On February 27, 2020, a group of national and Michigan-based foundations met together in Detroit with advocates, policy-makers, practitioners, and people directly impacted by criminal legal system involvement to develop a roadmap for charting a collaborative philanthropic strategy to support a thriving enabling environment necessary to advance equitable criminal legal reform.

This group was reckoning with the fact that nearly 253,000 people in Michigan were in jail, prison, on parole, or on probation, with thousands more churning through the youth detention system. Many of those incarcerated were living with mental health and/or substance use disorders. Significant racial disparities persisted at every stage of criminal legal system contact, with African Americans comprising over half of the state’s prison population and over 60 percent of Michigan’s population serving life or long sentences.

Many of the funders present were deploying investment strategies to expand opportunity for Michigan families. We came together with an understanding that involvement in the criminal legal system is a structural barrier to opportunity that significantly impacts one’s ability to access employment, housing, and public and other benefits, which in turn can create a pernicious cycle of disenfranchisement, poverty, and criminality. This harms not only individuals, but families, and further constrains the economic development potential of low-income and minority communities, to which so many formerly incarcerated people return.

Less than two weeks after the February meeting, the World Health Organization declared coronavirus a global pandemic, and the world turned upside down. The unprecedented public health crisis had an outsize impact on the state’s incarcerated population, as people in confined settings were, and continue to be, at greater risk of being infected and also dying from the virus. The deadly circumstances exposed some of the long-standing injustices of the carceral system, and produced a renewed awareness of the possibilities as well as constraints surrounding reform of that system.

Further, amid the pandemic, the murder of George Floyd sparked national dialogue around the disparate impact of the criminal legal system on communities of color and launched sustained nationwide protests, calls for racial justice, and greater accountability in policing and the larger criminal legal system. These calls have forced a broader conversation about the cost and benefits of relying on (and resourcing) law enforcement as the singular intervention for producing community safety. In comparison, investment in community-led violence initiatives in the short-term, and economic security and mobility, access to health care, and education in the long-term can lead to more durable safety outcomes.

April 2022

The goals and objectives of the Michigan Justice Fund (MJF) were forged in this context. Funders and our many partners moved expeditiously to meet immediate needs occasioned by the pandemic, and at the same time, worked together to build out a long-term strategy for the Michigan Justice Fund, keenly aware that there are tangible steps that we can take to focus on the needs of communities, interrogate antiquated responses to violence and harm, and re-imagine community investments. Increased spending on educational programming that better prepares young people for the workforce, holistic reentry services for individuals returning home from jail and prison, and trauma-informed restorative justice practices that focus on healing are all ways that we can better support communities vulnerable to systems of mass incarceration.

The Michigan Justice Fund has positioned itself to help bring more attention and momentum to criminal legal system reform work, bold initiatives led by people in the state working to address these issues and develop catalytic solutions, and to drive more resources, private and public, to organizations led by, and providing voice to, black, indigenous, and people of color communities. The Fund’s efforts are already leading to more collaboration among advocacy and other organizations that are mobilizing across a host of domains to support individuals, families, and communities impacted by criminal legal system contact and advocate for systemic reforms.

This report, the first Annual Report for the Michigan Justice Fund, focuses on progress made through 2021 and highlights just a few of the Fund’s remarkable partners who are meeting this critical moment of opportunity—and imperative—for positive change.

Sincerely,

Melanca Clark
President & CEO, Hudson-Webber Foundation/ Steering Committee Chair—Michigan Justice Fund

Ashley Carter
Director—Michigan Justice Fund, Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan

LETTER FROM THE MICHIGAN JUSTICE FUND
STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR & DIRECTOR

Ashley Carter, Director; and Melanca Clark, Steering Committee Chair, MJF. Photographed in Detroit.
The state of Michigan is at a crossroads. Despite significant reductions in the prison population in the early aughts, and additional decreases over the last several years, the state is 10th in the nation for the most people incarcerated, and if it was its own country would, with the exception of the United States, have a higher incarceration rate than any nation in the world. In 2021, 64,000 Michigan residents were incarcerated in jails and prisons. More broadly, nearly 253,000 people in Michigan are currently under the carceral umbrella of jail or prison, probation, or parole.

Further:

- At least 20 percent of Michigan’s incarcerated population has been identified to have a mental health disorder, a population that could be better served by community-focused treatment providers than time in prison.
- Nearly 12 percent of Michigan’s incarcerated population is over the age of 55, a demographic that, according to one study, has a two percent risk of recidivism.
- Each year, at least 163,000 people are booked annually into local jails in Michigan for at least some period of time, ranging from a short stay of days to a longer term of months or even years, often before they have ever been convicted of a crime.
- Seventeen thousand people, or 26 percent of the state’s incarcerated population, are currently in Michigan jails—with most awaiting a trial.
- African Americans make up 14 percent of Michigan’s population, but 53 percent of the state’s incarcerated population and 64 percent of Michigan’s population serving life or long sentences. When controlling for offense, youth of color enter the justice system much more frequently than white youth and are more likely to be sentenced to harsher terms of punishment, including transfer to the adult system. For these, among other reasons, Michigan ranks 43 out of 50 for "equity in jailing" by U.S. News.
- Since 1980, the number of women in Michigan jails has increased by 362 percent. The number of women incarcerated in prisons has increased by 239 percent in the same period. Eighty percent of the women incarcerated in jails are mothers.
Communities across the state are demanding reform of the criminal legal system, and there have been recent notable policy successes as a result over the last several years. These include a major package of bills to address pre-trial bail and jail reform at the state level, based on policy recommendations from a year-long study of Michigan’s jails conducted by the Pew Charitable Trusts, as well as a series of bills that improved record clearance opportunities and made strides to address broad occupational licensing barriers for people with criminal records, and the culmination of a multi-year campaign to “Raise the Age,” raising the minimum age of confinement to adult prison for youth from 17 to 18 years of age.

We have a unique opportunity to build on efforts designed to shrink the statewide jail and prison populations while investing in responses to harms and addressing the root causes of behaviors that are criminalized.

The number of women in jail increased 362 percent, and the number of women in prison increased 239 percent from 1980 to 2017.

In Michigan alone, the number of women behind bars has increased from 431 in 1970 to 2,424 in 2015.
In September 2018, the Hudson-Webber Foundation co-hosted a convening with the Michigan Committee on Juvenile Justice, the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, and the Michigan League for Public Policy, energizing a diverse constituency interested in reducing crime, increasing community well-being, improving the outcomes of youth and at-risk adults, and establishing racial equity within Michigan’s systems of justice. This convening resulted in two roundtable reports highlighting the opportunities and challenges to advancing effective and equitable justice policy in Michigan.

Following the release of the reports, two key questions emerged: How prepared is Michigan’s policy environment to advance justice reform initiatives? How can philanthropy contribute to supporting a thriving enabling environment and help advance effective and equitable justice policy in the State of Michigan?

A group of national and Michigan-based foundations met together with advocates, policy and research organizations, people directly impacted by justice involvement, and policymakers to explore these questions. In 2020, initial investments were made to engage a learning cohort of 26 organizations selected to be representative of a diverse cross-section of organizations from across Michigan that directly serve justice-impacted individuals (adult and youth), and/or that work to develop or advocate for systemic policy improvements that support this population across a number of domains including health, economic security and mobility, and community investment and wellbeing.

This cohort helped funders:

- Gain a deeper insight into the issues that a collaborative fund could impact and potential opportunities to break silos to advance shared objectives
- Identify and cultivate opportunities to leverage public/private/philanthropic resources, and explore ways the Fund can be most supportive to existing and emerging networks of practice; and
- Create the grantmaking strategy for the Fund, including goals, objectives, and outcome metrics.

The grantmaking strategy was finalized in December of 2020, and the Michigan Justice Fund (MJF) announced its first round of grants advancing the Fund’s stated goals and objectives in 2021.
The Michigan Justice Fund (MJF) is a funders’ collaborative that makes investments to stem the flow of individuals into the criminal legal system, support the investment of public dollars to community-driven alternatives to incarceration, and ensure that those who are returning home after incarceration receive the support they need to flourish. MJF is comprised of 14 Michigan-based and national funders dedicated to advancing justice reform and the economic mobility of individuals with criminal convictions in Michigan.

This Fund is designed to have impact in the following ways:

- Strengthen capacity of practitioners seeking to advance effective justice policy and practice in Michigan, support the economic mobility of individuals most impacted by the legal system, and intentionally support the leadership of people of color-led organizations on the frontlines of justice reform.
- Advance racial equity in Michigan by addressing racial disparities in the juvenile and adult legal systems, and support communities of color that have been historically under-resourced and impacted by the legal system.
- Build a sustainable network of funders and donors who are informed and engaged to support safety and justice within Michigan communities.
- Shift the dominant narrative that associates community safety with incarceration to one that lifts economic security and mobility and access to health care and education as foundational to safe and just communities.

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan (CFSEM) serves as the administrative and fiscal home for MJF. This report, the first Annual Report for MJF partners and interested constituents, focuses on progress made through 2021. It is designed to provide an overview of the history of MJF to date, the grantmaking strategy, and an overview of funds that have been deployed.
Goals and Objectives

Funders of the Michigan Justice Fund (MJF) strongly believe that effective philanthropic strategy must be directly informed by those who are closest to the work, and thus worked with a cohort of practitioners and advocates to inform the following goals and objectives that guide the grantmaking strategy for the Fund:

Goal 1: Strengthen Michigan’s funding, policies, and practices to support the economic mobility and overall success of people with criminal records.

- **Objective 1.1:** Ensure a racial equity framework is used to guide public policy, funding, and system change decisions.
- **Objective 1.2:** Decrease spending on legal system agencies and increase funding for community-led priorities.
- **Objective 1.3:** Increase innovation in policy and practice to decrease recidivism and improve economic mobility for system-impacted people.

Goal 2: Reduce the reliance on confinement and adjudication.

- **Objective 2.1:** Advance policy changes and system practices to reduce length of stay and administrative use of confinement.
- **Objective 2.2:** Increase the use of alternatives to incarceration and arrest and the public funding necessary for success.
- **Objective 2.3:** Increase the visibility of the presence of racial disparities across the legal system continuum to motivate change.

Goal 3: Build a movement for communities to shape justice policies and funding.

- **Objective 3.1:** Support narrative change and communication strategies that shift public opinion about the need for justice system reform in Michigan.
- **Objective 3.2:** Build the political power of communities impacted by the justice system through cross-sector collaboration, training, and organizing.
- **Objective 3.3:** Increase the use of compelling data and research to inform advocacy efforts.
- **Objective 3.4:** Support ripe and emerging opportunities that contribute to a strong enabling environment for reform.
The Michigan Justice Fund (MJF) is proud to support organizations throughout the state working to reform Michigan’s criminal legal system. Here, we spotlight four grantees invested in policy and advocacy work that further our shared objectives.

These shared objectives include:

- Advancing policies and practices to support the economic mobility and overall success of people with criminal records.
- Reducing the reliance on incarceration and confinement by increasing the use of alternative interventions to address the causes of crime.
- Building a movement for communities to re-shape justice policies and funding with intentional support for communities of color that have been historically under-resourced and impacted by the legal system.
Safe & Just Michigan implements harm reduction policies and trauma-informed services to reduce the cyclical violence of crime and punishment in Michigan. In partnership with a diverse range of stakeholders, the organization advances strategies that safely reduce the state's reliance on incarceration and promote the use of alternatives proven to decrease reoffending. Safe & Just Michigan promotes investment in local solutions, such as violence prevention and crime survivor services, which advance individual health and wellbeing.

People incarcerated in Michigan serve nearly 17 months longer than the national average. Michigan prisoners' length of stay is not only exceptionally long, but it has steadily increased over the last two decades. Through sub-grants, legal organizing, and direct lobbying, Safe & Just Michigan supports needed reforms to enact proportionate, cost-effective sentencing policies and transparent and equitable parole processes. By reforming sentencing policies and reducing unnecessary corrections spending, the organization strives to integrate the incarcerated into their communities and implement fair opportunities for second chances for those who have fully served their time.

**POLICY REFORM HIGHLIGHT:**
CLEAN SLATE FOR MICHIGAN

“When criminal records prevent individuals from joining the workforce, it becomes extremely difficult to rebuild their lives in the community. We want to make people comfortable with the idea that individuals change and deserve second chances.”
—John S. Cooper, Executive Director

The requirement to acknowledge criminal records on job and college applications creates an enormous roadblock for formerly incarcerated people to re-entering society.

Clean Slate for Michigan levels the playing field for the formerly incarcerated as they apply to good-paying jobs, safe and affordable housing, and professional training programs. It represents the broadest initiative yet passed of its kind.

Enacted into law in 2021, Clean Slate for Michigan expands options for individuals seeking to expunge criminal records and creates a new process that automatically seals certain non-violent conviction procedures if that person has remained conviction-free for several years following their time served. Automatic expunge-ment of certain nonviolent offenses takes full effect in April of 2023.
The Michigan Collaborative to End Mass Incarceration (MI-CEMI) connects criminal justice reform advocates with nonprofits, faith-based communities, service organizations, and grassroots efforts to work towards the goal of reducing Michigan’s total prison admission by half within the decade. By utilizing a cohesive, collaborative structure that centers the perspectives of those most directly impacted by the current processes of criminal justice, MI-CEMI seeks to raise awareness and implement change around issues that may otherwise fall outside the purview of more targeted initiatives. At the same time, the organization works on a macroscale to shift the negative narratives and stereotypes about crime. MI-CEMI ultimately seeks to unravel the policies, practices, and procedures that allow for a high incarceration rate and unduly long sentencing to exist in Michigan. This work involves changing the ways society perceives, engages with, and supports people who have caused harm, people who have been harmed, and people serving life and long sentences.

“MI-CEMI’s approach to ending mass incarceration focuses on building coalitions. We work with organizations that represent a full spectrum of criminal legal reform—from police and prison abolition to policy reform, grassroots action to top-down political and legal advocacy. Through this collective effort, we are able to create changes beyond what could be accomplished individually.”

—Chuck Warpehoski, Program Director

Danny Jones, Outreach & Engagement Coordinator; Adrianna Duchene, Program Coordinator Assistant; and Chuck Warpehoski, Program Director (left to right) at a team meeting for The Michigan Collaborative to End Mass Incarceration. Photographed in Ypsilanti.
Michigan Center for Youth Justice

In the past decade, over 20,000 youth have had some kind of interaction with the adult justice system and ended up on adult probation, in jail, or in prison. The system disproportionately impacts youth of color, LGBTQIA-identified youth, and those with disabilities.

Michigan Center for Youth Justice (MCYJ) aims to reduce youth involvement in the justice system through legislative advocacy, research, public education, and local community work to enact reforms. They focus on improving youth justice services at all stages—from the point of first contact with the police to reentry. With a trauma-informed, racially equitable, socio-economically, and culturally responsive approach, the organization works to:

- Promote alternative modes of justice that are restorative and community-based
- Remove all youth from adult jails and prisons
- Improve safety in juvenile residential and detention facilities
- Increase confidentiality and expungement of youth records
- Improve statewide data to push for legislative changes

MCYJ played a key role in passing Michigan’s Raise the Age legislation, which increased the age of juvenile court jurisdiction from 17 to 18 years old. Implemented October 1, 2021, the law ensures that 17-year-olds—most of them juniors and seniors in high school—will now receive treatment appropriate for their age and stage of development.

“Youth deserve to remain connected to their families and communities, even if they become justice system-involved. They should be recognized for their strengths and value, not just for their mistakes.” —Jason Smith, Executive Director

**POLICY REFORM HIGHLIGHT: DEBT FREE JUSTICE**

MCYJ is part of a national movement working to eliminate the assessment and collection of juvenile court fines and fees through Debt Free Justice legislation. Exorbitant amounts of financial charges can devastate families and remain on record until paid, even if youth are no longer under the jurisdiction of the court.

In Macomb County—one of the highest-charging court systems in the state—MCYJ worked with families impacted by fines and fees to advocate for the elimination of assessment and collection of juvenile court fines and fees, successfully discharging $84 million in outstanding debts. The work MCYJ did on a local level to impact this change now serves as a model for other initiatives statewide.

“A lack of data is a major barrier to this work. We aim to build the capacity of local and state-level groups to fight for policy changes. One example of this is our investment in collecting research on the drivers that contribute to black and brown youth entering the juvenile justice system in order to advance anti-racist policies and legislation.”

—Jason Smith, Executive Director

Mural titled “They Tried to Bury Us” by Brandan B'mike Odums. Photographed in Detroit.
Nation Outside is a grassroots advocacy organization led by formerly incarcerated people to create and inspire reform in the criminal justice system. The majority of board members are also formerly incarcerated or were impacted by the system in their youth or through their families. By building a movement that brings those most affected by the criminal justice system to the decision-making table, Nation Outside works to reduce stigma, create better conditions in correctional facilities, end mass incarceration, and expand opportunities for formerly incarcerated people throughout Michigan.

A statewide initiative with chapters in Ann Arbor, Detroit, Flint, Jackson, Lansing, and Ypsilanti, Nation Outside uses community education strategies and civic engagement initiatives to empower its members to take on the fight for criminal legal reform. They engage with knowledgeable, sustainable, and socially just forms of advocacy that support all those affected by the legal system—including currently and formerly incarcerated individuals, their loved ones, and their communities. The organization seeks to drive policy and practice reforms that build transformative systems of support for justice-impacted people, with a focus on ameliorating the root causes of incarceration. By reducing the stigma, prejudice, and criminalization attached to a felony conviction, Nation Outside effectively advocates to eliminate barriers to stability and full restoration.

“Nation Outside works to amplify the voices of those that don’t have a platform in order to break down stigmas and cliched narratives of who a person with a criminal history is.”
—Ashley Goldon, Statewide Program Director

VOTING RIGHTS

“One of the main things you hear in prison is that you can never vote again, which isn’t true. The majority of people in jail still have the right to vote because they are being held there pre-trial, and once they return to the community, they absolutely have that right restored.”
—Ashley Goldon, Statewide Program Director

One of Nation Outside’s focuses is to encourage individuals—both formerly incarcerated as well as those being held in jail pre-trial—and their families to make sure they are registered to vote and to use their voice in local, state, and federal elections. In the state of Michigan, individuals with felony convictions can vote as soon as they are released from a correctional facility, and individuals waiting for trial can request an absentee ballot to be sent to the jail in which they are being held.

EXPUNGEMENT

Nation Outside has been instrumental in doing boots-on-the-ground work to advance second-chance opportunities for formerly incarcerated people by bringing partners together to provide in-person assistance with expungement procedures. Expungement allows formerly incarcerated people fair chances at housing and employment by removing requirements to disclose criminal records on applications. With the passing of Clean Slate for Michigan in 2021, automatic expungement will go into effect in 2023. In 2021, Nation Outside threw an expungement fair in Flint that served over 1,400 people in a single day, over 800 of whom received same-day expungement.

Ashley Goldon, Statewide Program Director at the Nation Outside Flint chapter meeting. Photographed in Flint.
Wayne County Reentry Demonstration Pilot Program

“Our vision is that anyone with a criminal record who wants to work has the preparation and support needed to find a job and stay connected to the labor force. We believe that everyone, regardless of their past, deserves the chance to shape a stronger future for themselves, their family, and their communities.”

—Center for Employment Opportunities, a Reentry Project grantee partner

Sculpture titled “Monument to Joe Louis” by Robert Graham. Photographed in Detroit.
WAYNE COUNTY REENTRY DEMONSTRATION PILOT PROGRAM

In October 2020, the Michigan Justice Fund (MJF) implemented the Wayne County Reentry Demonstration Pilot Program (Reentry Project) to create pathways for formerly incarcerated people to safely and successfully reenter society amidst the unprecedented challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. The project brought together four organizations working to specifically optimize care coordination, case management, employment services, and mental health services for those who only have limited, short-term access to reentry support.

The Reentry Project was designed to serve individuals ineligible for full reentry services in Wayne County. This includes people released from Wayne County Jail who had felony charges as well as low and moderate-risk parolees released from the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) who return to Wayne County but don’t qualify for the county’s services.

The Reentry Project strategy aims to bolster the capacity of care coordinators to connect these populations to Wayne County services. The four grantee organizations pinpoint and address gaps in care coordination to support and provide access to necessary safety measures like quarantine-appropriate housing, personal protective equipment, and personal hygiene and sanitation supplies.

The Reentry Project has successfully identified strategies to improve policy and program delivery. Another critical aspect of this work has been the increased connections amongst service providers in Wayne County. Health Management Systems of America (HMSA), Neighborhood Defender Service (NDS), Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO), and Wayne State University’s Center for Behavioral Health and Justice have strengthened their relationships by integrating paid interns into their joint work to provide case management services. Interns connect clients to resources for housing, obtaining transportation, employment, mental health services, social support, and vital documents.
“Integrating social workers into the criminal justice process is important because every case is unique and should be handled that way. Social work offers the process an encompassing look at an individual’s life that considers trauma, culture, social aspects of life, mental, physical, and behavioral health, while giving everyone a voice in the criminal legal process. The goal is to set clients up for success.”

—Holistic Defense Intern with Neighborhood Defender Service and Wayne State University’s Center for Behavioral Health

Meet the Wayne County Reentry Demonstration Pilot Program Grantee Organizations

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO), led by CEO Sam Schaeffer, serves as Health Management Systems of America (HMSA)’s primary employment provider. Their model provides transitional work that offers immediate income and experience to individuals. They also administer the Reentry Stimulus Program to provide cash assistance for returning citizens. Throughout the Reentry Project, CEO documented what they learned from preparing people with criminal records for careers during the recessed, uncertain, and rapidly changing economy in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. This invaluable research builds a foundation for future reentry projects.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Wayne State University’s Center for Behavioral Health and Justice, led by Dean Sheryl Kubiak, provides consulting, technical assistance, evaluation, and data analysis services to communities and systems working to divert individuals with mental health and/or substance use disorders from incarceration. They are a critical partner within the Wayne County reentry ecosystem, actively involved in assessing the efficacy of mental health services within the Wayne County Jail.

CARE COORDINATORS

Health Management Systems of America (HMSA), led by CEO J. William Sumner, works with the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) to provide services for higher-risk parolees returning from Michigan prisons. They intensify services for complex cases by providing individuals with case-level connections to providers and expanding care coordination. The organization draws upon its foundation as a mental health company to respond to pandemic stress levels and provide mental health services for program participants.

Neighborhood Defender Service (NDS) of Detroit deploys social workers alongside defense attorneys to coordinate care for people charged with felony crimes at the Wayne County Jail. NDS is led by Executive Director and Founding Member, Rick Jones.
From 2020-2021, MJF has supported over 70 organizations through its grantmaking initiatives in the following categories:

- Direct Service Innovation Grants
- Invitational Grants
- General Operating Support Grants
- Partner Advisor Grants
- Rapid Response Grants
- Covid-19 Response Grants
- 2020 Learning Cohort Grants
### 2020 Grant History

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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Alternatives for Girls</td>
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<td>American Civil Liberties Union Fund of Michigan</td>
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<td>Black Family Development, Inc.</td>
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<td>Center for Employment Opportunities, Inc.</td>
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<td>Central Care Management Organization</td>
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<td>Citizens for Prison Reform</td>
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<td>Corporation for a Skilled Workforce</td>
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<td>Detroit Justice Center</td>
<td>Support over two years for a justice reinvestment pilot program in partnership with Safe &amp; Just Michigan</td>
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<td>Safe &amp; Just Michigan</td>
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<td>Support for the Center for Behavioral Health and Justice’s participation in the Michigan Justice Fund’s peer learning and strategy development activities</td>
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**Subtotal 2020 Grants**: $817,298
## 2021 GRANT HISTORY

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<td>American Civil Liberties Union Fund of Michigan</td>
<td>Support over two years for the Prosecutor Transparency Project, a research partnership with the Washtenaw, Oakland and Ingham County prosecutors' offices to examine prosecutorial decision-making impact on racial minorities</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for Employment Opportunities, Inc.</td>
<td>Support over two years to launch a Participant Advisory Council, a group of program alumni and participants designed to inform and lead justice reform efforts throughout Michigan</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit Justice Center</td>
<td>Support over two years from the Michigan Justice Fund for general operations</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit Justice Center</td>
<td>Support for participation as a Michigan Justice Fund Partner Advisor</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Here To Help Foundation</td>
<td>Support to reduce barriers in obtaining housing for returning citizens through providing financial assistance for security deposits</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINC UP Nonprofit Housing Corporation</td>
<td>Support for public education efforts and development of alternatives to current budgetary priorities in Grand Rapids</td>
<td>80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackinac Center</td>
<td>Support for participation as a Michigan Justice Fund Partner Advisor</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackinac Center</td>
<td>Support over two years to expand opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals through developing a comprehensive research, communications and advocacy strategy</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Advocacy Program</td>
<td>Support for Legal Services of South Central Michigan to increase staff capacity focused on criminal record expungement services</td>
<td>177,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency</td>
<td>Support for participation as a Michigan Justice Fund Partner Advisor</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency</td>
<td>Support over two years from the Michigan Justice Fund for general operations</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency</td>
<td>Support for participation in the Michigan Justice Fund's evaluation planning process</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan League for Public Policy</td>
<td>Support over two years to coordinate collaborative criminal legal reform efforts focused on racial equity and representation of justice-impacted people through the Michigan Collaborative to End Mass Incarceration</td>
<td>400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan League for Public Policy</td>
<td>Support for the Michigan Collaborative to End Mass Incarceration's participation as a Michigan Justice Fund Partner Advisor</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan League for Public Policy</td>
<td>Support for the Michigan Collaborative to End Mass Incarceration's participation in the Michigan Justice Fund's evaluation planning process</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Prison Doula Initiative</td>
<td>Support to grow childbirth preparation and doula support programs for incarcerated pregnant people</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mothering Justice</td>
<td>Support for Michigan Liberation Education Fund's participation in the Michigan Justice Fund's peer learning and strategy development activities</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mothering Justice</td>
<td>Support for the Michigan Liberation Education Fund's participation as a Michigan Justice Fund Partner Advisor</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Defender Service, Inc.</td>
<td>Support to continue the work of grant 2020-10809 for the Neighborhood Defender Service - Detroit's participation in the Wayne County Reentry Demonstration Project</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Defender Service, Inc.</td>
<td>Support over two years for eviction/housing defense legal services for criminal defense clients in Wayne County</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regents of the University of Michigan</td>
<td>Support over two years for a fellowship at the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity to advance policy priorities to improve outcomes for justice system-involved Michiganders, in partnership with the Youth Policy Lab</td>
<td>246,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe &amp; Just Michigan</td>
<td>Support for Nation Outside's participation as a Michigan Justice Fund Partner Advisor</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe &amp; Just Michigan</td>
<td>Support for participation as a Michigan Justice Fund Partner Advisor</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Grant Information</td>
<td>Amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe &amp; Just Michigan</td>
<td>support over two years from the Michigan Justice Fund for general operations</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe &amp; Just Michigan</td>
<td>support over two years for Nation Outside from the Michigan Justice Fund for general operations</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe &amp; Just Michigan</td>
<td>support for Nation Outside’s participation in the Michigan Justice Fund’s evaluation process</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Luke N. E. W. Life Center, Inc.</td>
<td>support over two years for a collaborative program with M.A.D.E. Institute to provide returning citizens in transitional housing in Genesee County with job readiness training and work opportunities</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Aspen Institute Inc.</td>
<td>support for the Aspen Criminal Justice Reform Initiative to launch the planning process for the Grand Rapids Justice and Governance Partnership, which is designed to advance multi-sector, jurisdictional approaches to reduce the reliance on the justice system</td>
<td>175,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vera Institute of Justice Inc.</td>
<td>support to develop a statewide strategy to expand housing access for individuals with conviction histories</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne State University</td>
<td>support over two years for a pilot program designed to increase the success and economic mobility of formerly incarcerated individuals through strengthening access to higher education</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne State University</td>
<td>support over two years from the Michigan Justice Fund for general operations for the Center for Behavioral Health and Justice</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne State University</td>
<td>support for the Center for Behavioral Health and Justice’s participation as a Michigan Justice Fund Partner Advisor</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne State University</td>
<td>support for the Center for Behavioral Health and Justice’s participation in the Michigan Justice Fund’s evaluation planning process</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Resource Center</td>
<td>support over two years to expand New Beginnings, a program that provides women who are returning to the community after incarceration with education and employment services and support, to Muskegon and Ottawa counties</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Justice Fund</td>
<td>support for a trauma-informed, peer-support program that provides wraparound services for returning citizens who were incarcerated as youth</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subtotal 2021 Grants: **$4,187,455**

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**COVID-19 RESPONSE GRANT HISTORY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Grant Information</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center for Employment Opportunities, Inc.</td>
<td>support for the Center for Employment Opportunities — Detroit site’s participation in the Wayne County Reentry Demonstration Project</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty and Freedom Now</td>
<td>support for Health Management Systems of America’s participation in the Wayne County Reentry Demonstration Project</td>
<td>180,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency</td>
<td>support for data collection and analysis on the impact of Covid-19 on juvenile detention and secure residential facility populations in Michigan</td>
<td>33,702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nation Outside</td>
<td>support for Nation Outside’s participation in the Wayne County Reentry Demonstration Project</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Defender Service, Inc.</td>
<td>support for the Neighborhood Defender Service — Detroit’s participation in the Wayne County Reentry Demonstration Project</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne State University</td>
<td>support for the Center for Behavioral Health and Justice to provide technical assistance and supportive services to the Wayne County Jail system to slow the spread of Covid-19</td>
<td>37,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne State University</td>
<td>support for the Center for Behavioral Health and Justice’s participation in the Wayne County Reentry Demonstration Project</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne State University</td>
<td>support for Covid-19 testing in the Wayne County Jail system</td>
<td>111,825</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subtotal Covid-19 Response Grants: **$663,005**

Total 2020-2021 Grants: **$5,667,754**
Impact Summary—2021

$17.3 million raised
14 funders invested
10 partner advisors selected
70+ grants made-to-date
Multi-year grantmaking launched

2020-2021 MJF Total Grantmaking $5,667,754
Beyond Grantmaking

In addition to supporting organizations through grant funding, the Michigan Justice Fund (MJF) has been engaged in the following efforts to help support and advance the field:

- **Creating Shared Learning Opportunities for the Field.** MJF, in addition to working with a diverse cross-section of participating organizations to co-create the long-term strategic plan for the Fund, developed cohort-based peer learning opportunities focused on systemic policy improvements that support the justice-impacted population across a number of domains including health, economic security and mobility, and community investment and wellbeing.

- **Adding Capacity for Advocates to Enable Collaboration.** MJF supported a public-facing website for community advocates that served as a go-to location for Covid-19 resources, calls to action, and best-practice and guidance for community members, advocates, and policy-makers during the height of the pandemic’s onset. Content for the website, located at [www.mijusticeresponse.org](http://www.mijusticeresponse.org), was driven by a bi-weekly meeting where advocates shared information and strategized around shared goals, which to date have included calls to improve conditions of confinement, release of vulnerable populations from confinement, and greater transparency from local jail and state prison officials with respect to Covid-19 related testing, care, and release protocols. Related investments included support for the initial testing of the Wayne County Jail inmate population and support for a data analysis of the increased use of the Wayne County administrative jail release process during the pandemic.

- **Recommending Policy Priorities for State Decision-Makers.** MJF shared a set of suggested public policy responses with the Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities, noting the need for special consideration of the justice-impacted population by the Task Force given the racial disparities that pervade the legal system. Task Force members invited MJF to share a list of potential funding opportunities from practitioners and advocates for $20 million in unallocated CARES funding to serve the justice-impacted population, many of which received funding. MJF also brought together advocates and practitioners with the State Budget Director to discuss the American Rescue Plan and implications of this and other significant federal stimulus funding for the justice-impacted population.

- **Development of Data Blueprint Building.** MJF with the Center for Behavioral Justice at Wayne State University (WSU) created and has been convening an advisory committee chaired by the Lt. Gov. with the goal of creating a blueprint for action to advance data integration in the criminal legal system in the state of Michigan. This work builds on the justice data landscape and roadmap report completed by WSU’s Center for Behavioral Health and Justice and funded by Public Welfare Foundation.

- **Building Advocacy Capacity for Grantees.** MJF engaged Bolder Advocacy to host a series of trainings and open “office hours” focused on the basics of advocacy, how nonprofits can engage in lobbying and advocacy, and how funders can support this work.
Special Thanks

STAFF

Ashley Carter, Director
Surabhi Pandit, Director of Human Services Initiatives

Immeasurable gratitude to our funders, steering committee members, and partner advisors.

FUNDERS

Community Foundation of Greater Flint*
Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan*
DTE Foundation
Ethel & James Flinn Foundation*
Ford Foundation*
Grand Rapids Community Foundation*
Hudson-Webber Foundation*
Joyce Foundation
JPMorgan Chase
Blue Meridian Partners (The Justice and Mobility Fund)*
Kresge Foundation*
Public Welfare Foundation*
Ruth Mott Foundation*
W.K. Kellogg Foundation*

An asterisk denotes Steering Committee Members. They have contributed $500,000 or more.

STAFF FROM OUR PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS WHO ARE HELPING TO STEWARD THE WORK OF THE MJF INCLUDE:

John Bae
Pierre Batton
Katie Brisson
Melanca Clark (Steering Committee Chair, MJF)
Andrea Cole
Janean Couch

Le’Ann Duran
Esther Franco-Payne
September Hargrove
Mathilde Laisne
Jennifer Lawson
Scott Nolen
Isaiah Oliver
Terrance Pitts
Raquel Robinson
Lissette Rodriguez
david rogers
Damon Ross
Kevin Ryan
Sarida Scott
Michael Shaw
Raquel Thueme
Quintin Williams

PARTNER ADVISORS

Amanda Alexander, Detroit Justice Center
Nicholas Buckingham, Michigan Liberation Education Fund
John Cooper, Safe & Just Michigan
Ashley Goldon, Nation Outside
David Guenthner, Mackinac Center for Public Policy
Natalie Holbrook, American Friends Service Committee—MI Criminal Justice Program
Sheryl Kubiak, Center for Behavioral Health & Justice at WSU
Jason Smith, Michigan Center for Youth Justice
Chuck Warpehoski, Michigan Collaborative to End Mass Incarceration (MI-CEMI)

Shelli Weisberg, ACLU Fund of Michigan