

[View this email in your browser](#)

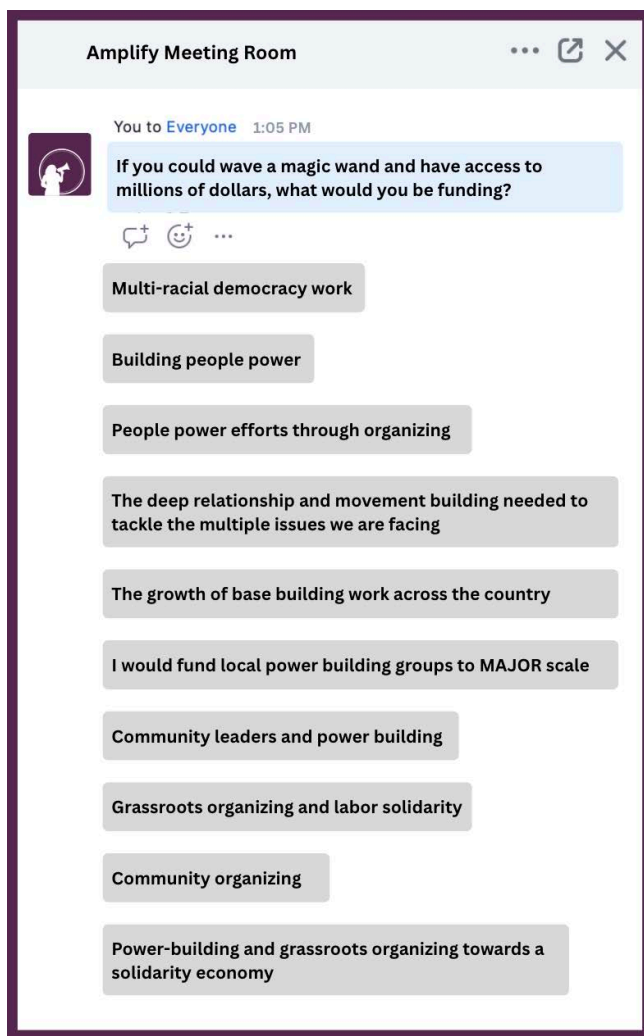
**If you could wave a magic wand and have access to millions of dollars, what would you be funding?**



Dear Friends,

On March 27, we held a funder briefing to discuss the importance of local organizing in the current political environment. Three Amplify Fund grantees presented: Brandi Fisher, Founder and President of the Alliance for Police Accountability; Courtney Patterson, Organizer for Blueprint NC; and Blake Strobe, Executive Director of ArchCity Defenders.

For our ice breaker, we asked the funder attendees “if you could wave a magic wand and have access to millions of dollars, what would you be funding?”



As you can see from the chat answers, the most common response was organizing, so why isn't our sector funding organizing at scale? We know part of the answer lies in institutional constraints. With a political environment that is targeting foundations 1) with assets of \$500 million or more, 2) focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion, 3) supporting climate change work, and 4) standing up for Palestinian rights, it is understandable that institutions are scared and implementing strict compliance procedures. However, foundations are not the only grantmaking tool in our sector.

As a pooled fund with lower visibility than major foundations and high net-worth individuals, Amplify Fund has been able to remain steadfast in our commitment to racial justice while providing cover to our funders and our grantees. We have, and will continue to fund, issues that are under attack like economic, environmental, and health justice. And we do so by giving general operating support grants to organizing groups led by members of impacted communities.

During the Q&A portion of our funder briefing, maisha quint from Libra Foundation, challenged us to articulate why organizing is important given that "many funders, progressive and otherwise, took away from the last presidential election that organizing isn't working, and we need to make the case for organizing again." Blake Strode, Executive Director of ArchCity Defenders and Amplify Fund grantee, responded:

“

I'm blown away by the suggestion that organizing failed and that's what led to this moment. I'm a lawyer, but the idea that the courts are going to be a better place to fight this is misguided. We have to fight there, but that's not going to fix this. We're also not going to outspend Elon Musk. We can have all the policy briefs in the world. You can do all the research you want. That won't fix this.

All of the victories that we have can be tied back to organizing, which is why projects like Amplify Fund are very important.

What funders have to do right now is look to those places where people have been organizing, where they have relationships, where they've been building that kind of power and move money now.”

**Blake Strobe**

Executive Director, ArchCity Defenders



We hope you take Blake's call to action seriously, and move money according to your values through Amplify Fund.

If you have any questions about how to do that, reach out to me, Leticia Peguero, Interim Senior Director of Amplify Fund, at [leticia@nfg.org](mailto:leticia@nfg.org). And, find me and the rest of the Amplify Fund team at NFG's Convening in Nashville July 15-17!

**Leticia Peguero**

*she/her*

**Interim Senior Director, Amplify Fund**  
**[leticia@nfg.org](mailto:leticia@nfg.org)**



*Copyright © 2025 Neighborhood Funders Group, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).