

— FOUR FREEDOMS FUND — 2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

Unrelenting assaults on immigrants and people seeking refuge in the United States continued in 2019—with ongoing arrests and deportations, family separations, overcrowded and abusive detention conditions, kids in camps, deaths in custody, attacks on the asylum system, and a manufactured humanitarian crisis along the southern border. In the midst of these constant attacks, Four Freedoms Fund responded to critical challenges while continuing long-term strategic investments and taking advantage of emerging opportunities to strengthen the immigrant justice field.

Founded in 2003, Four Freedoms Fund (FFF) is a national funder collaborative that works for the full inclusion and empowerment of immigrants as active participants and leaders in the civic and political life of our democracy. FFF builds and supports state, regional, and local immigrant-led organizations that promote and defend the self-determination, rights, and opportunities of immigrant communities. FFF prioritizes building a national infrastructure of state and regional immigrant justice groups advancing policy advocacy, increasing immigrant civic participation, and strengthening the capacity of organizations challenging enforcement and criminalization.

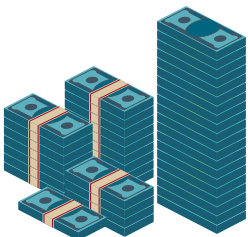
In 2019, long-term FFF grantee organizations continued to successfully organize, collaborate, recruit new allies, defend against out-of control enforcement, build voting power among New Americans, and win policies that protect and empower immigrant communities across the country. Despite the escalating cruelties of the federal government and some restrictionist state lawmakers, grantee organizations were able to employ the organizational capacity, skills, and groundwork of relationships necessary not only to defend against attacks but also to secure a remarkable array of victories improving daily life for immigrants and their families at the state and local levels.

FFF GRANTMAKING IN 2019

SUPPORTING
98
GRANTEES



DISTRIBUTED
237
GRANTS

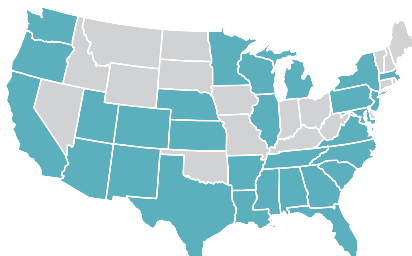


\$15,751,000
TOTAL GRANTMAKING



19 RAPID RESPONSE
GRANTS TOTALING
\$950,000

30
STATES AND
WASHINGTON D.C.



15
CONVENINGS
FUNDED



NEW STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS NEW AND EVOLVING REALITIES

In response to 2019's ever changing and hostile political reality, FFF pursued new and innovative strategies to defend and build support for the rights of immigrants and refugees and their families.

FUND TO END CHILD DETENTION AND FAMILY SEPARATION



In 2019, FFF established a new fund to support advocacy, organizing, and communications work to prevent family separation, to protect the rights of children seeking asylum, and to grow the movement to end child detention. The fund will underwrite national advocacy that reduce the number of immigrant youth in detention, improve conditions for children in custody, and prevent the rollback of due process rights and protections for young people seeking asylum in the United States. The fund will also invest in local organizing campaigns that halt the expansion of child detention, shut down facilities with egregious conditions, and create pressure on the government to consider more humane, community-based alternatives to detention. As part of this growing effort, FFF hosted a learning session on child detention in December 2019, during which grantees, field experts, and funders shared information, strategized together, and set the stage for reimagining a child-centered, community-based immigration system.

ASYLUM AND BORDER STORYTELLING PROJECT



The Trump Administration has unleashed a systematic assault on the US asylum system and people seeking a safe haven and protection from persecution. By turning back asylum seekers from ports of entry ("metering") and forcing asylum seekers to wait in Mexico while they wait for their immigration hearings (Migrant Protection Protocols/ "Remain in Mexico"), the government has effectively sealed off our southern border. In 2019, FFF supported a cohort of digital storytelling grants to generate digital content and communications collateral to lift up the voices of people seeking asylum and build support for a fair and efficient asylum process.

LGBT BORDER INITIATIVE



The federal administration's dramatically escalated attacks on immigrants and asylum have a disproportionate effect on Transgender and Gender-Non-Conforming (TGNC) immigrants. For TGNC immigrants, facing detention means facing violence; while transgender women make up only 1 in 500 immigrants in detention, they make up 1 in 5 cases of reported sexual assault detainees. Being forced to return to their home country often means returning to violence and death. FFF's new LGBT Border Initiative aims to develop a strategic response at the U.S./Mexico border to provide holistic and comprehensive support to LGBT migrants, utilizing resources on both sides of the border to address needs at the border, in detention, and post-detention.

TECHNOLOGY AND MEDIA INNOVATION INITIATIVE



As people increasingly communicate and live their lives online, advocates in the immigrant justice movement must reassess traditional approaches to movement-building work. Today, 96% of Americans own a cellphone; 81% of Americans own a smartphone; there are 5.286 billion active mobile broadband subscriptions; and 69% of the population uses the internet almost constantly or several times a day. Organizers must leverage the smartphone, social media and other digital tools to shift narratives, move people into action, and build power for change. In response to this strategic organizing and technological reality, FFF launched the Technology & Media Innovation Initiative in 2019 in partnership with Luminate. This initiative funds projects that harness the speed and scaling potential of technology and digital media to advance immigrant and refugee rights, and ensures innovative efforts have the runway they need to test hypotheses, learn, grow, and scale. Inaugural grantee projects range from using machine learning to track pro- and anti-immigrant sentiment online, to engaging and mobilizing key immigrant and ally constituencies through social media, to testing the persuasive potential of two-way texting to move individuals to support the rights of immigrants.

STRENGTHENING THE IMMIGRANT JUSTICE FIELD THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING

Through grants, training and individualized coaching, FFF supports grantees to be resilient and adaptable in the face of unforeseen external opportunities, threats, and internal challenges. FFF provides grantees with tailored technical assistance on operational and management challenges, communications, and civic engagement, to promote capable, professional organizations and a stronger immigrant justice field.

CAPACITY BUILDING BY THE NUMBERS

In 2019, **Forty-six grantees** were awarded technical assistance or training engagements aimed at building their capacity in a variety of areas.

18 

participated in a Resistance and Resilience Retreat

15 

15 grantees received management and supervision coaching and training

12 

grantees received year-long grassroots fundraising coaching

 **10**

grantees participated in strategic communications bootcamp

 **10**

grantees received digital organizing and fundraising coaching

9 

grantees were awarded enrollment in a year-long digital technology certificate training program

7 

grantees received nonprofit compliance coaching and training

6 

grantees received financial management coaching

 **5**

grantees received leadership transition grants and coaching

 **2**

grantees received individual coaching and mentoring support for organizers and organizing directors

 **40**

Approximately 40 grantees participated in monthly webinars on fundraising, strategic planning, board engagement, and storytelling

STRENGTHENING

IMMIGRANT CIVIC PARTICIPATION



FFF's Civic Participation Initiative supports the efforts of field grantees to empower immigrant communities through non-partisan voter engagement. In 2019, FFF continued to support and build the capacity of a cohort of civic participation grantees through funding, enhanced analysis, technical assistance, and our annual convening.



21

Twenty-one organizations in fifteen states received grants to increase the number of low propensity voters motivated to vote in local elections, and to plan effectively for 2020 nonpartisan election work.



18

Eighteen FFF grantees received tailored one-on-one technical assistance from the Center on Civic Engagement on issues including appropriate goal setting and targeting, integration of technology tools, and volunteer recruitment and engagement, as well as an extensive series of continuing education webinars.



37

Thirty-seven senior civic engagement organizers and coordinators attended FFF's annual Civic Participation Convening in Atlanta, GA. Session topics included GOTV, data and technology, election protection, youth organizing, political candidate training, and census outreach.

FFF grantees

boosted the turnout of low propensity voters from 35.7% to 43.9% in 2018, a mid-term election, during which voter turnout typically drops.

IMPACT:

Through analysis commissioned by FFF in 2019, Professor Tom Wong found that FFF grantees significantly improved their voter contact efforts during the 2018 midterm elections. FFF grantees boosted the turnout of low propensity voters from 35.7% to 43.9% in 2018, a mid-term election, during which voter turnout typically drops.

FFF GRANTEES ORGANIZE AND WIN IMMIGRANT JUSTICE VICTORIES

FFF GRANTEES FIGHT BACK AGAINST DEPORTATION AND DETENTION MACHINERY

In 2019, FFF continued to invest in building the capacity of groups challenging enforcement and criminalization and support strategic campaigns seeking to dramatically reducing the numbers of immigrants who are deported and detained. Just some FFF grantee achievements in limiting enforcement are described below:



- **CURTAILING COURTHOUSE RAIDS:** FFF has supported the Immigrant Defense Project (IDP) and its national “ICE Out of Courts” campaign since 2017, when advocates noted a dramatic spike in ICE “raids” at courthouses across the country and the chilling effect on domestic violence and sexual assault survivors and others seeking justice. Over the past year, courts in Massachusetts, New York, and Oregon came out with court rules or guidance limiting ICE access to courthouses, and a Massachusetts court issued a preliminary injunction against ICE courthouse arrests in the state.



- **BLOCKING MASSIVE EXPANSION OF DETENTION:** Thanks to sustained advocacy by the #DefundHate Campaign and its partners, funding for detention actually decreased by \$28 million in the FY20 federal budget negotiations. While the capacity for detention is expected to stay at FY19 funding levels, **this is the first time advocates were able to prevent an increase in detention beds since Trump took office.** In addition, due to years-long pressure by a number of grantees, all of the existing banking partners to private prison leader GEO Group officially committed to ending ties with the private prison and immigrant detention industry, as of September 2019. Furthermore, grantees convinced local governments to end contracts with detention facilities, shut down construction of new detention facilities, and won statewide measures banning private prison contracts in CA and IL.

- **LIMITING LOCAL POLICE COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPORTATION DRAGNET:** Grantees in several states (including CO, IL, NJ, PA, TX, and WA) helped secure adoption of statewide or local laws or policies that limit the role of police and jails in the deportation process. Sanctuary policies like these work. Not only are they responsible for limiting local police collaboration with ICE and driving deportations to a 10-year low under the previous administration, sanctuary jurisdictions are effectively limiting the current administration’s ability to implement its mass detention and deportation agenda.

“Arrests in courthouses have interfered with judicial proceedings and removed criminal defendants before they have been sentenced or completed their sentences. We are adopting this rule to maintain the integrity of our courts and provide access to justice — not to advance or oppose any political or policy agenda.”

**Oregon Supreme Court
Chief Justice Martha Walters**

GRANTEES' STATE AND LOCAL VICTORIES IMPROVE DAILY LIFE FOR IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Following a state policy and power mapping project completed in January 2019, FFF provided supplemental rapid response or campaign support grants to strengthen grantees' capacity to take advantage of immigrant justice policy opportunities and threats during the 2019 state legislative sessions. With this support, organizations in which FFF has been an early or long-term investor effectively secured pro-immigrant state and local policies, limited the harm of hostile federal policies, and lay the groundwork for future federal progress. Just some of these grantee policy accomplishments are described below.

- **INCREASING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION:** In 2019, advocates in at least ten states (AR, AZ, CA, CO, IL, MD, NM, NY, OR, and UT) secured new laws or policies improving access to higher education for immigrant students. Undocumented immigrants are now eligible to pay the in-state tuition rate in at least twenty states that are home to over three-quarters of all immigrants living in the US. Undocumented immigrants are now also eligible to receive financial aid in twelve of these states (plus DC), thanks to 2019 victories by grantees in three new states: NY, CO, and IL.



The New York State Senate and Assembly passed the Dream Act after almost a decade of organizing by youth, immigrants, and allies for increased access to higher education and financial assistance.



- **EXPANDING DRIVERS' LICENSE ELIGIBILITY:** In 2019, advocates in at least five states (NY, NJ, CO, NM, and OR) secured new laws extending or improving access to driver's licenses for immigrants, bringing the total of states where immigrants can obtain licenses regardless of status to fifteen, plus DC and Puerto Rico. Drivers license victories in New Jersey, New York, and Oregon were won after hard-fought multi-year organizing and mobilizing campaigns led by immigrant communities. More than half of all immigrants living in the US are now covered by such laws.

DRIVERS LICENSE

VICTORIES IN NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK, AND OREGON WERE WON AFTER HARD-FOUGHT MULTI-YEAR ORGANIZING AND MOBILIZING CAMPAIGNS LED BY IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES. MORE THAN HALF OF ALL IMMIGRANTS LIVING IN THE US ARE NOW COVERED BY SUCH LAWS.