

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, South Carolina'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 South Carolina.

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

Missouri Foundation for Health

Susan Sandler Fund

General Service Foundation

Open Society Foundations

The California Endowment

Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation

Raikes Foundation

The Cricket Island Foundation

Laughing Gull Foundation

Resourcing Justice Fund

The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The JPB Foundation

Surdna Foundation

The Kresge Foundation

Threshold Philanthropy

Z Smith Reynolds Foundation

Amplify has distributed
nearly \$2.4 million in
South Carolina.



Guided by the locally-developed strategy to build power and address equitable development issues, Amplify has distributed over \$1.3 million in South Carolina

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MULTI-YEAR GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT

- Allendale County Alive
- Carolina Youth Action Project
- Center for Heirs' Property Preservation
- Fresh Future Farm Inc
- Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities (LAMC)
- South Carolina Association for Community Economic Development (SCACED)
- Soteria Community Development Corporation
- Step by Step Ministry Hope Project

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

SUPPORT FOR GRANTEE-LED COLLABORATIONS:

- Collaboration between Center for Heirs' Property Preservation and SCACED to explore cross-sector collaboration with specific focus on minority business opportunities in the areas of land preservation, conservation, and production. There is a significant need for commercial operators to serve small tract landowners with activities such as tree and crop planting, mowing, weeding, land preparation, irrigation and other agricultural services.



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 2019, Local Strategy Advisors in South Carolina identified the following equitable development issues as priorities that have guided Amplify's grantmaking:

LAND OWNERSHIP

Many Black, Gullah, and indigenous people are land-rich and cash-poor, resulting in opportunistic investors taking advantage of residents by offering minimal amounts of cash in exchange for property rights or using legal loopholes to obtain land. So, the goals in South Carolina are to educate the public about land, preserve heirs' property, and increase land ownership for Black, Gullah, and indigenous people.

USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS

Public funds are benefiting corporations through pro-business tax incentives, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) that often go to water/sewer infrastructure for industrial development as opposed to systems for residents, and difficult-to-access FEMA funds. Two goals in South Carolina are greater public investment in communities of color, and clear and transparent information about where/how recovery and CDBG dollars are allocated.

POLICING & INCARCERATION

Over policing, surveillance, and mass incarceration intersect housing and other equitable development issues, therefore, groups in South Carolina have the goal of reducing the criminalization and incarceration of Black and Brown people.

HOUSING

Because of rapid gentrification and increased housing costs, one goal is to mitigate displacement through inclusionary zoning legislation, rent control freeze, and affordable housing

ENVIRONMENT

Damages due to floods and storms are adding financial, health, and safety burdens to low-income Black landowners, so one goal in South Carolina is to move money to environmental justice groups, as opposed to white-led, conservation groups.



In 2019, Local Strategy Advisors in South Carolina highlighted four conditions necessary to build power that have guided Amplify's grantmaking:

1. Community organizing, specifically investment in community organizers who are Black women
2. A stronger progressive political infrastructure
3. Communications and narrative work
4. Funder organizing in service of racial justice funding
5. Coordination between funders and grassroots groups
6. Identification of non-philanthropic funding sources

Of the 12 Executive Directors in South Carolina, 9 identify as women or non-binary, and

over 90% are people of color.

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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