Southern Partners Fund

Biennial Report: 2020 & 2021

Advancing Social Change in the Rural South

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MISSION | VALUES | PURPOSE

Our mission at Southern Partners Fund (SPF) is to support grassroots community organizations in the rural South seeking racial, economic, and environmental justice by providing financial resources, technical assistance and training, and access to systems of information and power. SPF is a public, community foundation that is democratically governed by grassroots leaders.

Our purpose is to help build the capacity of grassroots community leaders and organizations, and to foster relationships and networking that build power toward achieving a more just South.

Our values are based on compassion and community–cornerstones of our democratic approach to philanthropy–and are reflected in how we carry out this work.

- *Compassion is rooted in our inherent understanding of communities lacking the political power to impact decisions affecting their lives. We came from communities like that until we learned to organize.*
- *Community comes from our connections to one another, the glue that holds us together.*
- *We believe culture, the essence of our people, should be valued, shared, and preserved; that we must build strength and unity by incorporating integrity, respect, diversity, quality, interconnectedness, and love.*

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends,

Let me begin by expressing my gratitude for all the hard work carried out by our grantee partners, board, membership, and staff these past two years. Few, if any, could have predicted how much our day-to-day way of life would change in the wake of COVID-19, not to mention the tragic loss of life and economic turmoil felt especially hard by the underserved communities we support.

While we continue to hear about how COVID-19 has brought to light deep health inequities, this was not news for those who have been surviving despite these inequities for decades. 2020 and 2021 have presented nonprofits, us included, with a unique set of compounding challenges in terms of providing relief funding to grassroots organizations that have been catastrophically impacted by COVID-19, while staying on track with the goals and mission of the foundation. Fortunately, we were able to raise record funding that allowed SPF to grant over *$3.3 million to 110 rural grassroots organizations throughout the rural South, while doubling the foundation's assets.*

How we communicate has also changed radically. Video conferencing became the primary means of communication for work, school, friends, and family, further isolating those who lacked access to reliable broadband internet, as is the case for many families in the rural southeastern communities we serve. These are the disparities that crop up every which way and result in even more (lasting) challenges. They touch on our nation's deeper struggle with structural racism, and the need for political representation at every level that is fair and demonstrative of the communities it's meant to serve. Through our grantmaking, we are trying to give grassroots community organizations the tools, education and human connection required in movement building to turn this need into a reality.

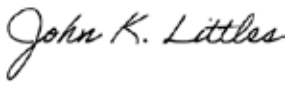
For 2020 and 2021, the board focused on organizing for the redistricting cycle, which is pivotal in maintaining or increasing our representation, as these maps determine each seat's electorate. When our communities are deliberately divided such that we don't have a majority in any jurisdiction, our voice is weakened. So, in addition to the past two years' robust grantmaking, we have also poured significant resources into our Social Justice Institute (SJI), SPF's programmatic arm that meant hosting educational webinars and workshops led by redistricting experts, as well as funding and facilitating the training of a cohort of 12 regional grassroots leaders in all things redistricting.

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

The generosity from private and institutional donors, *including an unrestricted $3 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and an unrestricted $10 million grant from philanthropist Mackenzie Scott,* was truly breathtaking and far exceeded any of our fundraising expectations. This gave us both the ability to dramatically increase our giving in addition to helping underserved, rural communities by investing and parking these surplus funds amongst local banks and credit unions whose values and leadership most closely resemble ours. This year, we will also welcome our second class (since relaunch) of Young Leaders for Social Change fellows, in addition to a new Capacity Building Fellowship for rural grassroots organizers of all ages.

So, while I was getting weary in attempting to cover what we as a community, and collectively as a nation, have been up against the past two years, it is within these darkest of times that a light inevitably begins to shine through. And, while it hasn't made the suffering any easier, addressing problems as a group in times of great need isn't foreign to us. *To help others is a prevalent determinant in our ability to rise up and organize for justice and equity in our communities.* This is who we are. So, while the road ahead will continue to hold considerable hurdles, I can see that light in the work our grantee partners, funders, SPF staff, membership (growing!) and board continue to carry out while bringing positive, meaningful, and lasting change to the those who call the rural South home.

In solidarity,



John Littles
Board Chair, Southern Partners Fund

SOCIAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE: PROGRAMMING

Southern Partners Fund maintains a vigorous list of programs that focus, both short and long-term, on what the foundation deems most critical toward advancing social justice in the rural South. Falling under the umbrella of SPF's Social Justice Institute (SJI), our programming seeks to build capacity within rural grassroots organizations, their leaders, and the next generation of social justice warriors. For 2020 and 2021, SPF's programs focused on census and redistricting organizing, election protection, disaster relief, and the relaunch of our Young Leaders for Social Change Fellowship.

CENSUS + REDISTRICTING

SPF's Redistricting work began in December, 2020 with a four-part webinar series, *Drawing the Lines: Understanding Redistricting & What Communities Need to Know to Change the Narrative*. This series was designed to educate communities on the importance of redistricting and the opportunities it presents for positive change, as well as how to keep these communities from getting split up in the face of gerrymandering efforts. A shared concern that communities lacked trained demographers and access to map-drawing software prompted the creation of SPF's 'Redistricting Cohort,' consisting of 12 regional allies, one from each of the 12 states SPF funds. These allies have since been professionally trained to draw and present fair and equitable maps to their local redistricting committees.

PATHWAY TO PHILANTHROPY

Pathway to Philanthropy: Building Family Assets focuses on implementing strategies to promote community-led philanthropy through the development of donors of color in low-wealth communities. SPF embarked upon this initiative to address poverty in communities of color through a purposeful effort to create a community-led pathway to philanthropy. To date, the program has empowered more than 100 families, individuals and communities in Southwest Georgia, South Carolina, and the Mississippi Delta to take ownership of their finances and continue their journey of economic growth and re-investment in their communities.

SOCIAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE: PROGRAMMING

ELECTION PROTECTION

SPF's Election Protection work focuses on providing resources to coalitions of grassroots organizations that are working to alleviate voter suppression activities in minority and low-income communities in Alabama, Georgia, North and South Carolina. These organizations have been working collectively to further develop and enhance strategies that facilitate appropriate action against laws and practices that restrict access to the ballot box, such as nebulous voter I.D. requirements, precinct closures and other suppression activities.

Findings from this work are being utilized to create a model for grassroots organizing that can be used as a step-by-step guide across the Southeast region where voter suppression has become the primary means of slowly dismantling the Voting Rights Act. It is our hope that takeaways from this work can be re-applied in other areas of the country where these flagrant threats to democracy are employed.

JUSTICE FUND FOR DISASTER RELIEF & RENEWAL (JFDRR)

The Justice Fund for Disaster Relief and Renewal (JFDRR) was formed in the wake of Hurricane Katrina to provide immediate disaster relief funds, as well as funds for renewal efforts to foster reconstruction that is both just and equitable.

It was clear that underserved communities, primarily of color and rural-based, have usually been the hardest hit and in need of the greatest support during and after a natural disaster, which undeniably includes the COVID-19 Pandemic.

SOCIAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE: PROGRAMMING

YOUNG LEADERS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE (YLSC) FELLOWSHIP

Sustaining the racial and economic justice movement requires the continued support and cultivation of our future leaders. The Young Leaders for Social Change (YLSC) Fellowship was designed to help individuals aged 18-to-35 to become more grounded and effective leaders. This program is an opportunity for these individuals to enhance their leadership skills, learn new skills, and apply said skills in their respective communities.

An SPF membership-based YLSC committee selects 10 rural-based, aspiring leaders for the fellowship to receive a $10k grant to carry out a grassroots-organizing oriented project that benefits their local community. The curriculum spanned the history of organizing, social change and movement building efforts, relationship building, issue, and organizational development and budgeting, and on utilizing change theories to mobilize. Projects from this past year's class ranged from the creation of a preliminary "youth activist toolkit," to 24/7 accessible micro pantries in Bowling Green and a restorative justice focused healing space for Black and Brown girls.

BOARD + MEMBERSHIP

Board Members

John Littles
(Board-Chair)
E.D., McIntosh S.E.E.D.
Darien, GA

Gardenia White
(Board-Vice Chair)
N Y. School District, Retired
Community Organizer
Brooklyn, NY

Carolyn Ford
(Board-Treasurer)
E.D., North Florida Educational Development Corporation
Gretna, FL

Margarita Romo
(Board-Secretary)
E.D., Farmworkers Self-Help
Dade City, FL

Rev. Rose Johnson
(Board)
E.D., Newtown Florist Club
Gainesville, GA

Tirso Moreno
(Board)
Farmworkers Consultant
Apopka, FL

Karen Watson
(Board)
E.D., Positive Action Committee
Sylvania, GA

Members

Vivian Anderson
E.D., Every Black Girl, Inc.
Columbia, SC

Brett Bursey
E.D., South Carolina Progressive Network
Columbia, SC

Ms. Andre' Cheek-Castleberry
Newtown Florist Club
Gainesville, GA

Shaq Cossé
Program Manager
Son of a Saint, & YLSC Alum
New Orleans, LA

Mr. Marcos Crisanto
Rural Coalition / Coalición Rural
Crescent City, FL

Erin Dale-McClellan
E.D., The Partnership Funds, Inc.
Organizer / Consultant
Raleigh, NC

Ms. Dianna Freelon-Foster
Activists with a Purpose
Grenada, MS

Omari Fox
Community Organizer
SC Progressive Network
Orangeburg, SC

Ms. Marilyn Hunter
Moore-Mickens Education & Vocational Center
Dade City, FL

April Jarocki
Southern Connected Communities Project
Clairfield, TN

Leroy Johnson
Southern Echo, Retired
Organizing Instructor/Consultant
Lexington, MS

Ashley McKay-Dandridge
E.D., Tunica Teens In Action
Tunica, MS

Bryan Perlmutter
Founding Partner
Piece by Piece Strategies
Durham, NC

Marshall Pierite, Chair
Tunica Biloxi Tribe of LA
Marksville, LA

LaVerne A. Robinson
Leadership Trainer/Consultant
Be Present, Inc.
Stone Mountain, GA

Darla Saunders, President
Advocates for Safer Communities, Inc.
Sun City, FL

Corry Stevenson
South Carolina United Action
Darlington, SC

Ms. Kattie Vinson-Kendrick
E.D., Peach Concerned Citizens
Fort Valley, GA

La'Meshia "L.A." Whittington-Kaminski
Deputy Director, Advance Carolina
Holly Springs, NC

John Zippert
Retired, Federation of Southern Cooperatives
Epes, AL

STAFF

Fernando Cuevas, Jr.
Executive Director

Linda Norman
Senior Office Administrator & Grants Management Assistant

Daphne Saethang
Chief Financial Officer

Antoine Smith
Program Officer

Teumbay Barnes
Program Coordinator

William Nichols
Marketing & Communications Specialist

GRANTMAKING + IMPACT

Southern Partners Fund serves as a model of democratic philanthropy, demonstrating that grantmaking decisions that reflect the experience of people living in the communities served are effective and powerful. Over the past two years, SPF has made 229 grants to 110 rural grassroots organizations throughout its 12-state Southeastern region with an average grant size of **$14,674**. Total grantmaking, including SPF's Regular Grant Cycle, Justice Fund for Disaster Relief and Renewal, Special Initiative Funding, and the discretionary fund, surpassed **$3.3M**!

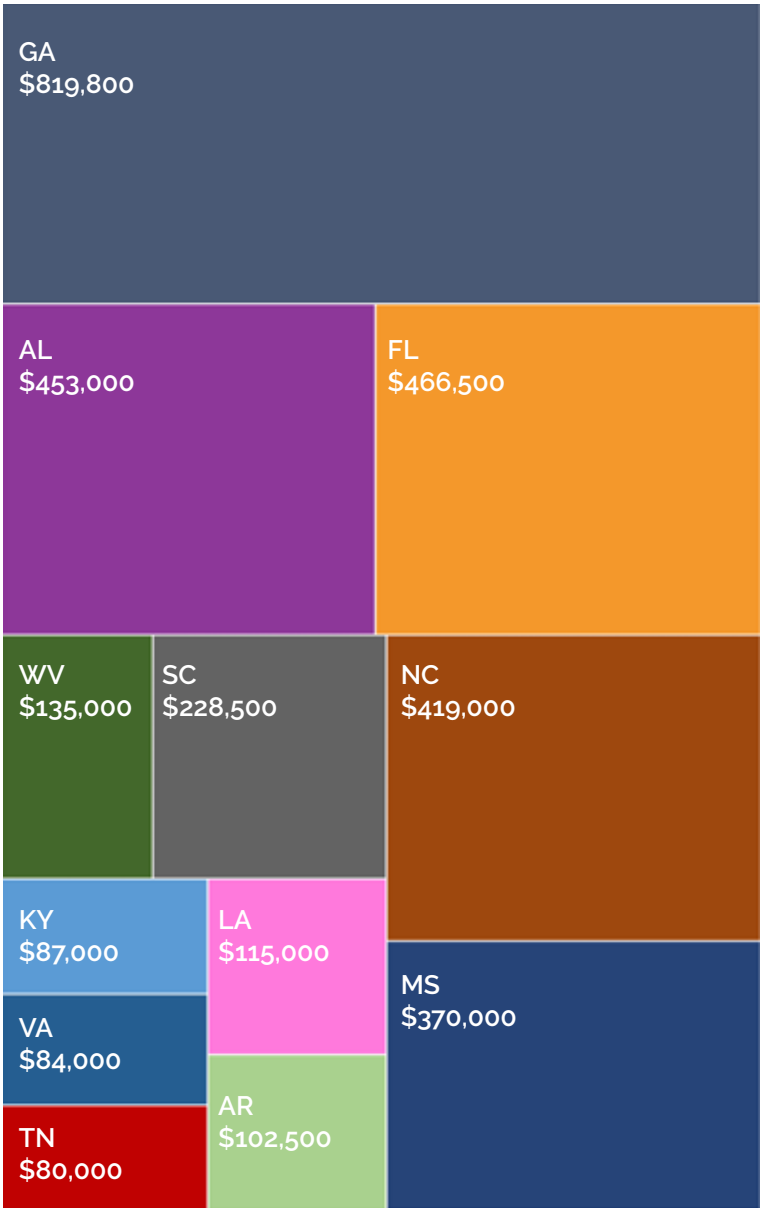
As part of SPF's Southern Organizing Strategy (SOS), SPF focuses approximately 60% of regular grant cycle (RGC) funds on three major initiatives: voter rights and engagement, immigration rights, and education reform. The remaining 40 percent of grant dollars fund additional program areas defined by the grantee and compatible with SPF funding guidelines.

For 2020 and 2021, SPF continued to integrate its three major initiatives with census training and redistricting organizing, while balancing the critical support our grantees needed to survive COVID-19.

General Operating Grants

Each year, we provide general operating grants to organizations that organize for social, economic, and environmental justice in the rural Southeastern United States. These organizations use organizing as a tool to create systemic change in their communities. SPF focuses on general support funds because oftentimes it is difficult for organizations to secure money for day-to-day operations.

Funding by State 2020-2021



GRANTMAKING + IMPACT

Grants are given out yearly and range from $5,000 to $25,000. Each year, we have an April proposal deadline for the general operating cycle. Two panels, made up of SPF grants committee members, review and recommend organizations to SPF's Board of Directors for funding. The process includes site visits and phone interviews, culminating in a face-to-face meeting. Obviously, this process has had to adapt to the pandemic-era virtual forms of communication, but we so look forward to meeting in person again.

Travel, Technical Assistance, and Discretionary Fund Awards

Throughout each year, SPF provides grants for travel, technical assistance (this includes IT), and limited discretionary funding, with a max discretionary grant size of $3,500. These funds are set aside to support organizations with unforseen events or opportunities. Organizations that are currently funded by SPF or meet SPF's criteria for funding are eligible to apply and need to submit a short letter (link will take you to application process page).

Justice Fund for Disaster Relief and Renewal (JFDRR)

Climate change and environmental disasters increasing in number and intensity pose a clear and present threat to human rights and economic development in the rural South. When Katrina and Rita devastated rural communities from Florida to Louisiana in the early 2000's, SPF pointed out the hardest hit and slowest to recover communities, that due to lesser developed infrastructure, are always the communities with the lowest income. New Orleans' ninth ward was a glaring example.

SPF argued that the goal of relief must be to help these communities attain new standards of political and economic health and wholeness, rather than restoring their previous underserved and impoverished norms. Like Katrina but on a global scale, the COVID-19 Pandemic has laid bare all of the pre-existing structural inequities that have leveled so many communities of color in the U.S. Today, SPF's Justice Fund for Disaster Relief and Renewal is showing rural communities how to use redevelopment opportunities to convert a disaster into a launchpad. COVID-19 has presented another of these opportunities and SPF is beyond fortunate to be able to continue providing disaster relief to groups that are eligible.

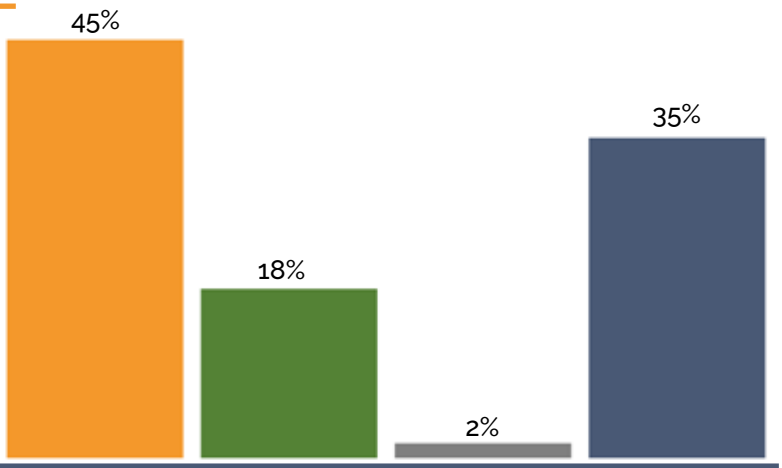
Special Initiative Grants:

Funds permitting, SPF provides opportunities for organizations meeting our criteria to apply for funding to build their capacity. Grant sizes have ranged from $15,000 to $40,000 a year but the maximum grant size is determined by the amount of funds available for the cycle.

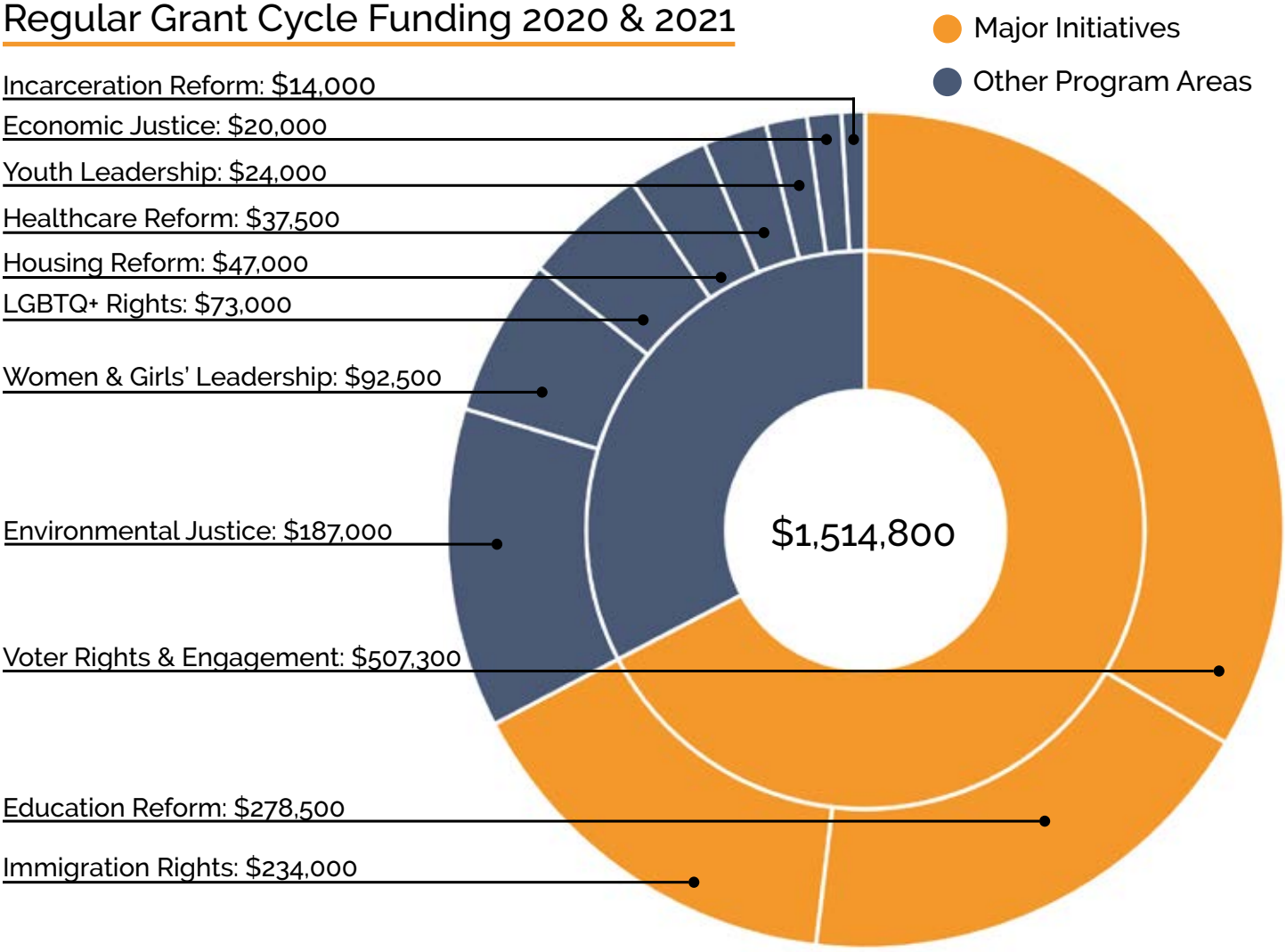
GRANTMAKING + IMPACT

Grantmaking by Fund 2020 & 2021

- Regular Grant Cycle: $1,514,800
- Justice Fund for Disaster Relief & Renewal: $613,000
- Discretionary Fund: $52,500
- Special Initiatives: $1,160,000



Regular Grant Cycle Funding 2020 & 2021



GRANT AWARDS

2020 Board Award Grants

Alabama

Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice	$14,000
Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network	$10,000
Bama Kids	$14,000
Calhoun County Complete Count Committee	$10,000
Fair Housing Agency of Alabama	$14,000
Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama	$12,000
McRae Gaines Learning Center	$12,000

Florida

Alliance for Fair Food	$10,000
Fighting Against Injustice Toward Harmony (FAITH)	$10,000
Farmworkers Association of Florida	$14,000
Farmworkers Self-Help, Inc.	$22,500
New Florida Majority Education Fund	$10,000
North Florida Educational Development Corp.	$10,000
Polk Ecumenical Action Council for Empowerment (PEACE)	$17,500

Georgia

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League	$14,000
Economic Justice Coalition	$17,500
Elberton Youth Development Commission	$17,500
GALEO Latino Community Development Fund	$10,000
Georgia Muslim Voter Project	$14,000
Glynn Environmental Coalition	$12,000
Newtown Florist Club	$14,000
Peach Concerned Citizens, Inc.	$7,800
Positive Action Committee	$14,000
Women of Purpose Global Ministries	$14,000
Women Watch Afrika, Inc.	$17,500
Wrens Chapel AME Outreach Ministries	$10,000

Kentucky

Kentucky Coalition	$12,000

Louisiana

Louisiana Organization for Refugees & Immigrants	$10,000

Mississippi

Action Communication and Education Reform (ACER)	$12,000
Countywide Family Development Center	$14,000
Mississippi Citizens United for Prosperity (MCUP)	$10,000
Nollie Jenkins Famly Center	$21,500
Tunica Teens in Action	$14,000
Youth Innovation Movement Solutions	$19,500

North Carolina

Association for Mexicans in NC (AMEXCAN)	$14,000

GRANT AWARDS

2020 Board Award Grants Cont.

North Carolina Cont.

Campaign for Southern Equility	$14,000
Carolina Justice Policy Center	$14,000
Center for Participatory Change	$10,000
Compañeros Inmigrantes de las Montañas en Accion (CIMA)	$14,000
NC 100	$10,000
North Carolina Congress of Latino Organizations	$12,000
Nuestro Centro	$14,000
Raleigh Youth Chapter APRI	$14,000
Student Action With Farmworkers	$10,000
Tranzmission	$10,000
Western North Carolina Workers Center	$10,000

South Carolina

Carolina Youth Action Project	$17,500
Gender Benders	$14,000
South Carolina Progressive Network	$14,000

Virginia

Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights	$14,000
Virginia Organizing Project	$10,000

West Virginia

Coal River Mountain Watch	$12,000
Friends of Blackwater, Inc.	$14,000
South Central Educational Development.Inc.	$14,000
Economic Justice Coalition	$17,500

2020 Special Initiative Grants

Alabama

Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice	$20,000
Alabama Forward	$25,000
Bama Kids	$9,000
Fair Housing Agency of Alabama	$20,000

Arkansas

Arkansas Peace & Justice Memorial Movement	$25,000

Florida

Farmworkers Self-Help, Inc.	$4,500
Farmworkers Self-Help, Inc.	$25,000
North Florida Educational Development Corp.	$4,500

Georgia

Economic Justice Coalition	$20,000
Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights	$25,000
Georgia Shift	$20,000
Newtown Florist Club	$4,500
Positive Action Committee	$4,500

GRANT AWARDS

2020 Special Initiative Grants Cont.

Kentucky

Kentucky Civic Engagement Table	$25,000

Louisiana

Bogalusa AARP	$45,000
Westside Sponsoring Committee	$25,000

Mississippi

Nollie Jenkins Family Center, Inc.	$9,000
Nollie Jenkins Family Center, Inc.	$25,000
Youth Innovation Movement Solutions	$45,000

North Carolina

A. Philip Randolph Educational Fund (NC Chapter)	$20,000
Carolina Justice Policy Center	$20,000
Emancipate NC	$25,000

South Carolina

Every Black Girl	$20,000
South Carolina Progressive Network	$9,000
South Carolina Progressive Network	$20,000
South Carolina Progressive Network	$25,000

Tennessee

Abyssinian Baptist Church (UpTheVote901 Count Power Project)	$45,000
The Equity Alliance	$25,000

Virginia

Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights	$25,000

West Virginia

West Virginia Citizen Action Group	$25,000

2020 Justice Fund for Disaster Relief and Renewal Grants

Alabama

Albert Schweitzer Fellowship of Alabama	$5,000
Bay Area Women Coalition	$12,000
Fair Housing Agency of Alabama	$20,000
McRae Gaines Learning Center	$2,500
Second Chance Foundation	$11,000
Young Men on a Mission	$5,000

Arkansas

Antioch for Youth & Family	$10,000

Florida

Farmworkers Association of Florida	$25,000
North Florida Educational Development Corp.	$25,000

Georgia

Atlanta Sports Training	$5,000
Augusta North Distict of AME Churches	$10,000

GRANT AWARDS

2020 Justice Fund for Disaster Relief and Renewal Grants Cont.

Georgia Cont.

First Option Care	$10,000
Hispanic Alliance GA	$10,000
McIntosh SEED	$3,000
McIntosh SEED	$25,000
Newtown Florist Club	$2,500
Newtown Florist Club	$10,000
Newtown Florist Club	$25,000
Newtown Florist Club	$15,000
Positive Action Committee	$23,500

Mississippi

Nollie Jenkins Family Center, Inc.	$2,500

South Carolina

Native Island Business & Community Affair	$15,000

2020 Discretionary Fund Grants

Alianza Nacional De Campesinas	$5,000
Augusta North Distict of AME Churches	$2,500
Countywide Family Development Center	$5,000
First African Community Development Corp.	$2,500
Gulf County United Community Dev. Corp.	$2,000
McIntosh SEED	$4,500
McIntosh SEED	$2,500
McRae Gaines Learning Center	$5,000
Positive Action Committee	$2,500

2020 Discretionary Fund Grants Cont.

The Lincoln Guard, Inc.	$2,500
Westside Sponsoring Committee	$5,000

2021 Board Award Grants

Alabama

Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network	$15,000
Bay Area Women Coalition	$5,000
Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama	$15,000
McRae Gaines Learning Center	$20,000
McRae Gaines Learning Center	$25,000

Arkansas

Arkansas United Community Coalition	$22,500

Florida

Alliance for Fair Food	$15,000
Equality Florida Institute	$15,000
Fighting Against Injustice Toward Harmony (FAITH)	$15,000
Family Oriented Community United Strong (FOCUS)	$15,000
Farmworkers Self-Help, Inc.	$40,000
New Florida Majority Education Fund	$15,000
Polk Ecumenical Action Council for Empowerment (PEACE)	$10,000

GRANT AWARDS

2021 Board Award Grants Cont.

Georgia

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League	$10,000
Economic Justice Coalition	$25,000
Elberton Youth Development Commission	$22,500
GALEO Latino Community Development Fund	$10,000
Georgia Interfaith Power and Light	$5,000
Georgia Muslim Voter Project	$20,000
Peach Concerned Citizens, Inc.	$8,000
Women of Purpose Global Ministries	$16,000
Women Watch Afrika, Inc.	$25,000
Women Watch Afrika, Inc.	$20,000

Kentucky

Alliance for Appalachia	$20,000

Louisiana

Louisiana Organization for Refugees & Immigrants	$20,000
Westside Sponsoring Committee	$5,000

Mississippi

Action Communication and Education Reform (ACER)	$20,000
Activists With a Purpose	$17,500
Countywide Family Development Center	$20,000
Mississippi Citizens United for Prosperity (MCUP)	$20,000
Nollie Jenkins Family Center, Inc.	$40,000
Sunflower County Parents and Students Org.	$15,000

North Carolina

Compañeros Inmigrantes de las Montañas en Accion (CIMA)	$10,000
Emancipate NC	$15,000
North Carolina Business Council	$15,000
North Carolina Congress of Latino Organizations	$25,000
Student Action With Farmworkers	$20,000
Western North Carolina Workers Center	$20,000

South Carolina

Gender Benders	$20,000
Gullah Farmers Cooperative	$20,000
Little Africa Community Fund	$5,000
South Carolina Progressive Network	$25,000

Tennessee

Southern Connected Communites Project	$5,000
Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights	$5,000

Virginia

Virginia Civic Engagement Table	$5,000
Economic Justice Coalition	$25,000

GRANT AWARDS

2021 Board Award Grants Cont.

West Virginia

Coal River Mountain Watch	$10,000
Friends of Blackwater, Inc.	$20,000
South Central Educational Development, Inc.	$18,500
West Virginia Citizen Action Group	$5,000

2021 Special Initiative Grants

Alabama

Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice	$20,000
Alabama State Conference of the NAACP	$30,000
Blackbelt Women Rising	$4,000
Fair Housing Agency of Alabama	$30,000
Fair Housing Agency of Alabama	$20,000

Arkansas

Arkansas United Community Coalition	$30,000

Florida

Equality Florida Institute	$4,000
North Florida Educational Development Corp.	$30,000

Georgia

Economic Justice Coalition	$20,000
Georgia Muslim Voter Project	$30,000
Georgia Shift	$20,000
Newtown Florist Club	$30,000
Peach Concerned Citizens, Inc.	$30,000
Positive Action Committee	$30,000

Kentucky

Kentucky Civic Engagement Table	$30,000

Mississippi

Action Communication and Education Reform (ACER)	$30,000

North Carolina

A. Philip Randolph Educational Fund (NC Chapter)	$20,000
Emancipate NC	$20,000
NC 100	$30,000
North Carolina Business Council	$4,000

South Carolina

Every Black Girl	$20,000
South Carolina Progressive Network	$4,000
South Carolina Progressive Network	$20,000

Virginia

Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights	$30,000

West Virginia

Washitaw Foothills Youth Media Arts & Lit.	$4,000

GRANT AWARDS

2021 Justice Fund for Disaster Relief and Renewal Grants

Alabama

Bay Area Women Coalition	$10,000
Bay Area Women Coalition	$10,000
Blackbelt Women Rising	$10,000
Fair Housing Agency of Alabama	$8,500
Fair Housing Agency of Alabama	$10,000

Arkansas

Arkansas United Community Coalition	$5,000
Central Arkansas Harm Reduction Project	$5,000
Regional Housing Solutions	$5,000

Florida

Alianza Nacional De Campesinas	$25,000
Equality Florida Institute	$25,000
Fighting Against Injustice Toward Harmony (FAITH)	$10,000
Farmworkers Self-Help, Inc.	$25,000
Farmworkers Self-Help, Inc.	$10,000
Florida People Advocacy Center	$15,000
Gulf County United Community Development	$10,000

Georgia

Georgia Interfaith Power and Light	$5,000
McIntosh SEED	$25,000
Newtown Florist Club	$25,000
Positive Action Committee	$25,000

Louisiana

MQVN CDC Inc.	$5,000

Mississippi

Mississippi Citizens United for Prosperity (MCUP)	$5,000
Nollie Jenkins Family Center, Inc.	$25,000

North Carolina

Bayard Rustin LGBTQ Chapter	$25,000
Bayard Rustin LGBTQ Chapter	$15,000
Emancipate NC	$5,000
Good Stewarts of Rockingham	$5,000
Jones County Community Hope	$5,000

West Virginia

Friends of Blackwater, Inc.	$10,000

2021 Discretionary Fund Grants

Capital Area Justice Ministry	$2,500
Carolina Common Enterprise	$2,500
Glynn Environmental Coalition	$3,500
Urban Outreach Association	$2,500
Washitaw Foothills Youth Media Arts & Lit.	$2,500

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHTS

With the onset of COVID-19, SPF began reaching out to its grantee partners in the spring of 2020 to get an idea of how they were managing under the intense duress that quickly swept through low-income communities throughout the nation, with the rural South getting hit especially hard. They shared their successes and challenges and as such, we felt it necessary to amplify their voice by sending grantee spotlights to SPF's broader network of funders and grassroots organizations.

Emancipate NC

Durham, NC

Up to 80% of incarcerated women are mothers—most of whom are women of color. **Emancipate NC** is using the COVID-19 crisis to put a spotlight on inhumane conditions in North Carolina's prisons and jails.

Emancipate NC is using a variety of tools during this pandemic, including letter-writing, virtual advocacy, webinars, legislative resolutions, petitions, litigation, and socially-distanced direct actions among others.

"We are calling for an end to racialized mass incarceration."
- Dawn Blagrove, Executive Director, Emancipate NC

On Mother's Day, Emancipate NC remembered these incarcerated mothers by joining allies at the women's prison in Raleigh, calling on the Governor to send them home so they can stay safe from COVID-19.

Emancipate NC's litigation on this pressing issue is moving in Wake County Superior Court. Emancipate NC has asked for the release of vulnerable people, as well as people with upcoming release dates. The judge has already ordered prison officials to take steps to ensure real social distancing in the facilities. If they can't accomplish this public safety order, the judge has implied that the prison will have to release men and women.

Through community education, narrative shift, and idea incubation, Emancipate NC supports North Carolina's people as they free themselves from mass incarceration and structural racism.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHTS CONT.

South Carolina Progressive Network
Columbia, SC

The Missing Voter Project (MVP) was launched in 2004 to reach and mobilize new and infrequent voters in South Carolina.

Unlike other voter registration drives, the MVP is nonpartisan, ongoing, and focused on historically under-represented communities. **MVP was created by the SC Progressive Network to grow an informed electorate with the power to mobilize around public policies critical to young people, working families, and communities of color in South Carolina.**

While most voter registration drives start anew each election cycle, the MVP works yearround to inform citizens about local and county matters that impact their lives, and to invite them to become involved in a growing movement for social and political change. **This year, the MVP is using a novel peer-driven approach of asking young, Black voters to reach young, Black non-voters and get them to the polls in November.**

"I want to begin an era of change in my community."
- Mysia Wynn-Robinson, 20, MVP Team Leader

Just 15% of South Carolina's Black voters under age 26 went to the polls in the last general election. Those voters are central to our 2020 MVP campaign. Over the summer, MVP organizers targeted Saluda and Fairfield, taking advantage of the relationships the Network has built in those counties over the 26 years it has been organizing. The campaign is now expanding into Richland County, and will eventually go statewide.

While 78% of South Carolina's nonwhite voting-age population is registered, only half of them regularly vote. An average of 500,000 of the state's one million registered Blacks (along with 100,000 unregistered citizens), are sitting out the elections. **If those "missing voters" were mobilized, it could change the balance of power in SC politics.**

During the pandemic, we have adjusted recruiting, training, and mobilization strategies to keep everyone safe. We have been training volunteers on Zoom, and have been registering voters using virtual phone banking, an easy and accessible organizing tool. The MVP teams have taken quickly to the new model.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHTS CONT.

Kentucky Civic Engagement Table
Lexington, KY

The **Kentucky Civic Engagement Table** is proud to support grassroots redistricting work statewide with dedicated grant funding in addition to serving as a convener and coordinator for our members. We're preparing to conduct a racial equity analysis of the redistricting maps that Kentucky's General Assembly will release over the next few months, with a focus on identifying potential negative impacts on communities of color.

Kentucky's legislature hasn't been transparent on this process to date, and this analysis will probably have to be done on a tight turnaround once the maps are released.

With KCET's support, the Kentucky League of Women Voters has taken point statewide on gathering public input around Kentucky to inform fair maps that will be promoted to the legislature, and CivicLex is working with their local government in Fayette County to facilitate public input in a more transparent local redistricting process than is currently underway.

"Equitable representation in a healthy democracy has to include fair maps that empower commmunities to select their own representatives in good faith."
- Sellus Wilder, Co-Director, Kentucky Civic Engagement Table

Other KCET partners (such as Savvy Shabazz and Life Coach Each One Teach One) are working with their own constituents and networks to build support for an equitable and transparent mapping process that does not disenfranchise historically impacted communities, and the ACLU of Kentucky is on deck to prepare any legal challenges that might be necessary.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHTS CONT.

Arkansas United
Springdale, AR

Arkansas United (AU) is our state's first immigrant organizing and advocacy coalition, operating regional Immigrant Resource Centers in Springdale, Fort Smith, and Little Rock. AU is a co-founder of Arkansas Counts, promoting US Census participation. Related to Census advocacy, AU is the only Spanish education/outreach information source for the redistricting work currently happening in Arkansas, and we helped the AR Public Policy Panel translate their materials into Spanish.

The only in-person opportunity to offer feedback on redistricting maps was through regional forums. AU staff and members attended the Fort Smith forum, speaking with representatives from the Governor's office and staff. AU stressed to the Reapportionment Committee the need for primary language access to maps/ information and to give disaggregated race and ethnicity information to gauge the potential impact on the Hispanic community. The Governor's office attributed AU's comments as the motivation for translating the Reapportionment Committee website into Spanish.

"AU is collecting signatures to add the congressional districts to the ballot in November, as the congressional maps have diluted the impact of communities of color into three different districts in Little Rock."
-Mireya Reith, Founding Executive Director, Arkansas United

AU staff and members are actively monitoring local district maps by city councils, school boards, and election commissions. Over the last decade, AU has accomplished awareness building on local level candidate opportunities, resulting in AU members and first minorities being elected to office in North West Arkansas.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF...

Hubert Ellis Sapp
1945 - 2021

In February of 2021, SPF lost a dear friend and ally, Hubert Ellis Sapp. A transformative visionary whose empathy, kindness and compassion were visible in his extraordinary ability to orchestrate and organize change, we credit Hubert for conceptualizing what came to be SPF. It was while working with Barbara Meyer at the Bert and Mary Meyer Foundation (BAMM), a small family foundation she had created to support grassroots organizing in the rural South, that they decided to convene a gathering of 18 grassroots leaders from organizations that BAMM supported with the intention of creating a new fund that these leaders would govern.

From 1994 - 1998, SPF's capacity grew to a place where BAMM was ready to begin transitioning its endowment to the newly incorporated SPF. The rest is history. So, we are both humbled and honored to bestow Hubert's name on our regular grant cycle, which for the 2022 grant cycle and onwards, **will be referred to as the Hubert E. Sapp Regular Grants Cycle**. Thank you, Hubert!

FULTON & KOZAK
certified public accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
Southern Partners Fund, Inc.

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Southern Partners Fund, Inc., (a nonprofit organization) (the "Fund"), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2021 and 2020, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Southern Partners Fund, Inc. as of December 31, 2021 and 2020, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Fund and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve

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collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements, including omissions, are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Fulton & Rozar LLC

Morrow, Georgia
April 25, 2022

SOUTHERN PARTNERS FUND, INC.
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020

ASSETS

	2021	2020
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 4,365,615	$ 13,894,526
Cash – donor advised	11,182	7,017
Marketable securities	12,617,248	2,055,367
Contributions receivable	155	500
Pledges receivable	430,000	318,200
Prepaid expenses	25,771	17,678
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	17,449,971	16,293,288
MARKETABLE SECURITIES – ENDOWMENT	6,230,341	6,230,341
PLEDGES RECEIVABLE – LONG-TERM, NET	148,515	78,602
FIXED ASSETS, NET	19,655	15,162
OTHER ASSETS		
Security deposit	3,779	3,779
TOTAL ASSETS	$ 23,852,261	$ 22,621,172

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	$ 6,637	$ 12,226
Grants payable	80,000	22,000
Payroll liabilities	34,414	20,280
Deferred rent	28,298	31,615
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	149,349	86,121
TOTAL LIABILITIES	149,349	86,121
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions	14,999,707	13,872,283
With donor restrictions		
Restricted by purpose or time	2,472,864	2,432,427
Restricted for endowment	6,230,341	6,230,341
Total net assets with donor restrictions	8,703,205	8,662,768
TOTAL NET ASSETS	23,702,912	22,535,051
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	$ 23,852,261	$ 22,621,172

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Southern
Partners
Fund