

AMPLIFY FUND

NEIGHBORHOOD FUNDERS GROUP

The Amplify Fund is a national pooled fund with two strategic goals: 1) to nurture and strengthen the conditions necessary for Black and indigenous communities, and communities of color to build power for equitable development gains, and 2) to organize funders so they shift what and how they fund.

www.nfg.org/amplify

WE DO THIS BY:

Featuring racial justice prominently in our problem statement, vision, activities, outcomes, values, and practicing racial justice in the operations of the fund.

Genuinely relinquishing power to local and BIPOC community leaders. For example, Missouri's co-created grantmaking strategy was developed by Local Strategy Advisors and is used by Amplify staff to select grantees. Additionally, the design of the second phase of Amplify's work (planned to launch in 2023) is being led entirely by grantees, including grantees in Missouri.

Finally, Amplify funders are committed to organizing within their institutions and the broader field of philanthropy in service of doing what works for grantees.

**Amplify has
distributed
almost \$2
million
in Missouri.**

Ford Foundation

General Service Foundation

Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation

Laughing Gull Foundation

Missouri Foundation for Health

Open Society Foundations

Raikes Foundation

Resourcing Justice Fund

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Surdna Foundation

Susan Sandler Fund

The California Endowment

The Cricket Island Foundation

The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation

The JPB Foundation

The Kresge Foundation

Threshold Philanthropy

Z Smith Reynolds Foundation



Photo credit: Action St. Louis

Guided by the locally-developed strategy to build power and address equitable development issues, Amplify Fund has distributed over \$1.4 million in Missouri.

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MULTI-YEAR GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT:

- Action St. Louis
- ArchCity Defenders
- Forward Through Ferguson
- Homes For All St. Louis
- KC Tenants
- Missouri Faith Voices
- Missouri Jobs with Justice
- Missouri Organizing and Voter Engagement Collaborative (MOVE)
- WEPOWER

This includes general operating grants and additional grants such as COVID, wellness, capacity building, collaboration, and Future of Amplify design.

PROJECT SUPPORT:

- Black Organizing Summer School (BOSS)
- Close the Workhouse
- leadBlack STL

SUPPORT FOR GRANTEE-LED COLLABORATIONS:

- Collaboration anchored by Action St. Louis and ArchCity Defenders to develop The People's Plan, a comprehensive policy agenda designed to help build power and redistribute resources in St. Louis that unifies 40 local organizations.
- Collaboration between Homes for All St. Louis, Equal Housing and Opportunity Fund, and Affordable Housing Trust Fund to strengthen the movement infrastructure in St. Louis by hiring full time legal staff and a housing advocate to support immediate landlord-tenant issues and other, long-term goals.

The Amplify Fund recognizes that Black and indigenous communities, people of color, and low-income people are experiencing the most negative impacts of development, and (currently) have the least say. Therefore, we envision a reality where those communities benefit from the changes caused by development, including wealth creation, land control, and quality of life outcomes.

In 2018, Local Strategy Advisors in Missouri identified the following equitable development issues as priorities that have guided Amplify's grantmaking:

LARGE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Given the potential of development projects to increase property value but negatively affect Black and indigenous communities, and communities of color, one goal in Missouri is community control over development projects with the infusion of a clearer racial equity lens.

REDISTRICTING

When a plan to reduce the number of wards in the city of St. Louis and consolidate county and city was on the horizon, one identified goal became for Black community leaders to lead the conversation and decision-making regarding redistricting and consolidation.

HOUSING

With rising rent and housing prices, gentrification, and high eviction rates, one goal in Missouri is to organize renters and tenants, and put them at the forefront of issues relating to housing.



In 2018, Amplify's Local Strategy Advisors in Missouri highlighted five conditions necessary to build power that have guided Amplify's grantmaking:

1. Community organizing
2. Young, Black leadership
3. Collaboration amongst movement organizations
4. Shared analysis amongst BIPOC leaders
5. Racial justice funding that is sustained

7 of the 9 grantee organizations in Missouri are led by Executive Directors of color, and

67% are women or non-binary individuals

We operate with the belief that the solution to development challenges is shifting decision-making to Black and indigenous communities, and communities of color, with strong racial justice analysis. So, we aim to nurture and strengthen the conditions necessary for those communities to build power.

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**Join us to support
these conditions,
issues, and grantees!**
Email Melody Baker.
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Photo credit: WEPOWER

