

Why fund intermediaries?

Grassroots movements are creating systemic change on the major social, economic, and ecological crises globally, yet they are chronically under-resourced.



1%

Only **1 percent** of philanthropic funding from U.S. foundations goes to organizations addressing climate change, a fraction of which is received by grassroots groups¹

Initiatives led by Indigenous Peoples receive only **0.03%** of funding in the U.S.²

.03%

Women's environmental initiatives receive less than **0.02%** of funding.³

.02%



Why is it hard for large funders to reach grassroots work?



Geographic distance from grassroots groups



Lack of capacity to administer many, often smaller, grants



Reporting requirements that are overly burdensome



Funding policies that limit grants to formally registered organizations

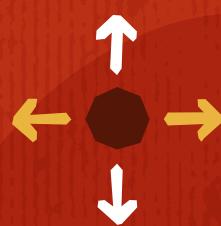


Lack of relationships with grassroots organizations

Why are intermediaries critical for resourcing climate action?



Aggregation. Intermediaries aggregate and communicate insights, priorities, and needs from the grassroots to larger funders, when appropriate.⁴



Capacity. Intermediaries take on reporting burdens, reduce overhead, and help larger funders resource solutions at the intersection of environmental, racial, economic, and social justice.⁵



Efficiency. Intermediaries can disburse 'big bet' grants from philanthropies quickly to under-resourced groups⁶ and geographies.⁷



Experimentation. Intermediaries can take on the risk of bold investments, allow funders to experiment with new funding niches⁸, and share learnings with the philanthropic community.



Expertise. Intermediaries offer deep experience in working with and accompanying grassroots movements.



Partnership. Because intermediaries are working directly with grassroots groups, they are well-positioned to connect groups to each other; adapt to local changes in political and social contexts; and facilitate local, regional, national, and international coalition-building and collaboration, when appropriate.⁹



Philanthropic System Change. Intermediaries can advocate for and shift funder practices to center grassroots needs and interests across the field to shift billions towards high-impact climate solutions. Intermediaries facilitate grassroots engagement in participatory grant-making processes.



CLIMA Fund
RESOURCING GRASSROOTS CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

To learn more, visit www.climasolutions.org

¹ Foundation Center and the Council on Foundations, "The State of Global Giving by U.S. Foundations," 2018. <https://www.issuelab.org/resources/31306/31306.pdf>; Alliance magazine, Foundation spending on climate change, <https://www.alliancemagazine.org/feature/foundation-spending-on-climate-change/>; ² Foundation Center's Foundation Maps data; Funding Indigenous People: Strategies for Support, GrantCraft and IFIP, 2015, http://www.grantcraft.org/assets/content/resources/Indigenous_People_web_%282%29.pdf; and Climate Justice and Women's Rights: A Guide to Supporting Grassroots Women's Action, Global Greengrants Fund, The International Network of Women's Funds, and the Alliance of Funds, 2015 <http://www.womenandclimate.org/>; ³ Global Greengrants Fund, Prospera International Network of Women's Funds and Wallace Global Fund, "Our Voices, Our Environment", 2018, <https://www.greengrants.org/our-voices-our-environment/>; ⁴ Windward Fund, JPB Foundation, and Arabella Advisors, How Donors Can Achieve Outsized Impact on the Environment with Non-Endowed Funds, 2, <https://www.windwardfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/How-Donors-Can-Achieve-Outsized-Impact-on-the-Environment.pdf>; ⁵ Arabella Advisors, Building a Smarter and Stronger Environmental Movement: How Environmentally-Focused Intermediaries and Funders Can Better Serve the Grassroots, Presented to the JPB Foundation, 39; ⁶ How Donors Can Achieve Outsized Impact on the Environment with Non-Endowed Funds, 7; ⁷ Arabella Advisors, 40; ⁸ Arabella Advisors, 36, 38; ⁹ Arabella Advisors, 37.