



### **For Immediate Release**

## The Defending the Dream Fund Announces 2018 Round of Grants Aimed at Supporting Grassroots Efforts to Defend the Promise of a Just, Equitable and Generous America

(November 16, 2018) — Today the [Defending the Dream Fund \(DDF\)](#) announced its third round of grants to 35 organizations advancing justice, awarding \$525,000. Funded by six philanthropic institutions, this brings the total awarded by Defending the Dream Fund to \$1,130,000, since it was launched in 2017. As with our first year's grants, these grants support innovative and urgent efforts by diverse grassroots organizations across the country to protect communities and rights under attack by the current Administration, as well to counter the climate of intensifying hate and discrimination.

The Defending the Dream Fund partnership is made up of the General Service Foundation, the Hill-Snowdon Foundation, the Hyams Foundation, the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation, the Whitman Institute, the UU Veatch Program at Shelter Rock and other funders, who came together in 2017 to quickly direct resources towards grassroots organizing in under-resourced areas. The goal is to help defend targeted communities against the draconian and destructive policies of the Trump era, and work towards a dream of a just, equitable and caring society.

This round of grants includes renewal support to 25 groups funded in 2017, as well as ten new grants to first-time grantee partners. This year, we decided to focus our support to grassroots organizations that were engaged primarily in civic participation and non-partisan electoral organizing. Groups like the **Florida Rights Restoration Coalition** led the campaign to restore voting rights to over a million returning citizens; and **VOTE** in Louisiana helped reshape the landscape for criminal justice. In addition, many groups, like **Black Voters Matter Capacity Building Institute**, **Women Engaged**, and the **Electoral Justice Project of the Movement for Black Lives**, focused on ensuring that traditionally marginalized voters were mobilized to vote. Defending the Dream Fund also continued to support many immigrant-led organizations, such as **Adhikaar**, **African Communities Together**, **CARECEN/TPS Alliance**, and **UndocuBlack** who are at the forefront of protecting immigrants with TPS or Temporary Protective Status, which the current Administration wants to eliminate. Finally, DTD Fund re-affirmed its commitment to supporting Native organizing and leadership development by supporting three Native-led groups: **Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition**, **Honor the Earth**, **Native Organizers Alliance**.

[Please click here for the full list of 2018 Defending the Dream grant recipients.](#)

The partnership between the DDF funders is an aligned giving effort that came about organically, and has been a model for how foundations can collaborate and move agilely to meet needs in the field. We continue to partner with the JustFund.us portal, an innovative online platform, allowing us to share proposals from DDF applicants with a wider array of interested funders who may also want to support this important work.

The DDF will be continuing to make grants in 2019 and beyond, as the severity of attacks against vulnerable communities intensifies. As always, we invite other funders and donors to contact us if you are interested in supporting our mission to make the dream of a just, equitable, caring and generous America a reality for everyone.

**For more information about the Defending the Dream Fund or to inquire about joining the Defending the Dream Fund, please contact Shona Chakravartty at [shona@hillsnowdon.org](mailto:shona@hillsnowdon.org).**