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***Edward W. Hazen Foundation announces fall 2019 grants
totaling \$5.45 million as part of 5 year spend-down plan***

*The grantees are a collection of grassroots organizations working
across the United States, with a focus on youth, educational justice, and racial justice*

NEW YORK – Today, the Edward W. Hazen Foundation, a private foundation supporting communities of color fighting for educational equity and racial justice, announced grants totaling \$5.45 million to 18 organizations as part of their fall 2019 grantmaking, with some grants deploying over four years. These grants are part of the Hazen Foundation's commitment announced in March to spend out their full assets over the next five years to take advantage of the current political and cultural momentum for social and racial justice.

"The organizations selected for funding this year are among the most passionate and effective grassroots groups operating in the country today," said Lori Villarosa, Chair of the Hazen Foundation Board of Trustees. "Our nation is in a moment of crisis, and we must rise to meet the unique challenges of the day by supporting outstanding advocates for racial, educational and social justice. The young people who lead these organizations and are fighting for change in their communities will continue the legacy of the Hazen Foundation long after the funds are spent."

Ahead of the new round of grants, the Hazen Foundation conducted an assessment of their grantmaking process this year as part of their ongoing efforts to operationalize anti-oppressive practices. This included interviews and focus groups with more than 42 participants, with feedback then incorporated into the 2019 grantmaking process. Key issues that arose during the review included increasing transparency and accessibility, cutting extraneous information from applications and developing relationship-based opportunities for applicants to communicate with the foundation.

In response to the findings, the Foundation shifted their application process, replacing written proposals with an interview protocol designed to gather the required data in combination with site visits and a review of materials submitted by the organizations, including newsletters, social and earned media, reports, videos, and podcasts. The Foundation spoke with over 70 organizations before selecting the final grantees, a result of their desire for broader and more open access.

“Throughout our relationship, I have sincerely appreciated The Hazen Foundation's steadfast commitment to us and other grantees. The level of responsiveness regarding the process and direct feedback regarding our organization's work this year was refreshing and something I wish more funders would do,” said Rapheal Randall, Executive Director of Youth United for Change who received \$500,000 in this round of funding, divided over four years. “Having a funder who is so deeply committed to our mission and practices what they preach when it comes to racial equity is crucial to continuing our work in Philadelphia.”

“The Hazen Foundation's commitment to their grantees is unparalleled. This year's new grantmaking process really centered around building on our relationship and the impact of our work. It was straightforward and transparent,” said Ashley McKay-Dandridge, Founder of Tunica Teens in Action who received \$400,000 in this round of funding, spread over four years.

Of this year's grantees, 82% are led by people of color. In addition, the organizations are all grassroots, community-based groups, with 77% operating on less than \$1 million per year. Three quarters of the organizations received multi-year grants of two, three, or four years. These longer-term grants allow the groups to invest in infrastructure and strategies to build their communities and grow their organizations in a sustainable, durable way.

"Our goal at the Hazen Foundation is to fund truly transformational work that supports young people, parents, and communities of color in their fight for racial and educational justice. In order to achieve this and live up to our ideals, we knew we had to interrogate our own grantmaking practices," said Lori Bezahler, President of the Edward W. Hazen Foundation. "By striving to operationalize anti-oppressive practices in our own process, we hope to serve as a guide for others in the field who share our commitment to justice and to transparency in philanthropy."

Fall 2019 Grants

- [Kids RETHINK New Orleans](#)
- [Arkansas Public Policy Panel](#)
- [Youth on Board \(BSAC\)](#)
- [Youth United for Change](#)
- [Baltimore Algebra Project](#)
- [Philadelphia Student Union](#)
- [Tunica Teens in Action](#)
- [New Settlement PAC](#)
- [Rockaway Youth Task Force](#)
- [Hearing Youth Voices](#)
- [Alliance for Quality Education](#)
- [One PA](#)
- [PrYSM](#)
- [Power U Center for Social Change](#)
- [Sistas & Brothas United](#)
- [S.O.U.L. Sisters](#)
- [PULSE](#)
- [Action in Montgomery](#)

The Edward W. Hazen Foundation, a private foundation established in 1925, is committed to supporting organizing and leadership of young people and communities of color in dismantling structural inequity based on race and class.