



Transition Movement Grants 2017

JUST
TRANSITION
FUND

Building visionary and resilient communities for a new energy economy

The Just Transition Fund helps communities affected by the changing coal industry make the transition to a clean energy economy. As an innovative hybrid initiative—part grantmaker, part catalyst—the Fund creates economic opportunity in places hardest hit by the energy transition. We bring philanthropic investments to projects that create 21st century jobs for coal-impacted workers by focusing on solutions that promote sustainable economic development, equity, and energy resilience.

In 2017, the Just Transition Fund awarded \$1,141,000 in grants through its Spring and Fall Transition Movement grantmaking cycles, which are designed to deepen both nascent and ongoing transition-related programs and support the national network of transition advocates. Movement cycle grants support organizations in the early stages of transition planning and those with unusual promise for advancing a new economy, with a particular emphasis on energy efficiency and renewable energy. The grantmaking cycle prioritized:

- **ORGANIZATIONS IN COMMUNITIES WITH A NASCENT TRANSITION MOVEMENT**

In many power plant communities and in certain coal-producing regions, like the West, transition work is nascent. Communities are often interested in deepening their work on transition—and promoting sustainable, economic diversification strategies—but may lack the capacity and resources to engage in a meaningful way. Poised to play an important role in a transition away from coal, eligible community-based organizations will benefit from capacity building assistance and connection to the larger, national transition network. We recognize communities often need to access to experts to help further their work.

- **STATE OR REGIONAL TRANSITION MOVEMENT POLICY ADVOCATES**

Organizations working on transition-related advocacy and policy change at the state or regional level.

- **NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT SERVE THE TRANSITION MOVEMENT**

National or regional organizations that serve and support the transition movement provide important expertise to coal communities. Examples of such expertise include strategic communications, financial and/or economic analysis, or work with specific stakeholders, such as labor.

APPALACHIAN CITIZENS LAW CENTER

WHITESBURG, KY

\$10,000 The Appalachian Citizens' Law Center (Aclc) is a nonprofit law firm that fights for justice in the coalfields by representing coal miners and their families. With JTF support, ACLC will work on advocacy for stronger health and safety regulations; improving public health and bolstering the tourism economy by defending the remaining natural resources of the region; and analyzing, advocating, and building access to existing funds for mitigation, rebuilding, and retraining.

APPALACHIAN CITIZENS LAW CENTER, APPALACHIAN VOICES, BLUE GREEN ALLIANCE

JOINT PROPOSAL

\$75,000 Appalachian Voices, Blue Green Alliance, and Appalachian Citizens' Law Center will work together as a coalition to advance efforts to secure federal funding for abandoned coal mine reclamation projects that are linked with economic development. With JTF support, the coalition will mobilize grassroots support for economic transition and raise awareness through targeted outreach.

APPALACHIAN HEADWATERS

LEWISBURG, WV

\$10,000 Appalachian Headwaters is a non-profit organization created to improve streams, forests, and communities throughout central Appalachia. With JTF support, Appalachian Headwaters will jumpstart their partnership with Green Forests Work to scale up forest-based reclamation in central Appalachia. Together they will coordinate reforestation projects on former mountaintop removal sites primarily in West Virginia, Virginia, and Kentucky.

BLACK MESA WATER COALITION

FLAGSTAFF, AZ

\$10,000 Black Mesa Water Coalition was founded by a group of young inter-tribal, inter-ethnic people dedicated to addressing issues of water depletion, natural resource exploitation, and public health within Navajo and Hopi communities. With JTF support, the Coalition will work to build a Navajo Nation-wide movement for a just transition through the development of a local, culturally based, ecologically restorative economy that ensures all families are healthy and vibrant.

CENTER FOR RURAL STRATEGIES

WHITESBURG, KY

\$25,000 The Center for Rural Strategies seeks to improve economic and social conditions for communities through the creative and innovative use of media and communications. With JTF support, the Center will implement a strategic communications plan that will: coach leaders of Appalachian just-transition organizations in strategic communications, test and disseminate a set of messages about Appalachian economic diversification for use by transition advocates and allies, and create a regional digital platform.

\$25,000 With JTF support, the Center will pursue strategic communications activities to engage Central Appalachia in efforts to diversify the coalfields economy and move toward a more sustainable, green, and fair post-coal economy.

CENTRAL APPALACHIAN NETWORK

BEREA, KY

\$10,000 Central Appalachian Network (CAN) works with sustainable economic development organizations in Appalachia to promote economic transition in coal-impacted communities. With JTF support, CAN will produce an analysis of the regional policy landscape and state-level challenges and opportunities in Appalachia; and develop effective messaging language and communication tools to enhance Appalachia's transition to a resilient and sustainable economy.

CLEAN AIR COALITION OF WESTERN NEW YORK

BUFFALO, NY

\$20,000 The Clean Air Coalition of Western New York (CACWNY) builds power by developing grassroots leaders who organize their communities to run and win environmental justice and public health campaigns in Western New York. With JTF support, CACWNY will launch a national power plant working group—leveraging the experience of BlueGreen Alliance Foundation, Delta Institute, and Little Village Environmental Justice Organization—to explore a beltway, policy advocacy strategy that provides long-term support for diversified, community driven, equitable economies.

\$10,000 With JTF support, CACWNY will build on successful community coal transition work following the permanent decommissioning of the NRG Huntley coal plant. CACWNY will begin to implement an economic development plan—fostered by residents, businesses and labor—that charts a

path for advancing Tonawanda as a resilient regional hub that supports good jobs and promotes equitable development.

COMMUNITY POWER NETWORK

WASHINGTON, D.C.

\$15,000 The Community Power Network (CPN) is a network of grassroots, local, state, and national organizations working to build and promote locally based renewable energy projects and policies. With JTF support, CPN will organize three solar co-ops in communities that have been hardest hit by power plant and coalfield closings. CPN will conduct educational sessions about solar for 500 residents, engage 300 co-op participants, and help 60 homeowners go solar. The project will facilitate 300 kW of new solar capacity, generate \$900,000 in local retail sales, and create new local solar jobs.

ENERGY EFFICIENT WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON, WV

\$20,000 Energy Efficient West Virginia (EEWV) is a group of concerned West Virginia residents, businesses and organizations who have come together to promote energy efficiency among residential, commercial, and industrial customers in our state. With JTF support, EEWV will focus on a collaborative campaign to challenge FirstEnergy's proposed transfer of ownership of the Pleasants Power Station. EEWV will also form the Energy Efficiency Business Collaborative, which will create a self-sustaining network of energy efficiency businesses, employees, and contractors that will advocate for improved energy efficiency policies in West Virginia. The Pleasants campaign will build grassroots capacity for energy efficiency and strengthen ties between ratepayer advocates and clean energy advocates.

FAHE

BEREA, KY

\$20,000 Fahe works with its locally-rooted nonprofit members and a large Network of regional and national partners to eliminate persistent poverty in Appalachia. With JTF support, Fahe will promote and expand the Appalachia HEAT Squad®, which offers energy efficient rehabs to qualified low- and middle-income households. The program will also serve as a demonstration pilot in nine Kentucky counties classified by the Appalachian Regional Commission as “persistently poor” to create opportunities for growth, stability and economic transition in coal-impacted counties.

FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN KENTUCKY, INC.

CHAVIES, KY

\$15,000 The Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky (Foundation) will be a leading and trusted community foundation; transforming Eastern Kentucky through charitable giving, community involvement and strategic partnerships. With JTF support, the Foundation will create a regional initiative designed to rebrand southeastern Kentucky as an area rich in opportunities for cultural engagement. The initiative will focus on investing in Appalachian Kentucky's latent cultural and natural assets, including agricultural/culinary practices, musical venues and events.

FOUNDATION FOR PENNSYLVANIA WATERSHEDS

ALEXANDRIA, PA

\$20,000 The Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds (FPW) is a grant-making foundation that invests in efforts to protect healthy, natural streams around the state—and also to clean up pollution and repair damaged wildlife habitat. With JTF support, FPW will continue engagement with state and federal officials and use Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Lands Campaign to disseminate information to concerned citizens, member organizations, and the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation.

HEADWATERS ECONOMICS

BOZEMAN, MT

\$25,000 Headwaters Economics is an independent, nonprofit research group that works to improve community development and land management decisions in the West. With JTF support, Headwaters will host a Solutions Forum, which will bring together subject matter experts. They will also develop an online data visualization tool showing national examples of “recovered” resource-dependent communities, as well as a report that compares fiscal policies among states to identify a set of best practices in terms of coal tax policies.

\$25,000 With JTF support, Headwaters will plan, host, and publish the results of a Solutions Forum focused on fiscal policy solutions for transitioning coal communities in the West.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

HAZARD, KY

\$15,000 Housing Development Alliance (HDA) develops high quality, long lasting, affordable homes in four southeastern Kentucky counties whose long-term economic challenges have been compounded by job loss in the coal sector. With JTF support, HDA will develop and submit a 2018 ARC POWER proposal. If funded, the POWER proposal will spur job creation through the cultivation of markets for residential solar installations and energy efficient homes.

INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY ECONOMICS AND FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

CLEVELAND, OH

\$15,000 The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) conducts research and analyses on financial and economic issues related to energy and the environment. With JTF support, IEEFA will assist communities facing closures of coal-fired power plants or coal mines by helping them develop new strategies to support workers, communities, and local tax bases during a time of transition.

INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

LITTLE FALLS, MN

\$20,000 The Initiative Foundation empowers people to build thriving communities and a vibrant region across central Minnesota. With JTF funds, the Foundation will support its community engagement process in Sherburne County, to help area communities navigate significant changes in tax base and workforce as a result of the pending decommissioning of two of three Xcel Energy coal-fired power generation units.

KENTUCKIANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH

LONDON, KY

\$10,000 Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC) is a grassroots organization of 10,000 members across Kentucky. With JTF support, The Kentucky Coalition will focus on the Empower Kentucky campaign. Empower Kentucky is a multi-dimensional campaign to draft a blueprint for a new clean energy economy in Kentucky, while generating broad, shared political will needed to build it.

\$20,000 With JTF support, KFTC will engage in local and statewide organizing campaigns that promote investment in workers and communities, create new jobs, lower utility costs for consumers, and diversify the power supply. Grant funds will also bolster efforts to leverage federal financial investment for economic transition in communities impacted by the decline in the coal industry.

NATURAL CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND

SHEPHERDSTOWN, WV

\$25,000 Natural Capital Investment Fund (NCIF) is a community development financial institution. NCIF blends provision of expert resources to partners and businesses in coal communities and connects coal transition advocates to the emerging clean energy economy in Appalachia. With JTF support, NCIF will advance its Energy Initiative, which promotes a just transition to a clean energy economy, by underwriting project development and providing financing in coal-distressed communities throughout West Virginia.

NORTHERN PLAINS RESOURCE COUNCIL

BILLINGS, MT

\$15,000 Northern Plains Resource Council fills a unique niche as an environmental group that organizes family farmers and ranchers, small businesses, urban dwellers and rural residents to advocate for the protection of Montana's water, land, air, and working landscapes. With JTF support, Northern Plains will conduct a study that will examine the job creation and transition opportunities that would come from the cleanup of contaminated groundwater from coal ash ponds at the Colstrip power plant.

POWDER RIVER BASIN RESOURCE COUNCIL

SHERIDAN, WY

\$5,000 Powder River Basin Resource Council (PRBC) is committed to empowerment of people through community organizing. With JTF support, PRBC will leverage their work to transition Wyoming's economy from one dependent on coal to an economy that is diverse and supportive of vibrant, sustainable communities. Through collaboration, strategic communications, public education and outreach, and community organizing PRBC will focus on promoting a range of economic transition activities, including renewable energy, local foods, and reclamation jobs.

SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS OF WEST VIRGINIA

WASHINGTON, DC

\$25,000 Solar United Neighbors (SUN) of West Virginia is a community of people building a new energy system with rooftop solar at the cornerstone, while supporting state growth of local solar businesses in economically distressed areas. With JTF support, SUN will expand its co-op model to coal communities in the northern panhandle region, and work with partner organizations to create new state-level policies that expand access to clean energy.

WEST VIRGINIA CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY

CHARLESTON, WV

\$25,000 The West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy is a policy research organization that is nonpartisan, nonprofit, and statewide. With JTF support, the Center will launch a project to develop guidance tools that will directly inform coalfields project planning and implementation in the short-term. The Center will also serve as the foundation for the development of economic models to inform and support new scalable and sustainable projects over the long-term.

WEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HUB

CHARLESTON, WV

\$25,000 The West Virginia Community Development Hub, has worked in dozens of communities to coach community members through a process that helps them identify leaders and assets; develop plans and set goals; and connect with a wide network of resources to meet those goals. With JTF support, the Hub will continue to build a statewide communications infrastructure to position community-led transition efforts as a central part of West Virginia's public and political discourse. This effort will shift the state's political and public narrative and uplift influential public and political champions that advocate for deepened investment in economic diversification.

WEST VIRGINIA HEALTHY KIDS & FAMILY COALITION

CHARLESTON, WV

\$20,000 West Virginia Health Kids and Families Coalition works to improve the health of children and families in West Virginia. With JTF support, the Coalition will co-host the first annual economic transition conference in southern West Virginia. This economic transition gathering is primarily concerned with providing entrepreneurship, social enterprise, and community development workshops and trainings to local leader. These more advanced workshops will unite statewide entities focused on transition efforts.

WESTERN CLEAN ENERGY CAMPAIGN

DENVER, CO

\$45,000 Colorado-based Western Clean Energy Campaign's (WCEC) mission is to advance the region's transition to clean energy by supporting the work of Navajo community groups working to help the Navajo Nation transition from its 50-year dependence on coal. With JTF support, WCEC will form a standing clean energy community task force that will educate Navajo Tribal leaders about the opportunities and benefits of clean energy surrounding the closure of the Navajo Generating Station.

WESTERN COLORADO CONGRESS

GRAND JUNCTION, CO

\$5,000 Western Colorado Congress is a grassroots, democratic organization dedicated to challenging injustice by organizing people to increase their power over decisions that affect their lives. With JTF support, will focus on their New Energy Economy Program, including conducting a pilot campaign to ensure that Mesa County opts into the state's new Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy District, establishing and training of clean energy teams in three other counties, and convening listening sessions in a number of communities in their region.

WESTERN ORGANIZATION OF RESOURCE COUNCILS

BILLINGS, MT

\$25,000 The Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC) is a regional network of grassroots community organizations that include 12,200 members and 39 local chapters. With JTF support, the WORC Education Project will engage members and key stakeholders by producing white papers on key regional transition issues, hosting community meetings to present key information, and piloting a public education curriculum to disseminate white paper learnings.

\$20,000 With JTF support, WORC will build support for abandoned mine line site clean-up by educating communities about reclamation and economic diversification opportunities, and by documenting and publishing a report about employment potential of coal mine reclamation.

For more information about the Just Transition Fund and its upcoming programs, please contact:

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