2020 YOUTH ORGANIZING SNAPSHOT:
A FIELD POISED TO LEAD

Across the country, young people are at the forefront of momentous social change. Mobilized en masse, they are achieving critical victories in the fight to end the school to prison pipeline. They are spearheading dynamic mutual aid networks to meet their communities' needs during a pandemic of unprecedented scale. They are energizing young voters with forward-thinking demands for a new and more democratic era.

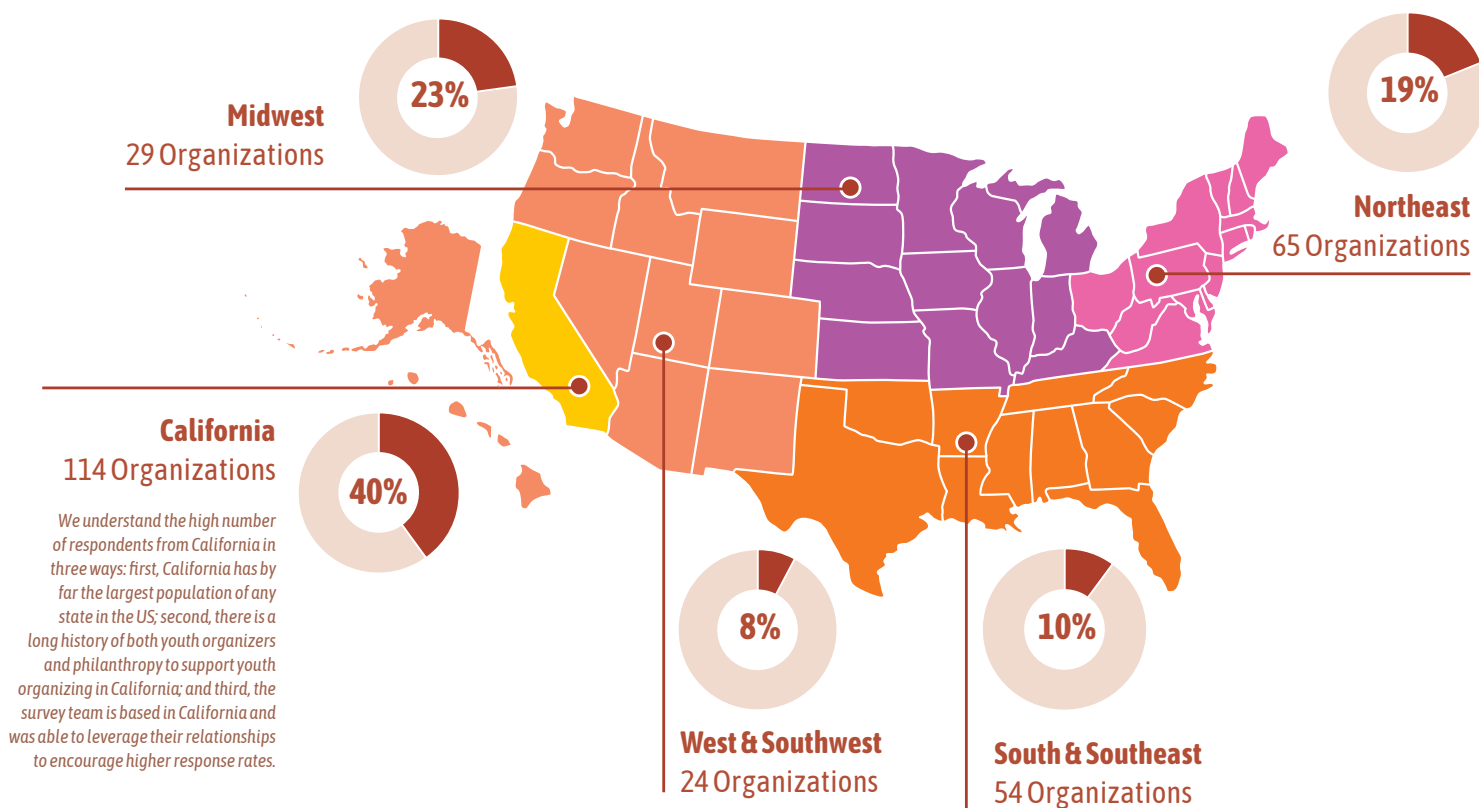2020 is truly a landmark year for youth organizing.

Yet this work is not new. Throughout history, young people - in particular young people of color, working class youth, girls, and queer and trans youth - have time and again acted as the engine propelling our most transformative movements for environmental, economic, immigrant, gender, and racial justice.

Today, we set the stage with a snapshot of the youth organizing field — a field poised to lead.

Stay tuned for our upcoming 2020 National Youth Organizing Field Scan, which will weave the rich story of youth organizing over the last 20 years, sharing trends, challenges, and opportunities and setting a bold new vision for the coming decades.
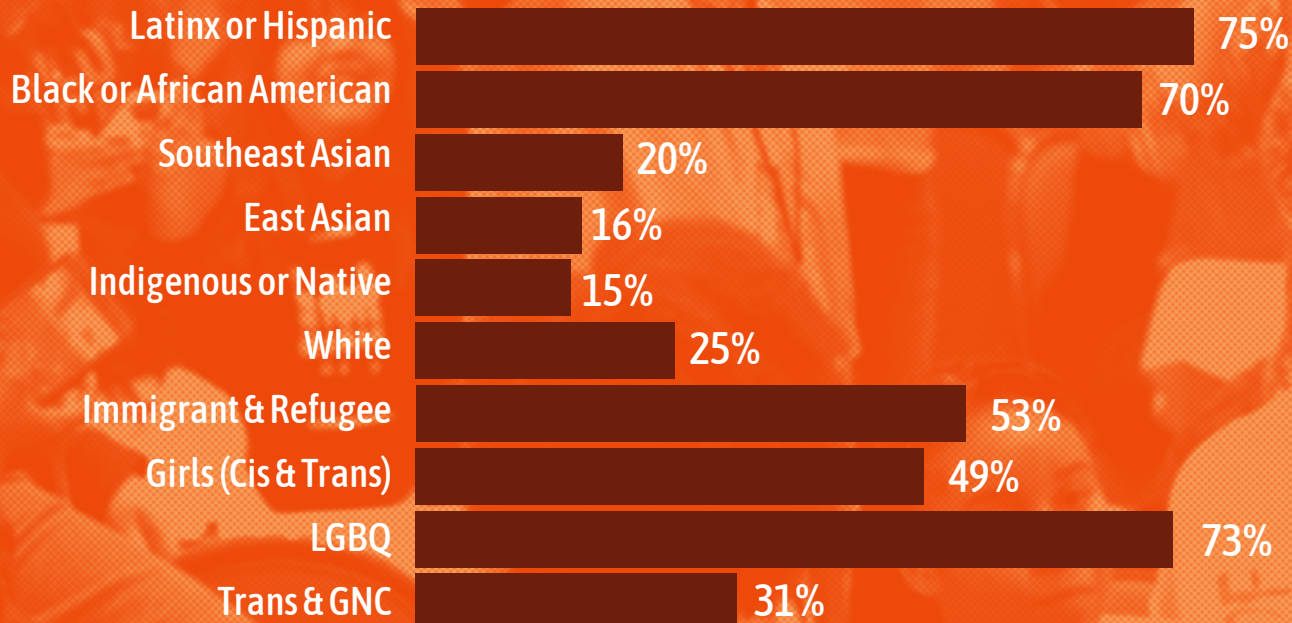
THE YOUTH ORGANIZING LANDSCAPE

Midwest
29 Organizations — 23%

Northeast
65 Organizations — 19%

California
114 Organizations — 40%

We understand the high number of respondents from California in three ways: first, California has by far the largest population of any state in the US; second, there is a long history of both youth organizers and philanthropy to support youth organizing in California; and third, the survey team is based in California and was able to leverage their relationships to encourage higher response rates.

West & Southwest
24 Organizations — 8%

South & Southeast
54 Organizations — 10%

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CORE LEADERS IN YOUTH ORGANIZING

Percent of surveyed organizations reporting significant representation among their core leadership from each group

Group	Percent
Latinx or Hispanic	75%
Black or African American	70%
Southeast Asian	20%
East Asian	16%
Indigenous or Native	15%
White	25%
Immigrant & Refugee	53%
Girls (Cis & Trans)	49%
LGBQ	73%
Trans & GNC	31%

Listed groups reflect those with the highest rates of representation and are not reflective of all constituencies surveyed. The 2020 Field Scan will report survey results in further detail.

THE CAMPAIGNS

Campaign Issue Area	Primary Issue[1]	Shared Issue
Criminal Justice	30%	47%
Education	62%	28%
Employment	13%	47%
Environment	24%	39%
Gender / LGBTQ	26%	46%
Health	42%	36%
Housing	21%	42%
Immigration	32%	45%
Native Rights	8%	38%
Systems Reform[2]	52%	28%
Violence Prevention / Anti-militarism	21%	40%
Voting	37%	39%

98% ENGAGE IN NETWORKS AND ALLIANCES

1. Primary issues reflect areas where groups are leading active campaigns. Shared issues reflect areas that groups sometimes support through partnerships but that are not core issue areas.

2. Systems reform includes transportation, city/county services, tax reform, investments in youth, corporate responsibility, media justice, etc. Voting includes voter outreach, voting rights, lowering the voting age, etc.

THE ORGANIZATIONS

Average Budget : $546,653*

Funding Sources Received:

94% foundation funding

71% individual donors

34% government funding

Average number of youth organizing staff in organizations:
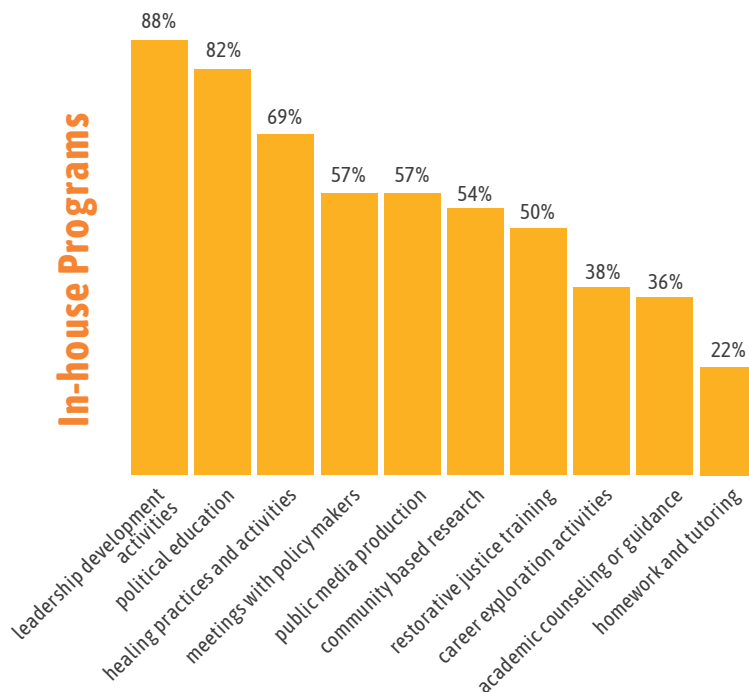
7 part time staff
3 full time staff

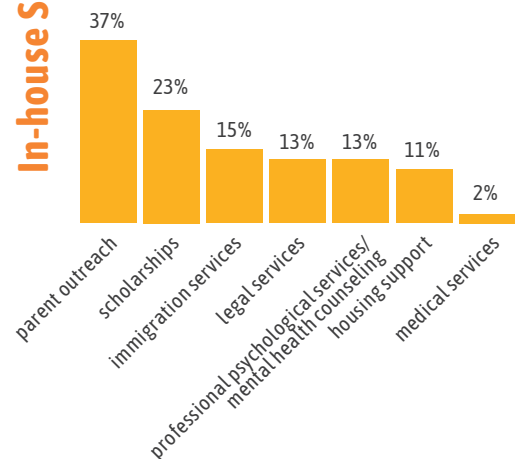35% of groups do not have full time organizer on staff.

70% are intergenerational organizations

IN–HOUSE PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

In-house Programs

- 88% leadership development activities
- 82% political education
- 69% healing practices and activities
- 57% meetings with policy makers
- 57% public media production
- 54% community based research
- 50% restorative justice training
- 38% career exploration activities
- 36% academic counseling or guidance
- 22% homework and tutoring

In-house Supports

- 37% parent outreach
- 23% scholarships
- 15% immigration services
- 13% legal services
- 13% professional psychological services/ mental health counseling
- 11% housing support
- 2% medical services

* This number reflects the average budget shared by 119 youth organizing groups (or the youth organizing arm of an intergenerational group) who responded to a supplemental budget survey.

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THE POWER OF YOUTH ORGANIZING: THE CASE OF #POLICEFREESCHOOLS

The #PoliceFreeSchools movement offers a clear-cut case of the power of young people - like those described in this report - to enact great social transformation. For decades, youth organizers have been mobilizing for police free schools. Between speaking out at school board meetings, creating online petitions, holding community forums, and leading protests in their communities, it is the persistent efforts of Black and Brown youth that laid the foundation for recent historic wins in the national fight for police free schools. Following 2020's student-led protests and petitions, school districts including Milwaukee, Oakland, Phoenix, Denver, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Madison, Charlottesville, Seattle, Sacramento, and Portland have cancelled their contracts with police. While George Floyd's murder at the hands of police elevated the conversation about school resource officers to a national platform, it was the decades of youth organizing that have made these victories possible. Today's celebration is a celebration of legacy.

Number of students impacted: **1.3 million***

New funding freed for mental health counselors, social workers, and student supports: **$36.4 million**

As of September 2020.