Twice a year, we award grants to dozens of organizations led by New Yorkers who are directly impacted by injustice and are determined to change the rules of the game. We’re so proud to share here our most recent docket, including 42 grants in three categories: Catalyst seed funding for new groups, Grassroots Action for organizing across the boroughs, and Movement Leadership for organizations taking their work to the next level.

New to North Star Fund? We practice philanthropy in a unique way. All of our grant decisions are made by volunteer committees that include activists in the field. Our awards are unrestricted, general operating dollars—grantees decide how to best use the funds. And we are always looking to mitigate burdens on those who apply for our support—suggestions on our process are always welcome. Read on for exciting work, and join us in the fight for a more just New York!
The North Star Fund Movement Leadership Program (MLP) builds the power of New York-based community organizing through a two-year investment in individual leaders and organizations. MLP participants receive $50,000 grants over two years as they participate in peer-learning, individual coaching and support in the design and implementation of mass-mobilization campaigns. At the heart of the program’s success is our cohort model—a community of peers who become partners and more powerful agents of social justice. Recent MLP alumni have been involved in the fights for restorative justice in NYC schools, safer workplaces and language equity for New Yorkers.

Our 2017-2018 MLP cohort is composed of movement leaders who are at the forefront of NYC-based organizing shaping the agenda for broader national struggles: organizations led by and building power by and for immigrants, queer youth and low-wage workers.

Families for Freedom

$50,000

The national landscape on immigration is plagued by a focus on separating immigrants into “good” and “bad” immigrants based on any previous criminal convictions. This simplistic narrative allows for public approval of harsh treatment for some immigrants, and lowers the bar for how we treat all immigrants.

Families for Freedom is a unique organizing support center that educates and builds the leadership of immigrants facing deportation and detention because of previous criminal convictions.

Since 2002 they have been building a critical mass of immigration justice leaders drawn into the detention and deportation system because of racialized policing.

With a Movement Leadership Program grant, Families for Freedom will formalize their leadership development structure to build the skills that their member-leaders will utilize in the current fight for immigration justice.

FIERCE

$50,000

For some LGBTQ youth, home is not a safe space because of family members who reject them based on their sexual or gender identity. Once homeless, these youth are targeted by adults, including the police, and face homophobic barriers to accessing public services.

For over a decade, FIERCE has been creating queer-youth friendly spaces and training these young New Yorkers to push for access to public space and public services.

FIERCE’s staff and member leaders have been active participants in the historic victory on “stop & frisk” as part of Communities United for Police Reform. They have fought for access to services and housing from the city and won.

Through the Movement Leadership Program, FIERCE will be building a strong citywide solidarity platform for economic justice that includes the leadership of homeless and formerly homeless LGBTQ youth.
La Colmena

$50,000

Founded in 2014 by worker leaders, day laborers, domestic workers, and alliances, La Colmena is the go-to workers center in Staten Island.

Through La Colmena, day laborers and other immigrant workers can organize, receive trainings and employment related services and get help around wage theft and occupational health.

Its deep partnerships with powerful community organizations have allowed La Colmena to achieve notable advocacy successes including City Council’s historic $500K investment into workers centers citywide in 2015, as well as their latest approval of close to $1.5 million for the Day Laborer Workforce Initiative for the 2018 fiscal year.

Through the Movement Leadership Program, La Colmena will refine their pipeline for worker leaders, building skills and experience in amplifying the collective voice of the immigrant workforce.

Laundry Workers Center

$50,000

In their first six years Laundry Workers Center has recovered over $2 million in back wages for low-wage and immigrant workers in bakeries, restaurants and warehouses across New York City.

They have yet to lose a campaign, in part due to their leadership institute designed for their members. Members participate in their campaigns and training, then go on to lead campaigns and the organization.

Their latest victory—by B&H Photo warehouse workers—has resulted in recognition of the right of workers to join a union, specific safety improvements and a public settlement of over $3 million.

With a Movement Leadership Program grant, Laundry Workers Center is focused on updating their member development model to include an advanced training series for members to activate their communities, recruit volunteers, build coalitions, and create alliances to address issues of injustice.

CATALYST GRANTS

North Star Fund’s Catalyst grants support new and emerging organizations built by New Yorkers who are organizing for new solutions to challenges created in our city by inequity and injustice. Like all our grantees, these organizations must be led by New Yorkers who are directly impacted by the issues they are taking on.

Catalyst grants are specifically identified to support organizations that are in startup mode. They are refining their purposes and strategies to take on tough issues that in many cases have been decades in the making.

Given the challenge that these emerging organizations face, these grants include access to resources to help them grow their leadership and deepen their strategies. We offer these organizations streamlined renewals for up to six years. If they can demonstrate ongoing progress, we will continue to support them.

Many organizations are able to use these grants as leverage to approach other foundations and major donors to build support for taking their work to the next level.

Black Trans Media

$10,000

An emerging “creator” space bringing together trans and gender non-conforming people of color to tell stories and create media that challenges discrimination and ignorance. Renewal

Equality for Flatbush

$5,000

A lean anti-gentrification powerhouse activating long-term residents in Brooklyn in three languages (English, Spanish, Haitian Creole) to confront police and tenant harassment in their community. Renewal
Foreclosure Resisters
$10,000
An all-volunteer organization led by homeowners who have banded together in Brooklyn, the Bronx and Queens to stop predatory lenders from taking their homes. Renewal

Million Hoodies Movement for Justice
$5,000
A chapter-based national movement organized in response to the killing of Trayvon Martin that develops youth leaders organizing for the social, political and economic freedom of Black and Brown communities. Renewal

Northern Manhattan is Not for Sale
$10,000
A coalition of churches and grassroots organizations coming together to generate specific, pragmatic proposals for the city to create affordable housing in Washington Heights and Inwood. Renewal

Project Hajra
$5,000
An immigrant women-led Queens group organizing to end family and community violence by supporting peer-based transformative justice practices within and around local mosque communities. New Grantee

Queer Detainee Empowerment Project (QDEP)
$5,000
A peer-based network providing critical support to queer, transgender and HIV+ immigrants, undocumented folks, detainees and their families in NYC during and after their release from immigrant detention. Renewal

Release Aging People in Prison
$10,000
A partnership between current and former prisoners and community organizations educating the public about the cruelty and cost of incarcerating elderly prisoners in New York state. Renewal

Voces Ciudadanas
$5,000
A parent-led organization in Sunset Park fighting school overcrowding and reducing the barriers for involvement for Latino and Chinese parents who want to be part of their children’s education. Renewal

GRASSROOTS ACTION GRANTS

Our Grassroots Action grants are our largest category in number. They sustain existing organizations who have received previous grants from us who are maintaining a track record of membership involvement and holding local government and policy leaders accountable. Social justice isn’t achieved overnight, so we provide years of support as these grantees take on the long, difficult struggles for justice in our city. Each of these grants is for $10,000.

Alliance for Quality Education
A coalition of parent and student organizing groups working with low-income Black, Brown and immigrant communities to advance state policies that increase investments in students and improve public schools. New Grantee

Arab American Association of New York (AAANY)
A nationally-recognized community of Arab New Yorkers and their allies who mobilize online and offline to challenge Islamophobia, xenophobia, and discriminatory policing through organizing and advocacy training. Renewal
Black Women’s Blueprint
A feminist organization engaging survivors of sexual violence to navigate institutional policies and push for changes at work and school that will serve their healing and growth. Renewal

Brandworkers
A member-led organization based in Queens made up primarily of immigrant workers in the New York City local food production industry, organizing for dignified jobs and a just food system. Renewal

Brooklyn Movement Center
A Black-led organization confronting gentrification in Central Brooklyn by organizing around fresh food access, environmental justice, street harassment, police accountability and citizen journalism. Renewal

Community Action for Safe Apartments (CASA) / New Settlement Apartments
A coalition of Bronx tenant associations building tenant power and winning changes such as “Right to Counsel” in housing court and rent freezes for tenants across the five boroughs. Renewal

Community Food Advocates
The citywide organization that anchors Lunch 4 Learning (L4L), a successful broad, coalition-based campaign that recently won free and healthy school lunch for all public school students. Renewal

Damayan Migrant Workers Association
A Filipino women-led organization educating and engaging domestic workers and survivors of human trafficking to take on employers and systems that perpetuate their exploitation. Renewal

Faith in New York
A multi-faith network of more than 70 religious congregations training local clergy and leaders to educate and mobilize congregants across issues including climate justice, affordable housing and immigration reform. Renewal

Flanbwayan Haitian Literacy Project
A Haitian organization supporting English Language Learner youth and their parents to navigate the NYC public school system so that they can fully participate in school programs. Renewal

FPA-Foundation
A vocal base of 100 low-income Black and Brown parents standing up for the rights of children and families whose civil rights are being violated in the child welfare system. Renewal

Jahajee Sisters
A volunteer-led organization in Richmond Hill, Queens building the power of Indo-Caribbean women to challenge gender-based violence and heal generational trauma through leadership development, community building and empowerment programs. Renewal

Justice Committee
A powerful force of families who have lost loved ones to police violence and their allies winning changes to NYPD policies and holding cops accountable in the courts and the streets. Renewal

MASA-MexEd
A hybrid service-organizing model that brings together Mexican immigrant youth and families in the South Bronx to end bullying, discrimination and violence toward immigrant students in District 7 schools. Renewal

Language Learner youth and their parents to navigate the NYC public school system so that they can fully participate in school programs. Renewal

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Mekong NYC
A Bronx-based center for Southeast Asian immigrants and refugees organizing nail salon workers and community members for fair working conditions, accessible health care and responses to the threat of deportation. Renewal

Metropolitan Council / MCREF
A movement of long-time residents of rent-stabilized and rent-controlled apartments to stop the dismantling of rent regulations and the gentrification of Inwood through rezoning. Renewal

Movimiento por Justicia del Barrio / Movement for Justice in El Barrio
A Latina-led movement of El Barrio residents advocating for dignified housing conditions, an end to landlord harassment and the implementation of a 10-point plan to preserve local rent-regulated housing. Renewal

Neighbors Together
An emergency food provider and tenants’ rights organization based in Central Brooklyn organizing tenants of “three-quarter” houses to end their unsafe conditions and illegal evictions. Renewal

New York State Youth Leadership Council (NYSYLC)
An organization bringing together undocumented immigrant youth in New York in pursuit of increasing access to higher education, gender justice and immigrant rights through organizing, advocacy and community building. Renewal

NYC Community Land Initiative
A coalition of more than 30 organizations advancing non-speculative housing models that has led to city funding for community land trusts for the first time. Renewal

NYC Coalition for Education Justice (CEJ)
A parent-led organization focused on bringing racial justice into public schools through culturally responsive education and anti-bias training for school faculty. Renewal

New York Teamsters for a Democratic Union
A grassroots union reform movement to transform the Teamsters into an anti-racist, worker-led body that allies with the community to fight for social and economic justice for all working New Yorkers. Renewal

Picture the Homeless
A citywide, multiracial organization led by homeless New Yorkers pushing the city’s imagination and policy to create permanent affordable housing through leadership development, direct action, participatory action research and coalition building. Renewal

Riders Alliance
A citywide grassroots movement building the power of transit riders to fight for comprehensive, reliable and affordable public transportation in New York City. Renewal

Sylvia Rivera Law Project
A organization by and for transgender, gender non-conforming, and intersex people offering legal services, public education, and policy advocacy so their community members can live free of violence and discrimination. Renewal
Tenants and Neighbors
A statewide organization of low- and moderate-income tenants building and wielding their power to preserve affordable housing and strengthen tenants’ rights in New York. Renewal

Worker’s Justice Project
A Brooklyn-based worker center developing the leadership of Latino/a day laborers and domestic workers through worker-led campaigns for better conditions and wages as well as the development of worker-owned cooperatives. Renewal

YA-YA Network
Youth age 15-19 and their allies building youth leadership to end punitive disciplinary policies in public schools that disproportionately affect students of color, students with disabilities and LGBTQ students. Renewal

Young Women of Color HIV/AIDS Coalition
An organization focused on bringing comprehensive sexual health education to NYC schools by supporting the leadership and political education of young women to design and implement programs. Renewal

NEW YORK CITY COMMUNITY FUNDING COMMITTEE

Our New York City Community Funding Committee is made up of seasoned local organizers and activists who are part of our homegrown movements for justice. These volunteer grantmakers work closely with our grantmaking staff and spend many hours poring over grant proposals and budgets to finalize a docket of diverse grantees who are strategically advancing movements for justice in our city.

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Zahida Pirani

NYC GRANTS PROGRAM STAFF FOR FALL 2017/ WINTER 2018 CYCLE
Catherine Eusebio
Program Officer
cori schmanke parrish
Deputy Director

For questions about our New York City grantmaking programs, please get in touch with Catherine Eusebio: catherine@northstarfund.org

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Power & Hope & Resistance & Organizing & Celebration!

Join us at the 2018
NORTH STAR FUND COMMUNITY GALA
APRIL 17, 2018

6 to 10 PM Chelsea Piers
Cocktail reception, dinner and awards followed by dancing

Tickets and details at www.northstarfund.org/gala

Building Momentum
A North Star Fund “Friendraiser”
Friday, April 27
7 - 9:30 PM
In Kingston, NY, RSVP to mayra@northstarfund.org for details

Sweet Justice at Lady M
A North Star Fund Happy Hour
Thursday, May 3
7 - 9 PM
Lady M in Manhattan, RSVP to elz@northstarfund.org for details