



AJ MUSTE FOUNDATION
FOR PEACE + JUSTICE

ANNUAL

REPORT

2024



The A.J. Muste Foundation for Peace and Justice (formerly the A.J. Muste Memorial Institute) was founded in 1974. The Foundation has provided grants, fiscal sponsorships, and educational resources to hundreds of grassroots projects. We fund innovative organizing and nonviolent direct action for the liberation of all, often with seed funds that give a necessary boost to bold ideas.

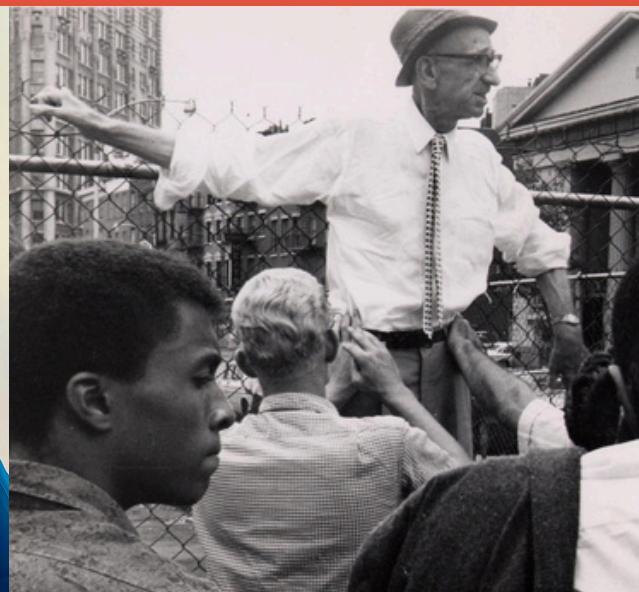


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A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on 2024, it's clear how political turbulence has shaped our work. Escalating threats to civil liberties, the widespread criminalization of dissent, and growing attacks on nonprofit advocacy created challenges for grassroots movements.

Yet the spirit of resistance and resilience that defines the AJ Muste Foundation and its grantees remained unshaken.

Grassroots activists met the moment with courage and clarity. From direct action to legal advocacy, from community defense to cultural organizing, our grantees showed that the fight for justice is deep rooted. Across the U.S., they defended the rights of unhoused people, immigrants, queer and trans individuals, political prisoners, and workers—mobilizing and building solidarity that cannot be legislated away.

The Muste Foundation stood firm. We sustained core support through our Organizing and Rapid Response Grants, prioritizing flexibility and trust in the people best positioned to shape solutions. We deepened our commitment to funding on-the-ground visionary work.

We added new protocols to safeguard the privacy of our applicants and grantees, improved internal systems for rapid giving, and joined sector-wide conversations about the chilling effects of politically motivated oversight. These steps helped us continue giving in ways grounded in care, strategy, and solidarity.

None of this would be possible without our board, staff, and you—our supporters. Your belief in collective action sustains this work and helps ensure that AJ Muste's legacy lives on in every grant and every movement we support. At a time when government repression seeks to divide and demoralize, your support keeps us rooted in hope and action.

Due to our success in 2024 we have a sharpened sense of purpose and a deeper commitment to the grassroots this year in 2025. Together, we'll continue meeting the moment with clarity, compassion, and solidarity.

In solidarity,
Heidi Boghosian

OUR MISSION

We support grassroots nonviolent activism for the liberation of all.

OUR VISION

To ensure that high-potential grassroots & direct-action radical activists that are focused on nonviolence & social justice work are more sustainable & have a greater impact.

OUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Our transition from the A.J. Muste Memorial Institute to the **A.J. Muste Foundation for Peace and Justice** took full effect in the Spring of 2024.
- The development of our new logo with **Overture Studio** has guided our image to reflect the heart of our mission: to support grassroots activism to advance liberation for all.
- As a part of celebrating our 50 year anniversary - we held a successful event at the iconic Strand Bookstore to commemorate 50 years of supporting grassroots activism. This event brought together activists, donors, artists, and changemakers - united in their commitment to the fight for a more equitable and peaceful world.
- Changing our longstanding social justice fund to better reflect our priorities and now it is named our Organizing Fund.



OUR 2024 GRANTEES

**37 GRANTS
AWARDED!**

- **About Face: Veterans Against the War (formerly IVAW)**
- **Alianza Agricola**
- **Arkansas Community Organizations**
- **Asociacion Yaran**
- **BAYAN USA**
- **Climate Crisis Coalition**
- **DeCarcerate KC**
- **Democracy Trailblazers**
- **European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights**
- **Forensic E.V.**
- **Impact Appalachia**
- **Indigenous Permaculture**
- **InPulsar**
- **Interfaith Peace Builders DBA**
- **Eyewitness Palestine**
- **International Peace Bureau**
- **Meaningful Movies Project**
- **Movement for Justice in El Barrio**
- **National Network Opposing Militarization of Youth (NOMY)**
- **Nikkei Progressives**
- **Newtown Florist Club**
- **Northern Alabama School for Organizing**
- **Occupied People's Forum**
- **One Community United**
- **Palestine-Israel Journal**
- **Philly Black Worker Project**
- **Rise and Resist**
- **SouthEast Dignity Not Detention Coalition**
- **Project on Youth and Non Military Opportunities (Project YANO)**
- **Stop Forever WIPP Coalition**
- **United Interfaith Action of SE Massachussets**
- **Twin Cities Nonviolent**
- **War Resisters League**
- **War Resisters League International**
- **War Resisters League New England**
- **Western Regional Advocacy Project**
- **W.E.B. DuBois Movement School for Abolition and Reconstruction**
- **Youth Justice and Power Union**

WHO ARE OUR GRANTEES?

About Face: Veterans Against the War (formerly IVAW) - We are Post-9/11 service members and veterans organizing to end a foreign policy of permanent war and the use of military weapons, tactics, and values in communities across the country. With the help of this grant, we were able to hire a new organizing staff member by the end of 2024. We have had a major influx of new membership, and hiring a new organizing manager became an immediate need.

Alianza Agricola- Alianza Agrícola is a member-led organization of immigrant farmworker leaders in the Western and Finger Lakes regions of New York. This group was formed to create a better future for NY's migrant farmworker families and communities. Members participate in efforts to educate the community about farmworkers and their work in the region.

Arkansas Renters United- Arkansas Renters United was founded in the summer of 2018. Since that time, they have organized renter groups in three cities in Arkansas. Our grant went to a project that will help accelerate the growth of the renters movement in the state and build a strong cadre of renter leaders. This enables them to win more rights for renters in the state and help work with national groups to win federal legislation that gives more rights and protections for renters. It also aids in a major investment in

new housing that stays affordable, safe and green.

BAYAN - BAYAN USA was formed in 2005 as the first overseas chapter of BAYAN Philippines. Our campaigns have centered and amplified the demands of Filipino Migrant Workers, leading to tangible victories and improvements in their working conditions and rights. BAYAN USA works to unite people across classes and sectors to demand an end to the US imperialist hegemony which has fueled the growing capitalist crisis that burdens the masses, most especially the workers.

The Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercises are the largest joint war exercises in the world, conducted biannually in Hawai'i.



DeCarcerate KC - Decarcerate KC aims to raise awareness, build power, and create change around issues of incarceration and policing in Kansas City. They are a multiracial, multigenerational organization that centers those impacted by incarceration and policing in order to end the reliance on incarceration and policing and build a safer Kansas City for all. They effectively challenge oppressive carceral systems through grassroots organizing, coalition building, and policy advocacy.

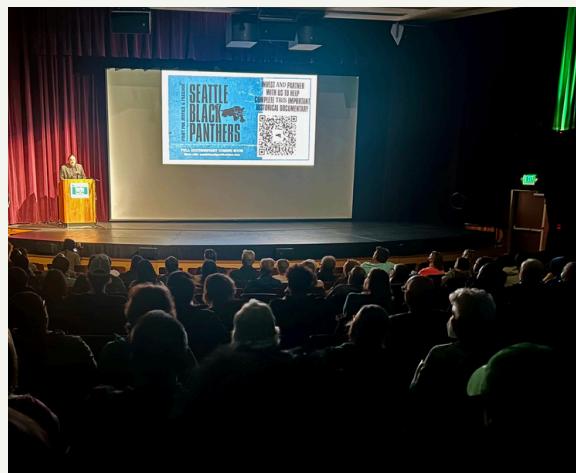
Democracy Trailblazers - Their mission is to civically engage, empower, educate and inspire tomorrow's leaders—high school students—by providing them with the tools, resources, and support necessary to build first-class civic engagement teams in their schools. This grant helped fund the Democracy Trailblazers Ambassador Program offers an immersive school season experience combining training, mentorship, and networking opportunities for high school students aged 16-18. This program is designed to deepen students' understanding of the democratic process and highlight the critical importance of voting, especially in underserved communities.

Impact Appalachia - At Impact Appalachia, their mission to build power through ground to root community organizing in the Greater Ohio Appalachian region. They bring positive change and stability through social justice initiatives, leadership development, and voter engagement. This grant aided in grassroots operations such as canvassing, surveys, stipends, materials, and needed organizer travel and training.

Indigenous Permaculture - Matching grant for the completion of the "Kitchen Project"

Interfaith Peace Builders DBA Eyewitness Palestine

Palestine - Eyewitness Palestine (formerly Interfaith Peace-Builders) began in 2001 as a project of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the oldest interfaith peace and justice organization in the United States. Eyewitness Palestine's programming brings Palestinian voices directly from the ground to people's computers, countering the misinformation from the mainstream media. We provide an online platform at a moment where the censoring of journalists is at an all-time high and travel for our delegations is precarious. This grant aided in their virtual delegations as well as their "Gaza Speaks Out" series.



Meaningful Movies Project - The Meaningful Movies Project (MMP) is a non-profit organization that assists neighborhoods, groups and individuals, organize, educate and advocate using the power of social justice documentary film and relevant conversation to build positive and meaningful community and a more just and peaceful world. It is the organizing arm of the Meaningful Movies Network, a collective

of autonomous neighborhood and community Meaningful Movies groups that have agreed to work together and support one another to meet these ends. This grant aided in their revamp of their website, salary, administrative and technology costs.

Movement for Justice in El Barrio-

Movement for Justice in El Barrio is a majority-immigrant women community organization based in in East Harlem, NYC, that fights for immigrant justice, housing justice and gender justice and, following our unique model, consistently challenges multiple forms of oppression, including xenophobia, racism, sexism, transphobia, and homophobia. The organization expanded to address the devastating health & economic impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This grant would contribute to help sustain our leadership development and community organizing capacities.

National Network Opposing the

Militarization of Youth (NNOMY) - NNOMY promotes ideas and actions for developing groups nationally that confront cultural militarization. Five Avenues of Resistance: Promoting Opt-out of US Military Data Mining for military recruitment purposes and Confronting Pentagon programs in our schools like: ASVAB, JROTC, Marksmanship, and Recruiter Access. NNOMY also develops training and resources for accomplishing push-back on these programs. The grant assisted NNOMY in funding counter-recruitment workshop development, national virtual educational workshops, fund online resources like multiple websites and cover social media multimedia production to support groups inside and outside their

network that activate against the Pentagon programs in our schools including those of private military contractors.

Newtown Florist Club - Established in 1950,

the Newtown Florist Club was formed as a women's social club in Gainesville's Newtown community. The Club evolved into a social justice organization because of the repressive conditions that our women and their families were forced to live through. The Newtown Florist Club's mission is to promote youth development and to organize for social, environmental, and economic justice. The grant went towards their project, ReCONNECT US which is a community organizing capacity building project designed to organize inside twelve marginalized communities facing the decentralizing impact of gentrification. Using a neighborhood response strategy to strengthen local coalition building efforts by organizing inside communities they will incorporate skills and capacity building using a "boots on the ground" approach inside neighborhoods.

Nikkei Progressives - Nikkei Progressives

formed partially in response to the Trump Administration's expected attacks on the civil liberties of Muslim Americans, immigrants, and other minority groups and in recognition of the need to offer support and resistance. We care deeply about issues of justice and fairness within the Japanese American community and beyond. The grant supports a video project that aims to educate people about the discriminatory double-punishment that refugees face in the justice system, activate the community

through screenings and organizing sessions, and advocate for the thousands of refugee prisoners who are risk for similar deportation.

Northern Alabama School for Organizers - The Northern Alabama School for Organizers (NASO) was established in 2019 by activist and author Hy Thurman. Thurman, an original member of the Rainbow Coalition, established NASO in an effort to bring free educational workshops to his community in Alabama. These workshops share organizing skills, history, and practical skills to community members in Alabama and across the globe. The North Alabama School for Organizers (NASO) seeks to empower communities through intersectional education and training to form coalitions that take progressive actions toward change.

Occupied People's Forum - OPF helps explore the potential of nonviolent resistance methods such as civil disobedience, digital activism, mass protests, and other types of nonviolent methods as strategies for resistance to occupation. The 2024/2025 Occupied People's Gathering will give leading activists the opportunity to reflect on their struggles, explore commonalities, and build new methods of resistance. This grant covers funding for the educational materials distributed before, during, and after the Occupied People's Gathering to ensure a deeply strategic exchange, sharing best practices and challenges to current movements for justice, freedom, and human rights.



One Community United - One Community United's mission is to seek racial harmony and the melding of distinct and separate communities into a more united community. They seek a community where peace and harmony prevail and fear and mistrust are dispelled and to be a source of information and outreach to their communities through community events, dialogue and communications leading to improved relationships between communities and educational programs.

Philly Black Worker Project - The Philly Black Worker Project's mission is to lead and engage in campaigns that empower marginalized Black workers to advance their rights and improve the quality of jobs in key employment sectors and provide education about the impacts of low-wage work and unemployment on Black communities. As well as how to overcome barriers to high quality employment. This grant assisted with their Black Organizing 4 Power (BOP) Program. This program helps spur organizing activity in the temporary work industry by

placing rank and file, worker organizers in temp agencies, with the intention of organizing unorganized, Black temp workers.



Project on Youth and Non-Military

Opportunities - Project YANO's mission is to address the socio-economic factors that make racialized and low-income youth vulnerable to recruitment and militarization by facilitating greater grassroots youth activism around issues that directly affect them. They seek to increase student awareness of the realities of war and how the war machine intersects with other structures of violence and oppression domestically and abroad. They also work to inform young people about non-military college and career alternatives through veteran volunteers, classroom presentations, and other outreach opportunities.



SouthEast Dignity Not Detention

Coalition - Their overall goal is to build the power needed to overcome the challenges of their location in the deep south, in states that are deeply historically invested in white supremacy and carceral systems and currently under extreme right wing political leadership, in order to win successful shut down campaigns against ICE. In this phase, they focus on leadership development of immigrants who were formally detained, developing rapid response capacity to support currently detained immigrant organizers, and strengthening partnerships in order to move targeted elected officials to active engagement. This grant assisted in their work including interpretation for coalition and steering committee meetings, two advocacy trips to Washington D.C., visitation trips to the detention centers, and for part of organizer salaries.

Stop Forever WIPP Coalition- SFW

Coalition works to resist the ongoing nuclear military complex's colonization of New Mexico. Linking proposed fabrication of the next generation of nuclear weapons triggers (pits) to the expansion of waste disposal at WIPP, is key to protecting our majority minority communities. Facing a plethora of DOE proposals, the coalition is building on past victories with a series of statewide strategic events, actions, and the dissemination of easy to understand materials, to create an upwelling of grassroots activity to stop the environmental injustice of using NM as national, military, nuclear sacrifice area.

Twin Cities Nonviolent- The Mission of Twin Cities Nonviolent is to reduce violence in all its forms, increase awareness and engagement in nonviolent policies and practices, bring together local community organizations, including nonprofits, religious institutions, educational institutions, and government agencies and dismantle the structures and systems that lead to violence throughout the Twin Cities and beyond.

United Interfaith Action of Southeastern MA- United Interfaith Action of Southeastern MA (UIA) is a faith & values-based community organization founded in 1996 addressing economic and racial justice. UIA organizes at the grassroots level to win positive change for low to moderate-income individuals and families in New Bedford & Fall River. UIA reaches across ethnic, socio-economic, and religious lines to train community members in the skills of community organizing to build relationships, identify common concerns, craft action campaigns, and win concrete changes in laws, policies, and budgetary appropriations locally & statewide.

W.E.B. DuBois Movement School for Abolition and Reconstruction - The W.E.B. Du Bois Movement School teaches aspiring organizers how to understand the world and how to change it. By providing movement leaders from those communities most impacted by poverty, policing, and mass incarceration—primarily young and formerly incarcerated people—with a strong grounding in the theory and practice of social change, we build their capacity as individual organizers, strengthen the organizations they participate in, and help shift prevailing

narratives about abolition and the urgent need for a broader process of social reconstruction.

Western Regional Advocacy Project - WRAP was created to expose and eliminate the root causes of civil and human rights abuses of people experiencing poverty and homelessness in our communities. By bringing together some of the fiercest organizations fighting homelessness on the West Coast, WRAP has developed a unique structure that combines street outreach and other forms of research, political and public education, movement building, and national policy work. As a membership organizing of front-line groups led by unhoused folks, WRAP has the power of collective mobilization while remaining accountable to the realities and demands of our member organizations.

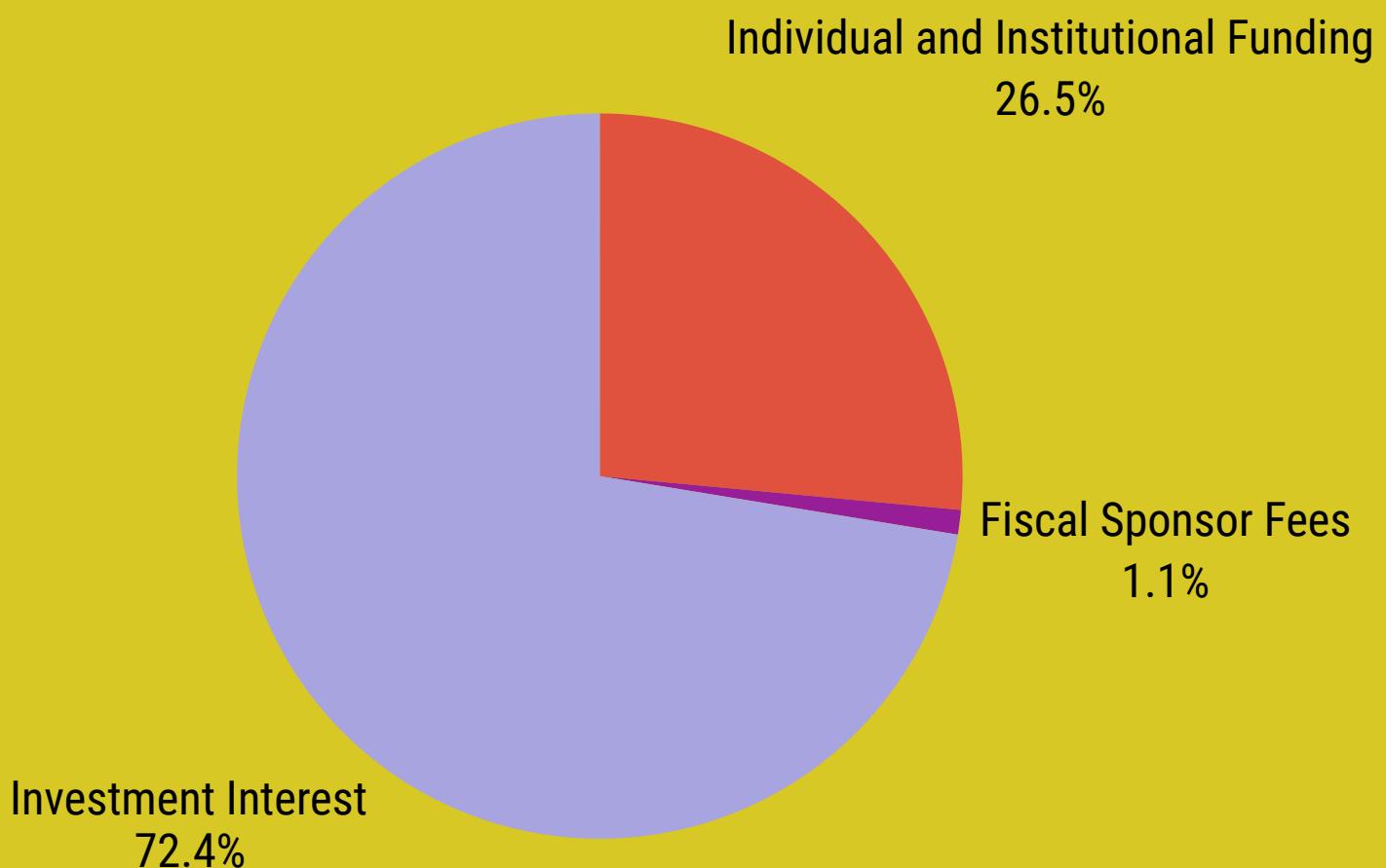
Youth Justice and Power Union - Youth Justice and Power Union (YJPU) is a community grassroots organization that centers the voices of Black and Brown youth in Boston. We focus on leadership development and community building through mentorship, political education, campaign organizing, and basebuilding. This grant went toward strengthening YJPU systems for deepening people's engagement and analysis through outreach, community and member events, trainings, and retreats. This basebuilding will complement YJPU's overall work supporting core leaders, pressuring officials with meetings and actions, and collaborating with partners.

FINANCIALS

STEWARDING RESOURCES TO ADVANCE OUR MISSION

INCOME

- Individual and Institutional Fu...
- Fiscal Sponsor Fees
- Investment Interest

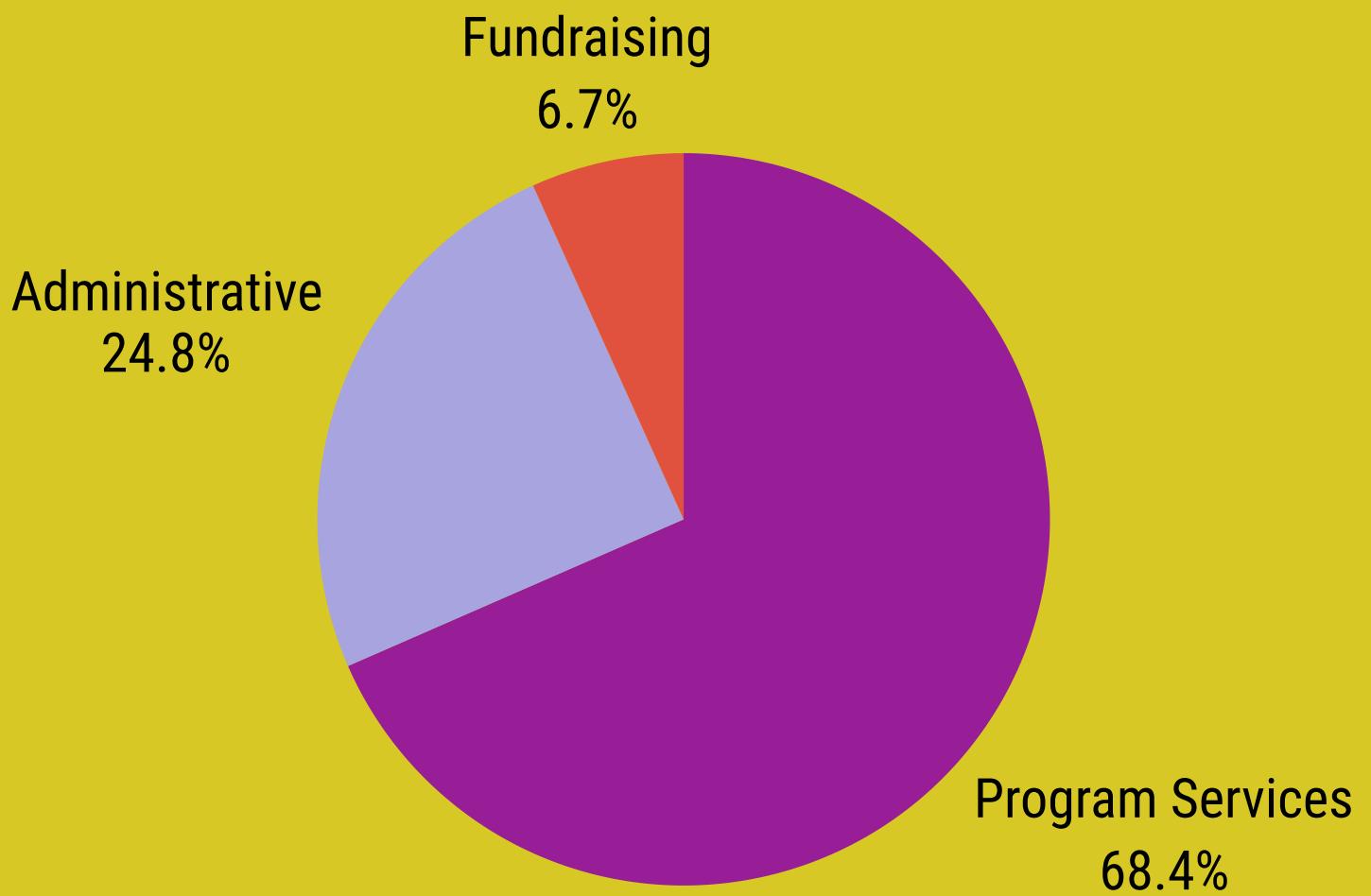


EXPENSES

● Program Services

● Administrative

● Fundraising



GIVING

In today's climate of increasing political repression and surveillance, especially against progressive activists, the AJ Muste Foundation stands as a crucial bulwark for those working toward justice and liberation. As organizers face heightened threats—from legal crackdowns to digital harassment—supporting the Muste Foundation means directly empowering grassroots movements committed to nonviolence, equity, and systemic change. The Foundation not only provides essential funding to groups often excluded from traditional philanthropy, but also affirms the right to dissent and resist oppression.

It is vital - more than ever - to invest in grassroots groups and projects like those that the AJ Muste Foundation funds. By donating today - you allow the Foundation to continue its critical work in finding groups that are making a true difference on the front lines of activism - both in the streets and their communities.

Consider donating by scanning the QR Code below or by going to our website (ajmuste.org/donate) or make a check payable to the AJ Muste Foundation 55 Exchange Pl Ste 405 New York, NY 10005.



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Daniel Strum, **Program and Operations Manager**

Michelle Zappone, **Development and Communications Associate**

**WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN
OUR PROGRAMS**

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