

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE:

Women of Color Lead the Way



The Catalyst Fund, in partnership with



THE CATALYST FUND & THE NEW YORK WOMEN'S FOUNDATION ®

The New York Women's Foundation® is a cross-cultural alliance of women helping low-income women and girls in New York City achieve sustained economic security through expanded opportunities. We work together to transform the conditions of poverty and to create a just and equitable future for low-income women and girls in New York City. The Foundation pursues its mission by providing financial support to organizations and/or programs led by and for women that seek to overcome fundamental barriers faced by women and girls; offering critical leadership to promote effective public policy and responsible philanthropic giving to benefit low-income women and girls; and promoting leadership and alliances among women and girls that offer opportunities for individual, organizational, and community development.

Since its inception in 1987, The New York Women's Foundation® has awarded \$17 million to hundreds of grassroots community-based organizations that are truly working to make a difference in the communities they serve. Our areas of interest include: economic security and justice, community organizing and advocacy, health and sexual rights, safety, and positive development of girls and young women. By forging close relationships with our grantee partners and offering them capacity building opportunities and other services, the NYWF® has helped many grassroots groups to become stronger and more effective in New York City.



“Organizations led by women of color are crucial to building an effective movement for reproductive rights and justice in the new century. If we are going to reverse the erosion of rights we have witnessed for the past few decades, the movement must expand to empower even more women and genuinely reflect our nation’s diversity.”

- Nicole Gray, Hewlett Foundation

WHAT IS THE CATALYST FUND?

The Catalyst Fund at Tides Foundation was created by a group of national and local foundations that believe the persistent shortage of funding for an entire sector of women is weakening the ability of all women in the United States to secure reproductive health, rights, and justice. Increased funding to women of color-led organizations is key to building a stronger, more unified movement for reproductive justice with the power to win gains for all women.

Together, through the Women of Color Working Group of the Funders Network on Population, Reproductive Health and Rights, these foundations launched The Catalyst Fund with the goal of organizing new resources for this important population and to sustain and grow that funding over the long term. At the heart of The Catalyst Fund is the belief that organizations led by those women most impacted by reproductive health disparities have the expertise to create solutions and policies that best address their community needs.

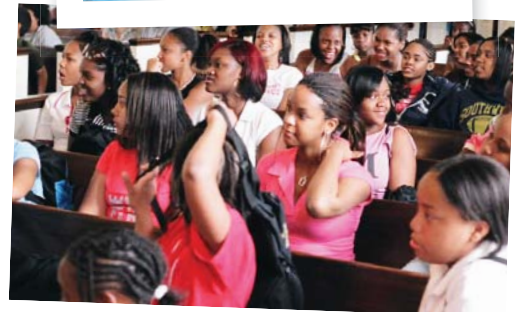
The Catalyst Fund provides matching grants and technical support to local foundations with a demonstrated commitment to women of color and reproductive justice. (For more on how the match works, see page 5.)

WHY WOMEN OF COLOR?

Women of color in the U.S. disproportionately experience challenges to their reproductive health and autonomy. In response, they are working for reproductive justice for all women and have been essential to some of the most important reproductive rights victories of the past decade. Their powerful new vision of reproductive justice is addressing the needs of women and girls who suffer the greatest reproductive health disparities, and is engaging women of all ages, including a new generation of young leaders. Despite this track record of success, women of color-led reproductive justice work is underfunded.

WHY REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE?

The term 'reproductive justice' includes the full spectrum of reproductive issues that impact women's lives from the right not to have children, to the right to have and parent children, access quality reproductive health care and information, and live and work in an environment that is free of toxins that harm reproductive health. Reproductive justice highlights the fact that the control and exploitation of women's bodies and sexuality is a strategy for controlling not only individual women, but entire communities, especially those of color. Reproductive justice is a strategy for change where the women directly affected by reproductive injustices lead grassroots organizing and advocacy efforts to transform the systems that impact their lives.



HOW THE CATALYST FUND WORKS

The Catalyst Fund receives contributions from national foundations and re-grants them, in the form of matching grants to local foundations with a demonstrated commitment to women of color and reproductive justice. Local foundations then fundraise from local donors and other sources to meet the match and make grants to women of color-led organizations in their area. The Catalyst Fund offers local foundation partners technical assistance to expand their fundraising capacity, to support their grantmaking, communications efforts, and to track and evaluate the impact of their grantmaking.



THE CATALYST FUND

LOCAL FOUNDATIONS

WOMEN OF
COLOR-LED
ORGANIZATIONS

"The Catalyst Fund represents two years of work by the Women of Color Working Group to address a critical funding gap. The persistent shortage of funding for an entire sector of women is weakening the ability of all women in the U.S. to secure their reproductive rights. As funders we have the power and responsibility to reverse this trend, and with Catalyst, we now have a key opportunity."

- Adisa Douglas, Public Welfare Foundation



TIDES FOUNDATION IS PROUD TO BE THE HOME OF THE CATALYST FUND.

Tides is firmly committed to promoting reproductive justice and women's rights across the country and the globe.

Since 2003, the Tides Reproductive Justice Initiative has granted more than \$4 million to U.S.-based organizations.

For decades Tides Foundation has provided grantmaking and philanthropic services for many strategic funding collaboratives.

Tides became the home of The Catalyst Fund in 2007.

www.tidesfoundation.org/catalystfund

**The Catalyst Fund has eight local funding partners.
By contributing locally, you are helping to build a movement nationally.**

THE NEW YORK WOMEN'S FOUNDATION ®

The New York Women's Foundation® has been selected to be one of the local funding partners of the Catalyst Fund at Tides Foundation—a national program to bring new funding to women of color reproductive justice work. This partnership advances the Foundation's commitment to strengthening women's ability to determine the course of their own lives. The Foundation supports reproductive justice work through three of its five program areas: Health and Sexual Rights, Positive Development of Girls and Young Women, and Safety. NYWF® believes that being healthy is fundamental to the ability of women and girls to thrive. Women and girls need access to health care information and services, and must be empowered to advocate for themselves.

NYWF's reproductive justice funding targets organizations that engage in leadership development, community organizing, and advocacy by women, especially from marginalized and/disadvantaged populations, such as low-income and immigrant groups and communities of color.

Reproductive justice encompasses a wide range of issues, including, but not limited to:

- > access to quality health care
- > access to linguistically and culturally appropriate health care services and information
- > comprehensive sexuality education
- > access to contraception and abortion services
- > HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment
- > parenting rights
- > reproductive health issues related to environmental pollution
- > sex workers rights
- > eliminating gender-based violence, including intimate partner violence and sexual violence



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