For thirty-seven years, Crossroads Fund has bolstered movements by moving money to grassroots organizers working at the intersections of racial, social, and economic justice in Chicago. Your support has enabled Crossroads Fund to sustain the hard work on the ground during the most hostile of times, serving as an anchor organization for movement building across the city. Thank you.

This matters because our communities are under attack. There’s no question about it.

In response, our grantees are vigorously resisting and proactively confronting the systems, structures, and policies attacking our youth, neighbors, and communities. From No Cop Academy, to Erase the Gang Database, to women calling out sexual violence in their workplaces, grassroots communities are building intersectional campaigns for justice and are refusing to be ignored, muted, and denied their humanity.

The unyielding commitment by Chicago’s activists and organizers is matched by our community of donors and grantmakers, including our Board of Directors, Youth Fund for Social Change grantmaking committee, and Giving Project members. In fiscal year 2018, our community rose to the occasion by fundraising, pooling resources, and helping us grant $1,068,042, the most we’ve ever granted in a single fiscal year. This is how we seed change in Chicago.

Not only did our donors make these immediate grants possible but we also exceeded our five-year campaign goal by raising over $2 million for Big Change, the People’s Endowment. The fight for justice is long. This endowment will ensure the long-term capacity and strength of Crossroads Fund as a reliable movement fund for years to come.

In moments of struggle, we must take the time to celebrate each win towards justice. Chicago’s organizing ecosystem is thriving and we want to celebrate this with you.

Please see our 2018 Grantee list to review the impact the support of our community made possible over the last year.

The work continues.

Jeanne Kracher

Executive Director
CROSSROADS FUND 2018 GRANTEES

About Crossroads Fund
Crossroads Fund supports community organizations working on issues of racial, social, and economic justice. The Chicago Crossroads Fund, a giving circle that pools resources, funds community organizations, building a broad base of support for grassroots organizations working for social change.

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Crossroads Fund is proud to announce that in Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) we gave out $1,068,042 in grants to 120 groups working for social change.

Although the following list categorizes grantees based on one primary focus, grantees’ work is rarely limited to a single issue area. Most work across issues and prioritize the multiple needs of their diverse constituencies. A full description of the grants can be found after the grantee description. Programs included in the giving circle are only identified in this list for clarity due to the current political moment. An organization may have also received a grant through the Capacity Building Initiative (CBI), a collaborative program that supports organizational growth and development.

Grantees may have received funding from one of our Partner Funds (PF), which include the following funds and donor advised funds: the grant (GRAM), which supports women and girls, rights for Arab Americans, and youth projects; the grant (GRAM), which supports community-based arts, education, peace activism, and reproductive rights; the Chicago Youth Storage Initiative (CYSI), a funders collaborative housed at Crossroads Fund that provides storage for youth experiencing homelessness; the , which supports black-led youth organizing; the Verminta Gray Fund (Verminta Gray), which supports LGBT youth; and She100 (She100), a circle that pools resources to make grants to initiatives which strengthen the power and presence of all Chicago LBTQ women.

We also list each of the awards given at our annual benefit, Seeds of Change. They are the Donald P. Erickson Synapsis Award, The Lynda J. Tipton Memorial Award for Social Justice, and the Ron Sable Award for Activism.

In FY18, grant amounts ranged from $500–$80,750 and, unless otherwise noted, the grants are for general operating support.

ARTS AND CULTURE
BLACK PANTHER PARTY 50TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION
These organizations serve as an educational resource locally and nationally. (SF)

CHICAGO PALESTINE FILM FESTIVAL exhibits and promotes films about Palestine or by Palestinian Americans, advocates for Palestinian rights, and serves as an educational resource locally and nationally. (SF)

FREE STREET THEATER creates theater performances by and for underrepresented Chicago artists and communities focused on justice. The grant supports their efforts to offer creative opportunities for neighborhood groups interested in using art to address current issues. (CRF)

HONEY POT PERFORMANCE is a feminist, collaborative creative that uses performance to examine identity, belonging, and community in the lives and cultural membership. Ongoing projects include the Chicago Black Social Culture Map—a digital documentation of Black social culture from the community, as well as a performance project to create a museum, and holding public education opportunities and festivals. (SF)

THE WEST SIDE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY highlights the historical contributions made by African Americans on the West Side through its public programs, grants, exhibitions, and engaging with the civil rights movement and current day organizing. This is accomplished through preserving historic sites, creating a museum, and holding public education opportunities and festivals. (SF)

ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
ALLIANCE OF THE SOUTHEAST (ASE) is a multi-issue, community organizing group composed of member institutions on Chicago’s Southeast Side. Their work includes South Side Anti-Violence Endeavor, a youth leadership Council, mentorship/restorative justice programs, tenant organizing, and a coalition effort to obtain Community Benefits Agreements for local residents via employment, training and education opportunities, affordable housing, and environmental protections. (SF, YF)

BLOCS TOGETHER is a community-led, youth-focused, multi-issue, social justice organization on the West Side of Chicago that is working on challenging the over-policing of youth, preserving quality public education, economic development and participatory budgeting. They are a key local leader in the national Poor People’s Campaign. (SF, YP)

EQUITYCIDE advocates for racial equity, particularly around increased mobility, to make lives better for Black, Brown and Indigenous peoples of color across Chicago. The CRF supported their work to challenge the increased role of policing in the Vision Zero Chicano plan. (SF, CRF)

LUGENIA BURNS HOPE CENTER develops the civic engagement of youth to promote educational equity and leadership development, and community organizing. Their work focuses on the healing of trauma and loss of women and Black families by implementing rent control, empowering Local School Councils, and building public accountability. (SF)

NORTHSIDE ACTION FOR JUSTICE is an all-volunteer organization that provides paperback books to incarcerated women and educates the public on the harsh realities of mass incarceration. The grant supported their role in advocating for the abolition of money bond and other forms of pretrial punishment. The TA grant supported their strategic planning process. (SF, TA, Grant)

PEOPLE FOR COMMUNITY RECOVERY is a community-based environmental justice organization that addresses pollution, the adverse impact on health and community, and other social justice issues in the Riverside community. Their current focus is on development of a “solar farm” to provide alternative energy sources and create career opportunities for local residents. (SF)

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
ALTERNATIVES TO CALLING POLICE DURING MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS is a community-based effort to train people in de-escalation techniques to protect psychoticly disabled and mentally ill community members from unjust and harmful police encounters. The grant supported expanding their workshop series and technology update.

BLACK AND PINK CHICAGO is a collaboration of LGBTI prisoners and their allies working to stem the violence experienced by prisoners and end the use of solitary confinement through advocacy, public education, direct services, and organizing. (SF)

BLACK LIVES MATTER CHICAGO works to end state violence and the criminalization of Black communities through supporting impacted families. Our Story a community-centered project to lift up young people’s voices and experiences, a campaign to destigmatize mental health issues and build an alternative mental health care system, and organizing with the national Poor People’s Campaign. The CRF supported their Justice for RonnieMan campaign. (SF, CRF)

BLACK YOUTH PROJECT 100 is a national member-based organization of young activists and organizers creating freedom and justice for all Black people using a Black queer feminist lens. Their focus is on transforming education through an approach that uses training, organizing, advocacy, research, and political education. (Grant)

CHICAGO BOOKS TO WOMEN IN PRISON is an all-volunteer organization that provides paperback books to incarcerated women and educates the public on the harsh realities of mass incarceration. The grant supported their role in advocating for the abolition of money bond and other forms of pretrial punishment. The TA grant supported their strategic planning process. (SF, TA, Grant)

THE CHICAGO TORTURE CENTER JUSTICE (CTJC) seeks to address the traumas of police violence and institutional racism through accounting and healing and works to build democracy through community organizing, coalition building, legal advocacy, civic engagement, and litigation to make local government more accountable, accessible, and transparent. The TA grant supported the purchase of financial management software. (SF, TA)

LIVE FREE CHICAGO is a community-based project to lift up young people’s voices and experiences, a campaign to destigmatize mental health issues and build an alternative mental health care system, and organizing with the national Poor People’s Campaign. The CRF supported their Justice for RonnieMan campaign. (SF, CRF)

CROSSROADS FUND 2018 GRANTEES

Our Story
A community-centered project to lift up young people’s voices and experiences, a campaign to destigmatize mental health issues and build an alternative mental health care system, and organizing with the national Poor People’s Campaign. The CRF supported their Justice for RonnieMan campaign. (SF, CRF)

Cities to Books to Prison Pipeline: Critical Support and Advocacy for Incarcerated Women’s Health

CITIZEN ADVOCACY CENTER utilizes community lawyers to engage residents in creating the city as a laboratory and building democracy through community organizing, coalition building, legal advocacy, civic education, and litigation to make local government more accountable, accessible, and transparent. The TA grant supported the purchase of financial management software. (SF, TA)

The Chicago Torture Center Justice (CTJC) seeks to address the traumas of police violence and institutional racism through accounting and healing and works to build democracy through community organizing, coalition building, legal advocacy, civic engagement, and litigation to make local government more accountable, accessible, and transparent. The TA grant supported their strategic planning process. (SF, TA, Grant)

The Chicago Torture Center Justice (CTJC) seeks to address the traumas of police violence and institutional racism through accounting and healing and works to build democracy through community organizing, coalition building, legal advocacy, civic engagement, and litigation to make local government more accountable, accessible, and transparent. The TA grant supported their strategic planning process. (SF, TA, Grant)
CHICAGO COALITION TO SAVE OUR MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS works to expand mental health services to poor and underserved communities. The coalition promotes public awareness of and supports expanded Mental Health Services Programs. These programs, pioneered by the Coalition’s partner agencies, help people to develop skills, meet their own self-identified needs, and overcome mental health challenges. (SF)

CHICAGO MINNESOTA HEALTH CENTER empowers women and trans-identified individuals by providing access to both high-quality and accessible health care and education in a respectful and affirming environment. Grants were used to support logistic needs of the march and targeted outreach to communities of color. (SF)

MOMS UNITED AGAINST VIOLENCE AND INCARCERATION is a community-centered organization that builds the collective strength and power of mothers directly impacted by state and interpersonal violence, particularly those who have been harmed by incarceration or related violent state violence. They provide comprehensive defense campaigns as well as advocacy and organizing around an abolitionist agenda. (SF)

NO COP ACADEMY CAMPAIGN is a youth-led effort, supported by community organizations across Chicago, that wants to see $95 million invested in community policing and restorative justice funding. Funding enabled them to send a cohort of young people to the Highlander Center for Research and Education for training focused on social movement’s history, political education, and community organizing. (CRF, Cathy Cohen)

RESTORE JUSTICE FOUNDATION is an all-volunteer organization that brings together teachers and parents to advocate for quality schools for all. They organize against the underlying causes of inequality, i.e., institutional racism, social and economic inequity, and corporate corruption of public resources. The CRF supported their special education advocacy work and enabled them to provide resources to Spanish-speaking CPS parents. (SF, CRF, TA)

PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF INDIANA AND KENTUCKY is a sexual and reproductive health care provider and advocate. They work to improve access to health care, organize around reproductive justice, and advance the rights and abilities of individuals and families to make informed and responsible choices. (Eleuterio)

RAISE YOUR HAND FOR ILLINOIS PUBLIC EDUCATION is comprised of education justice organizations who have banded together to empower and expand Local School Councils (LSCs) in Chicago. Their mission is to bring LSCs to full compass of powers to develop public funds, including charter/military/contract schools. (PF)

PARENTS 4 TEACHERS is an all-volunteer organization that brings together teachers and parents to advocate for quality schools for all. They organize against the underlying causes of inequality, i.e., institutional racism, social and economic inequity, and corporate corruption of public resources. The CRF supported their special education advocacy work and enabled them to provide resources to Spanish-speaking CPS parents. (SF, CRF, TA)

SOUTHSIDERS ORGANIZED FOR UNITY AND LIBERATION (SOU) is led by low-income people of color working on criminal justice reform and racial equity campaigns. They are members of a coalition working on new legislation to address the needs of formerly incarcerated people of color. They support the Women’s March in Chicago. The CRF supported their response to the dramatic increase in ICE raids in the Western Suburbs, as well as other emergency work. (CRF, GRAM, YF)

SPRING ROSE is working to build a scattered-site, community-managed housing development in Chicago’s张lash neighborhood and engages in youth organizing using a long-term strategic planning. (CRF)

TTELPOCHCALLI COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROJECT (TCEP) supports the education and empowerment of children in Little Village neighborhood and engages in youth organizing using a nonviolent strategy for social change. (CRF, GRAM, YF, SF, TCEP)

IMMIGRATION JUSTICE

ALBANY PARK DEFENSE NETWORK is a community-based, radical education, advocacy, and design work designed to protect neighbors from ICE raids. The grant supported expanding three areas of work: a local rapid response system, block-by-block organizing, and individual immigration defense cases. (CRF, CRF, TA)

ALLIANCE OF FILIPINOS FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT (AFIRE) is a grassroots community organization the works for immigrants, farm workers, and former residents of Puerto Rico—community—poisonous—political criminals, the effects of colonization, international economic sanctions, displacement—and the ways in which gentrification is affecting the Chicago Puerto Rican community. They received a CRF grant for their advocacy work on behalf of Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. (SF, CRF)

BANK DEFENSE NETWORK is a community-based, radical education, advocacy, and design work designed to protect neighbors from ICE raids. The grant supported expanding three areas of work: a local rapid response system, block-by-block organizing, and individual immigration defense cases. (CRF, CRF, TA)

CHRISTIAN PEACEMAKER TEAMS (CPT) places trained violence-reduction teams in crisis situations and militarized areas around the world to build partnerships with local peacebuilders to confront violence and oppression through nonviolent direct action. CPT reports to the world community on areas of conflict and human rights violations. (SF)

COMMITTEE FOR A JUST PEACE IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE (CJPIP) works for a just and peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through public education, civic participation, direct action, and advocacy. The YF supported a second annual convening to bring together activists from the Chicago-based Palestinian solidarity movement to learn from each other and share best practices. (SF, Convening. YF)

NATIONAL BORICUA HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK raises awareness of human rights violations in Puerto Rico and trains the Puerto Rican community—political prisoners, the effects of colonization, international economic sanctions, displacement—and the ways in which gentrification is affecting the Chicago Puerto Rican community. They received a CRF grant for their advocacy work on behalf of Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. (SF, CRF)

ILLINOIS IMMIGRATION FUNDERS COLLABORATIVE consists of 52 local funders and foundations working together to support issues related to immigrant rights, including legal aid, sanctuary, housing, and housing rights. (SF)

IMMIGRANT SOLIDARITY DUMAGUETE maintains a Workers Center that provides both direct and legal services to mostly low-wage workers throughout the island. They are working to ensure that those who qualify for affordable housing, small grants, and self-organizing for immigration reform. The organization provides direct aid to migrants across the border and documents their abuse, neglect, and mistreatment at the hands of border patrol and detention center officials. (PF)

NO MORE DEATHS is a humanization organization based in southern Arizona that works to end death and suffering in the US-Mexico borderlands while fighting for immigration reform. The organization provides direct aid to migrants crossing the border and documents their abuse, neglect, and mistreatment at the hands of border patrol and detention center officials. (PF)

ORGANIZED COMMUNITIES AGAINST DEPORTATION (OCAD) works with individuals and families to organize against deportations, detention, criminalization, and incarceration of Black, Brown, and immigrant communities. They provide legal support, organizing, advocacy, education, direct action, civil disobedience, and cross-movement building. The CRF supported their response to the dramatic increase in ICE raids in the Western Suburbs, as well as other emergency work. (CRF, GRAM, YF, SF)

PROYECTO DE ACCIÓN DE LOS SUBUBIOS DEL OESTE (PASO) serves the Western Suburbs with a focus on leadership development, education, community organizing, civic engagement, policy, and legal services to effect change led and directed by community members. CRF supported their response to the dramatic increase in ICE raids in the Western Suburbs. (CRF, Eleuterio, Ron Sable Award for Activism)

THE SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN IMMIGRANT PROJECT organizes immigrants and their families in the Southwest Suburbs to protect their rights, fight for local and national pro-immigrant policies, and work for a welcoming community. This is accomplished through youth organizing, civic engagement, and voter education. (SF)

TELPOCHCALLI COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROJECT (TCEP) champions the dignity and rights of the Little Village neighborhood and engages in youth organizing using a nonviolent strategy for social change. (CRF, GRAM, YF, SF, TCEP)

UNION IMPACT CENTER provides opportunities for youth and families of the Back of the Yards neighborhood and surrounding communities to create meaningful change by integrating organizing into ongoing programs of youth safety, immigration, education, and policing reform. (SF)
LESBIAN/GAY/BISEXUAL/TRANS/GENDER 

AFFACE YOUTH THEATER is a theater, activism, and leadership development program offered free of charge to LGBTQ+ and allied youth that empowers and equips them to own their experiences and use them to influence their communities. (SF, CRF)

AFFINITY COMMUNITY SERVICES serves African-American lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women in Chicago. They combine direct services with advocacy/activism, focused on coalition building, civic engagement and political organizing. (TA)

BRAVE SPACE ALLIANCE is the first Black-led, trans-led LGBTQ+ bisexual, and transgender women in Chicago. They combine direct services with advocacy/activism, focused on coalition building, civic engagement and political organizing. (TA)

BLACkAWARE OF COLOR is a network of queer artists of color who work for greater inclusion of marginalized artists in mainstream publications, performances, and media. They produce community arts programs featuring queer artists of color. (TA)

CROSSROADS FUND 2018 GRANTEES is a coalition of temporary workers, women and women of color who run a youth-led campaign to end racial profiling and seek justice for their peers on important to youth. Through various forms of art, youth seek systemic change at the center of our resistance. The TA grant supported restorative justice training. (TA, SF, YF)

CROSSROADS FUND 2018 GRANTEES is an initiative of the prison industrial complex and the abolitionist movement and amplifies local organizing for social justice. (Convening Grant)

CHALLENGING ELECTRONIC MONITORING IN COOK COUNTY SUMMIT convened individuals and organizations who are critically impacted by electronic monitoring in the criminal, legal, and immigration systems. Organizations and individuals attended and served as the local launch of the #NOODOTTRAPLINS Campagna.

CHICAGO SNEAK HISTORY PROJECT works to document the history of resistance in Chicago from the perspective of young people. Through the lens of game-based learning, analysis and action, the group offers participants the chance to thrive. Through their collaboration with the Chicago delegation to the Wouri Ujamaa Black +AAP Immigrants Building Power convening, which created a space for national relationship building. They also received the CRF to support their organizing around the passage of a clean DREAM Act. (CRF, YF)

CHICAGO SNEEZE 2018-2020 Workshops and planning meeting designed to convene and build the campaign for their 2019 International Conference On The Global Sixties. (Lynda J. Tipton Memorial Award for Social Justice, Convening Grant)
BECOME A PARTNER IN CREATING SOCIAL CHANGE

When you give to Crossroads Fund, your gift is pooled with others and becomes a significant resource to foster social change in Chicago and beyond. Here are some ways you can give to Crossroads Fund:

JOIN THE GIVING PROJECT and organize with other community members across race and class to fundraise and do grantmaking.

ATTEND OUR ANNUAL BENEFIT on April 5, 2019 and bring friends!

WRITE A CHECK and return it in the enclosed remittance envelope. Find out if your employer matches contributions—that is an easy way to make your gift go much further.

BECOME A SUSTAINER and have your contribution deducted from your credit card monthly or quarterly. As a sustainer, you can take pride in knowing that you are one of our most reliable sources of support.

CONTRIBUTE ONLINE via our secure service. It’s quick, convenient, and safe—just log on to www.crossroadsfund.org.

HONOR OR REMEMBER SOMEONE SPECIAL with a gift in their name.

CO-HOST A HOUSE PARTY and help us spread the word about the good work of Crossroads Fund to your colleagues, friends, and family.

REMEMBER CROSSROADS FUND IN YOUR WILL, INSURANCES, AND RETIREMENT PLAN as all three are easy ways to have a lasting impact for social justice.

OPEN A DONOR ADVISED FUND and partner with us to have an impact on social justice issues.

ESTABLISH A CHARITABLE TRUST to benefit Crossroads Fund and reduce your tax burden.

For more information, please contact Emmanuel Garcia, Development and Communications Manager, at 773.227.7676 or emmanuel@crossroadsfund.org

THANK YOU CROSSROADS FUND VISIONARIES

These dedicated individuals have included Crossroads Fund in their will or estate plan, ensuring the long-term strength and stability of the fund and leaving a legacy of their values and vision.

Anonymous (3) Jeanne Kracher & Laura McAlpine
Bill Barclay & Peg Strobel Nora Kyger
Henry T. Chandler, Jr.* Nancy Fleck Myers
Ferd Eggan* Susan Nussbaum
Sandy & Mark Ehert Patricia O’Brien
Tom Sourlis Jill Rohde*
Ruth & Dale Fast Rachel Wallis & Alex Rocklin
Maggie Gibbs* Bob Weissbourd
Kathy Gorosh Tom Wilson
Linda Harlan Iris Young*
Neena Hemmady Jaquelyn Zevin
Robert J. Horton & Barbara Kemmis
James C. Perry

For more information, please contact Jeanne Kracher, Executive Director, at 773.227.7676 or jeanne@crossroadsfund.org

*in memory