Solidaire is a membership community of people with wealth committed to supporting progressive social movements. We have a variety of programs in order to respond both quickly and nimbly to urgent needs as well as make long-term sustained commitments to infrastructure.

The Solidaire Movement R&D Fund was created to support innovations in movement building: to seed tactics, strategies, and experiments with the potential to advance entire movements. We look for organizations that are testing out exciting new ideas, are not yet foundation ready, and are rooted in communities of color. As part of their dues, members contribute $10,000 per year to this Fund, which is distributed biannually based on set criteria and guidelines. Since 2013, seven R&D funding cycles have granted $1,470,000 to 84 projects across a diverse spectrum.

Each cycle we learn from and iterate on our giving process. This cycle we continued movement-engaged giving, with six former grantees joining four Solidaire members to narrow 220 applications down to a final grant slate of 18. Several points of insight emerged:

• Inspiring movement building work is happening in pockets all across the country, rooted in communities of color. On this slate, Solidaire is supporting innovation in Mississippi, Kentucky, Montana, Minnesota, Illinois, Texas, and Michigan. We are thrilled to support local projects with the potential to inspire movements and seek to increase our distribution network to keep nurturing new ideas beyond the coasts.

• New constellations of leaders and projects are forming to creatively address intersectional movement needs. Several grants on our final slate are partnerships between three or more groups.

• Running a rigorous movement-engaged decision-making process virtually, even in a short span of eight weeks, is doable thanks to collaborative technology and facilitation. Movement leaders appreciate participating in grantmaking, and wish that more leaders could see the breadth of inspiring work happening nationwide.
Throughout this cycle’s process, we provided opportunities for members to engage with all of the applications. As a result, members pledged an additional $65,000 in individual donations to projects they felt passionate about – what we call Pooled Plus gifts. While the movement-engaged team decided to keep most grants at a $25,000 standard amount this year, variance in grant size on the final slate is due to these additional gifts.

We hope you’ll be as inspired by these organizations as we are.

GRANTEE LIST

$25,000
Energy Sovereignty in Illinois
Illinois People’s Action
Led by African American grassroots and faith leaders, Organized People of Color across downstate Illinois are fighting for a future in which they are not simply the beneficiaries of renewable energy savings, but own all facets of the means of production. They see the implementation of energy sovereignty as the cornerstone for community economic development and environmental justice – that could well expand beyond these two communities, across the nation.

$25,000
Detroit Emergent Strategy Facilitation Intensive Trainings
Emergent Strategy Ideation Institute
Writer and facilitator adrienne maree brown will lead immersive facilitation trainings for Detroiter movement leaders, bringing to life the theory of Emergent Strategy, a framework for resilience and adaptability within the uncertainty and peril of our current times. As she writes, “Many of us have been socialized to understand that constant growth, violent competition, and critical mass are the ways to create change. But emergence shows us that adaptation and evolution depend more upon critical, deep, and authentic connections.”

$25,000
Jolt Initiative
Jolt is unlocking the power of young Latinxs to make progressive change in Texas. This moment in Texas, with the passing of SB4, could have the same political tide-shifting impact that Proposition 187 had in California in the 1990s. Jolt will play a critical role in reshaping the issue agenda and outcomes at the Texas legislature and will develop a cohort of young progressive leaders that will take on positions of power across the state.

$25,000
Supporting and Scaling the FICPFM
FICPFM (Formerly Incarcerated Convicted Peoples and Families Movement) is a network of over 50 advocacy organizations led by people with criminal records from over 35 states
FICPFM will build and sustain a national movement of people working to end mass incarceration by organizing a critical mass of the roughly 70 million people in the U.S. with criminal records. This work
will ensure that the voices of those most directly impacted by the system are included in conversations around mass incarceration and criminal justice reform, and participate in the strategic process of developing their own solutions.

**$25,000**  
**Building Capacity for Indigenous Climate Action**  
**Indigenous Climate Action**

Climate change has not been inclusive of Indigenous values, knowledge and voices. Indigenous Climate Action (ICA) works to build power in Indigenous communities as a force that can drive the adoption of climate solutions that are both sustainable and just. ICA's work brings together networks of Indigenous leaders and communities to build power that prioritizes Indigenous people as agents of change, addresses climate change from an Indigenous rights framework, and ensures the resiliency and sustainability of their communities. Funding from Solidaire will enable ICA to hire core staff to collectively organize Indigenous leaders and ensure they are a part of the climate change discourse.

**$25,000**  
**Community Production Initiative (CPI)**  
**Cooperation Jackson**

CPI will focus on acquiring and democratically controlling the means of production developed through innovations of the 4th Industrial Revolution. It will serve as the quintessential building block towards making Jackson, Mississippi a Fab City – that is, an international hub of digital fabrication (i.e. 3D print) manufacturing. It will make the city, particularly Black working class sections, more economically self-sufficient, and help to reduce Jackson's carbon footprint by shifting production and consumption of essential goods and services more locally. It will provide a model for other Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and working class communities to build upon as an economic foundation to attain self-determination.

**$25,000**  
**Navigate MN**

NAVIGATE MN is a group led by DREAMers/undocumented immigrants, championing immigration and education justice by building power and strategic leadership in the Latinx community. NAVIGATE brings the realities of undocumented Minnesotans and their families to the center of their work, building capacity and leadership so that Latinxs can thrive while being part of the solution for prosperity in Minnesota. They will organize struggling White farmers and immigrant farmers, uniting the two groups by weaving a story of mutual oppression and indigeneity through the concept of corn.

**$25,000 + $12,000 IN POOLED PLUS GIFTS**  
**Black Momentum**

MULTIPLE: Black Lives Matter Network, Ohio Student Association, Black Youth Project 100, Momentum, Movement Net Lab, Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, Black Liberation Collective, Portland Racial Justice Congress, The For Us, By Us Fund, Ignite NC, American Federation of Teachers, Southerners on New Ground, GetEqual, SumOfUs, and SEIU

Black Momentum seeks to train over 10,000 Black organizers, from all movements, in Momentum theory and practice, giving common language to different strategies, tools, and tactics that Black organizers have and continue to implement during this current iteration of the Black liberation movement.
Black Momentum training will provide space for Black organizers, artists, healers, and strategists to think critically about how to build mass-scale, sustainable, liberating movements during a critical movement moment.

$25,000
We the People
We the People will build a progressive state infrastructure to engage Michiganders on uniting issues, like paid sick time and water rights, while also creating dialogue on divisions of race, class, gender, urban/rural, and immigration. We will foster in-depth organizing training, develop local leadership teams in counties across the state, and embody a radical commitment to experimentation, learning, and adjusting as we build outward. If we succeed, we will have built a robust, multi-racial, working people organization with a proactive agenda and narrative, and the ability to contend for statewide power.

$25,000
Transforming Progressive Voting Infrastructure Using Facebook Messenger
PushBlack
PushBlack will test new growth strategies, civic action models, and revenue generation experiments inside of Facebook Messenger. We aspire to create the largest, financially self-sustaining African-American citizen organizing force in the United States – an organizing force with the power and reach of the AARP or NRA, but for Black people. We hope to outperform traditional voter engagement strategies for the progressive movement, eliminate barriers to voting, and change the norms around voting in the Black community.

$25,000
Advancing Racial Justice and Economic Inclusion in the Clean Energy Economy
New Economy Coalition: Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, Northern Plains Resource Council in MT, and One Voice in MS
Organizers in coal country and the Black Belt will work together through New Economy Coalition to scale up organizing among members of rural electric cooperatives through a community of practice anchored by place-based grassroots organizations. By mapping along with developing, testing and sharing tools, grassroots groups can more effectively organize for both economic inclusion and racial justice as central requirements for reaching 100% clean energy.

$25,000
Towards Independent Economic and Political Power
New York City Network of Worker Cooperatives
This project will build the power of the expanding worker cooperative movement in NYC towards an independent economy through the development of a network that bridges local worker cooperatives, cooperative support organizations, and movement allies. Coordinated by NYC NOWC, it will be led by members of worker cooperatives who aim to build the base and political power needed to drive important advocacy efforts for economic autonomy based on principles of cooperation and democratic ownership. In our wildest dream, we would have a solidarity economy in NYC that is independent and self sustaining.
$12,500 + $14,000 IN POOLED PLUS GIFTS

**Listen First**
*Mia Birdsong, with support from the Economic Security Project*

A new vanguard of radical economic ideas are emerging to meet the moment -- one of which is a universal basic income (UBI). Mia Birdsong and Listen First aim to refocus the UBI movement so that voices of people who are poor are central to this conversation. Currently, this conversation is largely held by wealthy elites. Listen First ensures that the leadership of low income communities and communities of color are absolutely critical as well, and that the UBI movement is inclusive of those voices.

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$12,500

**Water Protector Camp**
*Honor the Earth*

Building off lessons from Standing Rock and other indigenous organizing, Honor the Earth is building Water Protector Camps that will be instrumental in supporting indigenous communities on the Fon Du Lac and White Earth Band of Ojibwe reservations in Minnesota, aiming to resist and organize around Enbridge Line 3. The camps will include training on legal rights and movement defense, security, pipeline corridor monitoring, legal intervention, local ecology and hydrology, non-violent direct action, and arts. Indigenous leaders on the frontlines of the pipeline battle will be trained and prepared to respond to the moment.

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$25,000 (501c4 grant)

**Judicial Races: An Intersection of the Down Ballot Movement and Criminal Justice Reform**
*The People’s Lobby* and *Reclaim Chicago*

The People’s Lobby proposes to begin electing judges who support decarceration policies in order to leverage judicial discretion in criminal cases to reduce mass incarceration. Having judges on our side will be key to ensuring that incarceration is a last resort in tens of thousands of criminal cases, and that as many people as possible are released prior to trial rather than held because they cannot afford bail. Electing decarceration judges could fuel a new culture where judges begin to worry less about being attacked for under-sentencing and more about losing re-election because they are on the wrong side of incarceration and police violence.

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$19,000 IN POOLED PLUS GIFTS

**Working While Black**
*National Black Worker Center Project, Center for Story-Based Strategy*, and *Blackbird*

Working While Black (WWB) is a strategic communications and organizing campaign to address the Black job crisis. The project uses narrative communication interventions to reshape popular perceptions of work and to build power among Black workers. Should the project be successful, WWB would completely shift the story of work, centering Black workers, and revealing the interconnected systems of oppression that undergird a broken economy and exploitative system of work in this country. In multiple cities, WWB would be able to contribute to campaign wins for access to dignified and long-term work for Black workers, build worker rights / power and governance power for the long-term, centered in Black communities who have borne the brunt of exploitative labor in this country since before 1492.
$10,000 IN POOLED PLUS GIFTS

The Radical Communicators Network “Un-Convening”
Radical Communicators Network, The SPIN Academy, and Community Initiatives

The Radical Communicators (RadComm) Network has grown out of a desire for significant ideological intervention in the face of a perniciously changing political landscape and a large gap in our progressive movements of organized networks of communications experts. To construct a more powerful narrative, we will analyze the elements of the opposition and the status quo, while providing suggestions to make our narrative resonate. RadComm will build narrative strategies that tear down barriers to empathy and understanding on important issues like race, transgender liberation, and immigration, creating a more just and equitable society for all Americans.

$10,000 IN POOLED PLUS GIFTS

Black Radio Project
Project South

The Black Radio Project will close the information gap between grassroots communities and social movement activity by organizing existing radio stations into a communications infrastructure across the U.S. South. Project South will train a cohort of 15-20 youth organizing fellows to develop skills in production, investigative journalism, and station management. The project will engage existing community radio stations in small towns, rural centers, and cities that represent wide bases of listeners but limited capacity for developing quality content. The Black Radio Project seeks to develop long-term movement communications infrastructure that increase reach, engagement, and scale through meaningful community dialogue that leads to action.