Southern Power, Southern Impact, Southern Funding

Support Southern movement organizations during this time of crisis and resistance by investing in the Southern Power Fund! Southern movement organizations have come together to move much needed resources to Southern frontline communities responding and resisting during this critical political moment. Watch the recording of our call to action in June to hear more.

Give to the Southern Power Fund

1. If you are an individual donor, choose one of the four Southern pillar organizations to give to: Alternate ROOTS, the Highlander Center, Project South, or SONG. Include “Southern Power Fund” as a note with your gift so we can track your gift and add it to the collective fund.
2. If you are an institutional funder and would like to join other foundations supporting this important work, please contact Tamieka Mosley from Grantmakers for Southern Progress at tmosley@g4sp.org.

Context & Vision

The 21st century South has survived the rise of the white right and the regressive policies that came with it, the intensifying in strength and frequency of man-made climate disasters, and the impact of a disinvestment in healthcare infrastructure during the age of COVID-19. We know that Black, immigrant, and rural communities in the South are experiencing a disproportionate impact during these times. Meanwhile, Black Southern leaders are now coordinating a historic uprising against police brutality and in defense of Black lives, and in the process are building a new South worthy of our people.

Southern leaders and their organizations have built a regional tapestry of movement infrastructure that successfully resists and challenges the (once uniquely Southern, now national) systemic and targeted oppression of Black, Brown, Native, Queer, Disabled and poor communities - despite continued underinvestment in the South by institutional philanthropy and a lack of investment in organizations led by people of color. Resources are needed urgently for Southern frontline communities as we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and fight to #DefundPolice and #DefendBlackLives in cities and towns across the South. With the establishment of a $10 million Rapid Response Fund and growing a community controlled fund, Southern leaders will address the immediate needs on the ground and build to resist and thrive in an uncertain future.

Goals

The South has the infrastructure to receive and distribute funds that increase the capacity of social movements to be resilient and to support recovery efforts in moments of crisis and uprising. We know that funds to support Southern work require the governance of Southern people. We are committed to building collectively as Southern leaders to stabilize, triage, heal, and advance our regional movements--because we know that “As goes the South, so goes the nation” isn’t an opinion, it’s a fundamental fact. This country needs to shift.

Our immediate response will be the strategic and effective distribution of this money to frontline organizations leading transformational efforts throughout the region. The long-term impact of this effort will be resources to seed solutions, preparedness and resilience for the socio-economic, cultural, and climate crises already slated to come. We will partner with philanthropic allies that value and follow Southern leadership. We
will offer directives to funders related to long term Southern strategy, including the development of a Southern based fund that will be governed and managed by frontline leaders using techniques established and shared with us by existing Southern social justice funds.

**Process**
The urgent and immediate goal of the Southern Power Fund is to direct resources to the community formations providing essential services, information, and support to protect and sustain Southern frontline organizers. **Four Southern anchor organizations will collectively raise a $10 million Rapid Response Fund**, and will strategically distribute $8 million to community groups across the region. To address the systemic challenges related to philanthropic investment in the South, the remaining $2 million of the dollars raised will seed a fund to support long-term southern community resilience planning, development, and implementation.

*Four Pillar Organizations of the Southern Power Fund*

1) **Southerners On New Ground** - to distribute $2 million to Southern LGBTQ led organizations and leaders;
2) **The Highlander Research and Education Center** - to distribute $2 million to rural organizations, mutual aid organizations, and other grassroots efforts across the region;
3) **Project South** - to distribute $2 million to Southern Movement Assembly joint efforts, anchor organizations, and frontline communities; and
4) **Alternate Roots** - to distribute $2 million to artists, artist-activists, culture bearers, and culture-based healing work.