

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, Puerto Rico's co-created grantmaking strategy was developed by Local Strategy Advisors, and was 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 Puerto Rico.

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

Ford Foundation

Raikes Foundation

The Cricket Island Foundation

General Service Foundation

Resourcing Justice Fund

The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation

Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The JPB Foundation

Laughing Gull Foundation

Surdna Foundation

The Kresge Foundation

Missouri Foundation for Health

Susan Sandler Fund

Threshold Philanthropy

Open Society Foundations

The California Endowment

Z Smith Reynolds Foundation

**Amplify has distributed
over \$1.8 million in
Puerto Rico.**



Guided by the locally-developed strategy to build power and address equitable development issues, Amplify has distributed over \$1.8 million in Puerto Rico.

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

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MULTI-YEAR GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT:

- Ayuda Legal Puerto Rico
- Campaña Auditoria YA
- La Maraña
- Taller Salud
- Urbe Apie
- Colectiva Feminista en Construcción
- Fideicomiso de Tierras Comunitarias Agrícolas
- Haciendo Acciones Socio-Ecológicas Resilientes (HASER)
- Iniciativa de Ecodesarrollo de Bahía de Jobos (IDEBAJO)
- El Puente's Enlace Latino de Acción Climática Puerto Rico

SUPPORT FOR GRANTEE-LED COLLABORATIONS:

- El Puente's Enlace Latino de Acción Climática Puerto Rico and Campaña Auditoria YA: write a report on ecological debt in Puerto Rico bringing together environment, community, trade unions, and debt resistance groups around impacts of public debt and climate crisis.
- HASER and Urbe Apie to strengthen the relationship between HASER and Urbe Apie and to organize trainings focused on finance/fundraising, accounting, budgeting, proposal writing, and financial management.
- Ayuda Legal Puerto Rico, La Maraña, & Amigxs del M.A.R: Design and implement popular education, storytelling and multimedia actions toward narrative shift and a policy roadmap that embraces housing, land and climate justice.
- IDEBAJO and Casa Comunitaria de Medios (CCM) to strengthen the coalitional work between IDEBAJO and CCM activities, extend the reach of the "Desde el Barrio" podcast, develop the IDEBAJO web page, promote the documentary El Poder del Pueblo, and set up pre-production for another documentary about the impact of the climate crisis to people and coastal communities
- Taller Salud and Maria Fund to support the Cimarronas' Action Table - a cross-sector collaboration space where organizations, private sector partners, and researchers will engage in design and planning of projects aimed to increase women of color's access to land and capital.
- Campaña Auditoria YA and Espacios Abiertos to restructure debt fairly and mobilize sustainable alternatives to the debt crisis.

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 cobenefit from the changes caused by development, including wealth creation, land control, and quality of life outcomes.

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

USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS

Hurricane Maria provided a window for disaster capitalists to facilitate an agenda of privatization and austerity that harms residents. To combat this, one goal is to follow, influence, and intervene in the distribution of money while pushing forward a human rights-based analysis about the debt crisis and the impact of austerity.

HOUSING

Issues relating to housing inequality such as rising home and rental prices, displacement, gentrification, and difficulty accessing federal assistance, made community land trusts, housing cooperatives, and other alternatives to the predatory real estate market a goal in the Puerto Rico strategy.

ENERGY & THE ENVIRONMENT

Power returned to some places in Puerto Rico a year after Hurricane Maria, revealing the deeply inadequate energy system in the archipelago, so one goal in Puerto Rico is to develop a more sustainable, effective, and democratic energy system.



In 2018, Amplify's local Strategy Advisors in Puerto Rico highlighted eight conditions necessary to build power that have guided Amplify's grantmaking:

1. Community organizing
2. Tools to hold government officials accountable
3. Tools for community-led decision-making
4. Organizational capacity to absorb funds
5. Strong communications
6. An activated diaspora
7. A shared, and nuanced, racial justice analysis
8. Coordination amongst groups

All (11) grantee organizations in Puerto Rico are led by Executive Directors of color, and.....

over 60% 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.

Photo credit: @UrbeApie Instagram

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