



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Southern Partners Fund Awards \$729,000 In COVID-19 Emergency Response Grants

Funds to Support Rural Grassroots Organizations Throughout the South Responding to COVID-19 Crisis

Atlanta, GA: August 12th, 2020—Southern Partners Fund (SPF) is pleased to announce \$729,000 in emergency response grants to grassroots community organizations across the Southeast that have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 health crises. An SPF Justice Fund for Disaster Relief and Renewal initiative, the 55 recipients of these grants are either actively working to reduce the devastating impact of COVID-19 in their communities or on other key social justice issues disrupted by the pandemic. Education reform, immigration rights, incarceration reform, economic and racial justice, and voter rights and engagement efforts remain critically important as COVID-19 continues to wreak havoc on our social justice warriors and the communities where they remain steadfast in organizing for positive social change.

Natural disasters have always brought to light the lethal inequities that continue to pervade our society. In keeping with SPF's mission, our goal in these times is to neutralize the systems of oppression that result in low-income and people of color communities being forced to lead unhealthy lives that expose them and their families to greater risk of COVID-19 exposure and complications. This inequality continues to grow as the pandemic wears on and families become even more financially strapped.



“A principal tenet of SPF’s approach to grantmaking is focusing on treating the root cause of a problem rather than simply addressing the symptoms,” said Fernando Cuevas, Jr., Executive Director of Southern Partners Fund. “These grants, made possible with the generosity of several key funding partners, allow us and our grantee partners to continue carrying out our work in supporting struggling families while erecting a more equitable, just South.”

These grants were made possible thanks to the benevolent support of individual donors, public foundations and philanthropic organizations, including leading contributions from the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation, Viking Trust, Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, JPB Foundation and W.K. Kellogg Foundation. These funds enable SPF to support all of its grantees through these challenging times in a meaningful way. Grants such as these help SPF sustain and grow its impact across the region, increase its unique membership, and further the principles of democratic philanthropy that are central to SPF’s unwavering mission.

Southern Partners Fund (SPF) is a 501(c)3 regional community foundation located in Atlanta, GA, governed by people of color grassroots leaders from rural communities across 12 states in the Southeast. Its mission is to support grassroots community organizations in the rural South seeking racial, economic and environmental justice by providing financial resources, technical assistance, training and access to systems of

information and power.

For more information on applying for a COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund grant, please contact Antoine Smith, below, or [visit our COVID-19 page](#).

For more information about the SPF grants process, its grantees, or these projects, please contact Antoine Smith
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