COVID-19 & the Future of Organizing
Today’s speakers:

Jennifer Ching, Executive Director
Catherine Eusebio, Program Officer
Kesi Foster, Community Funding Committee Member, Board Member
Our Goals for Today’s Webinar

● North Star Fund’s Values and Theory of Change
● Our Developing Response to COVID-19 Crises
● Grassroots Organizing in NYC & Hudson Valley: Updates
● All of Us, Together: Next Steps Towards A New Future
COVID-19 is Many Crises
Our Vision

We envision a world in which resources and power are equitably shared, and a future where everyone can live with dignity and thrive.
Our Values

- When Black, Indigenous, and POC Communities Lead, We Win
- Dignity and Self-Determination Belong to Everyone
- Solidarity is an Everyday Practice
- We Strive to Fully and Responsibly Resource Movements
Putting Our Values Into Action

1. **Center** grassroots organizing for systems change led by communities most impacted by injustice
2. **Strengthen** the ecosystem of organizing--including grantees and supporters--towards a fully funded movement
3. **Shift** decision-making power at all points in our process and organizational structure
4. **Challenge** entrenched racism and power imbalances in philanthropy.
COVID-19 Crises: Our Response

- Commit at least 30% of our operating reserve into immediate grants
- Mobilize donors and funders to support grassroots organizing in NY
- Support our peers in implementing more just grantmaking practices
We award 120+ organizations over $1.7M in grants (the single biggest week of grantmaking in NSF’s history):

- Over $650K in automatic renewals
- Almost $1M in automatic emergency grants to all North Star Fund Community Funding Committee-supported grantees.
- Small gifts for 28 new applicant groups + a commitment to consider them at a later date.
Looking ahead - short term

- **Mobilizing and Moving Money Into Field**: Future of Organizing Fund (Additional Awards before June 30) and Rapid Response Grants
- **Amplifying and Connecting Movement Needs**: COVID-19 Resource and Campaigns Center
- **Redesigning Programs for the COVID Era**: For all NSF communities, widening opportunities for us to engage with and learn from each other
What You Can Do

Get Involved in Ongoing Campaigns: Visit our website to see the growing list of calls to action and to learn more about how to get involved. Questions about local work? Contact Catherine at catherine@northstarfund.org.

Support Future of Organizing Fund: Donate at northstarfund.org or talk to someone about making a gift. Contact Elz at elz@northstarfund.org.

Mobilize Money for NY Movements: We can help you think about barriers to moving more money to grassroots organizing groups as an individual, with your family, or at your foundation. Contact Helen at helen@northstarfund.org.
Who are our grantees

Affordable Housing
Community Safety and Ending Mass Incarceration
Education Justice
Workers' Rights
Gender Justice
Major Challenges Grantees Face

- Individual
- Organizational
- Structural
“It’s our community that will be able to tide us over this disaster... We can do something to be self-reliant if we are thoughtful and mindful. Each of the members can do something. No one is coming to save us. It’s just us.”

—Linda Oalican, Damayan Migrant Workers Association
Recent Rapid Response Grants

- PPE and paid sick leave for laundromat workers
- Cancel Rent
- Eviction moratorium
RECENT SUCCESSES

- Eviction Free NYS
- Paid sick leave for UPS Workers
- NYSYLC’s mutual aid funds