



# Seeding Youth Power

A report on the first year of the **Shared Fund for Youth Organizing in New Hampshire**

Spring 2024



# We set out to do something bold, and it's working.

Young people are at the forefront of every movement for justice. In a time when basic rights are under threat, from blowback against racial reckoning and LGBTQ rights, to challenges to bedrock notions of bodily autonomy and democracy, we need our movements to be visionary, strong and sustained.

Youth Organizing is the vehicle for building exactly those movements. It combines positive youth development and community organizing with the imperative of imagining a better world. In the process, young people build skills and voice, not for a distant future use, but to make concrete improvements where they live, work and learn now.

When leaders from the Youth Organizing Community of Practice in New Hampshire met in 2023, they named developing a base of operating resources as a top priority. They also asked: *What if we, the young people and adult supporters doing this work, were empowered to distribute resources to that work ourselves?*

From that question, the Shared Fund for Youth Organizing in New Hampshire was born: an example of field building from the ground up, where practitioners are experts and the traditional power dynamics of nonprofit funding are turned on their head.

Thank you to our allies in philanthropy Sandeep Bikram Shah, Alexis Harewood, Julia Dundorf, Talmira Hill, and members of the New Hampshire Funders Forum's DEI Subcommittee.

With our first year's funds distributed, we're excited for the road ahead. Are you ready to walk with us?



**David Jenkins**  
Executive Director  
Resource Organizing Project



**\$189K**

RAISED

**\$174K**

DISTRIBUTED AFTER EXPENSES

**15**

RECOMMENDATIONS  
SUBMITTED

**8**

FUND RECIPIENTS

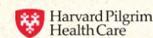
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ORGANIZERS ON THE  
DISBURSEMENT COMMITTEE,  
BOTH YOUTH LEADERS AND  
ADULT STAFF

Thank you to our  
three seed funders!



Point32Health



Cover photo sources (top to bottom): Change for Concord, NHYM, BLM NH



Source: Change for Concord

## What is youth organizing?

We've structured this fund around four pillars that identify authentic youth organizing.

1. **Youth leadership:** young people decide what the group will work on and develop leadership skills to execute that work
2. **Organizing for power:** activate a base of young people who make change by understanding an issue that impacts them and deploying campaigns to win solutions
3. **Movement building:** collaboration with other groups in order to contribute to a bigger movement
4. **Systemic change lens:** looking at the root causes of issues, such as systemic racism and other 'isms

“Youth have always been at the forefront of change, and it's super important for us to be able to support youth organizing so we can build the best future for the younger generation.”

—Sudi Lett, Adult staff, Youth Organizers United



# Meet the Fund Anchors!



These four established youth organizing groups have been leading the field in NH and came together to collaboratively launch this fund.



Source: Disbursement Committee Retreat, March 2024

## Who they are



*BLM NH organizes youth and adults to dismantle anti-Blackness, eradicate systemic racism, champion racial equality, combat racial injustices, put an end to police brutality, and advocate for justice for all Black lives in New Hampshire.*

## A peek into how they build power

Youth members recently led “Educate the Educators” events, supporting teachers and administrators in empowering marginalized students within schools.



*A project of the American Friends Service Committee, C4C organizes young adults (ages 18-30), from mostly immigrant and low income communities, to advocate for racial and economic justice.*

After years of mobilization, C4C won city funding for night lights at the Keach Park soccer field, a popular spot for youth community-building in the heart of a working class immigrant neighborhood.



*NHYM is the political home for a generation determined to be the present, not the future. They have a proven track record of educating enough young voters to sway state-wide elections and mobilize their members to defeat legislation that would damage youth futures and attack the identities we hold.*

NHYM just successfully removed barriers to voting and mobilized thousands of young people to vote in local elections in November.



*YOU is a group of high school and college aged youth that meets twice a week to build power and make positive change in their schools and community.*

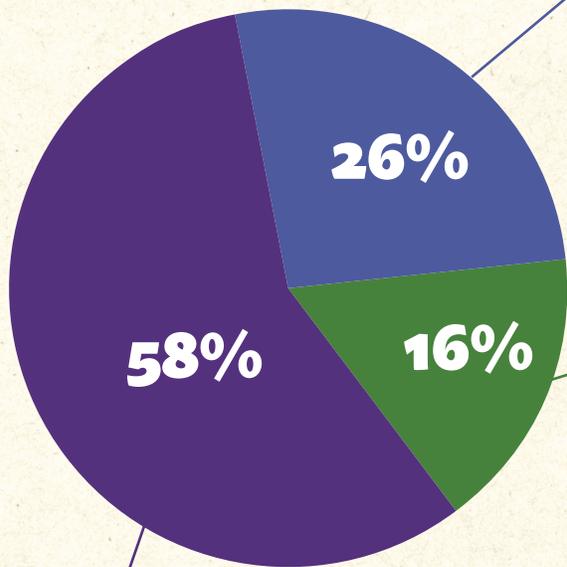
YOU just successfully added a pilot African American studies program to the Manchester School District.



# Funds Dispersement

“I liked the opportunity to see how money moves around in community organizing. \$189,000 may not be millions or billions, but we got to make great things happen with this first pot of money.”

—Mackenzie Verdiner, Age 18, Youth Organizers United



## Established Youth Organizing Groups: \$100,000

To increase capacity for the organizations at the core of NH’s youth organizing community

### ALLOTMENT:

- Split between the 4 anchor groups

## Emerging Youth organizing groups: \$46,000

Newer youth-led organizations or organizations deepening their investment in youth leadership

### ALLOTMENT:

- **West High-School Black Student Union (\$4,000.00):** A social group where Black students plan and raise the money for cultural experiences, both field trips and school events, and to improve their school’s culture.
- **Youth Success Project (\$14,000.00):** A board of young people who have experienced unaccompanied homelessness and are working to end youth homelessness in New Hampshire. The fund will support their campaign to establish “Single Points of Contact” on college campuses, who can support unhoused students.
- **350 NH Youth Organizing Program (\$14,000.00):** High school students learn leadership and organizing skills, then choose campaigns to address the climate crisis. They’re currently campaigning to shut down the last coal plant in New England and bring 100% renewable energy to NH.
- **Rural Youth Organizing Project (\$14,000.00):** This effort to organize high school age youth across multiple rural communities will launch this year in three towns. The project combines outdoor education with organizing around mental health, economic and environmental justice.

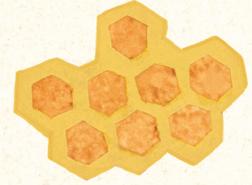
## Collaborative Projects to build the field of youth organizing: \$28,000

Initiatives that boost existing organizations’ capacity, effectiveness, and collaboration

### ALLOTMENT:

- **Mutual Aid Assistance Fund for Youth Organizers (\$8,000.00):** A new wellness assistance fund open to young people under 30 involved in youth organizing work. This project will serve as a resource for member leaders so they can meet basic needs and stay actively engaged in organizing.
- **Youth Organizing Community of Practice (\$10,000.00):** YOCOP brings together staff from youth organizing groups in NH to build trust and share best practices in order to increase youth power for justice in New Hampshire. Funds will be used for peer-led organizing trainings and retreats.
- **The Culture Academy (\$10,000.00):** This project supports young people of color in NH to have authentic cultural experiences and build political consciousness. Funds will be used to establish a Freedom School based on the Children’s Defense Fund model, a 6-week summer enrichment program for children of color. This project contributes to a pipeline for students of color to take leadership in youth organizing groups.

# Praise for the Shared Fund for Youth Organizing in New Hampshire



“We want the world we’re growing up in to be equitable. It was so cool to do that in this process where we could really prioritize youth and marginalized voices.”

—Lane, Age 19, New Hampshire Youth Movement



Source: NHYM



Source: YOU

“The *shared fund* model of distributing money is radically different from traditional philanthropy. We’re doing the work so we know where the money will actually have the most impact. We invite funders who are serious about real structural change in NH to continue putting money behind this work.”

—Ben Kremer, Adult Staff, New Hampshire Youth Movement



Source: Disbursement Committee Retreat,  
March 2024



Source: 350NH

“It’s new for me to be a part of a process where the people doing the work of youth organizing are looking at the field and making investments for the long haul. **It gives me hope to see not only our own groups getting stronger, but to care for the groups that exist alongside us.** I’m hopeful that we’ll be able to make some meaningful investments in our partners.”

—Maggie Fogarty, Adult Staff, AFSC-NH /  
Change for Concord



Source: Change for Concord