

# Grantees focus on Economic Justice

[ACTION ST. LOUIS' \(MISSOURI\)](#) year-long campaign to launch a reparations commission was won. In December 2022, Mayor Tishaura Jones signed an executive order establishing a volunteer commission to explore and recommend opportunities for reparations in St. Louis. The Commission will have nine members, all of which must live in St. Louis, and will be tasked with exploring the history of race-based harms in the city; revealing the present-day manifestations of that history; and, proposing a method and potential funding sources for directly repairing the harms that have been inflicted.

[STAND UP NASHVILLE \(TENNESSEE\)](#) successfully won a Community Benefits Agreement in 2018 , when a major league soccer stadium construction project was proposed. The Community Benefits Agreement included a First Source Hiring Program to ensure jobs go to those who need them most, and in 2022, 81 Promise Zone residents were hired in, accounting for about 40% of all hires. Through advocacy related to the Community Benefits Agreement, the wage floor for those hires was raised from \$15.50 to \$17 per hour.

Mr. Victor Diaz owner of Diaz Mobile Detail and Tint Service expressed the need to grow his business and the need to purchase another truck and equipment. [THE SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT \(SOUTH CAROLINA\)](#) enrolled Diaz in their Navigator Pilot Program, which conducted an assessment of Diaz' business, helped him write a business plan, and supported his application for a loan. The South Carolina Association for Community Economic Development also helped Diaz become a veteran-owned, certified business to have access to more resources.



Photo from the St. Louis American featuring Action St. Louis

EXAMPLES FROM 2022



Aside from supporting individuals to build marketable skills and open businesses, grantees are tackling economic justice by promoting policies related to wages, job accessibility, and reparations.

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## MEN AND WOMEN UNITED FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES

(NORTH CAROLINA) served 150 participants in their Workforce Development Program by providing case management to unemployed / underemployed clients. The organization partnered with local community colleges, business, and agencies to offer childcare assistance, tuition, transportation, and supplies so participants could attend colleges and receive certifications and other relevant job training.

## THE CENTER FOR COALFIELD JUSTICE

(PENNSYLVANIA) created a toolkit to help local government officials learn about new federal state and funding programs created through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. They then hosted a webinar for local leaders to help them access available funding.

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