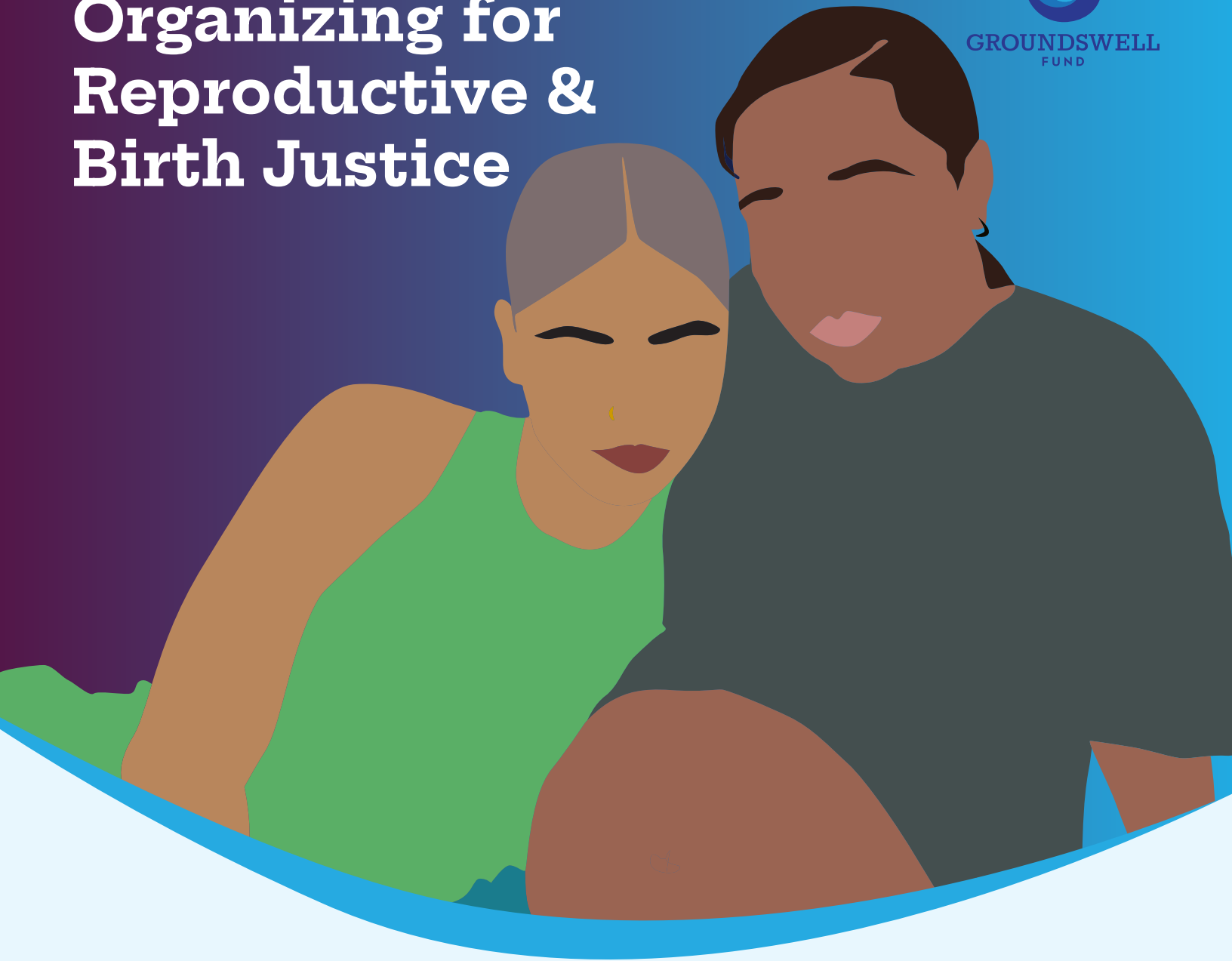


Meeting Today's Needs, Changing Tomorrow's Laws



GROUNDSWELL
FUND

Organizing for Reproductive & Birth Justice



The 2021 RJ Impact Evaluation Executive Summary

Eighty reproductive or birth justice organizations supported by Groundswell Fund or via one of its grantmaking partners¹ reflected on their work, progress made, and challenges encountered in 2021. They described the headwinds and tailwinds they faced, the allies they worked with, and their strategies.

Informing Change, an equity-focused strategic learning group based in Berkeley, California, immersed itself in the stories and data shared by these organizations. We worked together with the team at Groundswell Fund to aggregate and synthesize the information in this report.

1. Grantmaking partners are the Chicago Foundation for Women, Coming Clean, Ms. Foundation, NY Women's Foundation, Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples, and Third Wave Fund.

Snapshot of Reproductive and Birth Justice Movements in 2021

The work of 80 organizations is represented in this evaluation. Collectively, they have programs in **49 of 50 states** (all except West Virginia), the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

For the first time since Groundswell began surveying its grantees, the online space, as a unique site for organizing, was a top location. Organizations also worked with over 50 Indigenous communities (mostly Pueblos), including the Apache, Dine', Jemez, Nambe, Ohkay Owingeh, Picuris, Pojoaque, San Ildefonso, Santa Clara, Santa Domingo, Taos, Tesuque, Ute, and Wichita Nations.

Typical Organizations

- Have small to mid-size budgets
- 81% had financial expenditures of less than \$2.5 million in their 2021 fiscal year
- Overwhelming led by women of color and transgender or gender-expansive people of color
- Primarily rooted in communities of color
- Experiencing hard-fought victories at the local, state, regional, and national levels

Reproductive Justice

Racial Justice

The Reproductive and Birth Justice Movements work intersectionally to secure changes that support people in decisions about whether and when to have children, and to raise those children in safe and healthy environments. Most reproductive and birth justice organizations **explicitly combine reproductive and racial justice approaches**, often addressing issues of workers' rights, economic justice, environmental health, and LGBTQIA+ equality as part of their core work or through cross-issue organizing.

"If the last few years have taught us anything, it is that we must rely on our collective strengths in order to overcome our struggles. Only together can we effectively make the changes our communities deserve."

- Bold Futures New Mexico



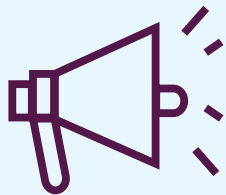
Top Findings

The organizations participating in this evaluation **met the immediate needs of communities in crisis while organizing to change systems, policies, and laws.** Yet, there remains untapped potential in the movement. There are immediate, and currently unfunded, opportunities to extend the impact that groups have or simply to enable planned work to feel more sustainable.

We can see the impact of reproductive and birth justice organizing in both the numbers and stories of change from 2021.



2021 RJ Impact by the Numbers



807,256

People mobilized for campaigning organizing, and advocacy efforts



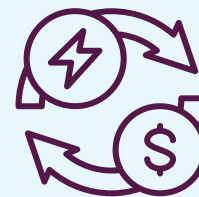
469,290

People received direct aid or care or participated in mutual aid



379

Number of policies or laws mobilized around during 2021, including 193 wins*



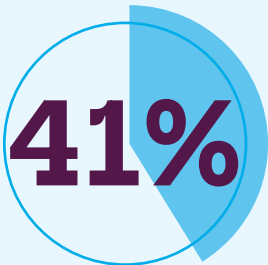
64%

Participating organizations that named their organizing would be more powerful with increased resources

*Pro-reproductive laws or policies that passed/harmful laws or policies that were blocked.

2021 RJ Impact by Stories of Change

Reproductive justice and birth justice organizations were invited to share stories of their 2021 organizing impact in the surveys. All 80 grantees, plus an additional three that partially completed the evaluation survey, shared stories. Of the 83 stories submitted:



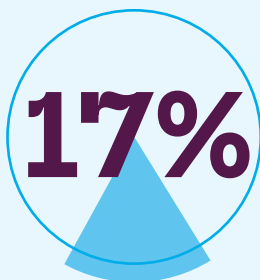
Stories related to changes in laws or policies

For example, the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health was instrumental in securing the repeal of a law that had previously required parental notification of abortion.



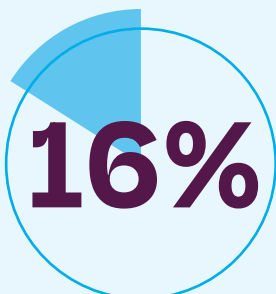
Stories related to changes in access to receive resources or care

For example, Birthmark Doula Collective in Louisiana secured contracts to implement a pilot Medicaid reimbursement model for doula care, expanding resources for doula care and access to prenatal, birth and postpartum support for those most likely to experience disproportionately negative birth outcomes.



Stories related to shifts in social norms or narratives

For example, the Georgia Chapter of the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum engaged the media after the murder of six Asian American women in Georgia in 2021. They presented research on the long history of discrimination and racially motivated violence so that the murders could not be framed as one-off, individualized tragedies and worked in solidarity with Black and Latinx communities to push solutions that avoid increased policing.



Stories related to individuals' skills, knowledge, or training

For example, CHOICES in Tennessee established a midwifery fellowship for Black midwives to increase their skills and expertise in full-spectrum reproductive and sexual health care.

To learn more about the impact of the Reproductive Justice Movement and Groundswell Fund's grantee partners, please visit Rjimpact.org.