HOUSEKEEPING

Please remain on mute

Submit questions to the chat box
(questions and discussion will happen at the end of the webinar)

This presentation will be recorded and posted online
along with the slide deck (Q&A will not be recorded)
AGENDA

Introduction
Research Study & Design
Findings:
- EJ Organizations
- National, Upper Midwest & Gulf South
Opportunities
RESEARCH GOALS

Gain a greater understanding of grassroots EJ organizational funding, capabilities and priorities

Highlight the complementary objectives of funders and EJ organizations

Develop a consistent methodology that can be replicated

Identify systemic challenges and opportunities for better aligning and increasing future funding for the grassroots sector
GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

Midwest

Gulf South
PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH TEAM: Direct involvement and under the guidance of the EJ sector
MULTIPLE POINTS OF CONTACT: Academia, the BEA, and in the EJ sector
MIXED METHOD: In-depth, semi-structured interviews, document analysis, review online database/website
REPLICABLE METHODOLOGY: serve as one model for conducting similar field assessments in the future
## MIXED METHODS DATA

### INTERVIEWS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Foundations (44% Response Rate)</th>
<th>EJ Organizations (54% Response Rate)</th>
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<td>National</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gulf South</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>19</td>
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### FOUNDATION CENTER DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Foundations</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>National</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gulf South</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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WHAT IS AN EJ ORGANIZATION?

Of the 14 foundations interviewed, none reported having a formal, explicit definition of environmental justice organizations.

OUR EJ ORGANIZATION DEFINITION

- Geographically or identity based
- Located in communities that are historically and systematically overburdened by pollution
- Values/Mission grounded in EJ principles
- Rooted, in, accountable to, & representative of EJ communities of Color, low-income communities, and tribal and Indigenous groups most impacted
- Works to build local power
FUNDING DISPARITY: NATIONAL

Between 2016 - 2017, 12 national foundations awarded $1.34 billion in environmental grantmaking in total but only 1.3% of this funding went to EJ organizations.

All Environmental Grant Dollars ($1.34 B)

- EJ ORGANIZATIONS (1.3%)
  - $18 M
- Non-EJ Organizations
  - $1.32B (98.7%)

EJ Activities Dollars ($11M)

- EJ ORGANIZATIONS (9%)
  - $930,000
- Non-EJ Organizations
  - $9,994,000 (91%)
ALIGNMENT OF PRIORITY ISSUE AREAS:

Ten out of 24 (42%) priority issue areas were named by both sectors

ALIGNED PRIORITY ISSUE AREAS (10)

- Civic Participation
- Youth Leadership
- Renewable Energy
- Indigenous Rights
- Coastal Resiliency & Climate Adaptation
- Movement Building/ Community Organizing
- Water Initiatives
- Economic & Racial Justice/ Workforce
- Development
- Food Justice
- Climate Change


The relative priority, understanding and approaches to these issues can diverge significantly between the sectors
GULF SOUTH FINDINGS

EJ ORGANIZATIONS INTERVIEWED
10

STAFF SIZE (FULL TIME)
Median: 5

ANNUAL BUDGET
Median: $560,000
Average: $1.2m

“We are focused on really advocating for communities that are underserved. Especially for us, language access is a big issue, communities with immigration issues, some of the projects that are mitigating sea level rise and land loss or will be affecting them.” - Grassroots Activist 4

“Every community-level front line group is trying to be everything to everybody in their community all the time...It’s so much information that I feel like it sort of necessitates general-level knowledge of what’s going on in all those places, as opposed to a strategic, deep expertise in one of those issue areas.” - Funder 2
FUNDING DISPARITY: GULF SOUTH

6 Gulf South foundations awarded approximately $12 million in environmental grants in 2016-2017

EJ ORGANIZATIONS: $155,000 (1%)

$ 11.4M (99%)
Non EJ Organizations
UPPER MIDWEST FINDINGS

EJ ORGANIZATIONS INTERVIEWED
9

STAFF SIZE
Range: 0-14 Full Time
Median: 3 Full Time

ANNUAL BUDGET
Average: $471,500
Median: $500,000

“...they might be talking about air pollution and water stuff but they rarely add the economics...some of those suburban groups got money and they want to talk about clean and safe water, that’s every bit what we’re concerned about too, but we’re also concerned about affordability.” - Grassroots Activist 13

“...we also work on reducing and addressing threats to the Great Lakes, and that includes invasive species, nutrient runoff pollution, diversions of water out of the Great Lakes, and oil transportation. And we work on policy both, locally at the state level, regionally, and then we do some national water policies.” - Funder 3

Source: LVEJO South Lawndale Coal Plant Shutdown
FUNDING DISPARITY: UPPER MIDWEST

10 Midwest foundations awarded a total of $134 million in environmental grants in 2016-2017

EJ ORGANIZATIONS:
$1 M (1%)

$133 M (99%)
Non EJ Organizations
I mean, it’s centuries of colonization and slavery and deep systemic racism that I just think it’s a trend in everything nationally, especially in philanthropy, where it’s definitely dominated by white supremacy and by “do gooder capitalism,” the sort of charity model....
- Grassroots Activist 5

...We (funders) can be much better advocates and champions for the environmental justice groups when we have a relationship with them directly, we know them, there’s that trust and that two-way communication, makes us better donor organizers...
- Funder 5
WHAT WE HEARD: OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALIGNMENT

So it just seems like nine times out of 10 you’re not going to get funding the first time you file an application or kind of speak with those folks. It’s really about them getting to know what it is your organization does over a period of time. And then kind of buying into that process.
- Grassroots Activist 1
WHAT WE HEARD: OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALIGNMENT

FUNDERS

- Open up, connect with EJ groups
- Administrative hubs
- Participatory grantmaking
- Share political power, access
- Make theories of change explicit
- Internal transformations
- Adopt EJ definition & track dollars

I try to just get out and see, going to events that community groups hold, or where community organizations are gathering. Whether they're tabling, or community garden events, just so I can spend more time, because what I find is, you meet more EJ leaders when you're working with and talking with the EJ leaders you already know. - Funder 3
MOMENT TO ACT

Adopt EJ Definition  
Commitments to Relationship Building & Access

Set Funding Targets  
Invest in Capacity Building

Leverage Intermediaries  
Tackle Racism & Structural Power

EJ ORGANIZATIONS (1%)
QUESTIONS? AND DISCUSSION

Please submit questions using the chat box and we will do our best to answer everything!

For More Information:
BEA: info@bea4impact.org
Tishman Center: tedc@newschool.edu
FUTURE RESEARCH: INTERMEDIARIES

BENEFITS
Fills capacity needs
Support EJ work on a national scale
Help shape strategies and policies

CHALLENGES
Limit foundations and EJ organizations relationships
Control pass through money
Over reliance on intermediaries

OPPORTUNITIES
Develop shared accountability structures
Track and report direct funding to EJ organizations from intermediaries