



PROTEUS FUND

Grantmaking & Program Report

2019

Table of Contents

3 OVERVIEW

4 Introduction

6 25 Years of Impact: From 1994 to 2019

9 DONOR COLLABORATIVES

10 Rights, Faith & Democracy Collaborative

14 RISE Together Fund

18 Piper Fund

22 FUND & FOUNDATION MANAGEMENT

23 Colombe Peace Foundation

26 Donor & Group Advised Funds

28 FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

Cover (clockwise from top left):

A man waves an LGBTQ pride flag as the Supreme Court rules on the Masterpiece Cake Shop case; indigenous activists in front of the U.S. Capitol (Graeme Sloan/Sipa USA/AP); a woman profiled by grantee NM Entiende after religiously affiliated health providers refused to end her life-threatening pregnancy; and women protesting the Muslim ban before the Supreme Court (Andrew Harnik/AP).



Overview



Introduction

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS after beginning our fight for justice, equality, democracy, and peace, Proteus Fund and its aligned organizations have distributed more than \$220 million in grants, exceeding \$20 million in one year for the first time in 2019. Over this period, we've launched many initiatives to advance these efforts, including Donor Collaboratives, our sister organization Proteus Action League, Donor Advised Funds, family foundation management and fiscal sponsorship for social justice projects. In that time, we've grown to a \$35 million organization with the infrastructure to support 18 programs while mitigating operating risks to protect our funders and grantees, so that collectively we can take even bigger programmatic risks to create a better country and a better world.

Viewed on their own, these efforts to advance democracy, human rights, and peace may seem distinct from one another. But they are not. Proteus Fund sees all of these efforts as intimately linked to our vision of a just and equitable world.

Over the years, the range of issues included in our work has also grown to include multi-faceted democracy reform, anti-Islamophobia and Muslim, Arab, and South Asian (MASA) community-building efforts, public education, and advocacy to protect the separation of church and state and counter “religious exemptions and refusals,” and anti-militarism and peace-movement building.

Although the numbers you will see in this report are an important measure of Proteus’ increasing impact in the social justice landscape, results are the true measure of our work. And through the collective work of Proteus grantees, donor partners, and other allies, we’ve got plenty of those, too. Through the support of state-based, national, and international efforts; community organizing; coalition building; public policy advocacy; litigation; narrative and messaging development; and leadership development, we’ve been involved in pivotal victories at the local and state levels and headline-inspiring achievements at the national level.

In Georgia, one of the Rights, Faith & Democracy Collaborative’s grantees is working with faith allies at an innovative Vacation Justice School, building on the faith community’s rich history in the social justice realm to prevent religious exemptions from hollowing out civil rights protections.

In Washington, D.C., Piper grantee Partnership for Civil Justice Fund successfully ended a movement to rein in protest throughout the nation's capital, where marches and public demonstrations are as iconic as the city's monuments.

RISE Together Fund grantee Unite Oregon successfully advocated for stronger penalties for crimes motivated by bias and hate, years after attacks on Muslims put Portland in the spotlight.

And Colombe Peace Foundation's grantee, Dissenters, is training college students across 10 campuses to educate the public about the increasing militarization of campus security forces.

Viewed on their own, these efforts to advance democracy, human rights, and peace may seem distinct from one another. But they are not. Proteus Fund sees all of these efforts as intimately linked to our vision of a just and equitable world where all individuals and communities are protected against bias, discrimination, and violence, and have an opportunity to pursue their own path as they—not others—define it. This deep commitment to intersectionality has strengthened over time, and now is at the core of Proteus' philosophy.

All of our collective efforts would have been impossible if we hadn't brought our many partners together to identify the most effective strategies and tactics. Few foundations or individual donors have the capacity to tackle so many issues at the state level and the national level using such a wide-variety of methods. As a sophisticated philanthropic intermediary with such a track record of success, our donor partners trust us with their resources, knowing that we are thought-partners and field leaders.

Our efforts have generated innovative and successful approaches to support grassroots movements, activism, public policy advocacy, and public education writ large; encouraged our funding partners to take risks; and identified unmet needs, then helped fill those needs. In addition to changing policies, hearts, and minds on the many issues we address, we also strive to fundamentally change our country's approach to philanthropy. And we look forward to 25 more years of doing precisely that.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Di Donato". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being more prominent.

Paul Di Donato

President and CEO — New York, NY



25 Years of Impact: From 1994 to 2019

In 25 years, Proteus Fund has grown from one fund that distributed \$15,000 a few years after its founding to a philanthropic leader in progressive funding with aligned organizations that together awarded grants exceeding \$20 million in 2019 alone. We have expanded our offerings to include fiscal sponsorship, donor advised funds, and foundation management to fuel advocacy, public education, organizing and lobbying efforts that further our vision for a just, equitable, and democratic world. Along this journey, our Civil Marriage Collaborative played a critical role in winning the freedom to marry, prompting its closure—the ultimate sign of success. Read on for some of the milemarkers along our journey.

1994	Proteus Fund founded
1996	Piper Fund launched Donor Advised Funds program created
2001	Proteus Fund begins to manage Colombe Peace Foundation
2004	Proteus Action League founded Civil Marriage Collaborative launched Proteus Fund and its aligned organizations award \$10 million in grants in one year, for the first time
2008	Donor Advised Funds program expands to include (c)4 advised funds through the Proteus Action League Security & Rights Collaborative (now RISE Together Fund) launched
2011	Fiscal sponsorship program created
2015	Civil Marriage Collaborative sunsets after historic Supreme Court ruling extends marriage equality to all 50 states
2016	Rights, Faith & Democracy Collaborative launched
2019	Proteus Fund and its aligned organizations reach \$220 million in total grants awarded

Since 1994...

5,000+

grants awarded by Proteus Fund and its aligned organizations

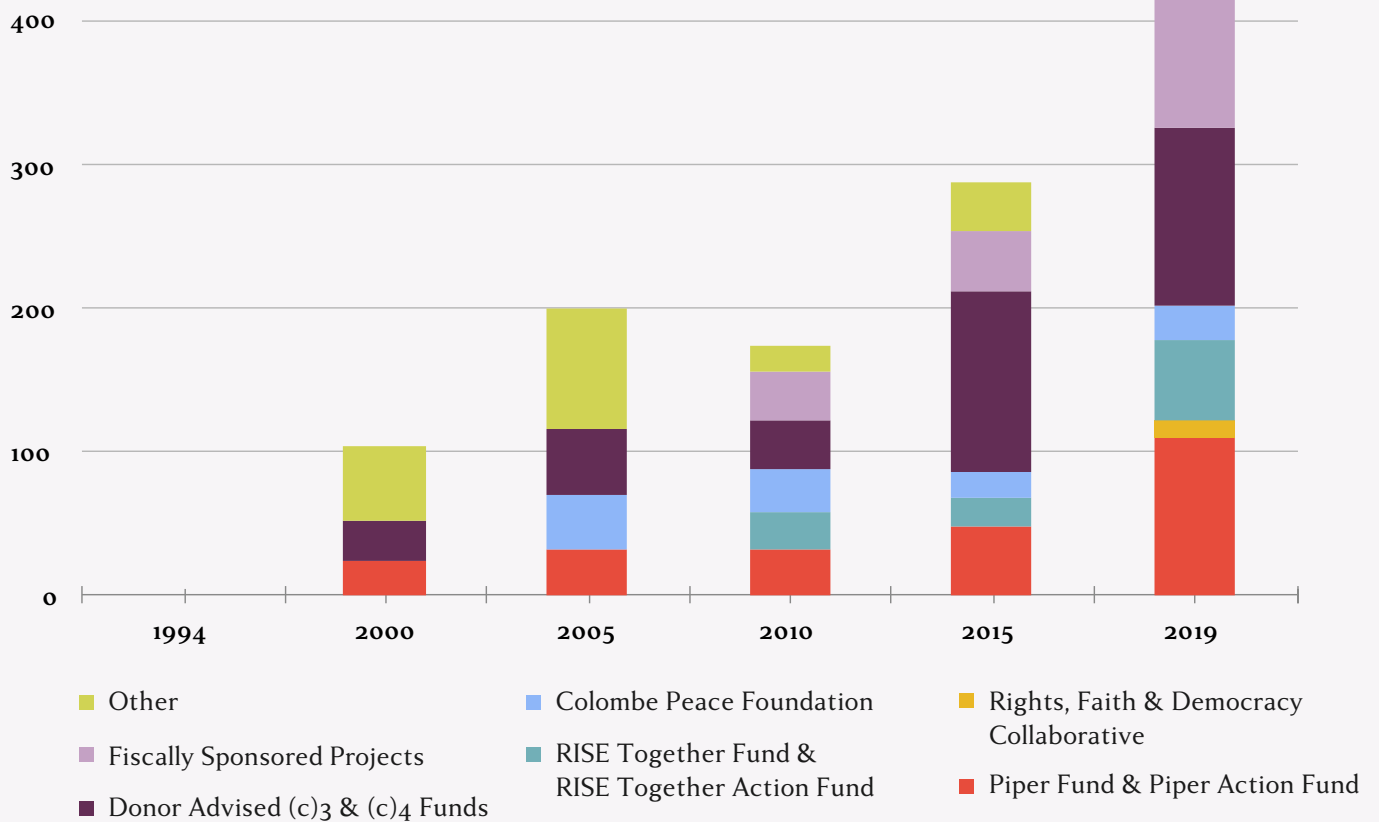
\$220M+

in grants awarded by Proteus Fund and its aligned organizations

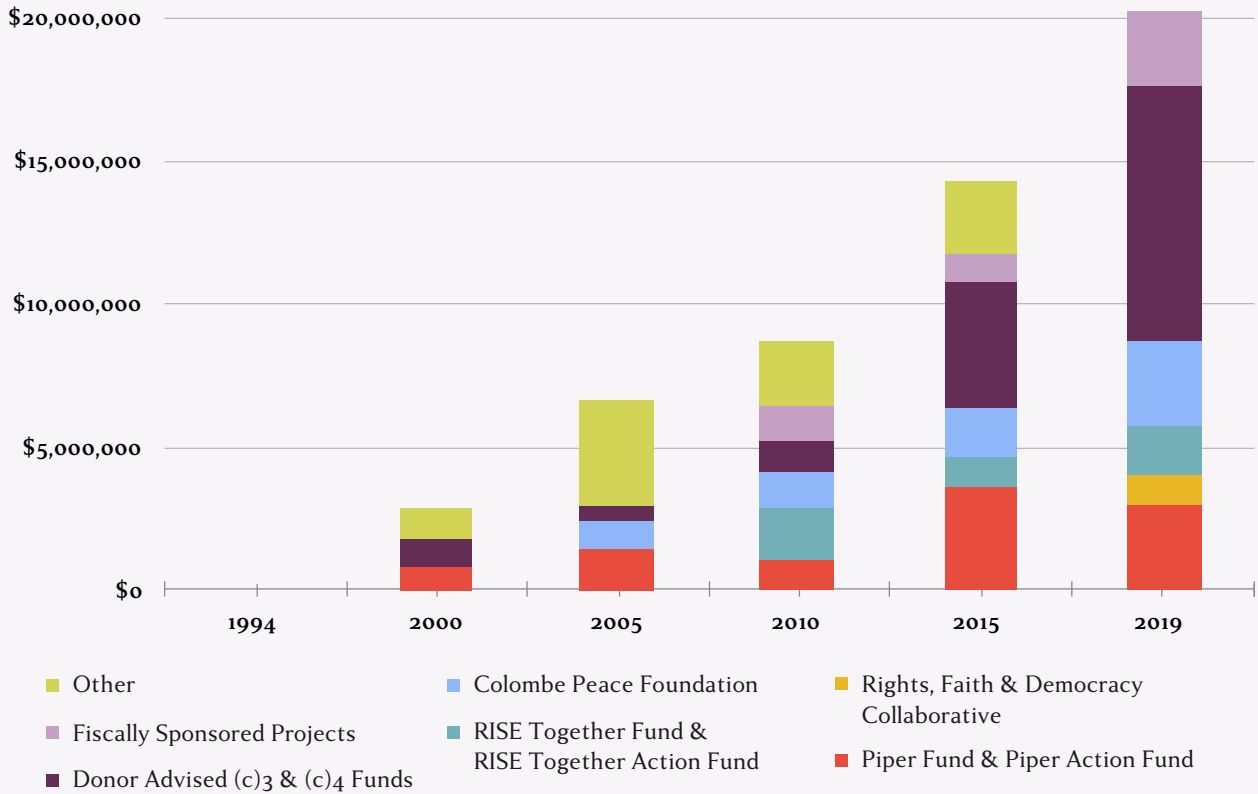
1,800+

grantees supported by Proteus Fund and its aligned organizations

Total Grants



Total Amount



In 2019...

\$20M+

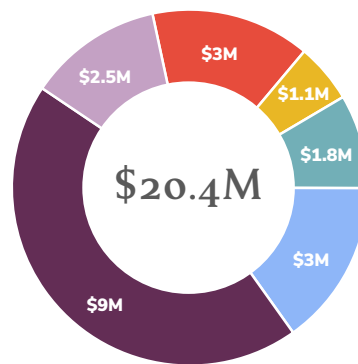
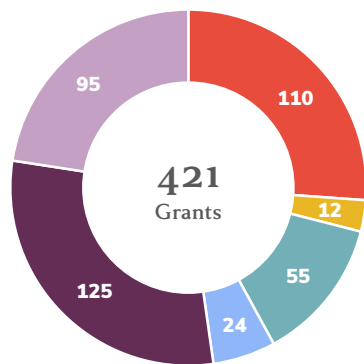
in grants awarded in one year for the first time

30%

of grants were rapid-response grants

70%

of grants were made to organizations working at the state or local level



- Piper Fund & Piper Action Fund
- RISE Together Fund & RISE Together Action Fund
- Donor Advised (c)3 & (c)4 Funds
- Rights, Faith & Democracy Collaborative
- Colombe Peace Foundation
- Fiscally Sponsored Projects



Donor Collaboratives



Michelle Wilson, program manager for Women Engaged, at a rally outside the Georgia State Capitol. (Alyssa Pointer/Atlanta Journal-Constitution/AP)

Rights, Faith & Democracy Collaborative

■ Human Rights, LGBTQ Justice, Racial Justice, Reproductive Justice

Recognizing that victories in the LGBTQ and reproductive justice movements advance one another, the Rights, Faith, and Democracy Collaborative (RFDC) aligns and unites leaders and organizations in diverse coalitions to maximize collective impact. Together with progressive faith leaders and communities, we support the fights against increasing discrimination and the undermining of basic civil rights under the false guise of “protecting religious liberty.”

2016	2017	2019
Rights, Faith & Democracy Collaborative launched	First grants made to Georgia state cohort and New Mexico state cohort	First convening of grantees, donor partners, and allies hosted in Denver Minnesota becomes third state cohort to receive grants RFDC awards over \$1 million in grants for the first time in one year

Formed in 2016, the RFDC is a donor collaborative that helps to create and fund state-based coalitions of organizers working with allied faith communities at the intersection of LGBTQ equality and reproductive health, rights, and justice, to disrupt the rapid proliferation of religious exemptions and refusals. Simply put, RFDC marshals resources to challenge those who would weaponize religious liberty to deny citizens their basic rights, so our grantees can forge a more inclusive vision of religious freedom.

Since our founding, the RFDC has worked toward a set of long-term goals, which include:

- Expanding public awareness of the broader harms of proposed and existing religious exemption efforts, especially those that undermine progress on LGBTQ and reproductive issues;
- Creating sustainable cross-movement coalitions in states that inform national debates, so that our partners can pivot from one social justice issue to another, as needed;
- Increasing the prominence of bold, diverse progressive faith voices in the religious liberty debate; and
- Shifting the religious liberty narrative away from the religious right to a more inclusive, inspiring, and compassionate notion of religion and religious liberty.

Building a Movement, State by State

In spite of unprecedented nationwide attacks on reproductive health access and LGBTQ protections against discrimination, our state-based grantee partners made significant progress toward their specific coalition goals and broader RFDC goals in 2019.

In Georgia, the grantees developed and sharpened their messaging that exposed federal policies condoning adoption discrimination, weakening Affordable Care Act nondiscrimination language, and allowing federal contractors to condition employment on any religious tenet.

That messaging was incorporated into cross-movement media campaigns, polling, and nonpartisan integrated voter engagement efforts. All the coalition partners gathered at a religious refusals advocacy day and a convening of openly LGBTQ legislators, then used that messaging to educate legislators and key decision makers on the intersectional issues related to religiously based refusals and the disproportionate harm these policies inflict on their communities. Together, these efforts build upon the broad support needed to bring about change, as evidenced by the six consecutive years that Religious Freedom Restoration Acts were defeated in Georgia—failed attempts to couch religious refusals as religious protections.

They also made great inroads expanding their support to further enable the reach and effectiveness of their faith leader network. The group's signature project involved working with a group of staff and consultants, all with deep knowledge and training in Christian theology, to develop the Vacation Justice School curriculum, which explores scriptural stories related to current issues such as economic justice, reproductive health, LGBTQ rights, and religious refusals. The guide illustrates how theology supports a more progressive understanding of these issues, and offers suggested ways to take community action. Our grantees now have a powerful tool which they can employ to build alliances throughout the South, including Faith in Public Life's network of more than 300 faith leaders in Georgia.



An embrace following a victory for marriage equality advocates in San Francisco. (Jeff Chiu/AP)

The New Mexico grantees, working under the common brand New Mexico Entiende Coalition, developed the #BienvenidosAll campaign, meaning “Welcome All” in response to denials of public accommodations, services, or health care couched in terms of religious freedom. The effort seeks to amplify the message that everyone is welcome, engaging local businesses, religious organizations, and houses of worship, including some in deeply rural parts of the state.

The partners produced a series of videos with committed healthcare providers and Catholics whose faith moves them to support inclusive access. The grantees then used these videos to illustrate how some healthcare providers still deny critical reproductive and gender-affirming care to patients for religious reasons, forming the basis of a groundbreaking public-education campaign in a state where faith-based hospitals serve a majority of New Mexicans, especially rural residents and people experiencing poverty.



Silvia Guzman Corona, one of several Catholics profiled in videos by NM Entiende.

Fostering Systemic Change

The RFDC also supported early stage collaborative efforts to challenge the ways that states are using religious exceptions to discriminate against their own citizens. As a result, RFDC selected Minnesota as the first Midwestern state to receive funding to build out a full coalition. Minnesota grantees will begin public education work based on a series of legal cases and campaigns that are at the heart of intersectional religious refusals debates. Cases such as Gender Justice’s ongoing efforts to help a woman sue her local pharmacy after the pharmacist (and town minister) refused to fill a prescription for Plan B, and the work of OutFront Minnesota, which is collaborating with faith-based allies and partners to advocate for bans on conversion therapy for LGBTQ youth across the state.

The RFDC celebrated a major milestone in 2019 with our first national convening of grantees, allies, and donors. The two-day convening was designed with a great deal of input from grantees on their unique capacity-building needs as well as those of each individual state—and allowed grantees to carve out time to forge stronger connections with each other. Representatives from each of the grantee organizations spent invaluable time learning from each other and from national experts who discussed racial equity, communications, civic engagement, building partnerships, and litigation efforts. The follow-up surveys and conversations yielded valuable information about the types of resources and relationships grantees need to accelerate their progress. As a result, the RFDC and our newly created sister (c)4 fund, RFD Action, will launch a formal network in 2020 to connect organizations so they may share resources and align their activities around proven tactics.



The first RFDC convening allowed me to analyze and comprehend the work being done at the other participating states and learn from the strategies of their different campaigns—and all of it will inform the way we handle the specific challenges of our New Mexican communities.

—RFDC Grantee and Convening Participant

20%

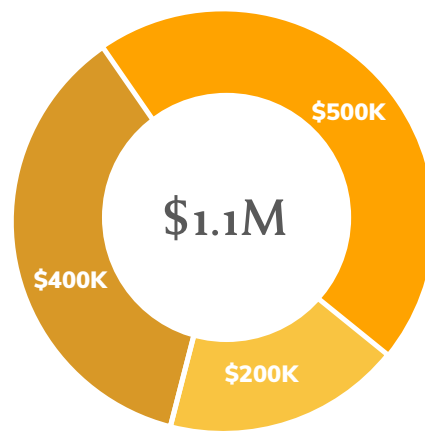
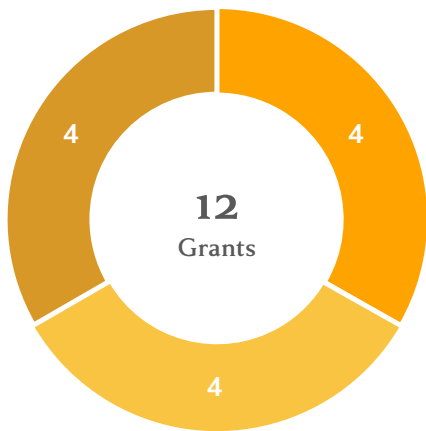
increase in total amount of annual grant awards in the two years from 2017 to 2019

+1

new state cohort funded in 2019

30+

representatives from RFDC's grantees, funders, and allies attended first convening in 2019



■ Georgia

Grantees

- Atlanta Jobs with Justice
- Equality Foundation of Georgia
- Sister Song
- Women Engaged

■ Minnesota

Grantees

- Gender Justice
- Jewish Community Action
- OutFront Minnesota Community Services
- TakeAction Minnesota Education Fund

■ New Mexico

Grantees

- American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico Foundation
- New Mexico Dream Team
- New Mexico Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
- Bold Futures/Young Women United



Protestors at a rapid-response interfaith action at the Southern border, funded by the RISE Together Fund.

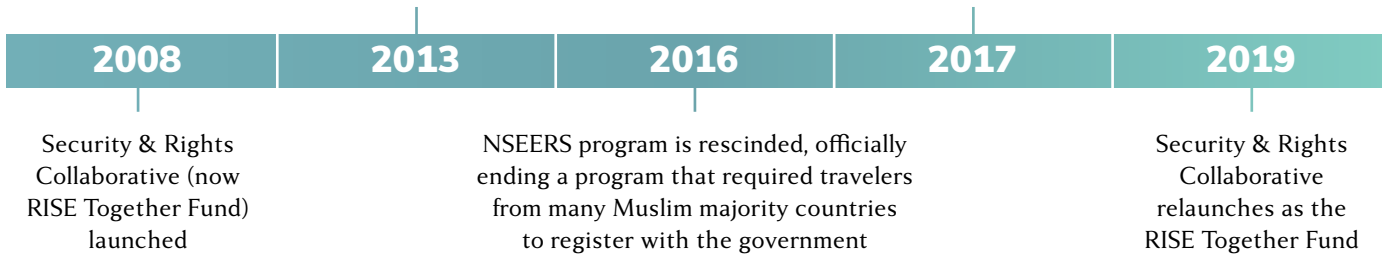
RISE Together Fund

- Human Rights, Civil Rights, Gender Justice, Immigrant Justice, LGBTQ Justice, Racial Justice, Democracy, Civic Participation, Peace, National Security

As the only national donor collaborative dedicated to supporting Muslim, Arab, and South Asian (MASA) communities, The RISE Together Fund (RTF) and its sister (c)4 fund, RISE Together Action Fund, bolster the critical work of MASA individuals, organizations, and communities to build communities' resilience, to diversify the media coverage of MASA communities, and to advocate for the rights of those impacted by racism and xenophobia. Led entirely by MASA women, the RTF team's lived experiences make them incredibly responsive to the needs of their partner organizations.

RISE Together Fund grantees are critical in securing the Community Safety Act, legislation combating discriminatory policing and unwarranted surveillance in NYC

RISE Together Fund awards grants to over 40 grantees in one year, for the first time



Born in 2008 as the Security & Rights Collaborative, the fund was renamed the RISE Together Fund in 2019. In between, two significant changes paved the way for that evolution: In 2014, the fund adopted a racial justice framework that recognized MASA communities face unique threats due to skin color and other real or perceived factors, including religion and immigration status. As a result, they are more frequently subjected to institutional and interpersonal racism, including harassment and bullying, police profiling, and delays and detention at border checkpoints.



Demonstrators protesting the Muslim travel ban. (Andrew Harnik/AP)

The second significant shift came in late 2016, when RTF piloted the MASA Organizing Team—a group of consultants who have created a national platform for more than 500 MASA organizations to collaborate, with rapid-response calls and webinars on issues such as the Muslim ban, as well as educational efforts that incorporate tactics from black-led organizations and other allied groups. In recent years, RTF also doubled funds available for rapid response to address issues including the detention of Sikh immigrants in El Paso; Temporary Protected Status legislation in the Senate for Nepali TPS holders; and a Muslim-led effort to bail people out of prisons, jails, and ICE detention. This ability to support field infrastructure as well as provide responsive grantmaking has allowed RTF to support the MASA field through a number of recent challenges.

Fueling Activism, Safeguarding Activists

Last year, RTF grantee Unite Oregon and several other RTF partners educated community members about initiatives to improve accountability related to hate crimes. These efforts led to the passage of legislation that streamlines data collection, expands protected classes to include gender identity, and establishes stronger penalties for crimes motivated by bias and hate. This effort was motivated by the 2017 Portland MAX stabbing in which the perpetrator hurled racist and anti-Muslim slurs at two young women on a train and stabbed three people, two of them fatally.

Over the years, RTF has learned that we cannot support activism while ignoring the risks and challenges posed to the activists themselves. Many of our grantees are victims of online attacks like doxxing—publishing private information on the Internet, with malicious intent. As a result, RTF has been partnering with Equality Labs to fund technology literacy for Muslim, Arab, and South Asian communities for several years. RTF has also offered digital security grants to MASA leaders facing online hate and death threats, and funded programming specifically for women to: create a supportive space for MASA women leaders; provide leadership tools tailored to their needs; and create mentorship opportunities.

In 2019, a number of MASA organizations including RTF grantees like South Asian Americans Leading Together, Sikh Coalition, and Adhikaar responded to the increasing detention of South Asian Americans at borders by offering translation and know-your-rights support, while also galvanizing broad, multiracial coalitions to call attention to this disturbing trend. Similarly, the detention and deportation of Iranian Americans, particularly students, increased in late 2019 as the U.S. and Iran came to the brink of war, and MASA organizations including RTF grantees National Iranian American Council, Council on American-Islamic Relations of Washington State, and Muslim Justice League provided organizing and advocacy support including efforts at border crossings and airports. In 2020, RTF is poised to help the field meet these related challenges through our continuing financial support for South Asian American and Iranian American organizations, while also aligning movements such as anti-war coalitions and immigrant rights organizations to emphasize that MASA voices and perspectives related to detention and deportation.

Laying the Groundwork

The RTF model shows that investing in training and research can have direct results for the field. The media training programs offered by RTF grantee ReThink Media continue to have a measurable impact: A review of 61 individuals who received training in 2019 revealed a 56 percent increase in media coverage following their attendance at ReThink's two day in-person training. Last year, ReThink's 8.5 Million Speaker's Bureau was responsible for 29 percent of all MASA-related earned media, a leap from 16 percent in 2018. CNN and Forbes profiled ReThink Media trainee Anisa Ibrahim in two pieces with a combined publicity value of \$75,000 according to Cision Media Database.

Lastly, a report supported by RTF revealed that the MASA field is poorly equipped to fully participate in large-scale voter outreach, engagement, and related efforts: Although many organizations can identify how many individuals they've registered to vote, they can't always determine if those efforts increased turnout, and can't always incorporate those individuals into future outreach efforts. In 2020, RTF is piloting a series of grantmaking and technical assistance efforts to address these gaps, including an April 2020 Data Bootcamp and a civic engagement coaching model.

We hope... other funders embrace Proteus's model of funding multicultural, multiracial, and multi-issue organizations and projects. Beyond Proteus, the majority of funding opportunities are siloed, which inadvertently pits Muslim, asylee, immigrant, refugee, and people of color movements against one another. We feel that other funders should consider taking on this intersectional approach and help create opportunities for these communities to work collaboratively toward a common goal.

—*Kayse Jama, Unite Oregon*

100%

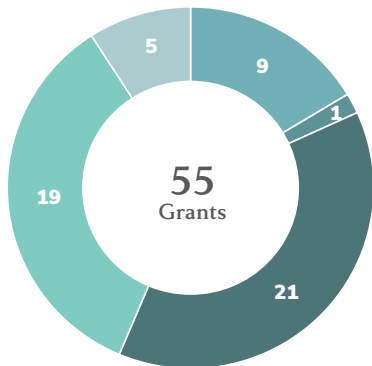
increase in the number of core grantees in the five years from 2014 to 2019

700%

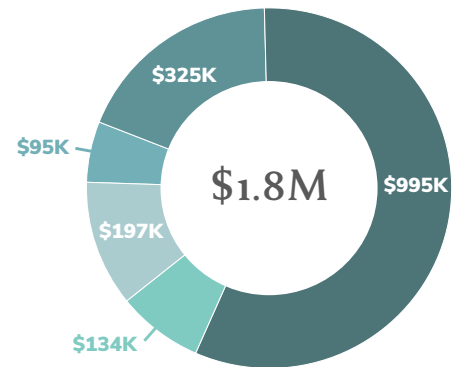
increase in the number of rapid-response grantees in the five years from 2014 to 2019

39%

of 2019 grants were rapid-response grants

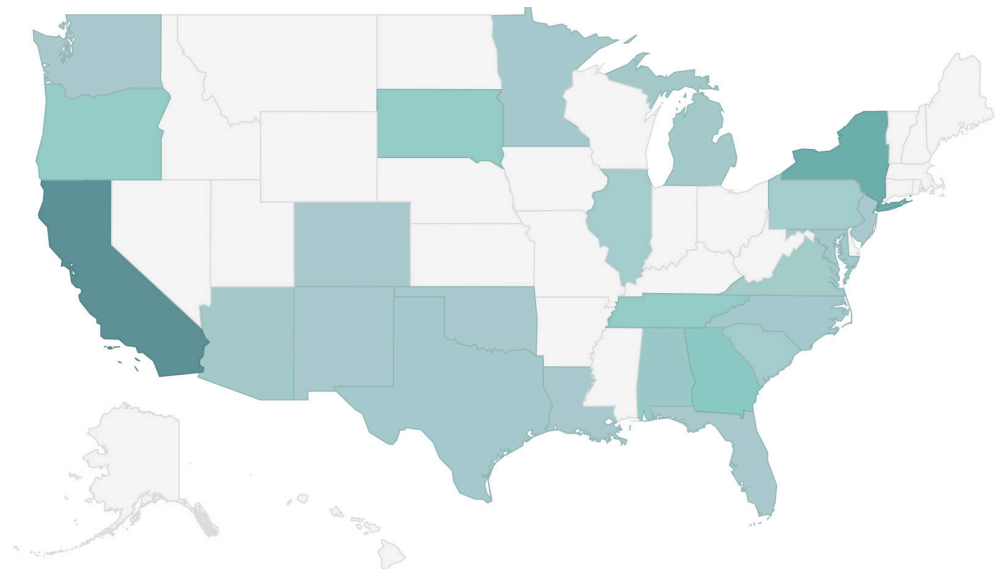


- Advocate Travel & Convening Fund
- Communications
- Field Building
- Rapid Response Fund
- RISE Together Action Fund



In 2019, grants were awarded to local organizations working within

25 states



\$3,000 \$166,500

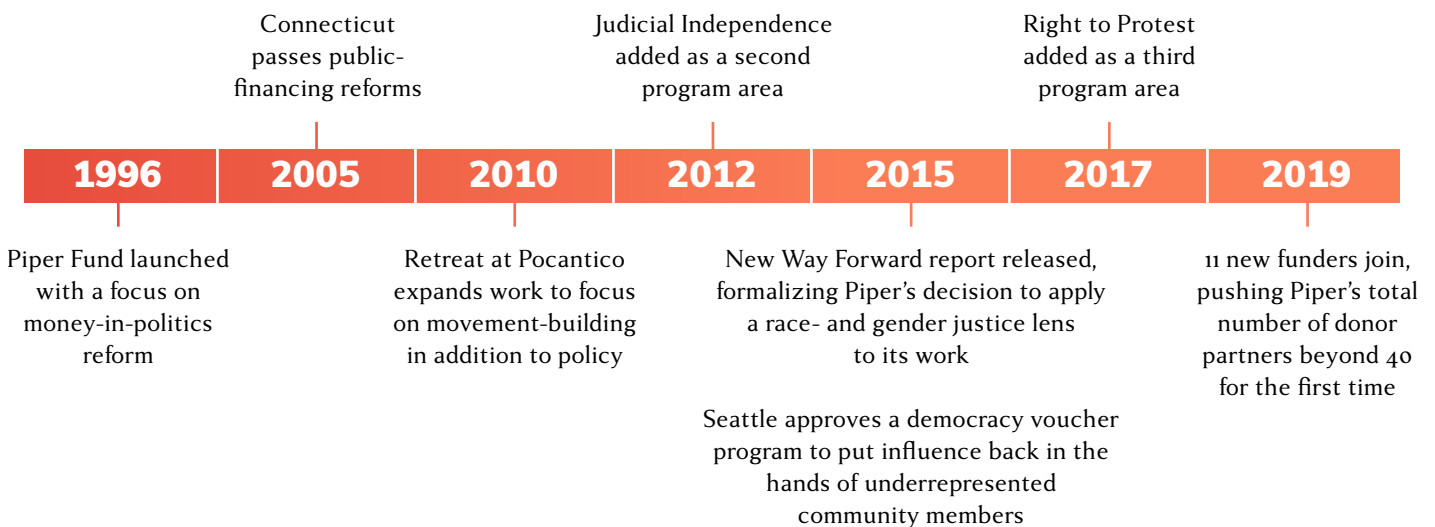


Supporters rallying for fair elections in the New York capitol building, Albany. (Mike Groll/AP)

Piper Fund

- Democracy, Civic Participation, Judicial Independence, Money in Politics Reform, Right to Protest, Human Rights, Racial Justice, Environmental Justice

Piper Fund is a donor collaborative that along with its sister (c)4 fund, Piper Action Fund, unites individual donors and foundations to defend democratic institutions and diminish the influence of corporate and special-interest money on our political and judicial systems.



From its founding in 1996, Piper Fund has worked to limit the many ways that money influences our political process—from corporate agendas to lobbying by special interest groups—eroding our democracy and stifling the voices of those most deserving of justice. Over the years, we’ve moved beyond focusing solely on money in politics to embrace a more holistic approach, working to ensure a healthy democracy, whatever efforts may be required.

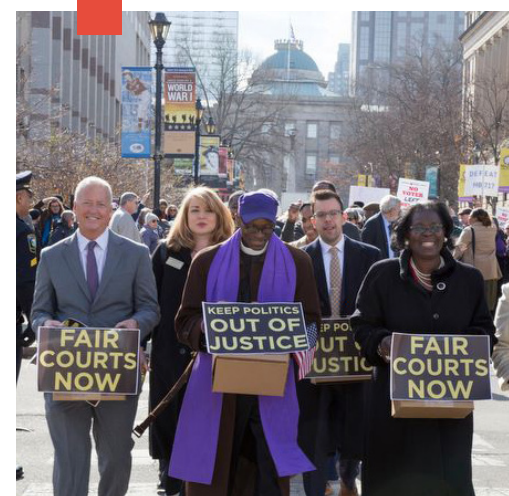
For instance, judicial independence has emerged as a national issue in recent years—a trend that garnered media attention in 2010, when conservative groups successfully recalled three of Iowa’s Supreme Court justices as retribution for their unanimous ruling legalizing marriage equality. In 2012, Piper added a new program to fight these efforts to influence state judges, which, if unchecked, would turn legal rulings into popularity contests, threatening the rights of minorities.

And in 2017, Piper added a third program area to protect the right to protest, in response to a new wave of laws criminalizing public demonstrations.

A Constant Evolution

In 2013-14, Piper Fund recognized that our field has historically fallen short of adequately and meaningfully engaging the very communities most impacted by the issues we address. In turn, we shifted to view our work through the lens of race- and gender justice and prioritized funding more grassroots, multi-issue organizations led by people of color all over the nation. As Piper increased funding to grassroots organizations working on intersecting issues, we saw a clear need to help key players connect with one another and share strategies and lessons learned. To that end, between 2016 and 2018, the collaborative launched national tables of advocates in each of our program areas to track state and federal legislation, identify gaps in the field, and create needed tools for state groups in every program area.

Piper’s Money in Politics initiative continued to generate momentum due to strategic grants made in recent years, spurring reform campaigns in Arizona, Maine, Maryland, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, and Pennsylvania—clear signs that our investments are paying off. For instance, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, a public-funding initiative led by Piper grantees Organizers in the Land of Enchantment and Common Cause New Mexico narrowly failed to pass, but the effort built so much momentum that the City Council was forced to propose an alternative measure, which succeeded. And the Fair Elections for New York coalition, comprised of Piper grantees, led the state to appropriate \$100 million for a public-financing program that will ultimately limit the impacts of big-money donors.



Fair courts/fair maps mobilization in North Carolina. (Jenny Warburg)



Protests for environmental justice in Louisiana led by a Piper grantee.

From Fair Elections to First Amendment Protections

Piper grantees have preserved Judicial Independence in several states, including Kansas, in what began as a battle over reproductive rights: Kansans for Life had spent years pushing the state supreme court to advance its agenda; between 2013 and 2016, more than 55 bills were introduced to punish judges who stepped out of line, one going so far as to defund the state's courts. In April 2019, judges on the Kansas Supreme Court put those concerns aside when they ruled that a woman's right to choose is embedded in the state's constitution—a direct result of relentless work by Piper grantee Kansas Values Institute, which leads the Kansans for Fair Courts coalition.

And in a landmark victory, Piper joined with a grantee, Partnership for Civil Justice Fund (PCJF), to protect the Right to Protest throughout the nation's capital. The National Park Service had proposed new regulations that would have charged exorbitant fees for protests, closed the sidewalk in front of the White House, and slowed down the process for obtaining a permit—all of which would have had a chilling effect on public demonstrations. PCJF was the first to sound the alarm, then took the lead in an extensive public-engagement campaign that generated 140,000 comments, quickly overturning the proposal, securing critical First Amendment rights.

As our nation sees a rise toward authoritarianism at the state and federal levels, Piper Fund is at an inflection point: On the one hand, forces are pushing against democracy by criminalizing protests, attacking judicial independence, and flooding the system with money. On the other hand, smaller grassroots movements led by underrepresented communities are fighting for a more inclusive democracy. Piper's deep knowledge of cities, states, and the national landscape, paired with the ability to quickly fund responses to emerging threats, ensure the fund is uniquely positioned to fuel long-term efforts toward a more inclusive, participatory democracy into the future.

Piper Fund has provided invaluable assistance to Greenpeace USA, better enabling us to support grassroots movements on the ground and defend our rights to engage in protest, ensuring that the most vulnerable are able to make their voices heard. We particularly value Piper's work to prioritize diversity, and respect the Fund as a cherished movement collaborator and partner.

*—Maggie Ellinger-Locke, Staff Attorney,
Greenpeace, Inc. & Greenpeace Fund, Inc.*

\$39M+

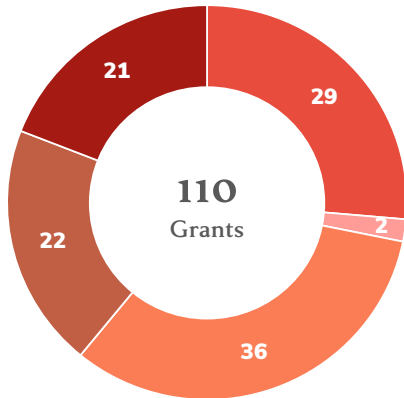
in grants awarded since 1997

85%

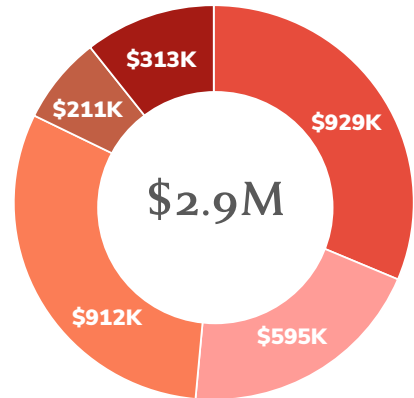
increase in the number of grants awarded annually from 2015 to 2019

62%

increase in the number of grantees funded in one year from 2015 to 2019

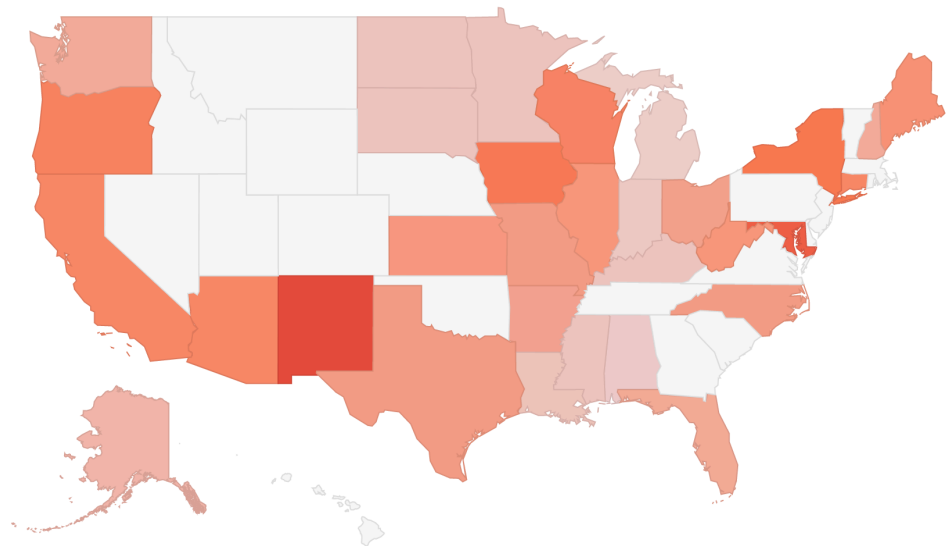


- Money in Politics
- Cross-program
- Judicial Independence
- Right to Protest
- Piper Action Fund



In 2019, grants were awarded to local organizations working across

32
states



\$7,500 ————— \$165,000



Fund & Foundation Management



St. Louis County Police demonstrate military force at a Black Lives Matter demonstration in Ferguson, Missouri. (Jeff Roberson/AP)

Colombe Peace Foundation

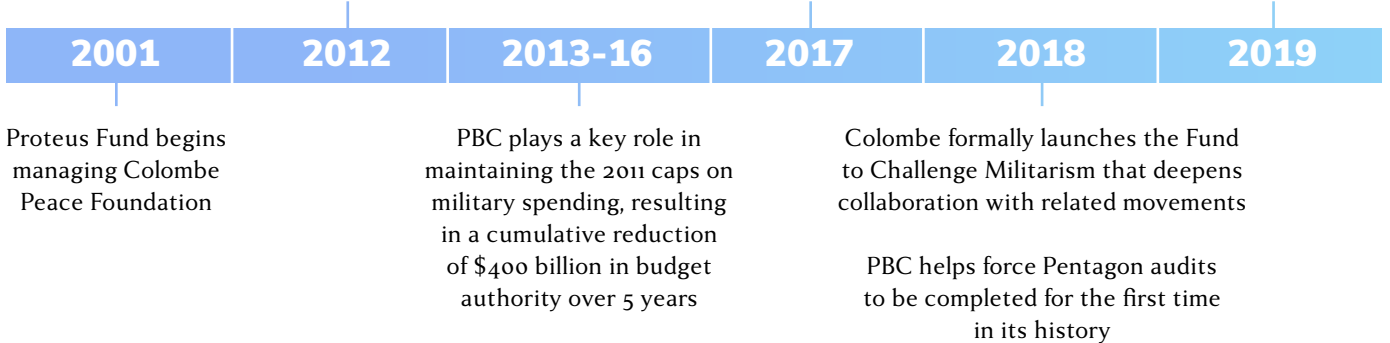
- Peace, De-militarism, National Security, Federal Budget Priorities, Democracy, Civic Participation, Transparency & Accountability, Human Rights, Racial Justice

The Colombe Peace Foundation is dedicated to building and sustaining effective intersectional movements for peace that bring about long-lasting changes in United States policy. Colombe works to move the nation away from endless war-making and militarized conflict to, instead, invest America’s limited resources to meet basic human needs that have gone ignored or partially addressed for decades. To that end, grantmaking strategies are aimed at educating and building movements that demand accountability and a decrease in the role militarism plays in American life, budget policy, and foreign and domestic policy.

In response to the field, Colombe funds the creation of the transpartisan Pentagon Budget Campaign (PBC)

Colombe shares guidelines for reframing the debate in a post-9/11 America, while the PBC succeeds in popularizing the phrase “slush fund” to stigmatize the Pentagon’s evasion of budget caps

Colombe awards over \$3 million in grants in one year, for the first time



For decades, the Colombe Peace Foundation has supported antiwar advocacy, nuclear weapons reduction, small-arms sale reduction, related national spending priorities, and various other peace and security issues. In 2012, those efforts coalesced in the Pentagon Budget Campaign (PBC), launched in response to widespread recognition that it was time to eliminate wanton Pentagon spending that prioritized war-focused budgeting. For several years now, PBC has been working behind the scenes to help decision makers and opinion shapers reframe military spending decisions in a more nuanced manner. Part of its strategy has focused on building alliances that supersede party affiliations, so that Congressional members are rightly seen as voicing legitimate concerns rather than undermining the nation’s security.

For example, although a 1990 federal law requires every government agency to be audited, the Pentagon didn’t complete its first comprehensive audit until 2018, in direct response to PBC’s efforts demanding an audit. In 2019, PBC pressured the Pentagon to conduct a second audit, which failed to meet accounting standards just as the first one had—developments that have successfully drawn Congressional attention to Pentagon mismanagement. PBC has also played a pivotal role in maintaining caps on military spending, resulting in a cumulative reduction of \$400 billion in Pentagon budget authority from 2012 through 2016. PBC also popularized the term “slush fund” to describe the Pentagon’s efforts to mislabel billions in expenditures as “war efforts” to evade budget caps. All of these strategies and tactics have served as valuable levers to champion fiscal responsibility in Congress, moving the definition of “national security” away from ancient Cold War threats, and toward a rebalancing of our national budgeting priorities.

Reframing the Peace Movement for a New Generation

Our grantmaking recognizes that the old way of defining peace isn’t resonating in post-9/11 America, and that U.S. militarism disproportionately harms front-line communities and constituencies. If the peace movement is to have any saliency today, it must engage the collective voices of veterans, students, and people of color to push against increased militarism, globally and domestically. In recognition of these truths, Colombe shared a new set of guidelines for challenging militarism with the field in 2017. In 2018, the Foundation joined the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion leadership committee of the Peace and Security Funders Group, bolstering Colombe’s efforts to increase grassroots power and create a more intersectional peace movement.

Colombe has continued to sustain its decades-long commitment to building and sustaining grassroots advocacy and empowerment, while also moving to more multi-year, operational support grants that build in flexibility for grantees, recognizing that they are the ones with their fingers on the pulse of the movement.



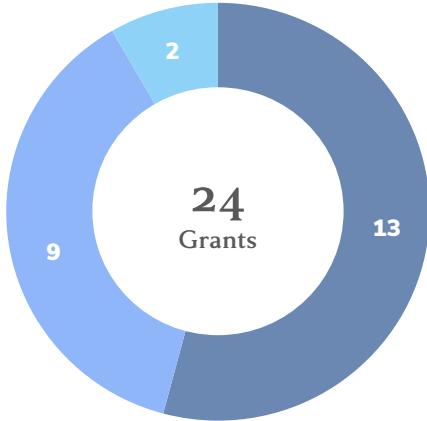
Protestors rally in New York in the face of escalating tensions with Iran. (Bebeto Matthews/AP)

In service to this approach, we've partnered with Win Without War Education Fund since its creation, leveraging its knowledge and relationships to identify new opportunities to bolster grassroots peace advocacy and build partnerships with broader progressive groups. In addition, Colombe provided start-up funding to the Quincy Institute in 2019, to engage the American public in urging more restraint in the country's over-militarized global engagement and priority-setting. To engage students in these issues on college campuses and beyond, Colombe also helped launch Dissenters—a team building out successive cohorts of young activists representing intersectional movements ranging from immigration, to the Black Lives Matter movement, LGBTQ communities, and others.

Colombe's success, and the success of our entire field, can be difficult to evaluate, because our impact is generally characterized by things that haven't happened—wars averted, weapons never developed, peace maintained. Even so, we're continuing to measure our impact in relationships built, trust deepened, issues reframed, and terminology used by new constituencies. Those efforts are already paying off, as we see a younger generation of legislators and thought leaders arguing that we must end funding for our open-ended "war on terror," and instead turn our country's resources to improving the lives of American citizens.

\$27M+

in grants awarded by Colombe since 2002



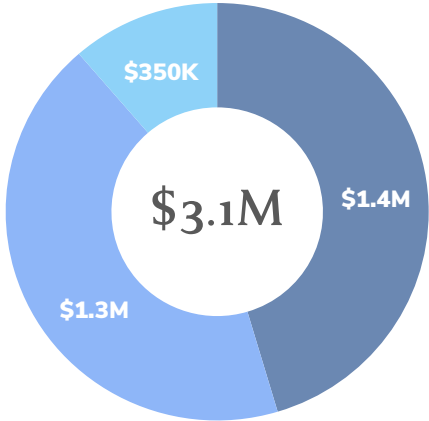
92%

of 2019 grantees have been supported by Colombe for over five years

43%

of 2019 grant funds awarded were for general support

- Fund to Challenge Militarism
- Pentagon Spending
- President's Fund

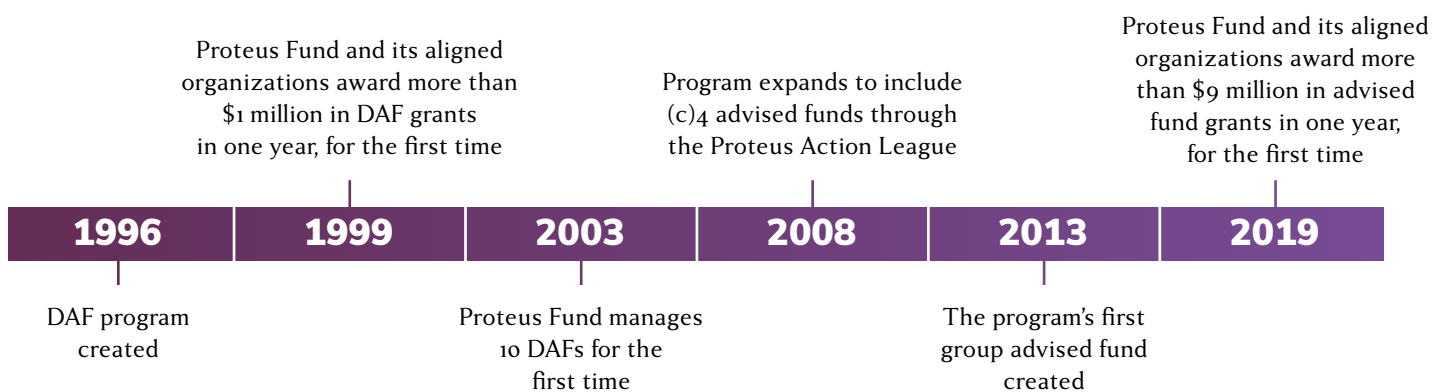




Organizers canvassing for fair elections in Washington, D.C.

Donor & Group Advised Funds

A Donor Advised Fund (DAF) is a dedicated grantmaking fund established at a 501(c)3 entity as a streamlined alternative to establishing a private foundation. It allows philanthropists to shape the programmatic and strategic direction of their grantmaking while benefiting from the institutional knowledge and capacity of a trusted partner. As DAFs have been increasingly employed by donors working for social justice, Proteus Fund has expanded our management of advised funds aligned with our mission and vision.



Proteus Fund launched its first donor advised fund in 1996, and hit the \$1 million grantmaking mark in 1999, which also marked the first time the fund awarded more than 50 grants in a single year. In 2003, the program grew to include 10 donor advised funds. Starting in 2008, our (c)4 sister organization, Proteus Action League, launched donor advised (c)4 accounts so that donors could support lobbying work in line with their overall giving strategy. In 2013, Proteus expanded its advised fund program to offer group advised funds, allowing donors to pool resources and make collective recommendations.

Donors within our advised funds form a community of like-minded philanthropists, pursuing strategies that benefit from our expertise in advancing democracy, human rights, and peace. Advised funds are an important part of pursuing our mission, allowing Proteus to expand our impact beyond the issue areas addressed by our other efforts. The program allows us to employ our full toolkit in pursuit of results, including our sector-leading rapid-response capability and expertise in awarding grants to new and grassroots groups.

In 2019, our advised fund grantmaking supported grassroots groups in a wide range of efforts, such as implementing new healthcare legislation in Connecticut, reforming juvenile life sentences in Tennessee, securing tenants’ rights in California, organizing for LGBTQ advocacy in the South, and ensuring voters’ rights in Georgia and the rest of the country.

101%

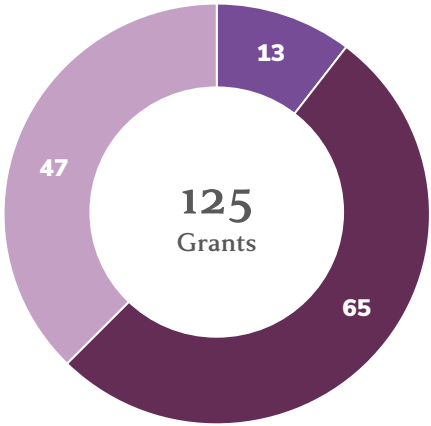
increase in the total amount of grants awarded in one year from 2015 to 2019

\$62M+

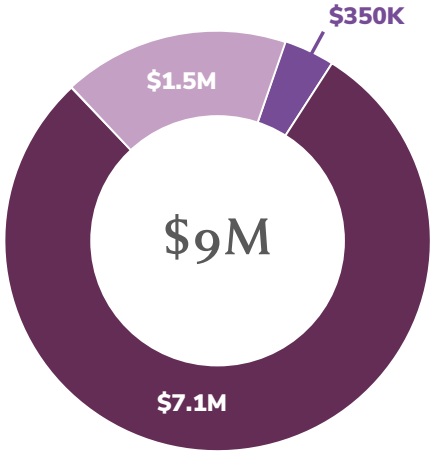
in grants awarded through the program since 1996

79%

of 2019 grant funds awarded were for general support



- General support
- Project support
- Proteus Action League

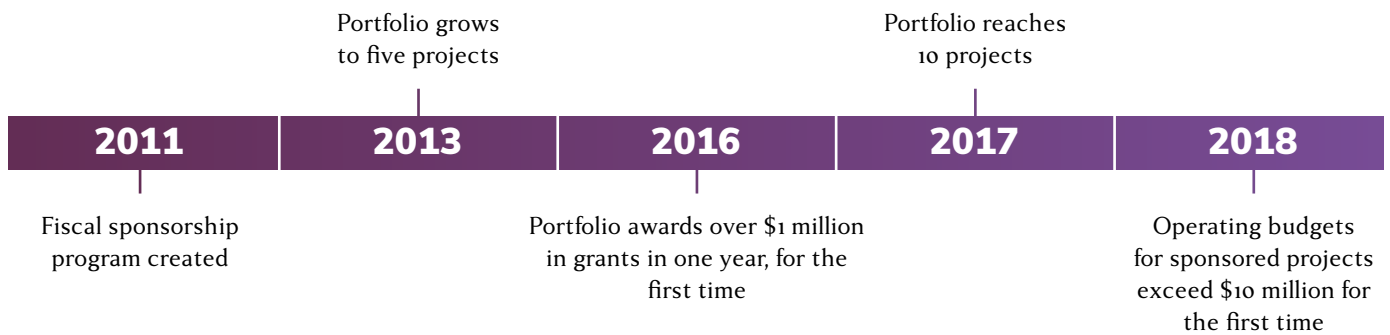




Fiscal Sponsorship

Fiscal Sponsorship

Starting a nonprofit organization is time-consuming, costly, and complex. Fiscal sponsorship gives social-change leaders the flexibility to pursue their vision, while relying on a trusted partner to provide organizational infrastructure and management. Proteus provides administrative and organizational infrastructure, so project staff can focus on their programmatic and fundraising goals.



Of the more than \$220 million Proteus and its aligned organizations have invested in public education, grassroots organizing, advocacy, leadership development, communications, and research, more than \$20 million of that has been through fiscally sponsored projects. Following several years of intermittent sponsorships, Proteus formalized our fiscal sponsorship program in 2011, and appointed a Director to build the portfolio and coordinate efforts across various functional teams in 2016. As a result, the number of projects we sponsor and their operating budgets have more than doubled over the last five years.

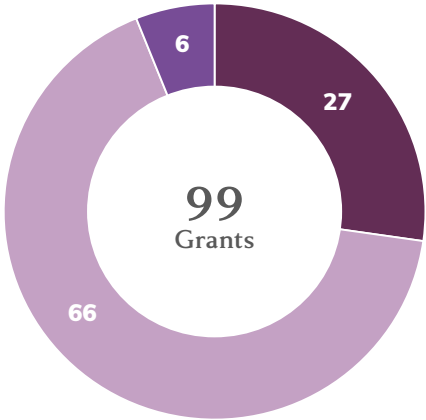
Fiscal sponsorship advances Proteus' mission by expanding the breadth and depth of issues we engage, supporting aligned visionary social change leaders in achieving their mission, and building capacity in the nonprofit sector through shared operational infrastructure. Given our experience as a public foundation and philanthropic intermediary, Proteus focuses on philanthropic projects that align with our mission, further our vision, reflect a commitment to our values, and advance work at the intersections of democracy, human rights, and peace.

Our team has detailed knowledge of the nonprofit sector ranging from compliance and risk management to legal services, operations, and grant management. With our infrastructure in place, projects can focus their efforts on strategic, programmatic, and fundraising goals. In 2019, More Equitable Democracy and its (c)4 sister fund were able to double their grantmaking over the prior year, moving \$262,000 in support of coalitions working on voting rights and electoral reforms, and Third Wave Fund had its biggest grantmaking year since its founding, disseminating \$1.2 million to advance the gender justice and reproductive work of women of color, intersex, queer, and trans people under 35 years of age.

For these grantmaking projects and every fiscally sponsored project we support, Proteus works to forge deep relationships, and develop a firm understanding of the culture and the operating models that shape critical decisions, so they can be more nimble. Because our goal isn't simply to help projects stay afloat day to day, but to serve as a trusted advisor in support of long-term movements that advance democracy, human rights, and peace.

116%

increase in the number of fiscally sponsored projects from 6 in 2015 to 13 in 2019



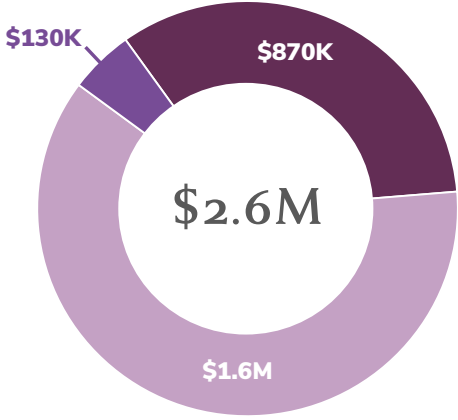
157%

increase in the total amount of grants awarded in one year from 2015 to 2019

- General Support
- Project Support
- Proteus Action League

13

fiscally sponsored projects in 2019



2019 Fiscally Sponsored Projects

- American and European Society Research Project
- Bridges
- EmbraceRace
- Human Rights Funders Network
- JustFund
- More Equitable Democracy / More Equitable Democracy Action Fund
- Our Story / Our Story Action Fund

- Philanthropy Advancing Women's Human Rights
- Prevention Collaborative
- ReFrame
- Third Wave Fund / Third Wave Action Fund
- Transparency & Accountability Initiative
- Transparency, Accountability and Participation Network