

UU Funding Program
Fund for A Just Society
Grants Made Spring 2021

Adoptees for Justice

Chicago, IL

#Citizenship4AllAdoptees

\$10,000 Grant

Adoptees for Justice (A4J) is a grassroots predominantly volunteer organization entirely led by intercountry adoptees. The goal is to achieve citizenship for all intercountry adoptees, including those with criminal legal system histories. Impacted adoptees lack the privileges of citizenship and are at risk for deportation. Adoptees without citizenship face deportation for incidents that occurred many years ago. The U.S. has already deported at least 46 adult adoptees to over 20 countries where they do not know the language, are unfamiliar with the culture, and often have no known family.

Alianza Agricola, Inc.

Geneseo, NY

Building Bridges: Farmworkers and Farmers Collaborating for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

\$10,000 Grant / \$5,000 Challenge

Founded in 2016, the Alianza Agrícola is New York State's only worker-founded, worker-led group of undocumented immigrant farmworkers organizing for liberation. Alianza Agrícola will build alliances with farmers, farmer associations and other agricultural interest groups. Our short-term goal is to support comprehensive immigration reform efforts by bringing together diverse stakeholders to advocate with us. The longer-term goal is to collaborate on programs of mutual benefit - farmworker health and safety training, housing upgrades, and a fair food standards program.

Arab American Action Network

Chicago, IL

AAAN Campaign to End Racial Profiling

\$2,500 Challenge

The Campaign seeks to end policies of racial, national, and religious profiling in Chicagoland, an important struggle in today's political context, as the harassment and targeting of Arabs and Muslims continues. The Campaign was researched and launched by members of the AAAN Youth Organizing Program (YOP). As part of a plan to expand their base, the youth have coordinated their work with the organizing goals of the AAAN's Arab Women's Committee (AWC), bringing the AWC more deliberately into the Campaign's leadership.

B.R.E.A.D.

Columbus, OH

"Real Change Now!"

\$5,000 Challenge

The BREAD Organization is an interfaith coalition of 41 religious congregations working together for social and economic justice. BREAD leaders are fed up with the senseless and unjustified police killings of unarmed Black men. With 2 Black men losing their lives to law enforcement in the same month in Columbus, Ohio, our leaders knew that our community needed real change now! This campaign seeks to shift city budget priorities and change policing practices in order to save lives and lead to stronger training for police. Help and not harm.

Change Comes Now

Lake Park, FL

Clemency: The Need is Great. The Time is Now

\$10,000 Grant

Women incarcerated in Florida are subject to degrading and harmful conditions, including physical, sexual, and emotional abuse at the hands of corrections staff, unsafe living environments, a lack of basic personal hygiene products, limited access to medical care, and insufficient food. The criminal “justice” system has a range of unjust outcomes – frequently based upon race, gender, poverty, and addiction. Led by formerly incarcerated women, CCN is dedicated to dismantling Florida’s incarceration nation approach – and clemency is a case-by-case basis for correcting justice system failures. CCN’s clemency campaign works both on the inside and the outside to reduce the number of women in prison.

Comite de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agri–colas

Glassboro, NJ

PA Undocumented Community’s Drive Towards Justice

\$10,000 Grant

CATA is a migrant farmworker organization governed by and comprised of farmworkers and immigrant workers. CATA's mission is to empower farmworkers and immigrant workers to fight for their rights so they can live a full life. The Latinx community in Chester County, PA will participate in the state-wide Driving PA Forward campaign as they promote drivers’ licenses for all regardless of immigrant status. Through this process, workers will build their capacity to fight for their basic rights and impact PA drivers’ license legislation.

Firelands Workers United Trabajadores Unidos

Seattle, WA

Rebuild Timber Country: Winning a Healthy, Affordable Housing & Green Union Jobs Program in Rural WA

\$15,000 Grant

From farmland to timber country, rural communities across Washington State are facing the impacts of decades of disinvestment. Corporate “boom and bust” and colonial extraction, exploitation of workers and the land, a landscape of toxic and unhealthy housing, and decades of Rightwing infrastructure and media have led to deep disparities, poverty, and dangerous politics. Through Firelands’ Rebuild Timber Country campaign, thousands of rural low-wage workers across race will participate to win public investments in local, green, union jobs to build and repair healthy, affordable, green housing in WA state’s coastal timber communities. Through local organizing, leaders will become protagonists for Green New Deal-style policy.

La Conexion

Bowling Green, OH

Proyecto Dignidad

\$5,000 Grant / \$5,000 Challenge

La Conexion, a grassroots community-based organization, was established in 2013 to empower the community for positive social change. The Latinx community had grown significantly in the NW Ohio region - average of 40% between the 2,000 and 2010 Censuses - helping offset population losses. However, our community had remained invisible, marginalized and powerless. *Dignidad* is led by Latinx and recent immigrants to: 1) Achieve comprehensive and just immigration reform, and 2) guarantee access and equity in the fight against Covid-19. Strategies: a. Organizing and mobilizing within the immigrant community to lead the effort; b. Building solidarity and engaging the faith communities in the struggle; c. Policy & institutional initiatives to address systemic change.

ONE DC

Washington, DC

Cancel Rent DC

\$5,000 Grant

Since our founding in 2006, Organizing Neighborhood Equity (ONE DC) builds collective community power through grassroots organizing, leadership development of members, worker-owned cooperatives, and the collective use of resources. The Right to Housing Committee focuses on tenant organizing and combating displacement. The pandemic shifted our focus to demand the cancellation of rent for tenants who have lost wages due to the pandemic and can't afford to pay rent. We build collective community power through grassroots organizing, leadership development, and coalition-building.

Philly Thrive

Philadelphia, PA

Right To Thrive Campaign

\$7,500 Grant

Philly Thrive was founded in 2015 by a group of recent graduates with experience in environmental justice organizing who did a months-long listening tour in neighborhoods near the PES refinery. *The Right to Thrive Campaign* contests for the future of the former PES site, the largest redevelopment project since Philadelphia was established in the late 1600s, accounting for 2% of the city's land. This campaign seeks to repair 154 years of violence by winning a complete clean up of the land, dignified jobs & investment in nearby neighborhoods, and a permanent seat at the table for impacted residents.

Reentry Housing Alliance

Charlotte, NC

Expanding Housing Opportunities for People with Criminal Records

\$7,500 Grant

The Reentry Housing Alliance (RHA) is a growing group of people who are passionate about solving the housing crisis among those with criminal records in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. The Reentry Housing Alliance will further its efforts to create housing opportunities for people living with criminal records in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Guided by those with lived experience, and assisted by Unitarian Universalist volunteers, we will continue our work to eliminate systemic discrimination and advocate for housing solutions to meet the varied needs of people with records.

RPCAN // Alliance for Community Services

Chicago, IL

Facility Resident Empowerment Project

\$7,000 Grant

Sparked by cuts to Medicaid and closing of public aid offices and mental health clinics, the Alliance for Community Services unites consumers that depend on public services (Medicaid, ESL classes, SNAP, home caregivers) with frontline workers that provide those services (caseworkers, ESL teachers). The COVID pandemic put a spotlight on many long-standing racial, economic and ableist injustices. People that live and work in long-term congregate institutions (nursing homes et al.) are about 1% of Illinois' population - and more than half of its COVID deaths. RPCAN demands emergency policies that address PWD needs whenever disaster strikes, whether a flood or a pandemic. They call for healthcare systems, especially those publicly funded, to be fully accountable to consumers and the public. Facility residents must have caring service and maximum dignity. People before profits.

ScholarshipsA-Z

Tucson, AZ

UndocuYouth Empowerment Initiative

\$10,000 Grant

ScholarshipsA-Z is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide resources and scholarships to students, families and educators through online and community interactions, in order to make higher education accessible to all regardless of immigration status. They envision a society where students receive mentorship, educational, and financial resources needed to successfully pursue a degree that aligns with their abilities and career aspirations. Through leadership development, training, and services, ScholarshipsA-Z works with and for immigrant youth and young adults to reform laws that block access to educational opportunities. project will create new organizing opportunities for Undocumented youth in Arizona to fight against anti-immigration and anti-public education policies while developing an educator network to advocate for educational access across Arizona and the Southwest.

The Collective Peace Dale

South Kingstown, RI

Affordable Housing Action

\$5,000 Grant

The Affordable Housing is dedicated to organizing for just housing policy in South Kingstown, RI. The town of South Kingstown is barely halfway to reaching the state mandate that 10% of the housing stock be set aside for low and moderate income households. They are combating the housing crisis by organizing a diverse coalition to pressure the municipal government to improve public housing, increase access to high-quality rental housing for those with Section 8 vouchers, and address the skyrocketing cost of rent.

UnRestrict Minnesota

St. Paul, MN

UnRestrict Minnesota: A Campaign for Reproductive Freedom

\$5,000 Grant / \$5,000 Challenge

In 2019, UnRestrict Minnesota was launched as the first-ever, cross-sector, community-supported campaign in MN that aims to raise awareness about the state's anti-abortion laws and provide Minnesotans with information to make healthy decisions about their own lives and bodies. UnRestrict Minnesota's vision is to achieve full reproductive justice in Minnesota, an organizing framework created by Black women where every person has the ability to decide if, when, and how to become a parent; raise healthy children in safe and thriving communities; and have gender freedom and bodily autonomy.

Urbe Apie, Inc.

Caguas, PR

Building Power Against Gentrification and Displacement

\$12,500 Grant / \$2,500 Challenge

Urbe Apie is a community organization, incorporated in 2015, that revitalizes abandoned or unused spaces in the traditional urban center of the city of Caguas, Puerto Rico, for the social, cultural and economic development of the community. The organization is composed of members of the community and practices democratic participation in all decision making. We are all inclusive and serve as a safe space of LGBTQ+ participation and activities. This project is organizing a community of low-income families to stop privatization, displacement, and gentrification by changing the power structure through community ownership.

Vigilant Love

Los Angeles, CA

#ServicesNotSurveillance

\$8,500 Grant

Vigilant Love creates spaces for connection and grassroots movement to ensure the safety and justice of communities impacted by Islamophobia and violence in the greater Los Angeles Area. *#ServicesNotSurveillance* campaign seeks to abolish national security and policing from mental health spaces, centering the work on those impacted by the national security apparatus. Specifically, the *#SNS* campaign aims to abolish the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) programs like Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) and Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP) that target and criminalize Muslim, Black, and brown youth as inherently prone to "radicalization" and "extremism."

We Rise

Bronx, NY

We Rise

\$10,000 Grant

This is a vital cross-movement moment to expand domestic worker power to ensure access to essential benefits like paid sick days and family leave, living wages, a path to citizenship, and to ultimately transform the economy to one that values care and feminized labor, over profits and production. Employed in private homes, the key to organizing centers on a critical mass of domestic workers trained in workers' rights and negotiation, coupled with innovative organizing strategies to raise standards across the industry/align social movement space. We Rise connects worker leadership with industry transformation by: (1) Instilling confidence in domestic workers who continue to be devalued by society with the tools to negotiate directly with their employers to secure better working conditions; (2) connecting them with other domestic workers to develop intersectional and cross-cultural leadership models; and (3) developing innovative and transformative organizing campaigns.

Youth Vs Apocalypse

Oakland, CA

Youth Vs Apocalypse

\$10,000 Grant / \$5,000 Challenge

YVA started in 2016 as an all-volunteer group of Oakland youth, supported by adults in their community, using direct action and lobbying to fight a proposed coal terminal in their city, then expanded its focus to other climate justice issues. Their collective action uses education, Hip Hop and community organizing tactics to fight for a livable climate and an equitable, sustainable, and just world. The young people in YVA recognize that climate change is the result of systems that at their core devalue and exploit life - white supremacy, colonialism, capitalism, patriarchy, and ableism lay the foundation of our society. The reason we are in a state of climate crisis is because we live in a society that functions by exploiting people and the planet. This means that all work to stop climate change has to be grounded in a dedication to dismantle this foundation and build a new one in its place based in equity, justice, respect, love, and true sustainability.

TOTAL 19 Grants \$178,000 / \$30,00 Challenge Grants