



# GROUNDWORK ORGANIZER NETWORK

## APPLICATION OVERVIEW

**We support and connect community organizers on democracy's frontlines.**

The Groundwork Organizer Network supports local, grassroots organizers closest to the ground, the true trusted messengers in communities across our focus states. We are looking for the movement-makers, base-builders, democracy protectors, and progress-seekers who are doing the work year-round in the most under-resourced and overlooked regions of the country, with little to no recognition or funding to sustain their work.

The foundation of the Groundwork Organizer Network experience is capital, community and capacity. Groundwork welcomes local leaders from its focus states to the Network by offering unrestricted, *multi-year* general operating capital to support and scale their efforts.

Along with this financial assistance, all of our partners have access to wrap-around support from our team and trusted partners, a mini-grant fund to support further training and education, as well as the opportunity to build community and share best practices through an active, cross-state network.

We believe it is these organizers and their work that create the essential civic and political infrastructure needed to win our country's ongoing fight for justice, equity and democracy itself.

***In 2024, Groundwork will run one opportunity to join the network in June. Please stay tuned for details regarding timing + process on our website.***





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## APPLICATION CRITERIA

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

### OPERATIONS:

- Geographically based in one of our focus states: currently Alabama, Mississippi, Oklahoma & West Virginia;
- Full-time staff sizes of <5;
- Operating budgets of <\$300,000;
- 501c3 or 501c4 status or established fiscal sponsorship;
- BIPOC, women or queer organizational leadership;
- Hyperlocal groups focused on a specific region, city, town or neighborhood;
- Enthusiasm to take advantage of Groundwork's wraparound support services and contribute to the grantee community of grassroots organizers;
- Ability to absorb and effectively utilize multi-year funding.

### PROGRAMMING:

- Commitment to civic engagement, democracy protection, and grassroots organizing as a vehicle for powerbuilding in disenfranchised communities;
- Year-round community organizing programs, networks and footprint;
- Core organizational programming focused on civic engagement, direct voter contact and mobilization, community and movement building, issue advocacy or electoral work;
- Organizing activities to build and use power include but are not limited to: base-building, political education, leadership development, canvassing, election protection, issue campaigns, narrative change, direct action, digital organizing;
- Programming that supports and/or is complementary to long-term, statewide efforts to build durable political infrastructure and secure a more just, equitable, and democratic future for the state;





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## APPLICATION PROCESS

Groundwork's process for adding new members to the Groundwork Organizer Network is based on relationship cultivation with prospective partners, an ongoing landscape analysis of the needs and opportunities in our states, and an assessment of where our support can be most impactful.

Organizations wishing to be considered must first [fill out our interest form](#) to set up an introductory conversation with our team. During this conversation, we will get to know you and your work, share more about ourselves, and discuss your eligibility for the Groundwork Organizer Network.

After our introductory conversation we will provide organizations who might be good fits for the Network with a brief application and guidance on the next opportunity to apply. Groundwork may request to see additional, existing materials related to your organization to help us get a better understanding of your budget, work to date, and strategic plans.

The Groundwork team makes capital decisions based on the criteria above and a collaborative assessment as to whether an organization is a good fit for our unique program.

As a young organization, we have a limited amount of capital 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 grows, so will our Network, allowing us to constantly increase the resources we are able to provide and organizations we are able to support.





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## CURRENT PARTNERS

