Background

Resourcing mass popular movements has been a central focal point for Solidaire since its inception. We recognize movement moments as windows of opportunity out of which new ideas accelerate and new leaders and organizations emerge. Solidaire as a community has developed a niche as an organization that is both ready to stand with movements as they struggle to get on their feet and that is mindful of the on-going infrastructural support they will need to build long-term power.

The Intention of Movement R&D

Since our founding, Solidaire has worked with the concept of Movement Research and Development (R&D). “Research and Development” is intended to convey an openness to taking risks by supporting movement leaders to explore, iterate and test new ideas and tactics with flexible funding that doesn’t require anticipate specific answers, deliverables or outcomes. We hope to allow space for the advancement of bold ideas that hold the potential to unlock the potential of entire movements. The Movement R&D Fund values experimentation as an investment in cultivating movement wisdom over the long haul. The Movement R&D Fund offers our members an opportunity to learn about new thinking and creative movement strategies.
Basic Eligibility Criteria

The Movement R&D Fund seeks proposals from organizations and projects that meet the following basic eligibility criteria to be considered for support:

- **Focused on Organizing for Change**: Must be rooted in, emerging from, or in direct relationship to organizing efforts – i.e. building leaders and people power in pursuit of transformative structural change.

- **Leadership from Marginalized Communities**: Must include the leadership of communities most impacted by injustice, including but not limited to: people of color, Indigenous peoples, migrants, low income people, women, youth, queer, trans, or gender nonconforming people, and people with disabilities.

- **New Ideas or Experiments**: The Movement R&D Fund seeks to support new attempts to explore solutions or problems that face movements – which could come from either existing or new organizations, leaders, or projects. This Movement R&D Grant Must not be supplementing the ongoing general work of existing organizations.

- **Wide Impact**: Projects should have an eye towards movement-wide impact. This could mean projects are potentially replicable and the learnings will be shared, or it could mean that the project is an attempt to organize at a massive scale. We are looking for big potential to advance entire fields of work.

Movement R&D Priorities

- **Building Economic Power**: We have heard time and time again from our grantees and field partners that dependence on foundations and major donors is a key challenge that movements face in realizing their full potential. The Movement R&D Fund seeks proposals for creative experiments to reduce dependence on traditional philanthropy including revenue generation, membership models, and building regenerative, community-centered economic infrastructure.

- **Making Movements More Strategic**: Every movement moment presents new challenges and learning opportunities. New and long time organizers are adapting, experimenting and thinking in new ways about how to organize, mobilize, and win. The Movement R&D Fund seeks proposals that show the potential to train and support leaders from across movements to expand their imaginations, strategize in new ways, and apply new organizing tactics to their work. *What is the next Momentum Training?*

- **Scaling Movement Impact**: We know that mass mobilizations and uprisings (whether planned or unplanned) have the potential to change the public imagination of what is possible and to escalate popular participation. The Movement R&D Fund seeks projects that aim to escalate issues and mobilize new participants into movement building. *What is the next #BlackLivesMatter?*

- **Translating Movement Power into Governing Power**: The Movement R&D Fund seeks projects experimenting at the overlap between movement building and political power, including attempts to engage a movement base as a political base.