



# Transition Movement Grants 2018

JUST  
TRANSITION  
FUND

# Building visionary and resilient communities for a new energy economy

The Just Transition Fund is on a mission to create economic opportunity for the frontline communities and workers hardest hit by the transition away from coal. As an innovative hybrid initiative—part grantmaker, part catalyst—we provide investments to help communities create 21st century jobs, and technical assistance to empower local leaders to act. Our goal is to advance economic solutions that are equitable and inclusive, diverse, and low-carbon.

In 2018, the Just Transition Fund awarded **\$1,579,000 in grants**. Our grantmaking prioritized support for community-based organizations that are firmly rooted in the priority regions in which we work and embrace the goals of the Fund. 2018 priority regions include: Eastern Kentucky, Southwest Virginia, Southern West Virginia, Western Pennsylvania, Arizona (Four Corners Region), Colorado (Western Slope), Montana (Colstrip), Central Minnesota, Ohio (Ohio River Valley), and Southern Illinois. Our grants supported three components of transition:

- **COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Through our direct investments, we helped support clean energy entrepreneurs and connect rural with larger urban markets. We also invested in workforce training programs to help create high-road jobs and prepare workers and communities for the jobs of tomorrow.

- **POLICY**

Our direct investments supported state and federal activity that creates economic opportunity in key sectors. These sectors include clean energy and reclamation/remediation, which provide significant economic development potential and, in the case of reclamation, immediate job creation. During this time of federal uncertainty, we've helped community leaders pass key state policies that create new funding pools for communities in transition.

- **CAPACITY BUILDING**

Through our direct investments, we've helped communities get started and launch inclusive, community-driven stakeholder processes.

In order to respond to immediate opportunities, we also made Rapid Response grants. These grants help advocates respond to emerging threats and opportunities in real time.

Finally, JTF helped communities enhance the competitiveness of their applications for the Appalachian Regional Commission's POWER program and the Economic Development Administration's Assistance to Coal Communities (ACC) program. Both programs help communities negatively impacted by the changing coal economy. JTF leveraged over \$4 million in POWER and ACC funds in 2018 and has leveraged over \$18 million in these funds to date.

## APPALACHIAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### ABINGDON, VA

**\$65,000** Appalachian Sustainable Development's (ASD) mission is to transition Appalachia to a more resilient economy and healthier population through supporting local agriculture, exploring new economic opportunities, and through connecting people to healthy food. With JTF support, ASD will extend and expand its Central Appalachian Food Corridor project, which will connect farmers to markets and facilitate aggregation and distribution coordination. The project will also work with partners to identify a business model that ensures the long-term viability of the Corridor, including positioning for impact investing.

## APPALACHIAN VOICES

### BOONE, NC

**\$40,000** Appalachian Voices brings people together to protect the land, air, and water of Central and Southern Appalachia and advance a just transition to a generative and equitable clean energy economy. With JTF support, Appalachian Voices will support the advancement of utility, commercial, and residential scale solar in Southwest Virginia; maintain the Solar Workgroup of Southwest Virginia; advance solar-friendly state and local policies; and seek federal funding to support their work.

## CENTER FOR COALFIELD JUSTICE

### WASHINGTON, PA

**\$25,000** The Center for Coalfield Justice (CCJ) is an environmental justice organization that works to improve policy and regulations for the oversight of fossil fuel extraction and use; educate, empower, and organize coalfield residents; and protect public and environmental health. With JTF support, the center will host a series of economic justice trainings to foster political will to recognize and plan for economic transition. The center will build on this political will to push for local, state, and federal elected officials to develop and implement a just economic transition.

## CENTER FOR ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

### MINNEAPOLIS, MN

**\$35,000** The Center for Energy and the Environment works to discover and deploy the most effective solutions to strengthen a healthy, low-carbon economy while improving the environment. With JTF support, the Center for Energy

and Environment will administer an impact study to quantify the direct and indirect financial impacts of baseload power plants on five host communities in Minnesota, as well as their aggregate impact on the state. The study will include impacts on tax base, workers, demographics, and local economies, and will provide a framework to estimate the future social impacts of retiring power plants in these communities. The study will form the basis of proposed legislation, regulatory advocacy, and community-based efforts to help communities navigate the clean-energy transition.

## CLEAN AIR COALITION OF NEW YORK

### BUFFALO, NY

**\$25,000** The Clean Air Coalition of New York is a membership-based, grassroots organization that works to build power by developing leaders that will then organize communities to run and win environmental justice and public health campaigns. With JTF support, Clean Air will continue its on-the-ground organizing and coalition work to transition the Town of Tonawanda and the Western New York community away from coal. The group will lead the town's economic transition team, organize for coal plant site remediation and redevelopment, and create family-sustaining jobs at Tesla, a major solar panel manufacturing facility in Buffalo.

## COALFIELD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

### WAYNE, WV

**\$100,000** Coalfield Development Corporation addresses the acute lack of jobs and economic diversity in West Virginia coalfield communities through committing to a just and equitable transition via holistic workforce training and market-shaped approaches that create jobs. With JTF support, the Coalfield Development Corporation will facilitate the growth of the Rewire Appalachia and Solar Holler public-private partnership to create full-time jobs. The partnership's West Edge Solar Training Center will increase on-the-job training capacity, attract investment, and help meet demand through the issuance of professional training certificates.

## COLORADO FARM AND FOOD ALLIANCE

### PAONIA, CO

**\$15,000** The Colorado Farm & Food Alliance (COFFA) connects farm-to-table stakeholders to support sustainable communities and promote climate action and sound conservation policy. With JTF support, COFFA will expand its capacity to strengthen farm and food economies, connect urban and rural populations, and foster enterprises that create jobs and local revenue.

## DELTA INSTITUTE

### CHICAGO, IL

**\$25,000** The Delta Institute works to solve complex environmental, economic, and social problems in the Midwest by implementing market-based environmental solutions and informed policy that create a resilient environment and economy. With JTF support, the Delta Institute will facilitate community conversations around the reuse of the former Shenango Coke Plant site. The group will work with Allegheny County Clean Air Now (ACCAN) to promote a transparent community-based process that guides next steps and informs the community's position as it works to influence the redevelopment process.

## ENERGY EFFICIENT WEST VIRGINIA

### CHARLESTON, WV

**\$50,000** Energy Efficient West Virginia (EEWV) is a group of concerned West Virginia residents, businesses, and organizations organized to promote energy efficiency among residential, commercial, and industrial customers in the state. With JTF support, EEWV will create and improve state energy efficiency (EE) policies, create connections among and support for EE businesses, and enhance their training programs to bridge the gap between trained workers and employers.

## GENERATION WEST VIRGINIA

### CHARLESTON, WV

**\$75,000** Generation West Virginia (GWV) is a statewide organization dedicated to attracting, retaining, and advancing young talent in the state. JTF funding will support and scale two GWV programs: NewForce, an employer-driven tech training program, and the Impact Fellowship, which provides entry-level employment and leadership development. These programs provide employment and leadership opportunities to retain young talent and shift the narrative that "success" for young people means leaving West Virginia.

## GRAND CANYON TRUST

### FLAGSTAFF, AZ

**\$75,000** The Grand Canyon Trust protects and restores the Colorado Plateau through fostering connections among policymakers, land managers, tribal knowledge holders, scientists, and community leaders. The trust works to diversify local economies through sustainable development in response to coal mine closures. With JTF support, the Grand Canyon Trust will provide mentorship to Navajo Nation chapters and facilitate the building of strong economic development corporations. The Trust will help the chapters gain the Nation's support to manage solar site leases and secure significant new revenue streams, and will help

immediately-impacted chapters with high level strategy around regional response to closure plans.

## INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY ECONOMICS AND FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

### CLEVELAND, OH

**\$20,000** The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) promotes the global transition to a diverse, sustainable and profitable energy economy. With JTF support, the IEEFA will produce a risk analysis of the relative vulnerability of coal plants and mines in the Illinois Basin to cutbacks and closure, as well as a timeline showing when closures are planned or likely to happen. This research will assist affected communities, regions, and states in preparing and planning for the economic transition.

## KENTUCKIANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH

### LONDON, KY

**\$25,000** Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC) works with communities to build a just and sustainable economy while addressing racial and economic inequality. With JTF support, KFTC will facilitate the engagement of thousands of diverse people in eastern Kentucky to learn, strategize, and take collective action to win transition-related policies and investments that will improve the quality of life for all people in the region.

## MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### BEREA, KY

**\$100,000** The Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED) works to create economic opportunity, strengthen democracy, and support the sustainable use of natural resources in Kentucky and Central Appalachia. With JTF support, MACED will strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem as a critical element of a new economy that advances a just transition. To do so, the group will provide affordable financing opportunities, access to training, and targeted technical assistance that can help build entrepreneurs' business skills.

## NATIVE RENEWABLES

### OAKLAND, CA

**\$75,000** Native Renewables catalyzes clean energy for Native American homes and communities by building partnerships, seeking cost-effective solutions to reduce fossil fuel use, and supporting local economic development and technical capacity building. With JTF support, Native Renewables will use its Navajo Clean Energy Program to give Navajo families access to off-grid solar systems and low-interest loans, helping families own their power. The program also



supports a workforce development program that will train Native American solar installers to build and maintain these systems.

## NORTHERN PLAINS RESOURCE COUNCIL

### BILLINGS, MT

**\$25,000** The Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC) is a conservation group with deep roots in family farming and ranching dedicated to advocating for clean air, clean water, and progressive natural resource policies. With JTF support, NPRC will continue analysis of the economic impacts of groundwater remediation alternatives and disseminate its findings. Groundwater remediation of coal ash ponds has the potential to provide near-term jobs for the Colstrip community and serve as a model for the potential of reclamation jobs in other transitioning communities.

## PRAIRIE RIVERS NETWORK

### CHAMPAIGN, IL

**\$25,000** The Prairie Rivers Network uses sound science and cooperation to advocate for public policies and cultural values that sustain the ecological health and biological diversity of water resources and aquatic ecosystems. The network's Energy and Water program works to reduce the impact of coal mining and combustion on Illinois' rivers and groundwater. With JTF support, the Prairie Rivers Network will strengthen its relationships with frontline communities by engaging leaders to consider coal-related transition needs, including new economic and job opportunities.

## RECLAIM COALITION

### CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

**\$180,000** The RECLAIM Coalition, composed of Appalachian Voices, Appalachian Citizens' Law Center, and the BlueGreen Alliance Foundation, seeks the passage of the RECLAIM Act, a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives that would provide an economic boost to communities struggling with the decline of the coal industry. With JTF support, the coalition will educate the public and key decision-makers about the importance of reclamation. The bill would create opportunities to reclaim abandoned coal mines for states and tribes across the country while creating new economic opportunities in these communities.

## RECLAIMING APPALACHIA COALITION

### CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

**\$80,000** The Reclaiming Appalachia Coalition, which includes Appalachian Voices, Appalachian Citizens' Law Center, Coalfield Development Corporation, and Rural Action, seeks to generate innovative mine reclamation projects and to

catalyze the land restoration economy in Appalachia. With JTF support, the coalition will continue to lead a regionally-coordinated process for developing and leveraging funding for innovative mine reclamation projects, sharing its work publicly through workgroups, online communications, and a final regional report.

## REUSE INDUSTRIES

### ATHENS, OH

**\$15,000** ReUse Industries is a nonprofit social enterprise established by Rural Action to generate economic development from waste. With JTF support, ReUse Industries will launch a new workforce training program and build ties between the program's fabric-based upcycled product-making component and its work with partners to support upcycled product-making entrepreneurs. The program will provide job training to help existing and prospective entrepreneurs develop, market, and sell upcycled products.

## RURAL ACTION

### THE PLAINS, OH

**\$30,000** Rural Action is a membership-based nonprofit community development organization working to build a more just economy in Appalachian Ohio by developing the region's assets in environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable ways. With JTF support, the group will develop a clean energy program that will expand its efforts to build a just and equitable economy through increasing demand for renewable energy and training the region's workforce, including coal workers, to provide related goods and services.

## SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS

### WASHINGTON, DC

**\$40,000** Solar United Neighbors (SUN) is a community of people using rooftop solar to work toward clean, equitable energy systems in coal impacted communities. With JTF support, SUN will focus on the policy work of its Ohio programs. In Ohio, SUN is working to advance equity throughout the PowerForward grid modernization proceeding, including authorizing meter aggregation.

## TÓ NIZHÓNÍ ÁNÍ

### KYKOTSMOVI, AZ

**\$75,000** Tó Nizhóní Ání is a grassroots organization that works to preserve and protect the water resources of Black Mesa through the lens of just transition. With JTF support, Tó Nizhóní Ání will expand organizational capacity to increase its efforts to educate Navajo Nation leadership on the importance of renewable energy and workforce training opportunities.

## WEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HUB

### CHARLESTON, WV

**\$20,000** The West Virginia Community Development Hub utilizes a rural community development model to transform coalfield communities affected by generational economic disinvestment and poverty. With JTF support, the HUB will further implement its community development model by creating an entry-level community development pathway for extremely distressed and under-resourced communities, using five Logan and McDowell county communities as a pilot launch group; strengthening a statewide network of WV ARC POWER projects; and providing technical assistance support, and communications coaching to WV POWER grantees.

## WEST VIRGINIA HEALTHY KIDS

### CHARLESTON, WV

**\$35,000** West Virginia Healthy Kids works to improve the health of children and families in West Virginia by providing a forum for diverse organizations to discuss, coordinate, and collaborate on issues to improve the health and well-being of families and children in the state. With JTF support, WV Healthy Kids will expand its economic transition campaign into a full, lasting, staffed program that supports low-income entrepreneurs and social enterprises, campaigns for economic development policy change at the state level, and explicitly ties the work performed in schools, churches, and communities to economic development.

## WESTERN ORGANIZATION OF RESOURCE COUNCILS EDUCATION PROJECT

### BILLINGS, MT

**\$25,000** The Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC) facilitates the stewardship and conservation of land, water, and energy resources. With JTF support, WORC will accelerate coal mine cleanup in the West and create employment opportunities for workers by producing Undermined Promise III, an assessment of SMCRA's enforcement in western states, and supplemental fact sheets detailing the importance of reclamation. The group will also participate in RECLAIM coalition working groups and host workshops to foster discussions on local and regional-oriented economic renewal.

# RAPID RESPONSE GRANTS

## AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR AN ENERGY-EFFICIENT ECONOMY

WASHINGTON, DC

**\$35,000** The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) serves as a catalyst to advance energy efficiency policies, programs, technologies, investments, and behaviors through in-depth technical and policy analyses and collaboration with businesses, governments, and other organizations to implement cost-effective energy efficiency. With JTF support, ACEEE will examine rural households' energy burdens and identify energy efficiency strategies to reduce that burden. The group will also conduct an outreach campaign to help utilities, program implementers, and policymakers replicate and build on the identified strategies.

## APPALACHIAN CITIZENS' LAW CENTER

WHITESBURG, KY

**\$15,000** The Appalachian Citizens' Law Center (ACLCL) is a nonprofit law firm that fights for justice in the coalfields by representing coal miners and their families on issues of black lung and mine safety and by working with grassroots groups and individuals to protect the land and people from misuse and degradation caused by extractive industries. With JTF support, the ACLCL will lobby for the RECLAIM ACT in Congress, engage relevant agencies and stakeholders, and develop innovative mine reclamation projects.

## CLEAN AIR COALITION OF WESTERN NEW YORK

BUFFALO, NY

**\$20,000** The Clean Air Coalition is a membership-based, grassroots organization based in western New York that works to build power by developing grassroots leaders who organize their communities to run and win environmental justice and public health campaigns. With JTF support, the coalition will leverage relationships with government agencies to increase investments in transition, find opportunities for local stories to contribute to the national narrative on energy transition to inform policy decisions, and strengthen coalition work to find a pathway to good, family-sustaining renewable jobs in the new economy.

## COALFIELD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

WAYNE, WV

**\$50,000** Coalfield Development Corporation addresses the acute lack of jobs and economic diversity in West Virginia coalfield communities through committing to a just and equitable transition via holistic workforce training and

market-shaped approaches that create jobs. With JTF support, the corporation will continue to foster the long-term economic transformation from coal country through creating new jobs in Appalachia.

## DELTA INSTITUTE

CHICAGO, IL

**\$12,000** The Delta Institute works to solve complex environmental, economic, and social problems in the Midwest via market-based environmental solutions and informed policy that create a resilient environment and economy. With JTF support, Delta will collaborate with communities in recently-closed coal plant areas to foster development through community engagement and research.

## GRIST COMMUNICATIONS

SEATTLE, WA

**\$40,000** Grist Communications shapes the national conversation on sustainability and justice through forward-looking journalism. With JTF support, Grist seeks to produce impactful coverage on just transition through sustained, regular reporting. The project seeks to attract a broader audience, deepen user engagement, and drive conversation on just transition issues. Grist will use its platform and syndication partnerships to elevate stories and show the potential and necessity of transition.

## SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS

WASHINGTON, DC

**\$15,000** Solar United Neighbors (SUN) is a community of people using rooftop solar to work toward clean, equitable energy systems in coal impacted communities. With JTF support, SUN will develop a suite of materials and disseminate information widely through earned media and communications channels to implement a winning campaign for rural communities to take back ownership of co-ops and move toward a just energy future.

## TÓ NIZHÓNÍ ÁNÍ

KYKOTSMOVI, AZ

**\$17,000** Tó Nizhóní Ání (TNA) works to preserve and protect the water sources of the Black Mesa and advocate for the wise and responsible use of Navajo Nation water sources. TNA's efforts to assist the Navajo Nation with transition away from coal, diversify the economy, and obtain water security, begins with addressing the upcoming closure of coal fired power plants on Navajo land. With JTF support, TNA will train Navajo members in solar installation and maintenance through its certification program.

# FEDERAL POWER & ACC GRANTS

## APPALACHIAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### ABINGDON, VA

**\$25,000** Appalachian Sustainable Development's (ASD) mission is to transition Appalachia to a more resilient economy and healthier population through supporting local agriculture, exploring new economic opportunities, and through connecting people to healthy food. With JTF support, the organization will pursue a 2018 POWER grant as a co-applicant with Virginia Tech's Department of Forestry. The POWER grant will fund the organization's forest farming program throughout VA, TN, WV, OH, and KY, which will serve as a sustainable, economy-diversifying boon to Appalachia.

## ENERGY EFFICIENT WEST VIRGINIA

### CHARLESTON, WV

**\$25,000** Energy Efficient West Virginia (EEWV) is a group of concerned West Virginia residents, businesses, and organizations organized to promote energy efficiency among residential, commercial, and industrial customers in the state. JTF funding will support the meetings, outreach, and engagement necessary for EEWV to pursue an ARC POWER grant. That grant would support energy-efficiency training in coal-affected communities, as well as financing and implementing energy efficiency upgrades to commercial and residential buildings in southern West Virginia.

## NATURAL CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND

### SHEPHERDSTOWN, WV

**\$25,000** Natural Capital Investment Fund (NCIF) advances sustainable development in economically distressed areas by providing affordable, flexible capital and advisory services to small and emerging businesses. With JTF support, NCIF will apply for POWER funding to advance their Downtown Appalachia Development Initiative, which will build local capacity in communities and foster redevelopment.

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

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