

# GRASSROOTS ANNUAL FUND REPORT

Presented by The New England Grassroots Environment Fund, Inc.

# 2023

## MORE THAN JUST FUNDING

Building an inclusive movement by shifting power at the  
community level & across Environmental Justice philanthropy.



Food System Resilience Fund 2023/24 Cohort Members

Photo credit: Michelle Shapiro



# WELCOME!

**Dear friends and colleagues of the Grassroots Fund,**  
As we enter spring 2024, the words that open Octavia Butler’s 1993 Parable of the Sower, which itself takes place in the summer of 2024, ring true: “The only lasting truth is Change.”

In July 2023, we said goodbye to Dr. Sarah Huang as she transitioned out of her Co-Director role at the Fund and into her new role as the Director of the Office of Equity and Environmental Justice at CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Following her transition, Christine James - former Grassroots Fund board member and former Executive Director of the John Merck Fund - stepped in as interim Co-Director and was instrumental in keeping many of the core operations of the Fund maintained. As Christine stepped down in January 2024, our new Co-Director, Faye Christoforo (she/they), stepped in. You can read their introduction letter to the community here: <https://grassrootsfund.org/guiding-practices/community-stories/letter-from-the-new-co-director>. Faye joins the team of 7, which includes another recent hire, Mary Jones, who joined the Grassroots Fund program staff as the Grow grant manager in August of 2023.

2024 also marks a milestone for me. This is my last year as President of the Board of Directors of the New England Grassroots Environment Fund. I joined the board six years ago to help represent a facet of our work that had not yet been fully integrated: community organizing. After six years and countless unprecedented times in our corner of the country, I am so proud of the work we have done together.

Our commitment to supporting hyperlocal grassroots efforts at the intersection of environmental and social justice is firm. Our participatory grantmaking model has caught the attention and admiration of our philanthropic colleagues across the country. Our commitment to our friends and neighbors across urban, suburban, and rural communities is clear. We continue to contextualize the **Jemez Principles of Democratic Organizing** as a key document in the EJ movement and have been fundamental in creating the Fund’s Guiding Practices. The importance of these principles and practices cannot be overstated, as they guide so much of our work as a grantmaker and a philanthropic leader.

It is this work that pulled the Fund into conversations about the Thriving Communities network. Working with Communities First Fund, Alternatives for Community & Environment (ACE) and Health Resources in Action (HRIA), the Grassroots Fund partnered on an application to the EPA to bring this grant program to Region 1 (New England). Several other federal agencies will bring more dollars to our region as part of increased infrastructure investments. The Grassroots Fund’s role is to bring more participatory elements to these processes. Those groups most impacted by injustices must be part of the conversation at all stages to ensure more resources go to communities that have been overburdened and under-resourced.

As my time as President of this organization sunsets, I leave it in the most capable hands of our grantee partners, staff, and board. The pages ahead share some key highlights of our progress and we look forward to continuing to be in community with you in 2024 and beyond.



**Bilal Tajildeen**  
*Board President*

**Meet the Grassroots Fund Staff and Board of Directors!**



**Boston Climate Cohort 2023/24 Cohort Members**  
Photo credit: Michelle Shapiro

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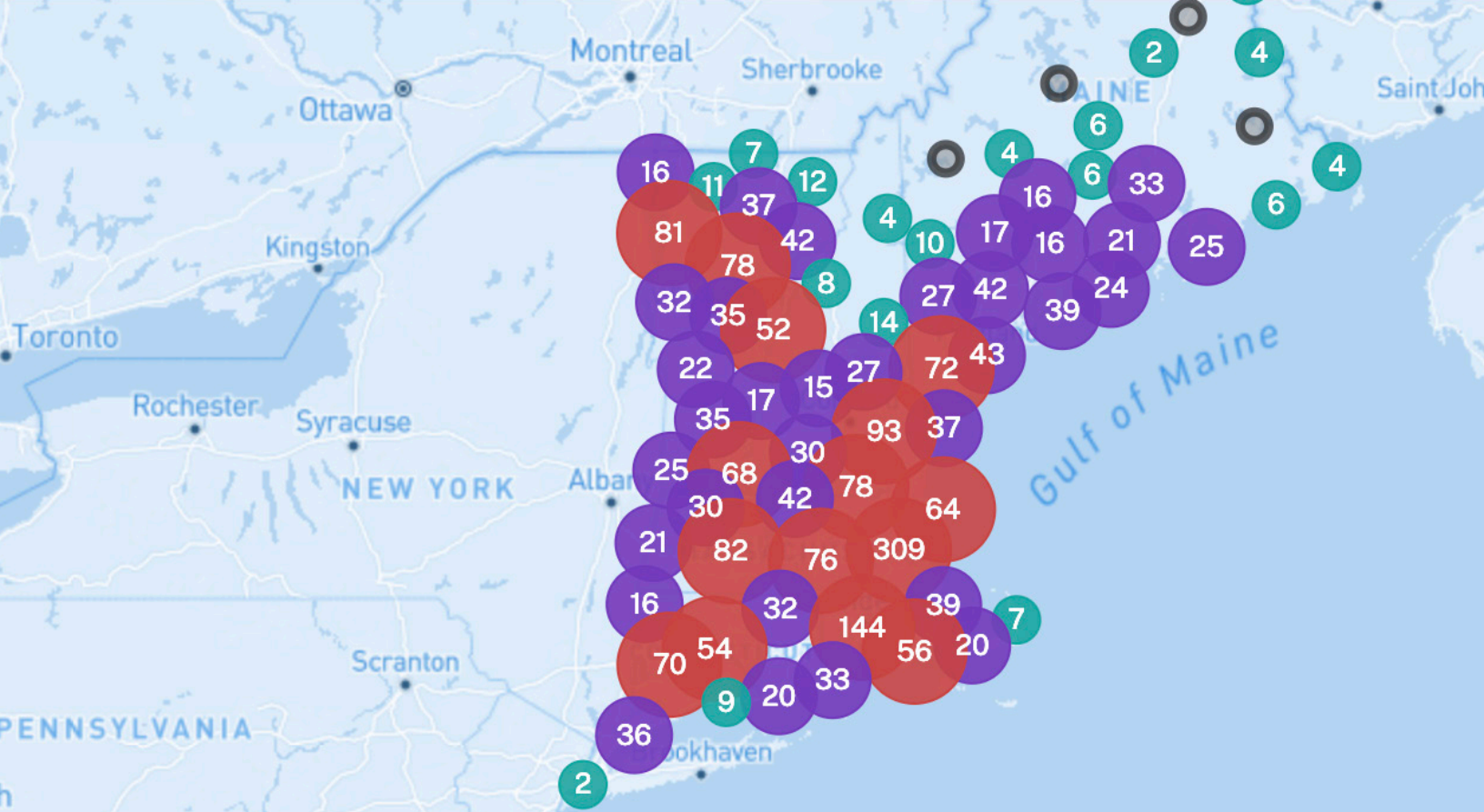
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## Meet Some of the Grassroots Fund's 2023 Grantee Groups

Throughout this report we're honored to share just a few groups that we're highlighting from the 252 grant awards we made to grassroots groups in 2023. Each exemplifies one or more of our Guiding Practices in exciting, innovative and diligent ways. As a non-endowed public foundation, committed to funding non-501(c)(3) groups, the Grassroots Fund is an integral part of the philanthropic ecosystem in the region. We have a particular focus on funding ad hoc groups and those with 501(c)(3) status that are newer in their evolution or have other barriers to accessing resources.

[Visit the list of all 2023 Grantees.](#)

## 2023 Grantee Groups

### ELI'S GARDEN OF HEALING

Hamden, CT

Fall 2023 Grow Grant

**Issue Area:** Living Economies; Environmental Health

**Tax Status:** 501(c)(3)



**Eli's Garden of Healing** has a mission to provide safe and supportive programs fostering resiliency and empowerment for all affected by violence. The group aims to transform a World War II-era gun manufacturers' test firing site into a serene healing garden for survivors of violence, while establishing youth mentoring and violence prevention programs. The group received a grant to design a community-led sculpture created from melting and welding guns into a symbol of peace & hope that will engage their community in conversations about violence. Through these initiatives, they honor the memory of Elijah Gomez, a 15-year-old African American who tragically lost his life to gun violence in 2022.

### VERMONT RELEAF COLLECTIVE

Montpelier, Vermont

Food System Resilience Fund 2023 & 2024 Grant,  
Grow Grants in 2021, Young Leader Grant 2020

**Issue Area:** Living Economies; Food; Land & Water;  
Climate Change & Energy; Environmental Health

**Tax Status:** ad hoc - (501(c)(3) anticipated in 2024)



**The Vermont Releaf Collective** cultivates connection, shares resources, and amplifies the voices of people of color in Vermont within their four focus areas of Land, Environment, Agriculture, and Foodways. They are a collaborative ecosystem for growing power and community for their members. As a member based organization composed of over 370 Vermonters, Releaf's internal work is always its primary focus, informing the external spaces the organization inhabits. Internally, Releaf focuses on the needs, dreams, and experiences of its members, working to support their connection to the environment, land, and food systems of the state while creating a collaborative community. Externally, they advocate for a world where that community can thrive, making sure that BIPOC voices aren't erased from the landscape. They have received multiple grants from the Grassroots Fund in the past few years to support this work, including participating as a cohort member of the Food System Resilience Fund shared gifting circle in 2023 and 2024.

# The Guiding Practices

The Guiding Practices offer a framework for our grant applicants, Community Grant Readers, and other community partners. They offer opportunities to reflect on the values that underlie the Environmental Justice movement. It's these values rooted in bottom-up organizing, centering the voices of those most impacted, and shared community leadership that we believe are necessary to truly build just and resilient communities.

We hope that the Guiding Practices can create a space for ongoing reflection and learning because we know that this type of work is not easy, that there isn't just one approach, and that it's never truly done. Whether it's community organizing, responding to a state's climate action plan, developing a local food plan, or building mutual aid infrastructure, we are only going to build a better future by working together.

We encourage you to engage with the Guiding Practices in relation to any work you're undertaking and to also challenge our understanding. We, at the Grassroots Fund, are on this journey with you and strive to continue to learn alongside our network. Come engage with us, ask questions, and dig deeper.

[Read more about our Guiding Practices here.](#)

“ I appreciate conflicts being normalized in this space. Conflicts can be tricky to navigate but I feel that Tess [Seed Program Manager] and my peer reviewers do an awesome job moderating some of the difficult dialogues and questions we had.

Community Grantmaker

# Our Participatory Processes: *How They Work*

In the Grassroots Fund's participatory grantmaking model, decisions about how funds should flow are made by people from communities across New England who bring a wide range of knowledge and lived experience to the application review process. In this model, we see more just funding outcomes with resources flowing to those closest to environmental and social challenges who are determining their own solutions. This model guides all of our grant programs, from Seed and Grow to the Shared Gifting Circles, Food System Resilience Fund and Community-Led Climate Resilience in Boston. It takes multiple forms across our programs including; open calls for readers, invited Grant-making Committee members, three-month reader commitments, and shared gifting circles. Over the past six years of concerted exploration and testing of participatory grantmaking, we've learned from community participants that carefully crafted processes to fit grantmaking goals is essential. In this realm, process truly matters and one-size definitely does not fit all. These lessons have also proven how critical it is to establish and hone a clear set of values based in equity and justice that can serve as a north star for design, implementation, and revisions to the processes, such as the Grassroots Fund Guiding Practices - Rooted Innovation, Shifting Power in Decision-making, Equity in Participation, and Centering a Just Transition. Increasingly we are hearing from folks about how participation in our grantmaking processes-as a reader, grantmaking committee member, facilitator and/or evaluator -triggers reflection, deeper personal understanding and articulation of what it means to be an Environmental Justice supporter and leader in our region.

[Read more about helping us make grant decisions.](#)

“ I think a lot about what shifting power in decision making really means, particularly as it relates to working with young people. I do work with community arts organizations, and it is challenging to shift some of the models from being directed "at" young people!

Feedback from Fall 2023 Grow grant community reader



# Fostering Innovation through Grantmaking

We’re supporting changemakers who face systemic and structural barriers to traditional funding. We’re investing in community groups and organizations working across a broad range of social and Environmental Justice issues that traditional funders often overlook.

*Our grant programs are focused on community-based, local initiatives doing work in CT, ME, MA, NH, RI or VT:*

- The Grassroots Fund **prioritizes** work that:
- is **volunteer-driven** or has **no more than 2** full-time paid staff
  - has an operational budget **up to \$100,000**
  - isn’t necessarily happening under a **formal tax status** or with a **fiscal sponsor** (the Grassroots Fund directly grants to unincorporated volunteer efforts).

“

It was really inspiring to read about the work people are doing (building community-based efforts, pushing boundaries of norms to bring new/thoughtful experiences to their communities) and it encouraged me to look through the lens of initiatives that trend away from a traditional, hierarchical model.

Community Grant Reader

	Goal & Impacts	Primary Guiding Practice	Amount	Deadlines	Timeline	Process
Seed	Support newly forming projects	Focus on Rooted Innovation & Shifting Power as these elements are more adaptable when a project is newly forming	Up to \$1000	Rolling deadlines	4-6 weeks	Staff calls applicant and provides funding recommendation. 8 person committee meets bi-weekly to discuss. Give feedback and approve recommendations
Grow	Support established projects	Focus on all guiding practices and looking for practical examples of lowering barriers to participation and centering just transition	Up to \$4000	March & September deadlines	3 months	Open call for readers who fill out online rubrics and offer suggestions for clarifying questions. Staff then calls all applicants to gather additional information and check for alignment. A grantmaking committee (GMC) looks at reader scores and staff notes to make final decisions
Shared Gifting Circle Cohorts	Co-design a noncompetitive grantmaking model rooted in solidarity and transparency	Ensuring participant groups are aligned with the Guiding Practices	Determined by shared gifting cohort	Annual shared gifting circle process	Set by cohort / at least halfway through the Cohort's length	Build relationships and trust among Cohort members to prepare for participatory decisionmaking processes. The process is ultimately determined by the shared gifting cohort.

## Seed Grant Readers

Over the course of 2023, the Grassroots Fund continued to improve a participatory review process for the Seed grant program. The Seed grant program provided a few unique challenges in crafting a participatory process. Two key elements of the program are rolling deadlines and rapid decisions for applicants. Since the Seed program focuses on newly emerging efforts, these elements are important factors in meeting the reality (and needs) of projects that are quickly evolving and often require dollars to move from idea to reality. Within that context we invited past, experienced Community Grant Readers from our other grant programs to join us in developing a participatory process for Seed review and to help make improvements along the way. Throughout the year, groups of about six to eight individuals met every other week for a four month review session. Reviewers used a consent-based decision-making process based on a model shared by Sociocracy for All.

[Read more about Sociocracy for All](#)

**We want to thank all individuals who make our participatory processes possible! A big thanks to our Community Grant Readers and Grantmakers, Grantmaking Committee members, GMC facilitators and evaluators, Ita Meno from CQ Strategies who leads bias in decision-making trainings, our cohort members, and cohort consultants Darnell Adams and Maria Elena Letona.**

I am enjoying so much learning about the depth of community engagement and inclusivity in the decision-making processes at the Grassroots Fund. As a first time reviewer I am excited and hopeful about being a part of an organization that reflects a commitment to diverse perspectives and equitable outcomes. The continuous growth and learning opportunities, coupled with the genuine sense of community and shared values, keep me coming back. This space offers a unique platform for meaningful collaboration and impact that I have never experienced in any other capacity.

**2023 Seed Community Grantmaker**

## Grow Readers & Grantmaking Committee

The Grow grant program utilizes a multi-step participatory review process: We invite grant readers to apply via an open, public call. After an online orientation and training on bias and white supremacy culture, readers are assigned grants to read and score using a common rubric form based on the Guiding Practices - Rooted Innovation, Shifting Power in Decision-making, Equity in Participation and Centering a Just Transition. Reader comments on applications guide staff follow-up calls with applicants and the average reader score for an application is one metric that is used to determine the final funding outcome. Participating readers are able to test and learn about the Guiding Practices, learn more about work happening in their communities, and, in turn, begin to implement Guiding Practices and Environmental Justice work in their own communities. In the Spring 2023, ~33% of grant readers were applicants or past grantees, and in the Fall ~52% of readers were applicants or past grantees.

In the last step of the process, applications (along with scores and comments from readers and staff) are shared with a Grantmaking Committee (GMC) to make final funding decisions. The GMC is composed of ~12 grassroots leaders from around the region - with collective lived experience across race, gender, age, rural/urban, state, socio-economic status - who facilitate and evaluate their own decision-making process rooted in the Guiding Practices over a concentrated one-week period. Many GMC members joined us for both Spring and Fall Grow rounds, which allowed for deeper, ongoing discussions on the Guiding Practices in the Fall round in particular.

Looking ahead to future Grow rounds, we are excited to explore more ways to Shift Power in the grant reading process and encourage even more representation of past grantees into our reader pool and decision making spaces for Grow funding. Stay tuned!

[Learnings and Insights from our Fall 2023](#)

[Grow Grant Round](#)

I gained a greater understanding of the interesting work that groups are doing to further environmental justice in the New England area. I also think I was able to gain a greater understanding of the guiding practices and how these can be applied not only to this type of work, but other types of community organizing work and aspects of life in general. I like the idea of centering a just transition and I think this is an important way to think about environmental justice as a whole. I also learned a lot about the ways bias can present itself in decision-making processes, particularly in deciding what work is necessary in which communities; this was something I hadn't considered much before but that I tried to focus on throughout my grant reading.

**2023 Grow Community Grant Reader**

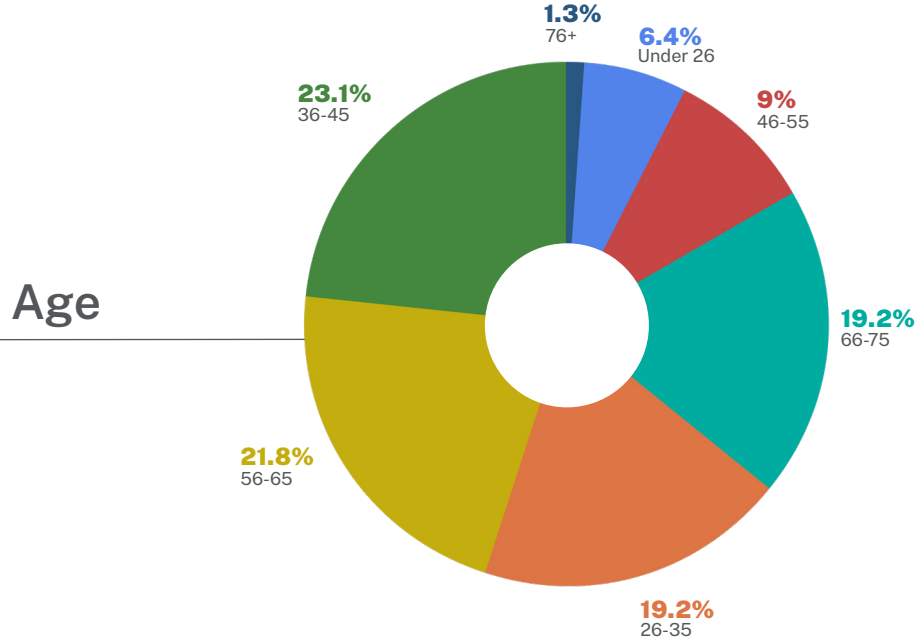
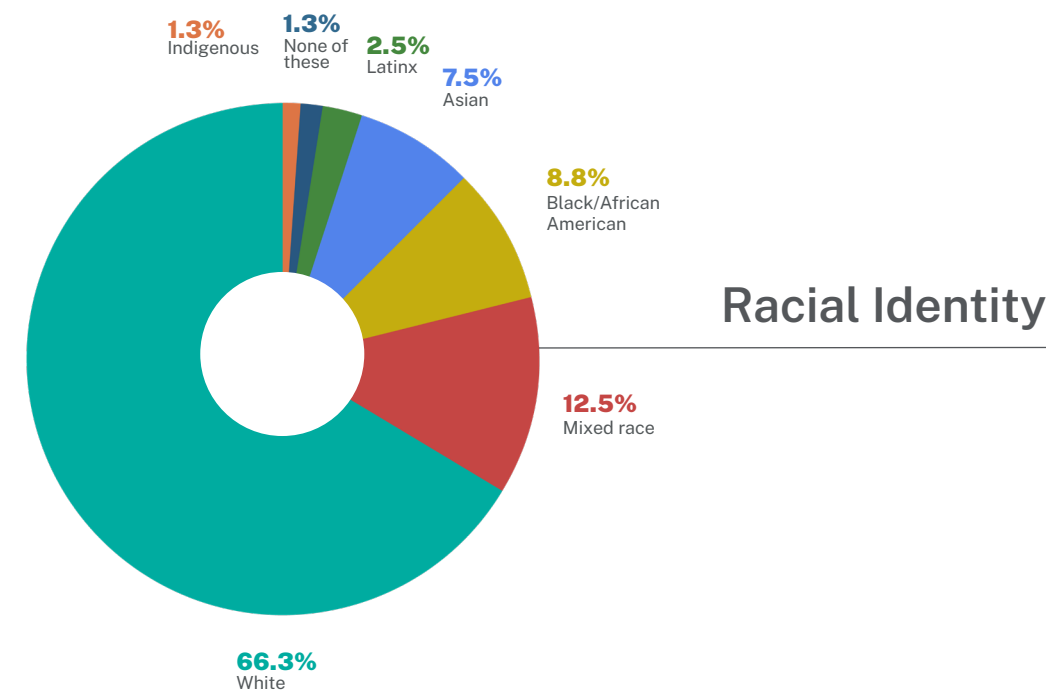
# Cohort Shared Gifting Circles

The Food System Resilience Fund & Community-Led Climate Resilience in Boston Cohorts are networks of grassroots organizations which engage in 11-month relationship-based shared gifting circle cohort programs, where participants make decisions about how to most equitably and impactfully distribute a community-directed fund and decide how to be in relationship with one another throughout the year. Each participating organization has established itself as a leader in its community. The Grassroots Fund chose to engage a hybrid cohort-shared gifting circle model in order to build and expand upon relationships with grantees, shift grantmaking & decision making power directly to grassroots organizers, and to provide grassroots leaders across the region with support beyond just funding.

The second round of shared gifting circle cohorts (2023-24) kicked off in June 2023 with in-person retreats that included a combined total of 18 community-based organizations. The Food System Resilience Fund Cohort and the Community-Led Climate Resilience in Boston Cohort have since been co-creating and leading sessions focused on participatory grantmaking, participatory decision making, relationship building, and shared learning. Since the early summer retreats, members of each cohort have explored overlapping strengths, challenges, and opportunities for collaboration and shared solution-building; shared experiences and identified new opportunities for integrating climate resilience work into their social justice agendas; and completed a first round of consensus-based grants for cohort participants. Grassroots Fund is proud to invite past Grow and/or Seed grantees that demonstrate clear alignment with our Guiding Practices into our shared gifting circle cohort programs. Once cohorts are launched, it's the members themselves who collectively establish the processes, practices and agreements they adhere to, and that they use to support each organization's continued participation in the cohort over time. Additionally cohort members actively participate in the recommendation and selection of future cohort participants. The Shared Gifting Circle Cohort programs will renew in June 2024.

# A Snapshot of our Grow Community Grant Readers from Fall 2023

A fundamental component of our work includes better understanding the impacts of the Grassroots Fund grant rounds through the collection of demographic information of groups that are receiving funding and the community members who are helping to decide on funding. This information helps us and our partners to make the necessary changes to better meet the needs of the communities we work with. We also use this data to reflect internally how the Grassroots Fund is living out the Guiding Practices in our own work, especially around Shifting Power in Decision Making. These charts from the Fall 2023 Grow grant reader demonstrate some of these demographics.



Here's an example of this increasingly common feedback from a Fall 2022 Community Grant Reader:

“[Being a reader] has complemented so much of my organizing work, expanded my network of movement makers, and given me a wider imagination of what's possible and already going on in the region. It's a huge motivation to keep doing my local work - in fact, it's begun to feel like an essential part of it.”

Grant Awards by Grant Program

- Grow**

186 grants

\$606,277
- Boston Climate Cohort\***

6 grants

\$182,700
- Food System Resilience Cohort\***

11 grants

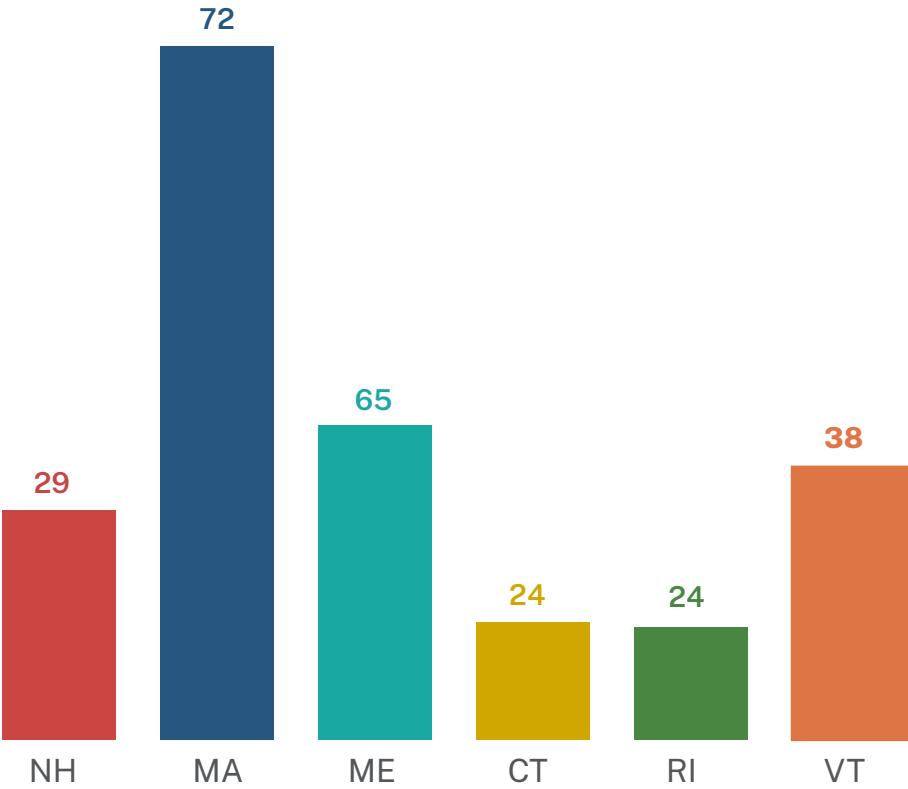
\$165,900
- Seed**

49 grants

\$42,000

*\*Note: Full gifting for the 2023/2024 Cohorts was completed in 2024*

Grant Awards by State

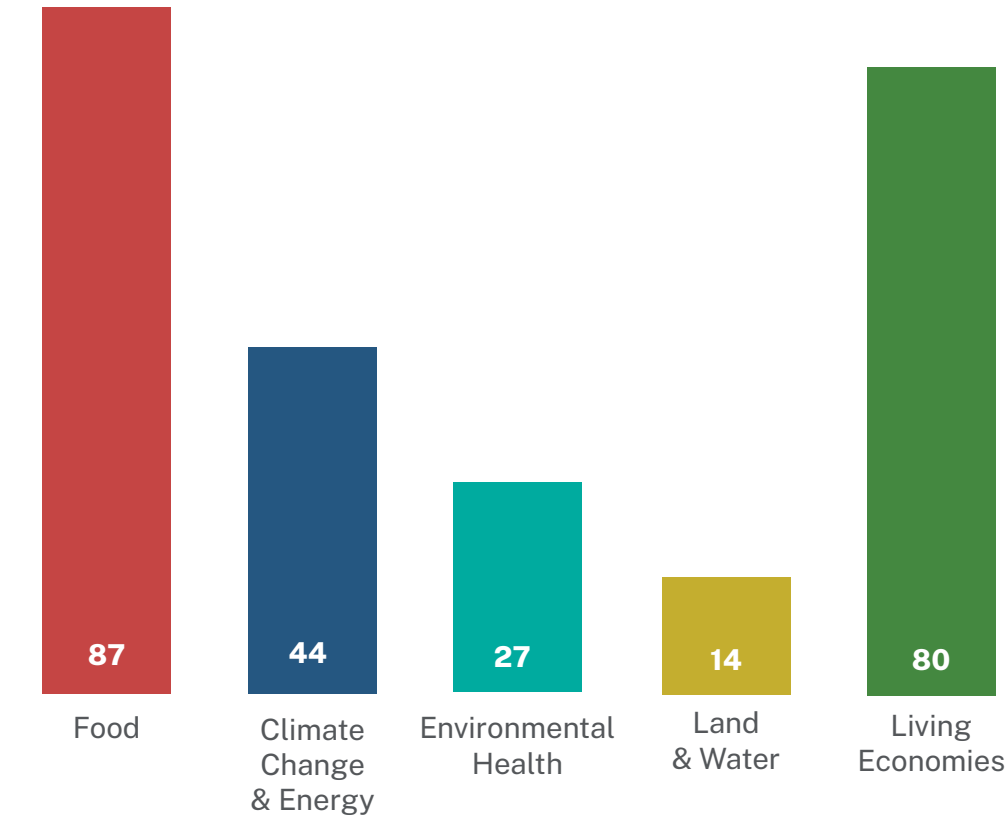


Grants Totals and Statistics

The Grassroots Fund committed almost \$1M in grants in 2023 to grassroots groups across New England, maintaining its goal to increase grantmaking levels since 2021.

Go deeper!  
Dig into our grantee map.

Grant Awards by Primary Issue Area



6 Year Overall Comparisons of Grant Programs

*\*2022 grantmaking elevated due to several rounds of gifting circle cohort grantmaking.*  
*\*\*2020 numbers higher due to rapid response COVID grantmaking.*

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total # Grants	252	326	237	448	222	174
Total \$ Grants	\$996, 877	\$1,587,025	\$699,295	\$736,46	\$513,708	\$340,67
% with ad hoc tax status	60%	52.6%	45.99%	53.35%	52.70%	51.72%
% with annual budget under \$50,000	64.7%	59.7%	67.51%	63.84%	68.47%	68.39%





**SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST**

Somerville, MA  
Fall 2023 Grow Grant  
Issue Area: Living Economies; Land & Water  
Tax Status: 501(c)(3)

**Somerville Community Land Trust (SCLT)** embraces the goal to build community power and stability in Somerville, Massachusetts, by acquiring residences and land and making them permanently affordable. Somerville is the most densely populated community in New England and one of the most ethnically diverse in the country. The CLT is a long-term strategy that provides stable, affordable homeownership opportunities far into the future. Their work strives to create a stable community that is resistant to economic pressures currently causing displacement, while working with at-risk populations, legislators and allies to address the ongoing housing crisis. This grant will help make their events more accessible, including childcare and translation services as well as to support staff time.



**LIVING JUSTICE TEEN INTERNSHIP**

Greenfield, MA  
Spring 2023 Grow Grant  
Issue Area: Food; Living Economies  
Tax Status: ad hoc

**Living Justice Teen Internship** has the goal of educating and empowering teens about citizen-based social and environmental justice projects in Greenfield. Teens are placed in their choice of 3 projects. With support from a 2023 Seed grant Living Justice Community Garden interns will learn the history and practice of the gardens and chicken coop at the Jon Zon Senior Center in Greenfield. They will help with some of the maintenance at the sites and meet with some of the experts and civic leaders who participate and consult with the coop/garden. In consultation with the gardeners, the teens are taking on the project of making signage for the pick-your-own plot and for a give-away table.

**QUEERLECTIVE**

Manchester, NH  
Fall & Spring 2023 Grow Grants,  
2023 Seed  
Issue Area: Living Economies  
Tax Status: ad hoc



**Queerlective** seeks to create and promote inclusive environments for the queer, BIPOC and underserved communities with a focus on utilizing art for personal and community growth. This includes using art to encourage engagement in outdoor spaces, and providing resources to community members to improve equity across disparate groups. The group received a Fall 2023 grant to launch the “Queerlective Community and Board Education Initiative,” a project aimed at fostering inclusivity and community empowerment while advancing their mission of promoting positive social change through the arts. Understanding and experiencing the challenge of diversifying boards, their goal for this initiative is to empower and gain interest of individuals, through education and connections, who may not have previously considered themselves qualified for board roles.

**CREATIVE REUSE CENTER**

Providence, RI  
Fall 2023 Grow Grant  
Issue Area: Climate Change & Energy |  
Environmental Health | Living Economies  
Tax Status: 501(c)(3)



**The Creative Reuse Center of Rhode Island** receives donations of excess items from businesses and individuals and provides them at very low cost to artists, educators and creators. They divert useful and reusable materials from the landfill and offer them for learning, discovery, and creativity. Their mission is to: nurture young people’s self-discovery and self-actualization through creativity; provide affordable materials for educators, artists, and community builders; encourage preservation of the environment by reusing excess inventory from the business community. They aim to create a space that is explicitly anti-racist, safe and accessible. This group received a 2023 grant to provide free memberships to 15 schools and organizations with constituents from low-income areas or engaging historically underserved populations and provide vouchers for \$100 in materials for their classrooms/programs.



# Financial Results

The Grassroots Fund’s strategic program priorities are grantmaking, convening and learning. Since 2018, the Grassroots Fund’s grantmaking budget has nearly tripled in size. Our goal is to maintain this level of funding as we continue to see the demand for Seed and Grow grants from a diverse set of grassroots groups. Meanwhile, staff is expanding the convening and learning spaces throughout the participatory process. While grantmaking committees for Seed and Grow continue to meet virtually, the shared gifting cohort groups are combining virtual and in-person meetings. A combination of external facilitators and participant evaluators is collaborating to increase reflection opportunities and shared learning among peer organizers.

The mission and work of the Grassroots Fund was supported by over 30 institutional and family foundations in 2023, both through general operating and restricted grants. Individual donors contributed over \$300,000 in donations. We continue to work to diversify our income streams and are developing a long-term income plan to sustain the work.

Under the guidance of the Board, the Grassroots Fund is building out its reserves. The Board has adopted a best practice goal to hold 6 months operating reserve in liquid assets. In 2023, the Board voted to establish a grantmaking reserve to ensure we have programmatic resources on hand when needed. The volatility and challenges of recent years have underscored the fragile nature of support systems available to grassroots groups. Many Grassroots Fund grant recipients do not have a formal 501(c)3 status nor a fiscal sponsor which means there are few alternatives for funding. All the while, it is precisely these groups who provide impactful mutual aid and peer support during unpredictable times and economic impacts.

Finally, in 2023, the Board established a Special Project Fund and a Staff Retention & Recruitment Fund. The Grassroot Fund continues to evolve its salary and benefits framework to bring internal transparency and align our internal policies with organizational values.

## NEIGHBORS UNITED FOR A BETTER EAST BOSTON (NUBE)

Boston, Massachusetts

Boston Climate Cohort Grant 2024 & 2023,  
2020 Seed Grant

Issue Area: Living Economies

Tax Status: ad hoc



Neighbors United for a Better East Boston (NUBE) is a multi-ethnic, member-led organization, grounded in their purpose to develop abundant leaders who support social transformation and work on shifting social, economic and political power to be a more welcoming, just and abundant community. Their neighbor leaders organize and advocate for inclusive democratic processes and just public policies to create a vibrant economy and environment for all. They believe that abundant leaders who intentionally engage in social, economic, and political life will help create a healthier culture and alter systems and structures to promote a more just, sustainable, and abundant community. Community-based organizations like, NUBE, have played an outsized role in responding to Covid-19 in Greater Boston and communities across the region. For several years, key players in the climate movement in Greater Boston have suggested that our region is not becoming as resilient as it could be because we are missing a critical mass of leadership from grassroots organizers who are the people with the local expertise and networks in the communities that are at greatest risk from climate impacts. This approach led to their participation in the Boston Climate Cohort, a shared gifting circle supporting community-led Climate Resilience with support from Barr Foundation. NUBE has been an active participant and grantee of the 2023 & 2024 cohorts.

Unaudited financials

### Income

Foundation Grants:	Contributions:
\$1,476,000	\$309,834
Temporary restricted net asset transfer:	Other income:
\$762,282	\$39,156
Net income:	Total income:
\$675,123	\$2,587,272

### Expenses

Grantmaking programs:	Programs & events:
\$1,104,712	\$34,164
Fundraising & outreach:	Personnel:
\$23,221	\$587,117
Contract services:	Organizational & networking:
\$122,179	\$22,842
Office:	Total expenses:
\$17,914	\$1,912,149



**Note: DAF = donor-advised fund**

Kimberly Acosta  
Elizabeth Aeschlimann  
Alex Agnew & Lisa Markushewski  
Sharin Alpert  
Amplify Fund, a Project of the M&T Charitable Foundation  
Analog Devices Foundation  
Anna B. Stearns Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
Susan Arnold  
Leah Bamberger  
Bari & Peter Dreissigacker, a DAF of Fidelity Charitable  
Barr Foundation  
Stephanie Beck  
Ben and Kim Roberts Giving Fund, a DAF of Fidelity Charitable  
Benjamin and Jane Lannon Charitable Fund, a DAF of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation  
Kelly Bouchard  
Aria Brickner-McDonald  
Dea Brickner-Wood  
Doris Burford & Donna Casali Giving, a DAF of Renaissance Charitable  
Richard Butz  
Katie Callahan  
Cedar Tree Foundation  
Susan and Laurence Chase  
Marilyn Chiarello  
Chockstone Fund of Marin Community Foundation  
Cloud Mountain Foundation  
Eric Cody  
Andrea Cohen Kiener  
Temple Israel -Rabbi Discretionary Fund  
Kyle Costello  
In honor of Sam Musher  
Lynn Courtney  
Crosswicks Foundation, LTD.  
Nicholas D’Amore  
Susan DeColaines  
Sarah DeLuca  
Kyle DeSormier  
Jean Devine  
DK Fund, a DAF of Fidelity Charitable  
Donfield-Mitchell Fund, a DAF of Schwab Charitable  
Chuck & MaryJo Doyle  
Paul Drinan  
Elmina B Sewall Foundation  
Marian Evans  
Elizabeth Fagan  
Elizabeth Falcon  
Susan Feeley  
Fernow-Frasz Fund, a DAF of Fidelity Charitable  
Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC -Anonymous Donors  
Findlay-Freeman Fund, a DAF of Fidelity Charitable

Five Peaks Fund, a DAF of Fidelity Charitable  
Frank Abramson Family Charitable Foundation, a DAF of Morgan Stanley GIFT  
Sharon Goldstein  
Audrey Gourlie  
Zaida Govan  
In memory of Curtis Dean Rodriguez  
Granite United Way  
Tom Green  
Andrew Griffith  
Griffiths-Wennrich Family Fund, a DAF of Fidelity Charitable  
Olivia & Todd Griset  
Bethe Hagens  
HDB Investment Group, LLC  
Gregory Herr  
Kerri Hilton  
Michael Histen  
Peter Hofman  
Casey Hogle  
Melisa Hollenback  
William and Lucie Huckabay  
Leo Immonen  
Island Foundation, Inc.  
Christine James  
Jane’s Trust Foundation  
Sharon & Clare Jarvis  
In honor of Anne Jefferson, Ph.D.  
Kira Jewett  
Elizabeth & Douglas Johnson  
JRA Fund of Maine Community Foundation  
Erwin Kann  
Barbara Keast  
Colin Keegan  
Sarah Kelley  
Audra Kingsley  
In honor of Inga Kingsley  
Leslie Klinefelter  
Alphonse Knight  
Krakoa NH Fund, a DAF of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation  
Jacqueline and John Kremer  
In honor of Julia Dundorf  
Orion Kriegman  
Joy Kubit  
Sharry Lapp  
Karen Lau  
Lawson Valentine Foundation  
Richard Legault  
Vanessa Liles  
Living Springs Foundation  
Lydia Lodynsky  
Lonnie Friedman and Paul Lauenstein Fund, a DAF of Fidelity Charitable  
Lupton Family Fund, a DAF of Fidelity Charitable  
Macrae Broadbent Family Fund, a DAF of Fidelity Charitable

Dave Madan  
Caitlin Mandel  
Christopher Marcinkewicz  
Mark & Diana McNabb Charitable Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation  
Lisa and Burnham Martin  
Amy & Brian Mason  
Ellen Mass  
In honor of Jean Devine  
Mattes Colt Family Fund, a DAF of Fidelity Charitable  
Elisabeth McCord  
Grady McGonagill  
David and Janice McKenzie  
Lis McLoughlin  
Barbara Merle-Smith  
Russ & Beth Milham  
Emily Moran  
Morrill Family Foundation  
Mary Mottolo  
Samantha Musher  
Chloe Nelson  
In honor of Dieguillo  
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation  
NH Gives  
Jeanne O’Hearn  
In memory of John R. Mannheim  
Onion Foundation  
Parking Lot Giving Fund, a DAF of ImpactAssets  
Patagonia  
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**MOUNT WASHINGTON VALLEY FARMER’S MARKET**

North Conway, New Hampshire  
Food System Resilience Fund Grant 2024,  
Grow Grant 2022, Seed Grant 2021  
Issue Area: Food  
Tax Status: ad hoc

**Mount Washington Valley Farmers’ Market** supports the farmers and food producers of the Mount Washington Valley by creating a dynamic space for community gathering. Their market both celebrates the exchange of local products and encourages equitable access to healthy food including through the acceptance of SNAP benefits and Granite State Market Match. A Seed grant in 2021 helped establish the farmers’ market in their community and led to a larger 2022 Grow grant to expand outreach efforts across the community and, to ensure that this market continues to thrive as an accessible collaboration between local food producers and consumers. Mount Washington Valley Farmers’ Market is another established Grassroots Fund grantee doing critical food system work in their community invited to join the 2024 Food System Resilience Fund shared gifting circle cohort.



**WE BUILT THIS**

Norway, ME  
Fall & Spring 2023,  
Spring 2022 Grow Grants  
Issue Area: Climate Change &  
Energy, Living Economies  
Tax Status: ad hoc w/ Fiscal Sponsor

**We Built This** works to extend access to carpentry and the trades by bringing women, people of color, gender non-conforming, LGBTQ+, people of different ages and abilities together to learn in an inclusive space. The group has run seventeen workshops to date with various topics, instructors and tools. They strive to provide a safe and collaborative environment to learn carpentry skills and power tool use. They connect participants with tradespeople and mentors to develop skills, confidence and community. There is a significant labor shortage in the trades and carpentry skills are critical for community resilience. They have received grants to support their workshops and to coordinate the Window Dressers community build model in Norway to produce energy-saving interior window inserts.

**IT TAKES A BROAD AND DIVERSE COMMUNITY TO SUSTAIN AND BUILD THIS WORK.**

Please consider a donation today!





**INDIGENOUS PEOPLE’S NETWORK**

Massachusetts & Rhode Island  
Food System Resilience Fund 2024 Grant, Grow Grants in 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019 & 2017  
**Issue Area:** Land & Water; Food; Environmental Health; Climate Change & Energy; Living Economies  
**Tax Status:** ad hoc with fiscal sponsor

**Indigenous People’s Network (IPN)** is a grassroots, community based, native organization working to improve the quality of life of All people. Their educational programs and projects are a new approach towards economic, social and cultural development. They perpetuate the Native cultural way of life by preserving the wisdom, knowledge and understanding of our holistic culture. The group has received several Grassroots Fund grants over the past few years to support their projects including agricultural programs that serve BIPOC communities and marginalized populations in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. That work led to an invitation to join the Grassroots Fund’s Food System Resilience Fund 2023-24 cohort.



**COMMUNITY FEAST FARM PROGRAM**

Montpelier, VT  
Spring & Fall 2023 Grow Grants  
**Issue Area:** Food; Living Economies  
**Tax Status:** ad hoc

**Community Feast Farm Program** is a public, collaborative, not-for-profit farm program that grows food for our food-insecure neighbors. The program provides fresh, local vegetables to a low-income farm stand, the Feast Meals Program (which distributes meals to vulnerable, older adults), the Just Basics food pantry, the free downtown community fridge, and anyone who comes by and needs food. Furthermore, the Feast Farm Program is fueled by the work of a huge variety of folks including department of labor trainees, AmeriCorps members, high-school members of the Montpelier Youth Conservation Corps (MYCC), and older-adult volunteers. The program endeavors to foster intergenerational connections, while asking the radical question: “can a city feed its people?” This group received a 2023 Fall Grow grant to help re-start its farm operation at a new site after flooding devastated its previous location in summer 2023.

**ROOTS2EMPOWER - (R2E)**

Providence, RI  
Food System Resilience Fund Cohort, Grow Grants 2021, 2020, 2019, Seed Grant 2020  
**Issue Area:** Issue Area: Living Economies; Food; Climate Change & Energy  
**Tax Status:** 501(c)(3)



**Roots 2Empower - (R2E)** is one of several of our Food Systems Resilience Fund (FSRF) Cohort participants who were first introduced to Grassroots Fund as grantees of our Seed and Grow Grant Programs. What started as a leadership program to reduce recidivism among formerly-incarcerated people of color, soon evolved into the intersectional organization it is today. The work of R2E is now centered on a mission to enable civic engagement among low-income, justice-impacted, and marginalized people in southern New England through economic empowerment, environmental connection, and public education. Since engaging the 2024 Cohort's Shared Gifting Circle Retreat, Roots2Empower is enhancing their operational capacity, supporting low-income community engagement in radical ways, and continuing to host their annual Entrepreneurship Pitch Contest with support from the funding they received via FSRF's participatory grantmaking process.

[Learn about the groups we’ve funded and get involved with their work](#)

# Our Mission:

To energize and nurture long-term civic engagement in local initiatives that create and maintain healthy, just, safe and environmentally sustainable communities throughout the six New England states.



New England Grassroots Environment Fund, INC. • P.O. BOX 611 • NEWMARKET, NH 03857  
603-905-9915 • [connect@grassrootsfund.org](mailto:connect@grassrootsfund.org)

A heartfelt thank you for the generous contribution of time and skills by Jacquelyn Briggs, an independent graphic designer, to the 2023 (and 2022) Annual Report