



Funding Priorities

Goals

The Spark Justice Fund is a national donor collaborative focused on supporting grassroots organizing and advocacy groups around the country that are working to:

- end the use of money bail in the criminal justice system,
- transform pretrial justice, and
- build power in communities most impacted by incarceration in the United States.

In addition to these three main goals, the Fund prioritizes supporting innovative work that advances the following goals:

- Decriminalizing poverty
- Dramatically reducing the number of people incarcerated in jails
- Advancing transformative, community-based models of justice
- Securing justice and equity for low-income communities of color most impacted by incarceration, including women and LGBTQ people
- Elevating the leadership of those most directly affected by the criminal justice system

Who We Fund

SJF funds effective, innovative **grassroots organizing and advocacy groups** that:

- Work authentically with constituencies most impacted by mass incarceration (particularly those led by individuals directly impacted by the system).
- Demonstrate a clear power-building and leadership-development strategy that meaningfully engages directly impacted communities in defining problems, solutions, and actions.
- Engage in bail reform efforts that advance decarceration and are connected to a broader and holistic vision of reform. The Fund will consider requests for support both to advance policy reforms and to ensure effective implementation of reforms already adopted.
- Are based in jurisdictions with momentum and strong partnerships among groups.
- Have an explicit, demonstrated commitment to racial, economic, and gender justice.

We have a particular interest in supporting grassroots groups that are:

- typically underfunded and
- led by individuals with personal experience with the criminal justice system.

Applications to support coalitions leading campaigns that align with the criteria above will be considered.

What We Don't Fund

The Spark Justice Fund does NOT fund:

- direct services work that is not connected to an advocacy and organizing agenda
- individuals
- government entities
- international projects