



GROUNDWORK ORGANIZER NETWORK

MASSACHUSETTS OVERVIEW

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

In Massachusetts, the Groundwork Organizer Network supports local, grassroots organizers in Gateway Cities, communities of color, and other historically excluded and civically under-resourced areas of our state. 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 cities and towns, 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 areas 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 and the opportunity to build community and share best practices through an active network.

We believe it is these organizers and their work that create the essential civic and political infrastructure needed to remedy our state's historic inequities and build a more equitable, representative and democratic Commonwealth.

Groundwork has completed its Organizing Network round for 2024. Check back in 2025 for more information about the next application window.





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MASSACHUSETTS CRITERIA

In choosing our Massachusetts partners, Groundwork Project refers to the following criteria. It is not necessary for a partner to meet all, but the more your mission and work aligns with this criteria, the better fit you'll be for our Network

OPERATIONS:

- Based in OR actively/year-round organizing within at least one of the ten communities with the lowest voter turnout in 2022: Lynn, Holyoke, Southbridge, Brockton, New Bedford, Fall River, Chelsea, Lowell, Springfield, or Lawrence;
- Full-time staff sizes of less than 5;
- Operating budgets under \$300,000;
- 501c3 or 501c4 status or established fiscal sponsorship;
- BIPOC, women and/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, connect with fellow members of the Groundwork Organizer Network, and contribute to the larger Network community of peer grassroots organizers;
- Ability to absorb + effectively utilize multi-year funding (\$25k/year for 4 years).

PROGRAMMING:

- Commitment to grassroots community organizing as a tool for powerbuilding in disenfranchised communities;
- Commitment to grassroots community organizing as an essential part of successful democracy protection and social justice efforts;
- Year-round community organizing programs, networks and footprint aimed at base-building within and/or around a particular community, issue or demographic;
- Core organizational programming focused on civic engagement, direct voter contact and mobilization, community and movement building, issue advocacy or electoral work;
- Organizing activities include but are not limited to: community and voter education, direct action, election protection, issue advocacy, leadership development, canvassing, narrative change, digital organizing;
- Programming that supports and/or is complementary to long-term, statewide efforts to secure a more just, equitable, and democratic future for the state;



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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, 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. **For those interested in applying, please note that you must fill out the interest form, even if you have been in touch with Groundwork in the past.**

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.

