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# FACTS about THE FUND TO BUILD GRASSROOTS POWER

# in 2021

In 2018, The JPB Foundation seeded the Fund to Build Grassroots Power (FBGP) at the Windward Fund to help member organizations of four national grassroots networks build capacity and power:

Environmental Justice Leadership Forum Coordinated by: **WE ACT**



**POWERSWITCH ACTION**

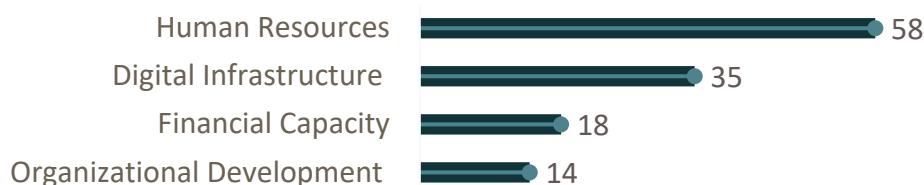


The networks approach environmental and climate justice through an intersectional lens, tackling environmental health, democracy, housing, community development, and other issues. Network leaders serve on the fund's advisory board to give strategic guidance on grant-making priorities and decisions, ensuring the FBGP responds to network members' needs. To date, the fund has distributed three rounds of grant funding in 2019, 2020, and 2021.

1

The FBGP enables grantees to flexibly use resources to build capacity based on their interrelated needs and priorities.

### How Grantees Built Capacity (2019–2020)<sup>1</sup>



### Examples of How Grantees Built Capacity and Power

Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP) hired an environmental justice organizer who integrated SWOP's campaigns and staff and broadened their issue areas. She led efforts to alleviate pollution from industrial sites and railroads by mobilizing community members to pass city-level reforms.



Kentuckians for the Commonwealth conducted a racial justice assessment and visioning process, which will help the organization better center racial justice internally and in its community work. It used digital tools and social media to build its members' capacity and reach a broader audience.



2

The fund's grant-making processes and approach embody its values of inclusivity, responsiveness, efficiency, and transparency—and the fund continues to incorporate feedback so it can continuously improve.

Most of the fund's post-grant experience survey respondents said they<sup>2</sup>:

**Agreed their time and effort to apply for a grant was fair and manageable**

**Agreed that fund staff managed the grant-making process in a timely manner and without unexplained delays**

**Agreed that the fund's reporting requirements were manageable**

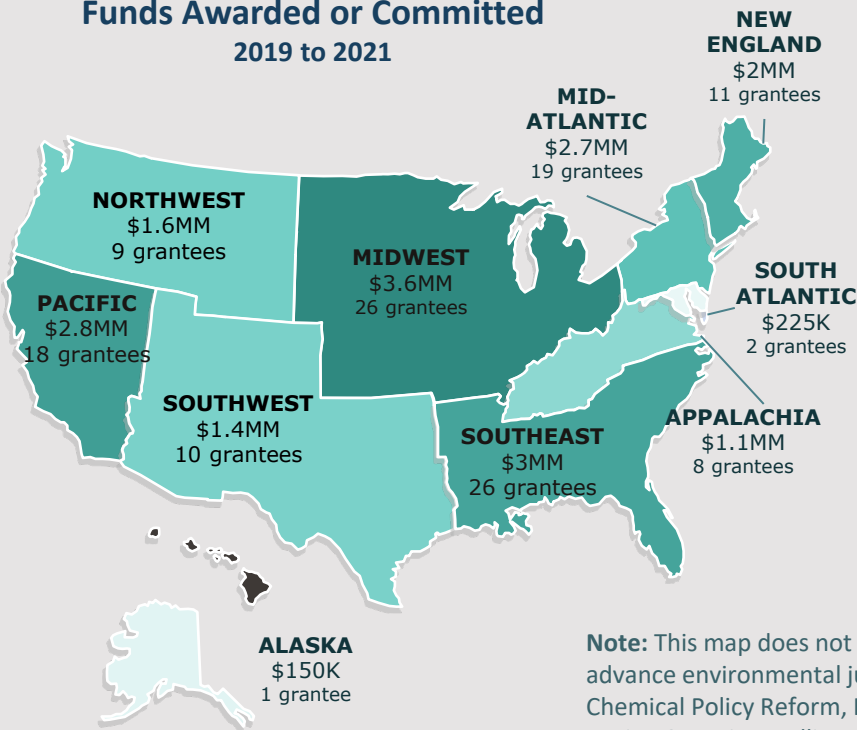
<sup>1</sup> Note that there is overlap among grantees in how they built capacity, as some grantees built capacity in more than one category.

<sup>2</sup> Forty-five of 85 grantees from the fund's first two grant dockets completed the survey. Not all grantees submitted a report or answered every survey question.

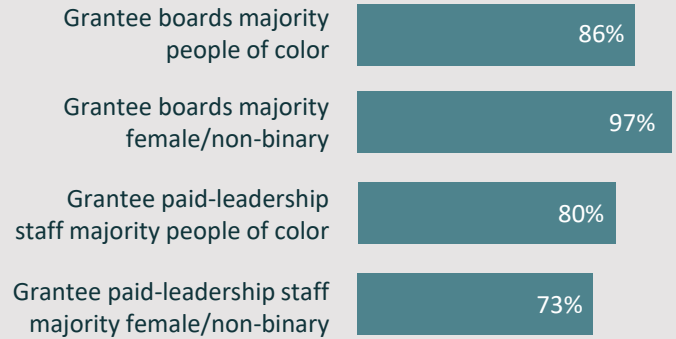
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The FBGP continues to prioritize reaching frontline communities that have historically been underfunded by philanthropy.

**Funds Awarded or Committed  
2019 to 2021**



**Organization Leadership  
Demographics  
2019 to 2020 Grantees**



**Note:** This map does not include four organizations that work regionally and nationally to advance environmental justice initiatives (Environmental Justice Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform, Indigenous Environmental Network, Just Transition Alliance, and Native Organizers Alliance). In total, these grantees received \$445K.

4

In 2021, the fund made primarily three-year, general operating support grants to enable organizations to invest in capacity and power building over time.

**\$19.4MM**

Amount awarded or committed to date

**134**

Organizations awarded grants to date

**2019**

123 organizations applied for funding

\$1.6MM awarded to 25 organizations

**2020**

\$3.5MM awarded to 60 organizations

\$835K in COVID-19 relief awarded to 75 organizations

**2021**

\$13.3MM awarded over three years to 102 organizations

\$100K awarded to 13 organizations to meet urgent needs