, educate, and advocate for trans rights.

Transgender Veterans Support Group - Virginia (Richmond, VA) is a public forum for all transgender people and those who support them in the Virginia area, with emphasis given to transgender veterans who face issues with the Veterans Administration.

TransGenerational Theatre Project (TGTP) (Queens, NY) is a multigenerational theatre project in which trans and gender non-conforming (gnc) people create theatre from their own ideas and experiences.

TRANsgressing Intercultural Collective (Jackson Heights, NY) supports comprehensive cultural and social health for the Translatina community and fights against discrimination based on gender identity and AIDS/HIV in New York.

Transgressions (Buffalo, NY) is a community online support group and transgender woman-focused art collective that responds to the invisibility of queer and trans people of color and provides resources in the western New York area.

Transitions Louisiana (New Orleans, LA) serves Transgender Non-Conformant (TGNC) individuals age 25 and over transition throughout all aspects of their lives, focused mainly on TGNC people of color in the New Orleans metro area.

Translatina Network (New York, NY) provides education, advocacy, and prevention services, striving to empower peers to continue to grow and become leaders and activists.

Trans Ohio (Columbus, OH) founded in 2005, is premised on four guiding principles: Advocacy, Education, Support, and Building Community.



Trans Love Fund, Charleston, SC, 2017 TJFP Grantee



Transfaith, Philadelphia, PA, 2017 TJFP Grantee

TransSOCIAL, Inc. (Miami, FL) hosts monthly educational meetings to empower the trans community, and provides a website featuring trans-inclusive events and meetings, local social providers, and national resources.

Transwoman Empowerment Initiative (Albuquerque, NM) works on providing an accessible and professional track for trans leadership, offering policy navigation for healthcare and legal name changes, decriminalizing sex work, and dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline.

Tranzmission (Asheville, NC) strives to make the lives of non-binary and transgender people safer, healthier, and happier through education, advocacy, and support.

Tranzmission Prison Project (Asheville, NC) is a queer- and trans-powered prison abolition organization providing free literature and resources for incarcerated members of the LGBTQ community.

Tres Soles (Albuquerque, NM) is an arts collective that creates space for visual, performance, and media arts centering around politics and ceremony in a sober space for the two spirit, trans and gnc community.

Upswing Advocates (Chicago, IL) provides transgender-focused, LGBTQIA-inclusive individualized coaching services, support groups, research, and trainings for professionals who seek to build their competence in working with transgender and queer communities.

Trans Love Fund (Charleston, SC) is a program of We Are Family that provides microgrants to trans identified individuals throughout South Carolina for medical, legal, and emergency living experiences.

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

Donor Reflections

"To strengthen trans communities and improve trans lives, we need many voices and many kinds of work—cultural, political, providing services, and building community. I'm proud to support TJFP because they are funding some of the most essential work happening around the country. TJFP's innovative model and support for efforts small and large make them an indispensable pillar of the trans movement."

– Harper Jean Tobin, Director of Policy, National Center for Transgender Equality

"You see dire needs in the community. You have a vision and dream to solve the immediate problems your community is facing. And there is no money to do the work and that's so discouraging..."

What I love about TJFP is its 'no strings attached' giving to empower trans leadership. Having TJFP trusting you and supporting your work without requiring a long application and justification is like being showered with the unconditional love you always wanted from your parents. You need someone like TJFP behind you so you can try something new through grassroots organizing and learning along the way, even if you fail, to bring hope and success to your community.

As a mom of a transgender son, I'm grateful for the work TJFP is doing to build trans leadership by showing what unconditional love is like.

That's why I support TJFP and I invite others to join this movement."

- Clara Yoon, Founder of API Rainbow Parents, PFLAG NYC

"You need someone like TJFP behind you so you can try something new through grassroots organizing and learning along the way, even if you fail, to bring hope and success to your community."

- Clara Yoon, Founder of API Rainbow Parents, PFLAG NYC

"As someone who is committed to Black liberation, I understand that collective liberation is only possible if all Black people are considered inherently valuable. I love that TJFP embodies that value."

- Charlene A. Carruthers, National Director BYP100

"I give to TJFP because I believe in valuing the expertise of grassroots organizing and power building led by and for trans folks. Who better to be in leadership than the people who are closest to trans-led resistance and the resilience of people who experience gender, racial and economic oppression? All of us who believe in freedom should give time and money, no matter the amount, to causes that matter, and TJFP's work matters. Lastly, as someone who is committed to

Black liberation, I understand that collective liberation is only possible if all Black people are considered inherently valuable. I love that TJFP embodies that value."

- Charlene A. Carruthers, National Director
BYP100

"I donate because I have deep trust in the mission and the ethics of the TJFP, and because I wanted to find a way to support local justice work that is sometimes at a great distance from where I live and from the communities in which I participate. I understand

the fight for justice of all kinds as always, on some level, a local project; communities define their own, specific needs, and these needs will always vary from place to place. Donating to TJFP felt like a way to support a broad range of people, community work, and organizations dedicated to trans justice, who all envision what that might look like slightly differently, and whose visions are specific to where they come from, who they are, what they work toward, and what they want."

- Greta LaFleur, Assistant Professor in the Department of American Studies at Yale University



TJFP with friends at the Funding Forward Conference, Seattle, WA

Thank You to Our Donors!

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

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"When I received notice that [we] received our first grant, I was humbled, hopeful, and grateful.

Humbled because not long ago, [our organization] was what seemed, for most, a naive attempt at changing the world we live in.

Hopeful because organizations like yours, specifically people like you, who after dreaming a vision, take the necessary plans and actions to bring it to fruition, are the reason I continue to put one foot in front of another.

And grateful because that seed of hope gives us the opportunity to take the necessary steps to walk with you side by side for a common goal."

-2017 TJFP grantee

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