



The Spark Justice Fund (SJF) is a donor collaborative at Borealis Philanthropy that supports **grassroots organizing and power-building groups to decarcerate and close jails and advance transformative visions of pretrial justice** in the communities most impacted by incarceration in the United States. Since its launch in 2019 through 2020, SJF has awarded over \$6.8 million in grants to more than 40 groups.

Ending the use of money bail in the criminal legal system is critical to dramatically reducing the number of people locked up pre-and post conviction and ending the criminalization of poverty. **SJF supports efforts to end cash bail that are connected to a broader, holistic vision of pretrial justice, created and led by communities.**



“Our goal is to create space for visioning — re-imagining what safety and justice needs to look like for our communities and building an anti-poverty platform based on that collective vision. In this political moment, we are focusing squarely on the things our communities need to survive and thrive as we concurrently imagine the world as it should be.”

— GRANTEE PARTNER TANYA WATKINS, SOUTHSIDERS ORGANIZED FOR UNITY AND LIBERATION IN CHICAGO

“Truly transformative change requires investment in those who’ve experienced the harms of criminalization and incarceration first hand. It’s our leadership, expertise, and vision that pushes the criminal justice movement to reimagine both what is possible and what is necessary.”

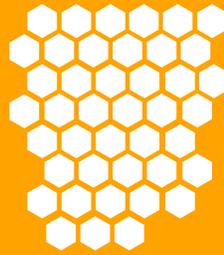
— GRANTEE PARTNER REUBEN JONES, FRONTLINE DADS

Who We Partner with to Create Change

SJF supports grassroots organizations that:

- **Grassroots organizing groups** (with priority given to traditionally underfunded groups)
- **Led by people from the communities most impacted by mass incarceration** (particularly individuals who have directly experienced the criminal legal system)
- **Demonstrate a clear power-building and leadership-development strategy** that meaningfully engages directly impacted communities in defining problems, solutions, and actions
- **Are based in local/state jurisdictions** where active organizing is underway
- **Have an explicit, demonstrated commitment to racial, economic, and gender justice**

\$6.8
MILLION



42
GRASSROOTS
GROUPS



**BUILDING
POWER**



**ENDING BAIL/
OTHER DETENTION
DRIVERS**



**PRETRIAL
INNOVATIONS**



**JAIL
CAMPAIGNS**

Support We Provide

SJF takes a **holistic approach** to supporting our grantees. We understand that the progress they're fighting for requires long-term, flexible support, including:

CORE GRANT SUPPORT



**MULTI-YEAR, GENERAL
OPERATING SUPPORT
GRANTS**, and grants to
respond to timely opportunities
and rapid response needs

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT



**GRANTS, COACHING
SUPPORT, AND LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES**
to meet organizational
development needs

CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORT



**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE,
WEBINARS, PEER
LEARNING ACTIVITIES,
AND RESOURCES** to build
campaign capacity and foster
deeper field coordination

For more information, please email: sparkjustice@borealisphilanthropy.org.