



AMPLIFY FUND

NEIGHBORHOOD FUNDERS GROUP

We are a funder collaborative that believes community power is the key driver of just and equitable development.

The Amplify Fund supports people of color and low-income communities to build power and to influence decisions about the places where they live. We are anchored in a racial justice framework, so everything we do -- in terms of process, strategy and outcome -- is structured to address the root causes of inequity and to center the leadership of people of color in all solutions.

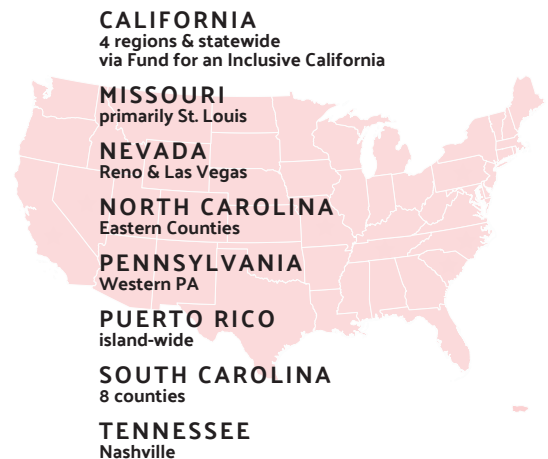
Having already disbursed over \$4.7 million in unrestricted general operating support grants to 47 organizations across the country, Amplify knows that philanthropy has a critical role to play in supporting community power as a key driver of just and equitable development.

The Problem

People of color and low-income people bear the brunt of negative impacts created by development due to the persistence of structural racism, the legacies of segregation, and that for-profit investors have an outsized influence in the development of cities and land. The dominance of this profit-driven development model threatens our collective well-being by exploiting community assets and consolidating wealth in the hands of a few individuals and corporations.

Our Vision

At the Amplify Fund, we imagine a different reality – one where directly impacted people have the power to lead equitable development and hold elected officials accountable for their promises about racially just policies and the allocation of public dollars. In this reality, communities of color and low-income communities benefit from the changes caused by development, by gaining wealth, land control and quality of life outcomes like affordable housing, quality education, living-wage employment, and transportation access.



8 Places, 8 co-created Strategies

Amplify staff and steering committee members selected eight places of focus for the four-year fund based on several criteria, including: the presence and prioritization of power building work led by people of color, and focused on equitable development, the relative absence of national philanthropy and the potential to mobilize local philanthropic dollars. Geographic diversity among the set of places was also a key consideration. In separate processes for each place, staff worked with local partners (including Local Strategy Advisors, and Community Advisors affiliated with the Fund for an Inclusive California) to co-create strategies based on Amplify's Theory of Change. These dynamic processes resulted in unique funding guidelines and geographic focus in each place based on local expertise and context.



We center racial justice in our strategies, operations and group norms to the fullest extent possible.

Examples include how Amplify:

Follows the wisdom and guidance of local leaders, particularly leaders of color, and positions communities most impacted as the most important drivers of change.

Has staff members that are bilingual, in English and Spanish, and consider language justice in our systems and programs.

Designs processes, particularly those related to grantmaking, to be as simple and user-friendly as possible (e.g. partnering with JustFund, eliminating time-consuming reporting and rote financial criteria).

Makes flexible general operating support grants whenever possible so that grantees have control.

Core Partners: Neighborhood Funders Group, JustFund & Amalgamated Charitable Foundation

Launched as the first grantmaking fund at the Neighborhood Funders Group (NFG), a network of funders who believe in the power of people to transform communities, Amplify is managed by NFG staff, and connected to NFG's Democratizing Development Program. Grants are administered through the JustFund portal and disbursed in partnership with Amalgamated Charitable Foundation (ACF), the entity that holds Amplify's funds and conducts grantmaking due diligence. Amplify is governed by a Steering Committee comprised of representatives from all of the contributing foundations.

Changing the status quo in Philanthropy

We are committed to holding each other accountable, as Amplify staff and steering committee members, through reflective practices and facilitated conversations. We learn and refine practice together. We also actively engage local, regional, and national funders to foster opportunities for grantee work to be supported in the long-term.

By the time Amplify sunsets in 2022:

Communities of color and low-income communities will have more power to influence decisions.

Philanthropy will have a model of how to support equitable development centered in racial justice.

We welcome new funding partners to join us in changing the status quo in philanthropy and supporting communities of color and low-income people to own, and determine, their futures.

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FORD FOUNDATION

JESSIE SMITH NOYES FOUNDATION

KRESGE FOUNDATION

GENERAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

MISSOURI FOUNDATION FOR HEALTH

MORIAH FUND

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

SURDNA FOUNDATION

THE CALIFORNIA ENDOWMENT

THE JPB FOUNDATION

Z SMITH REYNOLDS FOUNDATION

 **NFG** NEIGHBORHOOD
FUNDERS GROUP
Connecting people, place and power

