

Move the Money: Practices and Values for Funding Social Movements

A year ago, during the uprisings against anti-Black racism, every sector in the United States condemned racial injustice and committed to implementing more equitable policies and practices within their institutions. Philanthropy was no different. A year later, it remains vital for foundations to support social change movements, from emergence to infrastructure to sustainability.

Building Movement Project (BMP) presents *Move The Money: Practices and Values for Funding Social Movements*, a set of resources geared towards grantmaking institutions eager to expand and deepen their support of organizations, networks, and leaders involved with social change movements. *Move The Money* consists of four videos and accompanying discussion guides which contain reflection questions and recommendations that highlight the perspectives of movement leaders and funders on the following topics:

- Why are Social Change Movements Important?
- What is the Role of Philanthropy in Supporting Social Change Movements?
- What do Movement Leaders Need from Philanthropy?
- How can Philanthropy Support Movement Leadership?

As a national organization that has deep knowledge of the nonprofit sector and relationships with movement leaders, BMP produced *Move The Money* following an in-depth engagement with foundation representatives and movement leaders. In 2019, we developed and conducted a series of webinars for philanthropic representatives about social movements, and the following year, we convened a year-long learning lab for funders interested in deepening their understanding of movement leadership. BMP then conducted a series of candid video interviews with funders and movement leaders about the role of philanthropy in supporting movements. *Move The Money* incorporates key learnings and recommendations from this body of work and builds upon the wave of ongoing efforts including [The Trust-Based Philanthropy Project](#), [The Decolonizing Wealth Project](#), and others that encourage the philanthropic sector to invest in movements.

The funders we encountered in this work were at different levels of engagement when it comes to supporting social movements. Some were beginning to expand their vision of social change to include movements. Others were building authentic relationships with movement partners, while some were engaging their entire institutions in an accountability process fueled by the uprisings of 2020. *Move The Money* provides a roadmap and guide during these different stages of learning, engagement, and practice.

Who Is Move the Money For?

Move The Money is geared towards professionals in a range of grantmaking institutions, from smaller foundations or donor-advised funds with the appetite and flexibility to experiment and diversify their portfolios to larger well-



established national foundations that have influence in setting grantmaking trends to emerging funder collaboratives seeking to support a field of movement-building organizations.

How Should *Move the Money* Be Used?

Move The Money can be used for individual reflection and assessment as well as with larger groups for discussions. We suggest that facilitators organize conversations that begin with viewing a video followed by a group discussion that uses the reflection questions in the accompanying guide.

BMP is also available to provide workshops and discussions centered on movement leadership and the resources we have developed. Please contact Deepa Iyer, Director of Strategic Initiatives, at diyer@buildingmovement.org for more information.

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