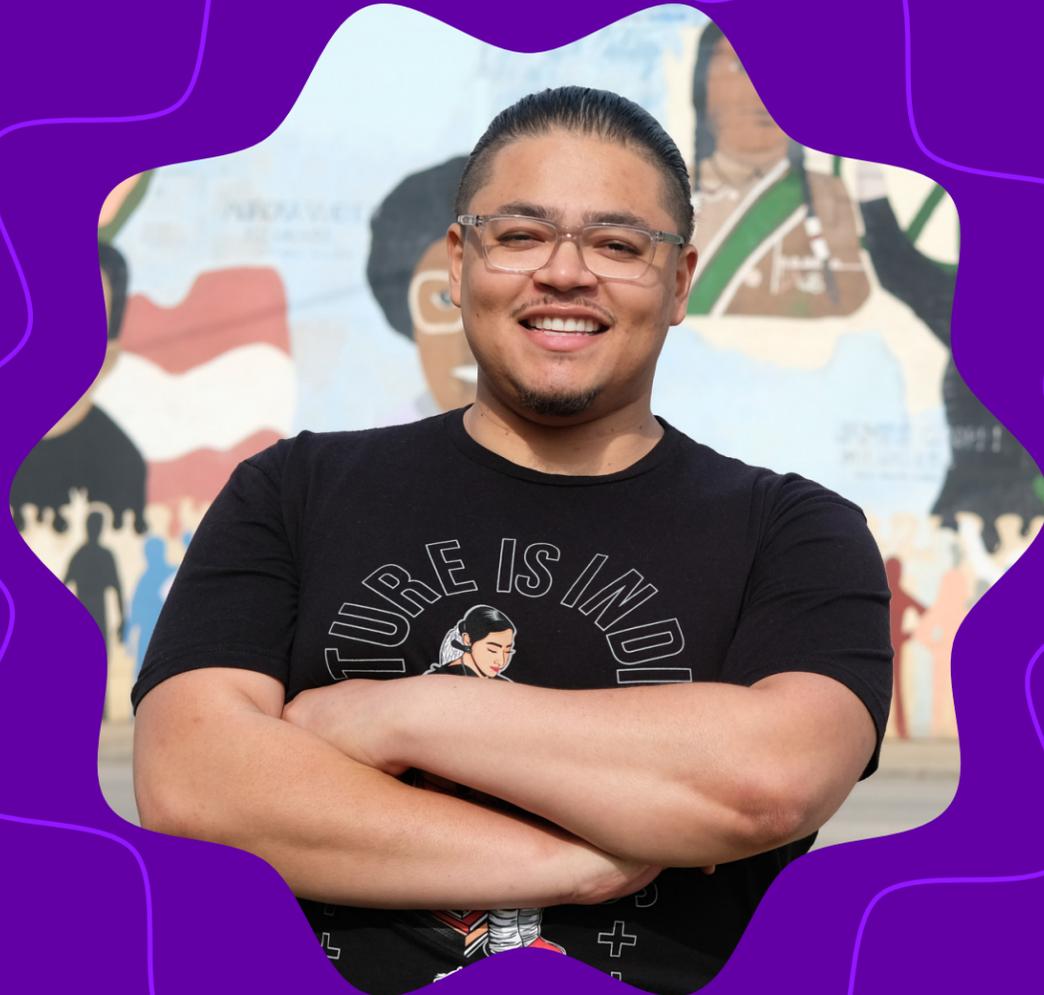


# Alliance for Youth Organizing

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



# Letter From Our Executive Director



Dear Friends, Supporters, and Partners,

As we look back on the strides we've made in 2023, I am thrilled to share our progress and vision in this annual report. The Alliance for Youth Organizing, guided by the belief that young people are not just future leaders but also current change agents, has seen this belief come to life in the past year. Our collective efforts have led to significant milestones, demonstrating our commitment and the tangible effects of our work nationwide.

Our mission to cultivate a network of civic homes for young people has never been more vital. In a world where the voice of youth is often overshadowed, we have strived to create spaces where they are heard, valued, and empowered to lead. Our achievements in voter engagement and issue advocacy are a testament to this commitment. Through innovative programs and campaigns, we have engaged thousands of young individuals in the democratic process, ensuring their perspectives and needs are front and center in the political discourse.

This year, we have proudly supported the development of hundreds of passionate individuals across our network. These leaders have spearheaded initiatives that drive meaningful change, addressing their communities' pressing issues. From climate action to reproductive justice, their efforts have made an impact and inspired a new wave of activism deeply rooted in empathy, resilience, and a shared vision for a better future.

While we have achieved a lot, our work is far from complete. The challenges we face are complex and ever-changing, necessitating adaptability, innovation, and, most importantly, unity in our pursuit of change. As we peer into the future, we do so with unwavering confidence in our mission and the individuals who make it a reality. Our plans are ambitious, aiming to broaden our influence, deepen our impact, and foster a generation of informed, engaged, and motivated young citizens.

The accomplishments we've shared in this report are not solely ours; they are a testament to the collaborative efforts of our partners, supporters, and friends. Your belief in our mission is the fuel that drives us and allows us to strive for greater heights. Together, we are not just witnessing history; we are shaping it, creating a legacy of youth-led change that will resonate for generations.

In closing, I am reminded of a quote by the late, great John Lewis: "If not us, then who? If not now, then when?" It's a call to action that resonates deeply with our work and vision for the future. As we forge ahead, let us embrace the spirit of this message, committed to building a more inclusive, just, and vibrant democracy for all.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Here's to a future filled with hope, action, and endless possibilities.

Warm regards,

*Dakota Hall*

Executive Director  
Alliance for Youth Organizing



# Update to the Alliance's governing model

In 2023, the Alliance made the decision to restructure our governing model, prioritizing our commitment to remain youth-centered as we continue to grow. Our updated structure now includes all groups within our Network, ensuring that Youth Affiliates, Multi-Generational Affiliates, and Youth Organizing Partners are represented in the Alliance's governing body, thereby having a direct influence on the Alliance's strategic decision-making process. This shift not only fortifies our capacity building, funding intermediary, and donor organizing efforts but also underscores our dedication to inclusivity and collaborative governance.



## Welcome GYJC

The Alliance is thrilled to have welcomed the **Georgia Youth Justice Coalition (GYJC)** into our Network in 2023, marking a significant step forward in building youth-led people power in Georgia, the South, and across the nation.

Founded in 2021, GYJC is a grassroots collective of Black, brown, LGBTQ+, working class, and allied students advocating for youth power and justice in Georgia. GYJC grew from engaging a few hundred high school and college students to dedicated local organizing campaigns impacting thousands of Georgians in six counties and six campuses.

**With the largest share of 18-24-year-old voters, Georgia has become a consistent battleground state.** Expanding our Network to include GYJC helps fuel the growth and sustainability of grassroots organizing led by Black youth in Georgia who have historically been and continue to be systematically under-resourced.

Throughout 2023, youth organizers at GYJC have worked tirelessly to activate youth communities, incubate movement leaders, build power, and enact meaningful wins across the battleground state.



# Network Highlights

Over the course of 2023, the Alliance supported our Network to build robust voter engagement programs and issue campaigns, and helped develop hundreds of young leaders across our Network to lead effective initiatives that drive meaningful change in their communities.

Through our **Engagement Services Suites** offerings, we provided financial support to access trainings for an expanded suite of electoral, data, and advocacy tools at no cost to our Network, including Reach, ThruTalk, ThruText, and EveryAction. To bolster overall organizational health and foster sustainable growth, the Alliance also provided **organizational coaching** through a series of one-on-one sessions for young leaders, focusing on operations, finance, communications, development, and movement-building civic engagement programs. Lastly, the Alliance relaunched our **cohort** programs to provide comprehensive training and relationship-building opportunities for network staff to grow in X and X.

Building year-round local and state-based infrastructure allowed us to scale our strategy to increase civic participation among young people while also driving change at state and local levels on issues that young people care about. Our **Democracy Done Right** pilot brought our Network organizations together to share tactics to develop innovative democracy campaigns. Under this program, network organizations fought against some of the most egregious voter suppression bills in the country. Additionally, the Alliance supported crucial local issue campaigns to address challenges facing our country including reproductive health & justice, public lands & climate change, immigrant justice, and divestment from police & revisioning public safety. Some highlights from this work include:



**Chicago Votes** sent over 90,000 voter guides to young people across Chicago - a portion of which were distributed to incarcerated folks at the Cook County Jail. The team registered over 1,615 of folks in jail to vote. Chicago Votes also continued their advocacy around House Bill 39 to restore the right to vote to more than 35,000 individuals in prison. Despite meeting with lawmakers, hosting advocacy days and power hours, and trips to Springfield, the Bill did not pass. Nonetheless, the Chicago Votes team is gearing up to craft a stronger coalition and campaign to pass the same legislation in 2024.



**New Hampshire Youth Movement** united with other local organizations to organize phone banks, signature collections, and engage in other C3 lobbying calls to action (contacting representatives, testifying in front of committees, etc.) to fight against proposed anti-trans bills in 2023. Their organizing efforts successfully led to dissolving SB 272, an anti-trans bill that would've endangered queer and trans youth in New Hampshire.



**MOVE Texas** joined several other organizations in organizing a Youth Capitol Takeover. This historic event brought over 350 young Texans together to demand change from lawmakers.



Want to learn more about our Democracy Done Right work? The Alliance created our first-ever zine in 2023 to highlight all of the progress we've made as a nation thanks to youth organizers in the Alliance Network, while uplifting the power of artwork from artists across our network. Check it out [here!](#)



# Financial Overview

## Income

SOURCE	ACTUALS
FOUNDATIONS & GRANTS.....	\$20,770,840
INDIVIDUAL DONORS.....	\$161,282
CONTRACT FOR SERVICES.....	\$123,381
CORPORATE & LABOR UNION.....	\$26
OTHER INCOME.....	\$28,709
<b>TOTAL INCOME .....</b>	<b>\$21,084,238</b>

## Expenses

SOURCE	ACTUALS
PERSONNEL.....	\$2,196,661
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.....	\$964,411
OFFICE & SHARED EXPENSES.....	\$204,510
TRAVEL & EVENTS.....	\$338,971
MATERIALS.....	\$7,006
GRANTS & AFFILIATE CONTRACTS.....	\$4,280,291
FISCAL SPONSORSHIP PROJECTS.....	\$5,694,120
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES .....</b>	<b>\$13,685,969</b>



# Acknowledgments

## Foundation & Partners

Anonymous Donors  
 128 Collective Foundation  
 2032 Trust (BNY Mellon)  
 Alki Fund  
 Chambers Initiative  
 Compton Foundation  
 Democratizing Philanthropy Project  
 Emerson Collective  
 Ford Foundation  
 Franklin Philanthropic Foundation  
 Glenmede Donor-Advised Fund at National Philanthropic Trust  
 Global Impact Social Welfare Fund  
 Hull Family Foundation  
 John P. & Anne Welsh McNulty Foundation  
 JPB Foundation  
 LARS Charitable Fund  
 M. Asselin - J. Meltzer Fund of the Liberty Hill Foundation  
 Mertz Gilmore Foundation  
 NEO Philanthropy's State Infrastructure Fund  
 Repower Fund  
 Silver Giving Foundation/Robert and Ruth Halperin Foundation  
 Skoll Foundation  
 Solidarity Giving  
 Stupski Foundation  
 The Donald and Carole Chaiken Foundation  
 The Educational Foundation of America  
 Tides Healthy Democracy Fund  
 Wallace Global Fund  
 Women Donors Network  
 Wellspring Philanthropic Fund  
 Yield Giving

## Individuals

Anonymous Donors  
 Catherine M. Lerza  
 Eleanor Friedman  
 Gail Milliken  
 Gasner Charitable Gift Fund  
 Matt Glickman and Susie Hwang Fund  
 Mike and Kathy McCormick  
 SLC Giving Fund/Steven Cohen  
 Ruth Johnson

This movement to build equitable, locally-led democracies is inherently collaborative and extends from grassroots collectives to institutional supports. We couldn't do this work without the countless volunteers, staff, partners, and donors bolstering these efforts. We'd also like to thank the following foundations, partners, and individuals who have generously supported our work with the resources needed to propel young leaders in shaping the future of our democracy.

*Thank you*

# Looking Forward

As we set our sights on the 2024 elections, the stakes couldn't be higher, with **41 million eligible Gen-Z voters posed to make their mark**. This generation's diversity and engagement are unparalleled, yet their potential to shape our democracy underscores the necessity of our tailored youth-led campaigns. The Alliance for Youth Organizing's strategic focus on building youth power is crucial, as it seeks to mobilize and empower young people to create a better future for all.

Our **capacity building** offerings allow us to confront systemic barriers that often hinder organizational success. By equipping Affiliates with the financial and compliance management skills needed to run scalable programs, we not only empower our Network to mobilize youth effectively, but enhance our collective ability to advocate for meaningful change. These capacity building supports include:

**New Deal for Organizing:** a training program in partnership with State Voices designed to grow and sustain a significant national organizing movement.

**Network Health Assessments:** intensive assessments that analyze an Affiliate's financial health in relation to its program plans and development pipeline.

**Site Visits:** constructive visits to identify opportunities and challenges that arise in our shared journey toward empowering youth and strengthening democracy.

**Multi-Entity Financial, Compliance, and Risk Management:** supports the development and implementation of strategies that optimize the efficiencies of multiple entities working toward a common goal.

**Cohorts:** peer spaces for Affiliate staff beyond the ED-level to engage in mutual learning around data and reporting as well as managing electoral programs.

Our **civic engagement** strategy weaves disciplined field organizing with electrifying, youth-centric events to double down on empowering young, marginalized voters to cultivate a culture where voting and civic involvement are integral to youth identity. Through innovative approaches like election festivals and 'Parades to the Polls,' we transform the act of voting from a duty to a celebrated communal event. Our plans also include scaling up our presence on campuses with partners like Pizza to the Polls and deepening our investment in the leaders of tomorrow through targeted training and support.

By coupling our civic engagement strategies with our revamped **issue platforms**, we are able to build resources and guidance to help design robust and effective campaigns that create tangible, lasting change in young people's communities. The Alliance for Youth Organizing supports our Network in developing and implementing educational initiatives that focus around five core issues that reflect a path towards liberation: Abortion Access and Reproductive Justice, Climate and Environmental Justice, Housing, Reimagining Public Safety, and Voting Rights.

At the heart of our efforts to empower young people across the nation lies our **Youth Vote Capacity Campaign** - an initiative that bridges the gap between national resources and local organizing initiatives to bolster the growth of local youth organizations. This Campaign's multifaceted approach invests in data-driven campaigns, strategic messaging, and reinforcing field organizing and volunteer networks to enhance the civic participation of young people across the nation

The Alliance for Youth Organizing's multifaceted commitment ensures that young voices are not only heard but lead the charge in shaping our future. Together, we're not just participating in democracy; we're redefining it, building an ecosystem where the youth lead with conviction and power to enact real change.

# How to Support

Detailed information on how individuals or foundations can contribute or get involved. **We invite you to join us on this pivotal journey.** Your partnership will be instrumental in shaping a more inclusive, representative, and multiracial democracy. By investing in our work, you're not only supporting the democratic process but also empowering the next generation of leaders.

If you are interested in supporting the Alliance for Youth Organizing, please contact us at [development@allianceforyouthaction.org](mailto:development@allianceforyouthaction.org).

Social media handles and contact information for further engagement.

**Join our movement!**

**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/AllianceforYouthAction>

**X:**

<https://twitter.com/alliance4youth>

**Instagram:**

<https://www.instagram.com/allianceforyouthaction>

**LinkedIn:**

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/allianceforyouthaction/mycompany>