

2025 AYO

— ANNUAL REPORT —



**ALLIANCE
FOR
YOUTH
ORGANIZING**

LETTER FROM OUR ED



Dear Friends, Supporters, and Partners:

THE AUTHORITARIAN REGIME THAT TOOK POWER IN JANUARY 2025 PRESENTED A CLEAR CHALLENGE TO DEMOCRACY.

In response, many in the progressive movement pulled back. Major donors questioned whether youth organizing was worth continued investment. Organizations paused programs and waited to see what would happen next.

We made a different choice.

The Alliance for Youth Organizing refused to retreat. Instead, we organized, both people and money, to stabilize the youth organizing field and build the infrastructure necessary to fight back. While others questioned the value of investing in young people, we doubled down on the long-term power-building that makes sustained resistance possible.

In 2025, we deployed \$3.75 million in direct funding to local organizations, not as emergency relief but as strategic investments in organizational capacity. We organized resources to ensure that youth-led organizations could weather authoritarian attacks with strong compliance systems, legal protection, and operational foundations. We provided every Affiliate with free legal counsel, risk assessment tools, and the data infrastructure needed to run sophisticated campaigns under increasing scrutiny.

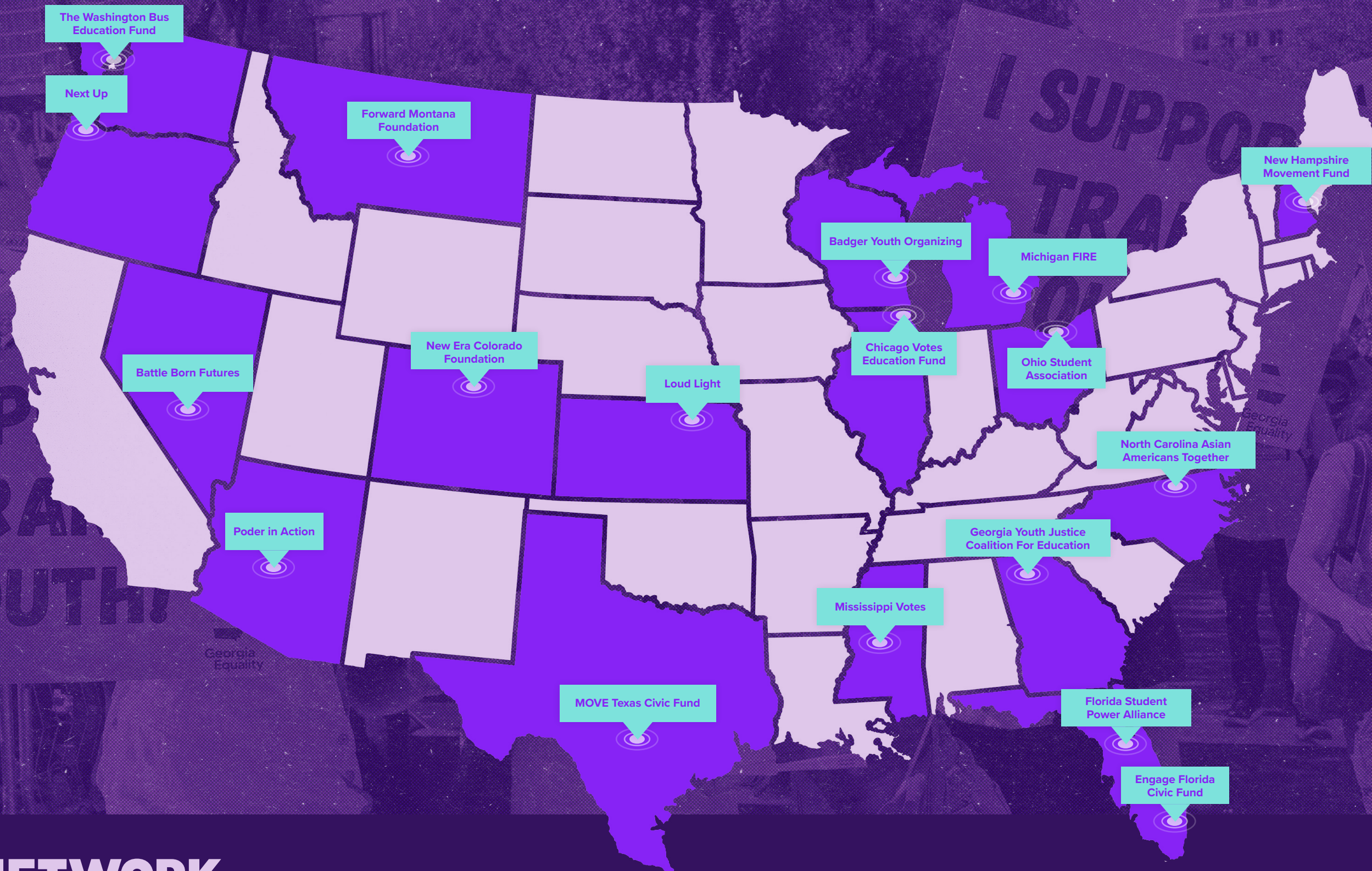
We also launched the Youth Civic Accelerator (YCA), a national operations hub that provides the professional backbone young organizers need to focus on what they do best: organize. By centralizing finance, HR, legal, compliance, and fundraising, YCA allows us to launch new state chapters, with the infrastructure of seasoned political operations from day one, saving years of build-out time and hundreds of thousands of dollars per state.

As we enter 2026, the authoritarian threat intensifies. But so does our capacity. We've organized the money. We've built the infrastructure. We've trained the organizers. The Alliance for Youth Organizing isn't waiting to see what happens, we're making it happen.

**The time has chosen us. Democracy needs infrastructure.
We're building it with defiance.**

In solidarity,

Dakota Hall
Executive Director
Alliance for Youth Organizing



OUR NETWORK WHO WE ARE

The Alliance for Youth Organizing is a federated network of **eighteen youth-led grassroots** organizations providing nonpartisan civic engagement to young people across the country. While each organization has its unique identity and approach to creating change, we unite as a federation to amplify our collective impact.

FUNDING INTERMEDIARY

THE ALLIANCE IS PROUD TO SERVE AS THE LARGEST DONOR INTERMEDIARY FOR YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS NATIONWIDE.

We’ve continued to deepen our commitment to this role with a transparent funding strategy that expands support for local organizations, especially those focused on movement building. By funding both Network Organizations and groups beyond our Network, we ensured a nationwide approach to resourcing youth organizing infrastructure.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$3,750,000

Funding distributed

18

Network organizations

19

Non-Network organizations

Through **Generation Hope**, we moved \$1.625 million to support youth organizing and pro-democracy narratives rooted in justice, care, and collective power. Funding was distributed through two funds:

- **Organizing Futures Fund (\$1M)** supported organizing capacity in underserved communities, including Indigenous and rural veterans, young men, and digital spaces, while shaping narratives to protect democracy and advance an inspiring worldview for the future
- **Campus Futures Fund (\$625k)** strengthened and expanding college-based chapters and activities across the country, from Democracy Defense Certifications to digital content creator programs, reaching student populations often overlooked by traditional organizing

In response to the recognized need from applicants, we distributed additional an \$100k to orgs that serve the Latinx and Native communities, and to organizations combating online authoritarian threats.

We were excited to support the work of non-Network grantees doing incredible work, from voter education to movement building. Some highlights from this work include:



Gen-Z for Change builds national narrative infrastructure by investing in trusted storytellers across diverse communities. Their Meddle Media platform supports more than 500 creators to produce authentic content while also providing training in narrative strategy, policy literacy, and organizing fundamentals. Their work expands the year-round organizing ecosystem, develops a leadership pipeline of creator-organizers, and equips young people with digital tools to engage audiences, close information gaps, and mobilize followers in real time.



The Team leverages the leadership and platforms of college student athletes to strengthen democracy and turn visibility into civic power. Their programs train athletes as civic leaders who engage peers through voter registration, civic education, and action-oriented events tied to key moments like National Voter Registration Day and Election Day. Supported by virtual leadership trainings and a national peer network, participants help build lasting civic cultures on campus while modeling engaged citizenship.



Ignite! Utah empowers young people to become lifelong civic actors through voting, immersive education, grassroots organizing, and creative digital engagement. They reached over 21,000 people through their mobilization efforts, including over 10,000 doors knocked for their five endorsed Gen-Z aligned municipal candidates, four of whom were elected.

NETWORK VICTORIES

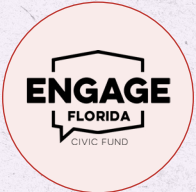
ACROSS THE NETWORK, YOUNG LEADERS ARE DRIVING COLLECTIVE IMPACT AND TRANSFORMING THEIR COMMUNITIES WHILE BUILDING LASTING YOUTH POWER.



In moments of escalating state-sanctioned attacks on immigrant communities and widespread misinformation, **Chicago Votes Education, Poder in Action, and North Carolina Asian Americans Together** stepped up to protect their communities by ensuring people have the knowledge, tools, and collective power to respond to ICE intimidation and surveillance. Through Know Your Rights trainings and accessible online resources, all three organizations equipped thousands of community members with clear guidance on how to stay safe, document and report encounters, and support one another.



Members from **Florida Student Power Alliance** and partner organizations gathered together in Tallahassee to meet with elected officials, speak out for their communities, and advocate for public education, youth dignity, and student-centered policy priorities.



Engage Florida Civic Fund helped lead a transformative push to bring fairness, transparency, and community voices to how Miami draws its political maps, resulting in the passage of a Charter Amendment establishing a Citizens' Redistricting Committee, approved by Miamians with an overwhelming margin in the November elections.



Georgia Youth Justice Coalition for Education turned around a GOTV program for the Public Service Commission runoff within four weeks of the primary, knocking on over 11,000 doors in one month. When it was all said and done, GYJC knocked on over 71,000 doors and made over 79,000 phone calls to voters.



The Washington Bus was part of the executive committee for the Yes on Prop 1 Campaign, which renewed Seattle's first in the country democracy voucher program. They made over 43,000 phone calls and knocked on 3,000 doors to successfully renew the funding for this program and continue the city's commitment to making local elections more inclusive and accountable.



CAPACITY BUILDING

THE ALLIANCE IS FOCUSED ON STRENGTHENING AND SUPPORTING OUR NETWORK OF AFFILIATES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

From tailored capacity-building and fundraising support to strategic communications and civic engagement guidance, we’ve worked hand-in-hand with local organizations to help them grow their impact.

33

Cohort Sessions

400 hours of ED support check-ins

4 Network-wide convenings



NEW DEAL FOR ORGANIZING

In partnership with State Voices, with training developed and provided by Midwest Academy, we delivered high-impact organizer trainings in Columbus, Ohio and Atlanta, Georgia, expanding on our efforts from 2023 and 2024. These sessions brought together a wide range of movement leaders across different ages, racial backgrounds, and issue areas to invest in giving organizers — new and experienced — the support and knowledge they need to grow. Several participants shared that they came in thinking they already knew everything about certain tactics, like 1-1’s or power mapping, and left realizing they’d learned a lot of new tools and perspectives.

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

As part of our commitment to supporting Affiliates, the Alliance plays a direct role in ensuring stability during leadership transitions. These transitions are strategic moments for the Network. Done well, they protect stability and preserve program momentum in high stakes states. In 2025 we welcomed six new Executive Directors:



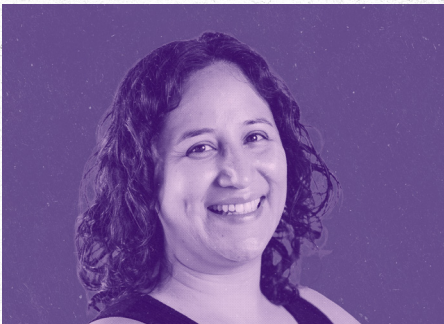
Christina Soliz
New Era Colorado



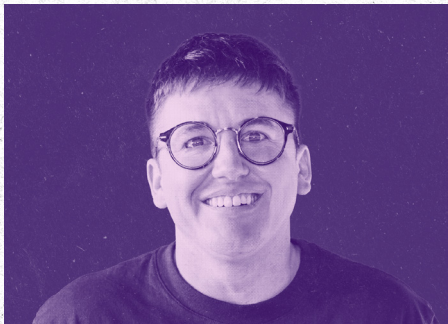
Alice Boyer
Forward Montana



Mia Balderas
MOVE Texas



Isabel Garcia
Poder in Action



Ben Laughlin
Poder in Action



Kendra Koeppen Mulwana
Badger Youth Organizing

SCALING OUR IMPACT

COMMS HIGHLIGHT



This year, Dakota Hall launched [a regular writing practice on Substack](#), building a space for thoughtful, accessible commentary on the issues that matter most. His posts break down the latest developments in policy, activism, and social movements — offering critical analysis of the forces shaping our communities.

Dakota spoke at Harvard Kennedy School as a part of a hybrid webinar on “[Understanding Generation Z’s Rightward Turn in 2024](#).” The conversation dove into the underlying causes of Gen Z’s shifting political attitudes and looked ahead into what the generational shift could mean for the future of American politics.

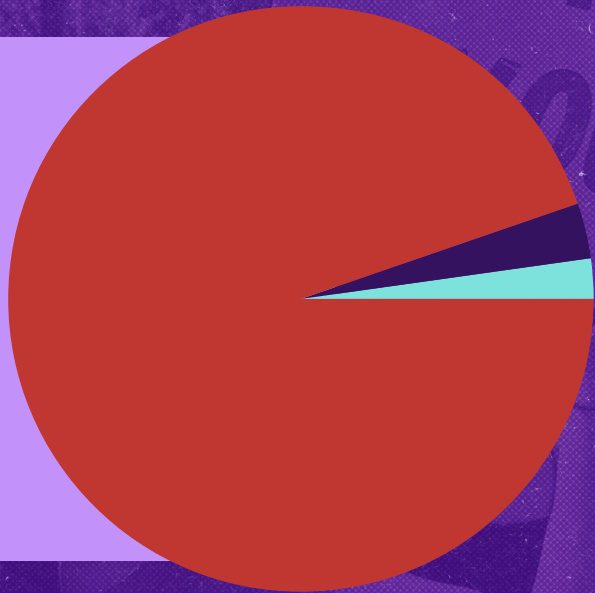
PRESS HITS

Rudy Garrett, Vice President of Capacity Building, joined the [Connecticut Public Radio](#) to discuss what’s influencing the youth vote on election day.

Dakota joined [The Great Battlefield](#) podcast to talk about student organizing to confront authoritarianism and build power to transform our future. He shared positive stories of youth engagement on [Good News for Lefties](#). He also appeared on the [Participation Trophy](#) podcast to discuss how young people are reshaping democracy.



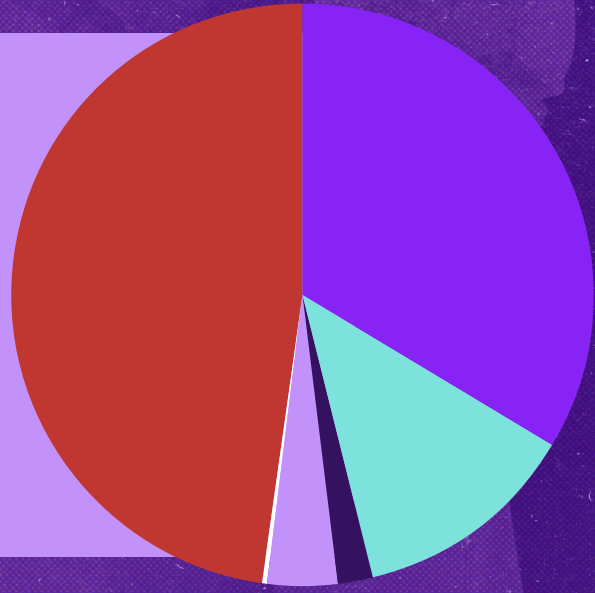
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



INCOME

\$6,346,422

- Foundations & Grants: \$6,020,275
- Individual Contributions: \$196,837
- Other Income: \$129,308



EXPENSES

\$7,895,140

- Grants: \$3,782,273
- Personnel: \$2,643,583
- Professional Services: \$998,082
- Travel & Events: \$326,768
- Office & Operations: \$132,099
- Materials: \$7,141

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

2025 WAS A TESTAMENT OF RESILIENCE.

Across the Network, our partners remained rooted in their communities and proved (again) that when young people are trusted, resourced, and organized, they strengthen democracy in real, tangible ways. This progress isn't possible without the foundations, partners, and individuals who have generously supported our work. We are proud to build this future alongside you.

The Alliance staff members dedicated their time this year to strengthening efforts to empower young leaders and advance civic engagement across the country. We are deeply grateful for each and every staff member's essential contributions to this work.

The Alliance for Youth Organizing is also grateful for the brilliant work of our Board of Directors, comprised of seasoned organizers and industry experts.



LOOKING FORWARD

At the Alliance and throughout the Alliance Network, we aim to cultivate a world where young people are deeply engaged in democracy, not just as voters, but as organizers and leaders, driving change that makes our communities more equitable and vibrant.

As we plan for the future, we recognize deepening youth disillusionment with institutions is not unfounded. Inheriting an economic system that has made it nearly impossible for economic mobility — it's easy for young people to bemoan how their lives are worse off than their parents before them. Without sustained, year-round youth organizing, policies will continue to sweep across the nation and its impact will extend far beyond the current generation — shaping whose voices are heard, who is counted, and who has the power to advance structural change.

With this in mind, we turn our focus toward building robust local infrastructure that prioritizes local base-building, civic engagement, and electoral work. We know the critical role that local governments play in safeguarding our communities and protecting vulnerable populations.

It is our time to rise up to meet this moment. We're dedicating ourselves to scaling our investment in young people to ensure they have the infrastructure and leadership pathways they need and deserve to lead.



LET'S STAY IN TOUCH!

If you are interested in supporting the Alliance for Youth Organizing, please contact us at development@allianceforyouthorganizing.org.

