



ORGANIZER GRANT PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

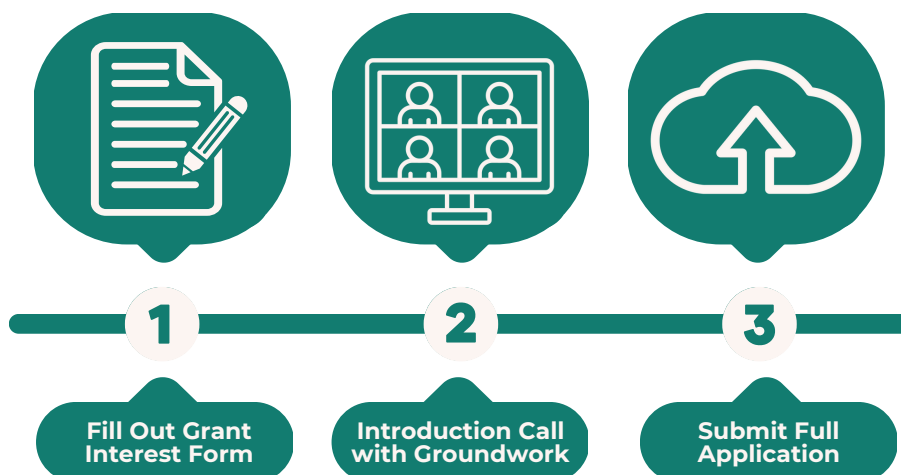
The Groundwork Organizer Grant Program (OGP) supports local, grassroots organizers closest to the ground, the true trusted messengers in communities across our focus states. We are looking for the movement-makers, base-builders and progress-seekers who are doing the work year-round in the most under-resourced and overlooked regions of the country, with little to no recognition or funding to sustain their work.

Through the OGP, Groundwork offers unrestricted, *multi-year* general operating grants to these emerging leaders to support and scale their efforts.

The foundation of the OGP's grantee experience is *capital, community and capacity*. Along with financial assistance, all of our grantees have access to wrap-around support from our team, a mini-grant fund to support further training and education, as well as the opportunity to build community and share best practices through an active, cross-state grantee network.

We believe it is these organizers and their work that create the essential civic and political infrastructure needed to win our country's ongoing fight for justice, equity and democracy itself.

Groundwork intends to run two OGP grant rounds in 2023. The spring round will be open from February 1 - March 17, 2023. The second will open in early fall. Please stay tuned via our website for exact dates and other announcements.





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CRITERIA

In choosing our grantees, Groundwork Project refers to the following criteria. It is not necessary for a grantee to meet all of these, but the more their mission and work aligns with this criteria, the better fit they will be for our program:

OPERATIONS:

- ✓ Geographically based in one of our focus states: currently Alabama, Mississippi, Oklahoma & West Virginia;
- ✓ Full-time staff sizes of <5;
- ✓ Operating budgets of <\$300,000;
- ✓ 501c3, 501c4 or PAC status or established fiscal sponsorship;
- ✓ BIPOC, women or queer organizational leadership;
- ✓ Hyperlocal groups focused on a specific region, city, town or neighborhood;
- ✓ Enthusiasm to take advantage of Groundwork's wraparound support services and contribute to the grantee community of grassroots organizers;
- ✓ Ability to absorb and effectively utilize multi-year funding.

PROGRAMMING:

- ✓ Commitment to civic engagement and grassroots organizing as a vehicle for powerbuilding in disenfranchised communities;
- ✓ Year-round community organizing programs, networks and footprint;
- ✓ Core organizational programming focused on civic engagement, direct voter contact and mobilization, community and movement building, issue advocacy or electoral work;
- ✓ Organizing activities to build and use power include but are not limited to: base-building, political education, leadership development, canvassing, issue campaigns, narrative change, direct action, digital organizing;
- ✓ Programming that supports and/or is complementary to long-term, statewide efforts to build durable political infrastructure and secure a more progressive future for the state;



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PROCESS

Groundwork's application process is based on relationship cultivation with prospective grantees, an ongoing landscape analysis of the most acute civic and political needs in our states of focus, and an assessment of where our support can be most impactful.

We operate several granting rounds each year. Please [visit our website](#) for the latest information on this year's grant rounds and what opportunities are open. Organizations wishing to be considered must first [fill out our grant interest form](#) to set up an introductory conversation with our team.

During this conversation, we will get to know you and your work, your eligibility for the Organizer Grant Program, as well as share more about Groundwork and the program.

After our introductory conversation we will provide organizations who might be good fits for the Organizer Grant Program the brief application. Groundwork may request to see additional, existing materials related to your organization to help us get a better understanding of your budget, work to date, and strategic plans.

From there, the Groundwork team makes granting decisions based on the criteria above and a collaborative assessment as to whether an organization is a good fit for our unique program. Grantees who are not selected for a particular granting round will remain eligible for consideration for the remaining grant rounds of the calendar year, with no additional application required.

Please note: While we do roll over applications within a calendar year, we refresh the process each January. If you previously applied for a Groundwork Organizer Grant in 2021 or 2022, we ask that you re-start the application process with us by filling out the grant interest form, the first step outlined above.

As a young organization, we have a limited number of grants to award each year and have to make difficult choices between many well-deserving organizations, all of whom have suffered from profound underinvestment. As our internal capacity and budget grow, so will our granting program, allowing us to constantly increase the resources we are able to provide and organizations we are able to support.

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CURRENT GRANTEES



ANGELA CURRY
UNITED WOMEN
OF COLOR



JARIBU HILL
MISSISSIPPI
WORKER'S CENTER



DR. SHANEQUA SMITH
WV BLACK VOTER
IMPACT INITIATIVE



CARA MCCLURE
FAITH & WORKS
COLLECTIVE



ANNESHIA HARDY
ALABAMA
VALUES PROGRESS



MICHELLE COLÓN
SHERO
MISSISSIPPI



SEN. ROBERT JACKSON
QUITMAN COUNTY
DEVELOPMENT ORG.



ANGIE ROSSER
WEST VIRGINIA
RIVERS



REV. JENNY WILLIAMS
WEST VIRGINIA
FAITH COALITION



CECE JONES-DAVIS
JULIUS JONES
INSTITUTE



LORENA QUIROZ
IMMIGRANT ALLIANCE
FOR JUSTICE & EQUITY



GABRIEL CABÁN CUBERO
PEOPLE'S BUDGET
BIRMINGHAM



MISTY BRADLEY
OK PARENT LEGISLATIVE
ACTION COMMITTEE



NICOLE MCCORMICK
WEST VIRGINIA
UNITED CAUCUS



ANDY MOORE
LET'S FIX
THIS.



MICH PURDUE LOVEGOOD
POLITICAL
HEALERS PROJECT



DARRIN LESTER
OLIVE TREE
INITIATIVE



ASHLEY CREED
RED DIRT
COLLECTIVE



CYNETRA FREEMAN
MISSISSIPPI CENTER
FOR RE-ENTRY



ADRIANA LAWS
OKLAHOMA CIVIC
LEARNING COALITION