

# CJI

## Circle for Justice Innovations

(formerly Criminal Justice Initiative)



## 2018 SOS Rapid Response Grants

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# CJI 2018

## SOS RAPID RESPONSE GRANTS

From the Muslim ban to rescinding DACA and increased criminalization of immigration, to state backing of white supremacists and killer cops, to the criminalizing of protesters, the current political landscape is a rapidly changing fight for our lives and the earth. Organizations working on the ground are challenged to respond powerfully and strategically with limited time and resources to a never-ending string of affronts. These moments all provide many opportunities to grow the resistance movement for justice and safety in this country through increased outreach, education, and activity.

Because of CJI's positioning within, rather than adjacent to, the movement, organizations often reach out to us for support for urgent actions and strategic movement convenings. Previously, we have not been able to provide support outside of our regular grantmaking cycle.

CJI launched the Strategic Opportunities for Support (SOS) Rapid Response Fund to provide flexible and immediate funding to organizations building strength at critical junctures.

Examples of what the SOS Fund supports:

- Organizations sending **organizers to convenings or strategic locations where resistance is happening** in response to killings by police, conditions in prisons and detention centers, mass deportations, etc.
- **Mass mobilizations of organizations** working to end state-sanctioned violence.
- Individual and collective **healing after moments of collective trauma** related to state-sanctioned violence.
- **Key gatherings to build movement strategy** among coalitions and across broad sectors of the resistance movement.

## **A New PATH • San Diego, CA**

### *Moms United to End the War on Drugs*

Support allowed Moms United to increase educational outreach about the ravages of the war on drugs, discrimination and racism, and present overdose prevention trainings and naloxone distribution. By reaching out to communities in need, Moms United saves lives and engages volunteers in advocacy for sentencing reform and all forms of harm reduction.



## **Activate Labs • Garden Grove, CA**

### *The Beautiful Resistance: Bridges to Belonging*

Activate Labs centers the stories and experiences of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers facing policies of exclusion such as the Muslim Travel Ban, the Zero Tolerance Immigration Policy, and the lawsuit against California's sanctuary cities.

Bridges to Belonging creates spaces with art, media, technology, and design, and hosts peacebuilding workshops, rallies, vigils, town halls, and



other communal actions that focus on the intersection between the criminal justice system and immigration - the "crimmigration" crisis. Activate Labs' strategy focuses on preserving and elevating voices of those directly impacted, rapid response work that will contribute to creating a public narrative of belonging and building a future towards inclusivity.



**Arab American Civic Council • Anaheim, CA**  
*No Muslim Ban Ever Campaign and Town Hall*

In partnership with local civil rights organizations, refugee resettlement agencies, and immigrant-based community groups, AACC will conduct a town hall meeting in the aftermath of the Supreme Court upholding the Muslim Ban to:

- Raise awareness about how the Muslim Ban will affect the communities targeted by the decision;
- Provide resources, training, and opportunities on the effort to push back against the ban and other racist policies;
- Connect and reconfirm mutual commitment with other immigrant communities and communities of color, to address the Ban and other issues that affect them all.



**Block Builderz • Tulsa, OK**  
*Free Her Conference*

Support will assist Block Builderz in convening formerly incarcerated women for the first annual Free Her conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Oklahoma has the highest rate of women incarcerated in the nation, and is the home of D'Marria



Monday, the Oklahoma Chapter Leader of the National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls, and founder of Block Builderz. The two organizations have partnered to highlight the work currently being done in Oklahoma, and the work that still needs to be done to decarcerate that state.

### **Border Network for Human Rights (BNHR) • El Paso, TX** *#HugsNotWalls*

Border Network for Human Rights' #HugsNotWalls events give separated families the opportunity to hug, touch, and be with each other in the channel of the Rio Grande between El Paso and Ciudad Juarez. These events call attention to inhumane U.S. immigration policy that tears apart families, and materialize an



inclusive and welcoming alternative America. Funding supported #HugsNotWalls 6 on October 13th, 2018 in response to the family separation and detention crisis in the El Paso region.

### **Choices for Freedom • Oakland, CA** *Countering Violence*

CJI funds will allow the Director, Nate Williams, to present at the World Summit and participate in a collaborative week-long program with police and community focusing on co-creating solutions to counter violence. Nate will bring the training back home to expand and strengthen programs for inner city youth that focus on restorative justice and youth participation in community solutions.



## **Council on American-Islamic Relations - Minnesota • Minneapolis, MN** *1,000 Who CAIR, Challenging Islamophobia & Defending Civil Rights*

1,000 Who CAIR, a civil rights rally of approximately 1,000 Muslims and non-Muslim allies, will gather in solidarity on July 21, 2018. Civil rights speakers, politicians, singer-songwriters and others will lead a uniting experience in support of Muslim brothers and



sisters, as the struggle is far from over in the fight against Islamophobia in Minnesota. The ultimate long-term goal is to build a network and database of over 10,000 individuals who can be quickly directed to action when necessary. CAIR also wants to raise youth awareness and train them to mobilize. CAIR hopes to replicate this project in its 35 chapters across the nation.

## **Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice • Oakland, CA** *FICPFM Conference*

Funding supported increased attendance of queer, trans, and indigenous activists at the Formerly Incarcerated Peoples and Families Movement conference in Orlando, Florida in September 2018. This conference coincided with the Florida ballot initiative to restore voting rights to nearly one million people. The conference, attended by over 1,000 people, highlighted this historic opportunity to reverse the tide of mass incarceration. Conference attendees registered people to vote and spoke with voters about the need to re-enfranchise formerly incarcerated people.





## Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights (GLAHR) • Atlanta, GA

GLAHR will continue building a culture of resistance among grassroots community statewide against hate legislation, racial profiling, detentions and deportations. They will:

- Strengthen and grow comites populares – local community organizing defense hubs – statewide, and develop leadership by those most impacted.
- Implement a grassroots education campaign to amplify the need for criminal justice reform and its intersection with immigration.
- Work in local coalitions to broaden legal/policy strategies to push back local law enforcement and push forward policy change.
- Provide a salary for an organizer associate.



## Greater Hartford Harm Reduction Coalition • Hartford, CT *Black Harm Reduction Pre-Conference*

CJI funds supported greater attendance by Black activists and leaders at the Black Harm Reduction Pre-Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana on October 17, 2018. During the pre-conference, a Black-only space, activists discussed inserting historical works of Black harm reductionists and Black people who use drugs, are in recovery, and experience the harms of racist drug policy into white-dominated narratives about harm reduction and recovery. Attendees strategized around: organizing a cohesive Black voice on drug policy reform; articulating principles of a Black Harm Reduction agenda or network; increasing visibility of Black people in recovery; and fostering and supporting Black leadership.



## **National Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Coalition • Oakland, CA** *National TGNC Coalition Convening*

The National TGNC Coalition brings together transgender and gender nonconforming people in a growing conversation that addresses the ongoing violence and criminalization targeting TGNC communities. To address the challenge of building a coalition infrastructure across 5 different time zones, CJI funds supported a fourth national convening in 2018 to launch a political home for TGNC communities, which is needed more than ever.



## **Northwest Detention Center Resistance • Seattle, WA** *Deportation Defense*

To silence her outspoken activism, NWDC Collective member Maru Moral Villalpando has been targeted for deportation by the US government and now needs legal defense. Costs include lawyers' fees and stipends for other staff to take on her work for NWDC, as she must now devote most of her time to resisting deportation. This case is strategic due to Maru's decision to make her case public, placing herself at great risk. This is to draw attention to an urgent social need and injustice, and to the larger movement in support of immigrant rights. As well as supporting Maru,





NWDC has been approached by many others at risk of deportation seeking assistance to help them defend themselves.

### **Yemeni American Merchants Association • Brooklyn, NY**

*Strategic Planning to Lead and Support the Community Under the Muslim Ban*

The Yemeni American Merchants Association (YAMA) was birthed out of the Yemeni Bodega Strike on February 2, 2017, where over 1,000 stores shut down and 6,000 Yemenis protested against the Muslim Ban in Brooklyn, NY. YAMA advocates locally and nationally for Yemeni Americans against the Muslim Ban. In the



wake of the devastating Supreme Court ruling on the Muslim Ban, YAMA seeks to develop both short- and long-term strategies and continue to support and advocate for Yemeni communities and others impacted by the Muslim Ban. YAMA will hold a day-long strategic planning session for YAMA board and staff, utilizing professional facilitation of strategic planning and developing concrete objectives for 2018 and beyond. As a community under duress, outside professionals are imperative to help the organization synthesize thought processes and develop requisite plans and movement building actions to support the Yemeni community.

# Support the movement!

[www.cjifund.org/support-us](http://www.cjifund.org/support-us)



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- p. 3 – A New PATH; Activate Labs
- p. 4 – Arab American Civic Council; Block Builderz
- p. 5 – Border Network for Human Rights; Choices for Freedom
- p. 6 – CAIR-MN; *San Quentin News*
- p. 7 – Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights; Katal Center for Health, Equity, and Justice
- p. 8 – National Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Coalition; NWDC Resistance;
- p. 9 – YAMA
- p. 10 – YAMA