



ORGANIZER GRANT PROGRAM

Overview:

The anchor of Groundwork's engagement model in our focus states is the Groundwork Action Fund's Organizer Grant Program, formally launched at the end of 2021. Through this program, Groundwork offers unrestricted, multi-year general operating grants to under-resourced, hyperlocal organizations on the ground.

Along with financial assistance, all of our grantees have access to wrap-around support from our team, a microgrant fund to support further training and education, as well as the opportunity to build community and share best practices through an active, [cross-state grantee network](#).

The Groundwork Organizer Grant Program seeks out local organizers closest to the ground, the true trusted messengers in a community. These tend to be organizers from emerging organizations that do the work year-round but seldom receive recognition or funding to sustain their efforts

Criteria:

In choosing our grantees, Groundwork Action refers to the following criteria. It is not necessary for a grantee to meet all of these, but the more their mission and work aligns with this criteria, the better fit they will be for our program:

- Geographically based in one of our focus states: currently Alabama, Mississippi, Oklahoma & West Virginia;
- Hyperlocal groups that are trusted messengers within their community & focused on a specific region, city, town or neighborhood;
- Staff sizes of <5; operating budgets of <\$250,000;
- Year-round organizing programs, networks and footprint;
- Programming related to civic engagement, direct voter contact, issue advocacy or electoral work;
- Programming that supports and/or is complementary to long-term, statewide efforts to build durable political infrastructure and secure a more progressive future for the state;
- Commitment to civic engagement and organizing as a vehicle for power-building in disenfranchised communities;



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Criteria (cont'd):

- ✓ 501c3, 501c4 or PAC status;
- ✓ BIPOC, women or queer leadership;
- ✓ Measurable impact of efforts to date & clear strategy for growth;
- ✓ Ability to absorb and effectively utilize multi-year funding.

Process:

Groundwork's application process is based on relationship cultivation with prospective grantees, an ongoing landscape analysis of the most acute civic and political needs in our states of focus, and an assessment of where our support can be most impactful.

We operate several granting rounds each year. Please [visit our website](#) for the latest information on this year's grant rounds and what opportunities are open. Organizations wishing to be considered must first [fill out our grant interest form](#) to set up an introductory conversation with our team.

During this conversation, we will get to know you and your work, as well as share more about Groundwork and our grant program.

After our introductory conversation, we will provide you with a brief application and may request to see additional, existing materials related to your organization (only those you are comfortable sharing), to help us get a better understanding of your budget, work to date, and strategic plans.

From there, the Groundwork team makes granting decisions based on the criteria above and a collaborative assessment as to whether an organization is a good fit for our unique program. Grantees who are not selected for a particular granting round will be automatically moved to and considered in the next one, with no additional application effort required.

As a new organization, we have a limited number of grants to award each year and have to make difficult choices between many well-deserving organizations, all of whom have suffered from profound underinvestment. As our internal capacity and budget grow, so will our granting program, allowing us to constantly increase the resources we are able to provide and organizations we are able to support.