2019 is gearing up to be New York’s year of grassroots power. We’ve already seen significant bills pass in Albany—including reforms protecting reproductive health rights, providing undocumented students with tuition support and prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity or expression. We know that behind every legislative victory are many years (sometimes decades) of organizing, strategy and mobilization. That work—rooted in community, decidedly unglamorous—has always been the core of North Star Fund’s grantmaking.

I’m pleased to share with you more about how we work at North Star Fund and how we support the broader ecosystem of grassroots organizing in New York City and the Hudson Valley. Inside this issue of Grants & News you’ll see the work of amazing organizers who are both building movement power in our statehouses and changing the face of philanthropy by leading our grantmaking process.

In addition to sharing with you our most recent slate of grants, we’ve added information about our broader community and events. 2019 is North Star Fund’s 40th anniversary, and I’d like to personally invite you to come to one of our convenings this year.

So much of our work has always been about bringing people together to build community and shift the conversation in unexpected ways. I hope you will join us!

Jennifer Ching,
Executive Director
I’m proud to share this latest set of grants for grassroots organizing in New York City.

In the summer of 2018 our New York City Community Funding Committee (CFC) met to clarify what we mean when we say “we fund community organizing.” We broke it down to elements such as membership structure, a vision for the future and building a membership base. All the criteria are shown on this page. If you’re curious to learn more about what we mean by “community organizing,” you can learn more at northstarfundorg/apply.

I can’t possibly say enough about the leadership and experience that our CFC members bring to the work. These leaders are drawn from our grantee community, and are deeply committed to bringing their experience in organizing, and using it along with our criteria, to identify the best organizations that match our grantmaking goals.

One example typifies how committed our CFC members are to this process. One evening in November, one of these volunteer grantmakers and I went on a site visit—think of it as almost like a job interview, but for a grant instead. This could have been another ordinary site visit, except this particular evening New York City was in the grip of an unexpected snowstorm that dropped inches of icy slush everywhere, disrupting the evening commute and grinding some parts of the city to a freezing, wet halt.

Even with those barriers, the site visit happened as scheduled. Applicants recognize the unique opportunity to make their case directly to a potential funder and don’t ever cancel these meetings.

A CFC member and I each traveled to the site visit through the storm, where we were joined by our language interpreters and the member-leaders from the applicant organization. We spent time together talking about strategy and approach, and how and why they needed to change New York. We left that meeting understanding how they were a fit for our criteria, and this organization is included in this most recent docket.

I continue to be deeply appreciative of the energy and excellence that CFC members bring, and of the determined grassroots leaders that we support with our grants.

What you’ll see throughout the following grants lists are organizations and leaders that unite New Yorkers who are being held on the outside of power and privilege of our city. These New Yorkers want full participation and equality and they aren’t going to settle for less. They’ll demand it from City Hall, from NYCHA, from the federal government, from leaders in philanthropy, from Albany.

And they won’t be slowed down or stopped by oppression or even by extreme weather.

Happy 2019!

Catherine Eusebio,
NYC Program Officer
GRASSROOTS ACTION GRANTS

Our Grassroots Action grants are our largest category in number, and they represent our biggest investment in people-powered organizing. These grants reflect our commitment to sustain existing New York City organizations who are building a membership and leadership base of people directly affected by an issue.

These organizations have a track record of visible impact—whether it's by holding local government and policy leaders accountable or creating local culture change.

Justice movements need consistent and reliable funding to grow, so we often provide these grants for years as grantees take on the long, difficult struggles for justice in our city. These grants range from $10,000 to $15,000.

African Communities Together

$15,000 A powerful multilingual organization of African immigrant New Yorkers fighting for language access, humanitarian immigration reform, and workers’ rights.

Arab American Association of New York (AAANY)

$10,000 A nationally recognized community of Arab New Yorkers and their allies challenging Islamophobia, xenophobia, and discriminatory policing through organizing and advocacy training.

Black Women’s Blueprint

$10,000 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.

Brandworkers

$10,000 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.

Brooklyn Movement Center*

$15,000 A Black-led organization confronting gentrification in Central Brooklyn by organizing around fresh food access, environmental justice, street harassment, police accountability and citizen journalism.

Community Action for Safe Apartments (CASA) / New Settlement Apartments

$15,000 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.
4

Community Food Advocates

**$10,000**
A broad citywide coalition that ran and won the Lunch 4 Learning (L4L) campaign for universal, free healthy lunches for all public school students and is now focused on implementation.

Future of Tomorrow / Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation

**NEW $10,000**
A student-led effort pushing public schools to provide a fair, equitable and high quality education by bringing restorative justice programs to East New York.

Damayan Migrant Workers Association*

**$15,000**
A Filipina women-led organization educating and engaging domestic workers and survivors of human trafficking to take on employers and systems that perpetuate their exploitation.

Faith in New York

**$10,000**
A multi-faith network of 70+ religious congregations engaging local clergy and leaders to educate and mobilize their congregants on social justice issues.

Flanbwayan Haitian Literacy Project

**$10,000**
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.

FPA-Foundation*

**$10,000**
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.

Jahjee Sisters

**$10,000**
A women-led organization in Richmond Hill, Queens, activating Indo-Caribbean leaders to challenge gender-based violence within their local religious congregations and heal generational trauma.

Justice Committee*

**$15,000**
A powerful force of families who have lost loved ones to police violence winning changes to NYPD policies and holding police accountable in the courts and the streets.

Masa

**$10,000**
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.

Metropolitan Council / MCREF

**$10,000**
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.

Movimiento por Justicia del Barrio / Movement for Justice in El Barrio

**$10,000**
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.

Neighbors Together

**$10,000**
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.

New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE)*

**$15,000**
A Queens-based organizing center protecting the rights—and raising workplace safety standards—of day laborers and domestic workers, connecting them with good jobs and holding fraudulent employers accountable.

New York State Youth Leadership Council (NYSYLC) *

**$15,000**
An immigrant youth-led organization in New York in pursuit of increasing access to higher education, gender justice and immigrant rights through organizing, advocacy and community building.

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.

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An immigrant youth-led organization in New York in pursuit of increasing access to higher education, gender justice and immigrant rights through organizing, advocacy and community building.
NYC Coalition for Education Justice (CEJ)
$10,000
A parent-led organization focused on bringing racial justice into public schools through culturally responsive education and anti-bias training for school faculty.

New York Teamsters for a Democratic Union*
$15,000
A grassroots union reform movement to transform the Teamsters union into an anti-racist, worker-led body that allies with the community to fight for social and economic justice for all working New Yorkers.

Sylvia Rivera Law Project
$10,000
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.

YA-YA Network
$10,000
Youth ages 15-19 and their allies building youth leadership to end punitive disciplinary policies in public schools that disproportionally affect students of color, students with disabilities and LGBTQ students.

Young Women of Color HIV/AIDS Coalition
$10,000
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.

Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice
NEW $10,000
A youth-led movement to transform their Bronx Soundview/Bruckner neighborhoods to include restorative justice in public schools, cleaner air, healthy food and the full participation of immigrant community members.

*GRASSROOTS ACTION 18-MONTH GRANTS
Due to one-time changes to the timing of Grassroots Action grants, some of the grantees in this round received 18-month grants. Their total grant award was pro-rated from the amount listed to reflect the additional time in the grant period.

Brooklyn Movement Center
Damayan Migrant Workers Association
FPA-Foundation
Justice Committee
New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE)
New York State Youth Leadership Council (NYSYLC)
NY Teamsters for a Democratic Union

DAMAYAN MIGRANT WORKERS ASSOCIATION
Catalyst grants fund start-up organizations and are an important element of how we keep expanding and deepening New York’s movements for justice. These grants support new leaders and, in some cases, new approaches. In many cases, we are the first funder of a group, and other funders look to us to help identify new grassroots innovators that can make the best use of grant funds. These grants are $5,000 or $10,000.

**Black Trans Media**

$5,000  
A community of trans and gender non-conforming Black media makers sharing their voices and experiences to create narratives that challenge racism and transphobia.

**Carroll Gardens Association / Domestic Workers Union**

**NEW** $5,000  
An emerging group of nannies and homecare workers in Southwest Brooklyn demanding fair pay, clear expectations and paid time off, including sick time.

**East Harlem/El Barrio Community Land Trust**

**NEW** $5,000  
An innovative model of community-controlled, truly and permanently affordable housing, commercial, green and cultural spaces in East Harlem/El Barrio prioritizing low-income residents.

**Foreclosure Resisters**

$5,000  
An all-volunteer organization led by Brooklyn, Bronx and Queens homeowners fighting predatory lenders so that they can stay in their homes and maintain their communities.

**IntegrateNYC**

**NEW** $5,000  
A youth-led city-wide movement uniting students to push the Department of Education to dismantle deeply embedded segregation in New York City’s public school system.

**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.

**Northern Manhattan is Not for Sale**

$5,000  
A coalition of churches and grassroots organizations coming together to generate pragmatic proposals for the city to create affordable housing in Washington Heights and Inwood.

**Project Hajra**

$10,000  
An immigrant women-led group organizing to create community safety and freedom from family violence in Queens through mutual aid, safety planning, and the development of a worker cooperative.

**Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP)**

$10,000  
Currently and formerly incarcerated people working to end mass incarceration and promote racial justice by reforming the punitive NYS Board of Parole and securing the release of elders from prison.

**Voces Ciudadanas**

$10,000  
A parent-led organization in Sunset Park fighting school overcrowding and reducing the barriers for involvement for Latinx and Chinese parents who want to be part of their children’s education.

**SPECIAL INITIATIVE**

Additionally, two of our returning Catalyst grantees received $10,000 grants through a one-time, special initiative.

**Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP)**

**Voces Ciudadanas**
RAPID RESPONSE GRANTS

North Star Fund makes Rapid Response grants year-round to support organizing and activism in response to urgent threats or breaking opportunities for organizing.

Most of these grants go to organizations that have received grants through our other programs, enabling them to respond to events that emerged since their latest grants. Rapid Response grants support our grantees to be nimble and in some cases can help to bring their campaigns the final steps to victory.

Our Rapid Response grants in the second half of 2018 allowed for a powerful response to Amazon’s new headquarters, fought deportation of immigrants, supported the housing justice fight taking place all over the state, and more!

CAAAV Organizing Asian American Communities

$5,000 for building power against Amazon’s new headquarters (HQ2) in Long Island City. Awarded December 2018. As of January 2019, this organizing project is ongoing.

Families for Freedom (FFF)

$2,500 for an emergency campaign to reinstate FFF’s hotline in detention centers. Awarded October 2018. As of January 2019, the FFF hotline is back up and running.

Grannies Respond

$2,000 for a caravan to McAllen, Texas in order to take action to end family separation. Awarded September 2018. As of fall 2018, the caravan successfully made it to Texas to be part of the vocal, nationwide movement of people demanding an end to family detention and family separation.

Mekong NYC

$5,000 for stopping the sudden mass deportation of Cambodian and Vietnamese immigrants who’ve lost protected status. Awarded December 2018. As of January 2019, most of the 46 detainees were deported, although 22 members of Congress signed a letter to the White House and ICE will now give 14 days notice to people they plan to arrest.

Newburgh LGBTQ+ Center

$5,000 for organizing against hate crimes in the Hudson Valley. Awarded August 2018. As of January 2019, this organizing project is ongoing.

New York Civic Engagement Table

$5,000 for a voter education campaign about a city ballot initiative to expand participatory budgeting. Awarded September 2018. In November 2018, the ballot measure passed overwhelmingly, bringing participatory budgeting to every corner of New York City.

Upstate/Downstate Housing Alliance

$5,000 for a statewide retreat to build momentum for an expansive, inspiring, and successful rent law fight in 2019. Awarded October 2018. Follow-up: the alliance held a successful retreat in Rochester, New York, to lay out their plans for an active session where housing rights will be at the forefront.

Yonkers Sanctuary Movement

$5,000 for responding to the mass eviction of undocumented families in Yonkers due to landlord negligence. Awarded November 2018. As of January 2019, most of these families were able to return to their homes.

LEARN MORE
Thanks to your support, these communities are able to organize and respond to injustice. Learn more about these grants and more on our website, northstarfund.org.
IN KINGSTON WITH EDGAR VILLANUEVA TO #DECOLONIZEWEALTH

Thanks to the 100+ people who joined us for an evening in Kingston with Edgar Villanueva, Sachem Hawkstorm and Hudson Valley Program Officer Mayra Hidalgo Salazar about the concepts in Edgar’s new book, “Decolonizing Wealth.” The December 1, 2018 program centered around how Native activism and teaching about wealth can help people figure out how to, as Edgar put it, turn “money into medicine.” He and Sachem talked with Mayra about the specific region we live in, Edgar’s new book, and how we can take on colonization in philanthropy once we acknowledge it. Full video from the evening is on our Facebook page. Or learn more about Edgar’s work at DecolonizingWealth.com.

UP-CLOSE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT ORGANIZING AT THE PEOPLE POWER LAB

On Wednesday, November 14, 2018, over 75 people—Giving Project members, their guests, North Star Fund staff, and organizers from across the city—came together at the People’s Forum to talk about the powerful organizing for justice happening in New York City.

After a brief talk from Executive Director Jennifer Ching about “why organizing?” we moved into a “World Cafe” style conversation. Participants chose to be at one of four tables for conversations about mobilizing communities for justice around different issue areas facilitated by leaders from grantee organizations:

- Just Policing
- Housing Justice
- Education Justice
- Workers Rights and Gender Justice

Everyone got to participate in two of the four roundtables over the course of the evening. Photo highlights are on our website.

NORTH STAR FUND: #40YEARSBOLD

In 2019, North Star Fund is celebrating 40 years of supporting New Yorkers who have been building movements for justice.

Learn about our history of supporting grassroots organizing in New York on our website, or consider joining the 40 Years Bold Leadership Committee and supporting the next decades of organizing in New York. Visit our website: northstarfund.org/40yearsbold
WHEN THEY SAY “WIND-DOWN,” WE POWER-UP!

On December 4, 2018, Executive Director Jennifer Ching welcomed over 100 guests at the Center in the Village for a party to say goodbye to 2018 and to start to “power-up” for 2019! She started off by sharing a glimpse of the vibrant community activities of the previous week at North Star Fund: our latest activist-led grantmaking, conversations within philanthropy and our latest Giving Project member training.

Two North Star Fund Giving Project leaders, Meeta and Sarah took the mic to share three ways to show your support for grassroots organizing in New York City and the Hudson Valley. Which guests then proceeded to do at our “Power-Up Station” by:

1. Joining the 40th Anniversary Leadership Committee
2. Becoming a new donor to North Star Fund
3. Sharing our 2018 Action Report

2019 marks our 40th Anniversary of support movements for racial, economic and gender justice in New York. Thanks to all who showed up to start off 2019 with some powerful moves!

JOIN US!

Be part of an engaging and fun community where you can learn about models for a just relationship to money, live your values and build new relationships—generally while eating delicious food.

Sweet Justice, BK
February 21, 2019
Join us for an evening of sweets and community and preview some of what we’ll be celebrating at our 40th Anniversary Community Gala!

Learn about the Equitable Economy
March 4, 2019
An evening workshop for a close look at real-life models of sharing wealth in New York and beyond.

Giving Project Celebration
March 19, 2019
These New Yorkers have spent months raising money and making grants. Now it’s time to party!
For the last seven years, North Star Fund’s Movement Leadership Program has made two-year $50,000 grants to larger organizations ready to strengthen their work and take it to the next level.

We’ve treated this as a deeper investment in some of the strongest organizing happening in the city by communities that have been building momentum for justice and developing grassroots leaders.

This program has included not only money for the organizations, but has focused on supporting their ability to bring in new members, develop members into stronger leaders and develop winning campaigns. The leaders in the program have gone on to deepen their commitments to the organizations and movements that they contribute to. The impact of these leadership investments ripple across movements for justice in New York.

In early 2018, we decided to pause our Movement Leadership grants program so that we could evaluate it and direct the normal funds into other grants. The results of our 2018 evaluation—the Movement Leadership Program has had exactly the impact that we hoped it would, and there are ways that we can double down on its successes. We’ll be announcing changes to the Movement Leadership Program later in 2019!

WHERE ARE MOVEMENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM GRANTS?

NEW YORK TEAMSTERS FOR A DEMOCRATIC UNION

SYLVIA RIVERA LAW PROJECT

SEEDING POWER FELLOWSHIP

Community Food Funders (CFF) is a philanthropy organizing project that supports the growth of an equitable, ecologically sound and sustainable food system in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

In 2019, Community Food Funders is launching the Seeding Power Fellowship, an innovative 18-month, cohort-based food justice fellowship program for experienced leaders working across sectors to build equitable food systems.

In January 2019, the fellowship accepted applications from leaders in New York City, the Hudson Valley and Long Island.

Learn more about the fellowship program and about CFF’s work at communityfoodfunders.org.
For 40 years, North Star Fund has taken an approach to grantmaking that is rare in our field. We draw directly from the leadership of local grassroots organizations in order to find the decision-makers for our grants.

No one person can know everything about organizing in New York City given the scale of what’s happening in all five boroughs, affecting tens of thousands of people who are working to change city, state and federal government.

This group of leaders—diverse in geography, race, culture, age and organizing approach—give us a unique and comprehensive view of the engines of grassroots change in New York. They volunteer dozens of hours each cycle to ensure that we maintain a fair and competitive process that identifies the best grassroots organizing in our city or state. These are the volunteers who make up our Community Funding Committees (CFCs):

**FALL 2018/WINTER 2019 MEMBERS**

Alejandra Ruiz
Anthonine Pierre
Cathy Dang
Jawanza Williams
Kesi Foster, Co-Chair
Krystal Portalatin
Leah Obias
Rob Robinson
Shatia Strother
Susanna Blankley, Co-Chair

**NYC PROGRAM STAFF**

Catherine Eusebio
Program Officer

cori schmanke parish
Deputy Director

Leyana Dessauer
Administrative Assistant

**Special thank you to Jamie Tyberg, Michael Velarde and Caracol Language Cooperative for participation in site visits.**

For questions about our New York City grantmaking programs, please get in touch with Catherine Eusebio: [catherine@northstarfund.org](mailto:catherine@northstarfund.org)
NORTH STAR FUND
COMMUNITY GALA
APRIL 16 2019  40 YEARS BOLD
GET YOUR TICKETS AND ALL THE DETAILS YOU NEED AT NORTHSTARFUNDGALA.ORG