



2025 Annual Report

# Keeping Families Together

This report details New Breath Foundation's impact and grantees who — strengthened by your partnership — empower those most affected by unjust systems to lead change, keep families together and build genuine community safety.

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# President's Message

Happy New Breath, All My Relations,  
It's good to be alive and free.

In 2025, escalating attacks on democracy and civil society forced communities into survival mode, while nonprofits faced heightened scrutiny and shifting funder priorities.

This moment marked the 50th anniversary of the end of U.S. wars in Southeast Asia—made even more painful by the surge in deportations of Southeast Asian refugees. Communities shaped by war and displacement relive trauma and family separation.

Despite decreased fundraising, New Breath Foundation (NBF) stood firm in its mission, committing to the maximum possible in direct grantmaking and support.

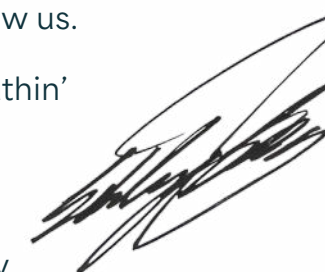
We distributed grants faster, providing holistic resources that include

funding, capacity-building, leadership development, and funder introductions. And following our partners' lead, we supported movements rooted in racial solidarity and collective liberation.

This report details NBF's impact and grantees who, strengthened by your partnership, empower those most affected by unjust systems to lead change, keep families together and build genuine community safety.

In the new year, let health ground us, family anchor us, solidarity sing our freedom, and each mindful breath renew us.

Breathin'



Eddy  
President & Founder  
New Breath Foundation



# Our Work

New Breath Foundation is a community-led public foundation that provides pivotal grassroots organizations the sustainable resources they need to give a fresh start to Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPIs) harmed by incarceration, deportation, and other forms of systemic violence in the U.S.

Eight formerly incarcerated leaders serve across our staff, Board, and Community Advisory Committee (CAC). NBF's CAC, grantees, board, and staff play a key role in our participatory approach to funding. They consist of individuals who have walked the paths we work to transform.

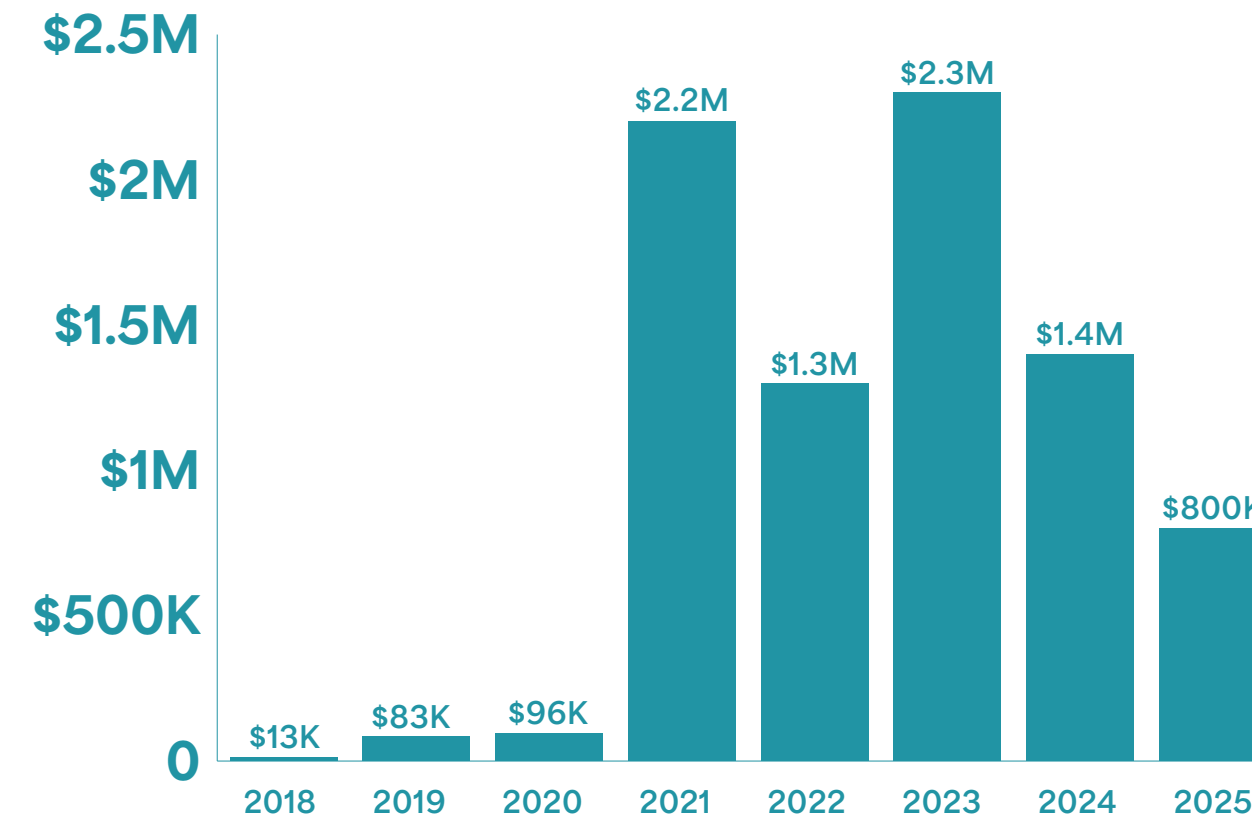
NBF is unapologetically committed to building long-term power in our communities while dismantling institutions of policing, incarceration, and deportation to create real safety.



Photo credit: Joyce Xi

# NBF Grantmaking

## Cumulative Grantmaking: 2018-2025



**\$8.3 Million**

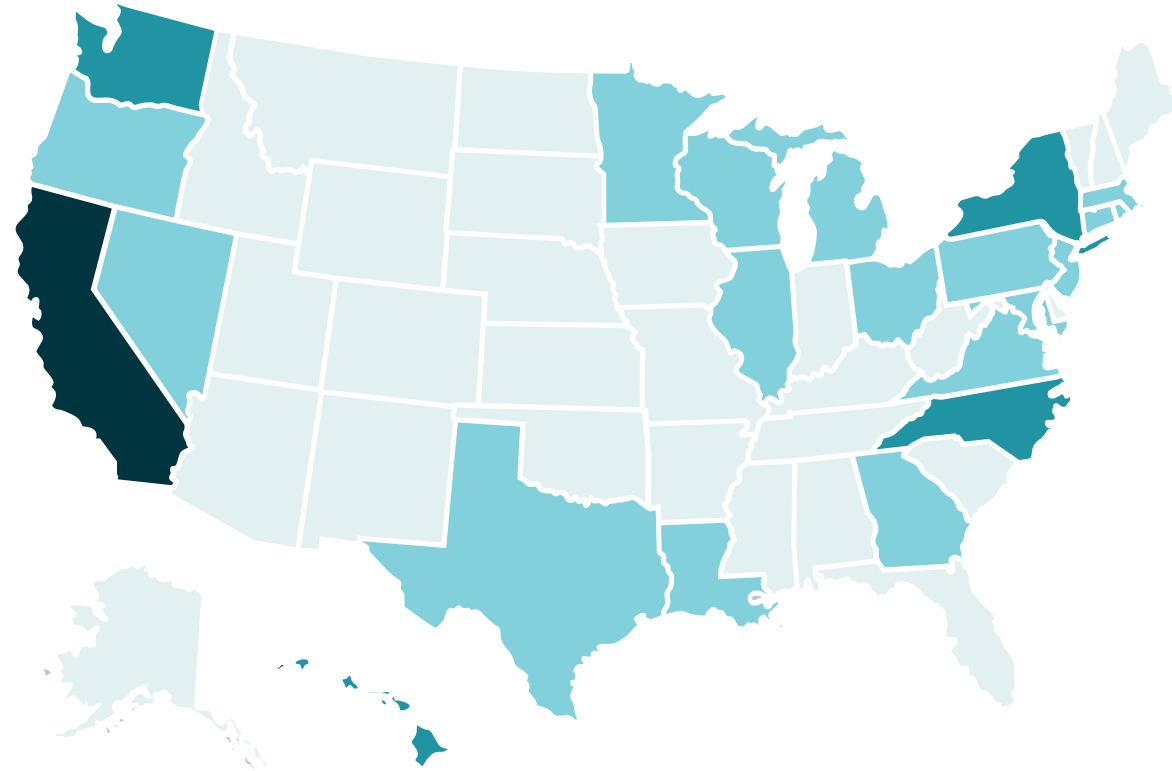
Total grants distributed since 2018 — inclusive of grants towards *We Got Us* Fund grantees from 2021 through 2025.

Our funding approach centers trust over compliance: unrestricted multi-year grants with no written reports required.

# Our Impact

In 2018, we awarded grants to 3 local organizations. Since then, we have expanded our reach to fund 60 organizations: 8 national across the United States, 50 local across 22 states, and 2 based in Cambodia.

- States served by 1-3 grantees
- States served by 4-5 grantees
- States served by 5+ grantees



## National Organizations

- AAPI Women Lead
- Grassroots Asians Rising
- ManForward
- SEAFN
- Survived & Punished
- Tsuru for Solidarity
- Vincent Chin Institute
- Yuri Kochiyama Solidarity Fund

# *We Got Us Fund*

“NBF journeyed with API RISE from a grassroots group into a home for healing and leadership. *We Got Us Fund* was crucial to hiring staff, launching youth programs, and responding to urgent community needs while strengthening our voice.”

– *Diane Ujiiye and Billy Taing*  
Co-Directors, API Rise

“This year, we expanded thanks to New Breath Foundation’s significant *We Got Us Fund* grant. NBF’s support enabled us to increase our participation and extend services to meet surging demand. While we can’t fulfill every need, we are proud of the pathways we’ve been able to forge.”

– *Savong Lam*  
Administrative Coordinator, Khmer Anti-Deportation Advocacy Group (KhAAG)

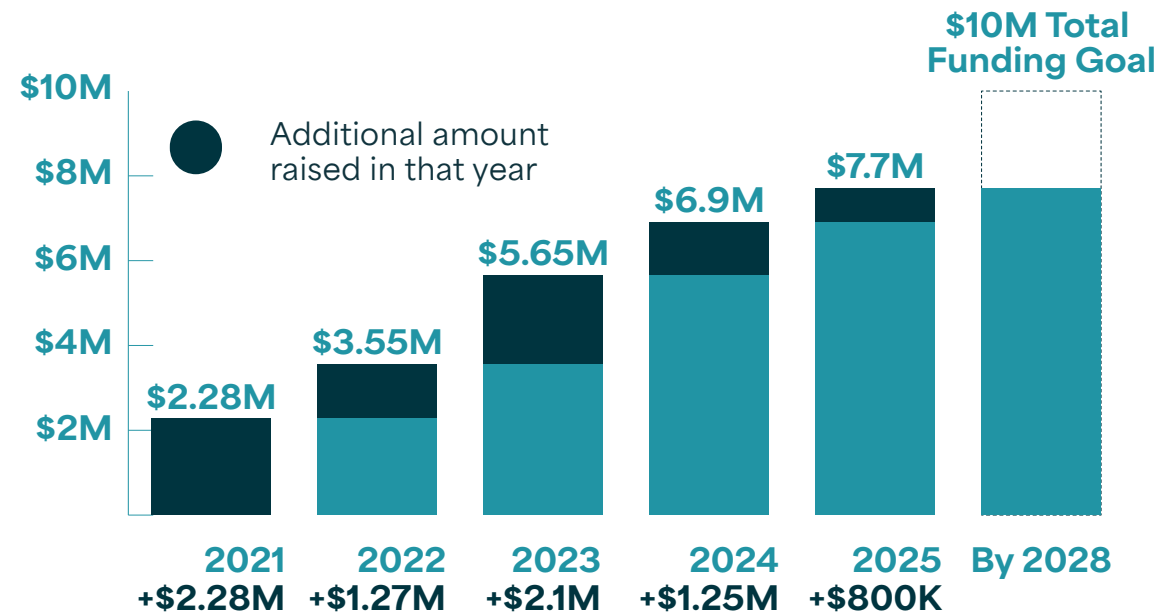
# 5 Years of *We Got Us*

## \$7.7 Million in *WGUF* Grants: 2021-2025

New Breath Foundation launched the *We Got Us* Fund in 2021 with a fundraising goal of \$10M. The *WGUF* offers grants to AANHPI grassroots organizations and efforts across the U.S. whose work supports currently and formerly incarcerated AANHPIs and communities targeted for criminalization and immigration detention/deportation.

The *We Got Us* Fund was created to:

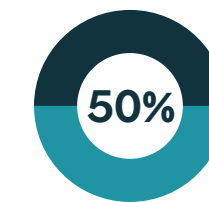
- Increase capacity to build power for cross-racial justice movements between AANHPIs and other people of color communities
- Increase opportunities for cross-racial solidarity and healing
- Develop leadership pipelines for survivors of incarceration, deportation, and violence



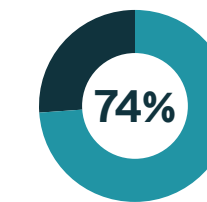
Additionally, \$2.08M in programmatic funds - beyond grants - allocated to grantee leadership development and capacity building since 2021.

# Who We Fund

Our grantee organizations typically operate with 4 Full-Time Equivalent staff and an \$800K budget.



Operate under fiscal sponsorship - Grassroots movements are often excluded by traditional funder requirements

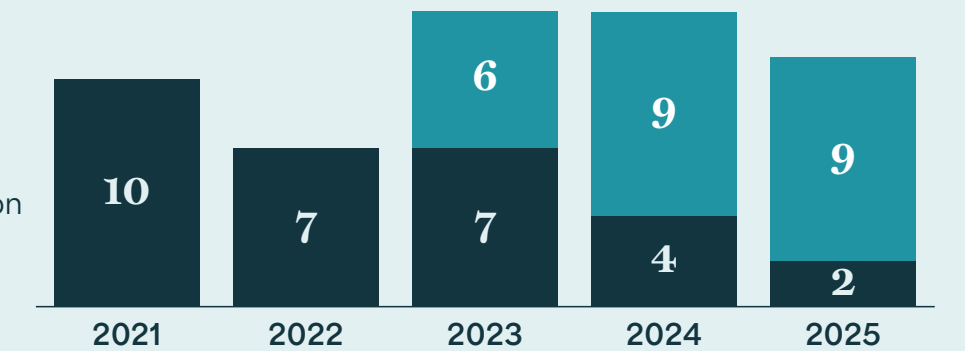
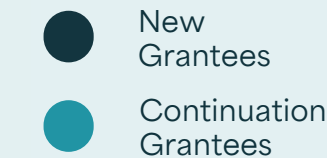


Use shared leadership models - Groups that champion feminist and collective organizing principles

The *We Got Us* Fund prioritizes grantmaking to grassroots AANHPI organizations with annual budgets <\$1M, including volunteer-run organizations with budgets <\$100K.

61% of grantees grew budgets by \$550K on average — demonstrating how trust-based funding catalyzes growth.

Beginning in 2023, we directed our focus towards existing grantees through continuation funding: one-time funds to eligible grantees whose last grant payment was over 12 months ago.



# Grantee Focus Areas

Beyond their work towards Community Safety & Incarceration, over 50% of *We Got Us* Fund grantees focus on the following areas, illustrating the complexity of our communities' lives.

Education & Youth Justice

Democracy & Civic Engagement

Cross-racial Solidarity

Health & Wellness

Immigrant & Refugee Organizing

Detention & Deportation

# 2025 Grant Recipients

## Continuation Funds

**Continuation funds are one-time funds to eligible grantees who received their last grant payment over 12 months ago.**

### Local Organizations

Asian Solidarity Collective  
*San Diego, CA*

FOU Movement  
*Long Beach, CA*

Going Home Hawai'i  
*Hilo, WI*

Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity  
*Oakland, CA*

Lavender Phoenix  
*San Francisco, CA*

Providence Youth Student Movement  
*Providence, RI*

VietLead  
*Philadelphia, PA*

### National Organizations

ManForward

Southeast Asian Freedom Network

## New Grantees

### Asian Refugees United

San Francisco, CA

Asian Refugees United (ARU) is a refugees-led and arts and healing organization cultivating and restoring wholeness in communities impacted by displacement. ARU empowers leaders through training programs, collective power-building, ancestral practices, connections to land, and advocacy.

### Tsuru for Solidarity

National

Tsuru for Solidarity is a nonviolent, direct-action project of Japanese American social justice advocates working to end detention sites and support front-line immigrant and refugee communities targeted by racist, inhumane immigration policies.

# Grantee Spotlights

## Grassroots Asians Rising

### 2021 Funded Partner

Grassroots Asians Rising (GAR) was founded by movement leaders to establish a national movement-building network, connecting local Asian organizations facing shared challenges but lacking coordinated power. GAR grew into an alliance of base-building groups nurturing leadership among the most marginalized in pan-Asian communities. As right-wing influence, anti-Asian scapegoating, and pro-policing efforts intensified, GAR required significant investment.

While many funders prioritized immediate policy wins, NBF recognized the need to strengthen local organizing of directly impacted individuals. NBF's early support helped seed GAR's growth, as they expanded to 34 member organizations, increased their budget from \$200,000 to \$1.4 million in four years, re-granted one-third of their funds to local groups, and built a staff of five full-time equivalents (FTEs).



Highlighting five grantee partners — one from each year — whose work stands as testament to the impact the *WGU* fund was created to support.

## ‘Ekolu Mea Nui

### 2022 Funded Partner

Incarceration tears families apart. ‘Ekolu Mea Nui works to bridge that divide. They help families visit incarcerated loved ones, support Native Hawaiian youth affected by incarceration, and reconnect people to their cultural roots for healing. The organization also helped pass legislation making family visitation programs permanent in Hawai‘i, opening funding for expanded services.

One such family is Vanna’s. A single mother from Moloka‘i, she struggled with limited resources to bring her children to visit their incarcerated father during prison Keiki\* days. When she was denied an additional visit before Keiki Day, ‘Ekolu Mea Nui successfully intervened. Inspired by their support, Vanna is pursuing a degree in social work or public health to help other affected Moloka‘i families with incarcerated loved ones, and ‘Ekolu Mea Nui is exploring bringing her onto their team to develop curriculum for the ‘Ōpi‘o Waiwai program.

*\*‘Ekolu Mea Nui’s Keiki days help incarcerated individuals reconnect with their families, food, and culture. “Keiki” refers to “child” or “children” in Hawaiian.*



# PrYSM

## 2023 Funded Partner

PrYSM supports folks facing detention and incarceration—many of whom entered the criminal legal system as youths. Now, decades later, the same issues persist in the younger generation. Schools remain under-equipped to offer safe spaces to support their students, who become disengaged and disempowered, all of which fuels the “school-to-prison-to-deportation pipeline.”

PrYSM’s Rhode Island Community Engagement (RICE) program helps individuals and families navigate the system by connecting them to legal, mental health, and peer resources. RICE also assists youth through organizing, court accompaniment, paperwork assistance, and advocacy—either public or behind the scenes, when preferred.



# KhAAG

## 2024 Funded Partner

Khmer Anti-Deportation Advocacy Group (KhAAG) works with families facing separation by deportation, provides critical media training, and reaches communities outside Southeast Asia also threatened by third-country deportations. Their work extends beyond individual cases, strengthening communities regionally, nationally, and internationally.

When a Vietnamese national was re-detained at an ICE check-in, KhAAG team member Bong Many worked overnight to launch the individual’s case. Partnering with the Seattle Clemency Project, KhAAG filed a successful habeas corpus petition that resulted in his release, vacated his conviction, and restored his green card. The organization has many hard-won victories, such as stepping in moments before people boarded deportation flights and helping secure their permanent residency and citizenship.

With *We Got Us* Fund support, KhAAG expanded significantly to serve people in Laos and Vietnam, meeting surging demand and forging new pathways to help families.



# Asian Refugees United

## 2025 Funded Partner

Asian Refugees United (ARU) creates belonging for communities shaped by displacement. Through art, ARU builds creative sanctuaries where the community reconnects with its cultural roots and restores its humanity. Many individuals carry trauma too deep to articulate, compounded by economic hardship, substance abuse, and mental health issues that increase their exposure to violence and the U.S. justice and deportation systems.

Since March 2025, rising detention and deportation in the Bhutanese community have torn families apart. When Mohan Karki, a Bhutanese refugee, faced deportation in Ohio over a past conviction, ARU's last-minute intervention paused his removal. ARU's *We Belong Here* campaign now builds legal support and advocacy for Bhutanese families.



# Appreciation

“Now is the time to invest in experimentation, imagination, and transformative work at scale. New Breath Foundation exemplifies this bold, community-led approach—moving significant resources to grassroots partners so our communities no longer have to operate in the margins.”

— *Rajasvini (Vini) Bhansali, Executive Director, Solidaire Network*

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

Crankstart Foundation

Gerbode Foundation

Heising Simons Foundation

Meadow Fund

Orr Family Foundation

San Francisco Foundation

Sobrato Philanthropies

Surdna Foundation

The California Endowment

The California Wellness Foundation

The Libra Foundation

W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Zegar Family Foundation

We extend our sincere thanks to all our donors, including those contributing through Donor Advised Funds and those not listed by name.

# 2025 Financials

Revenue  
\$2,642,469

81% Foundation Contributions  
\$2,143,333

16% Individual Donations  
\$420,599

3% Other Income  
\$78,538

Events \$173,687  
\*Note: Event revenue included in Foundation Contributions and Individual Donations.

Expenses  
\$2,454,511

78% Programs  
\$1,922,145

13% Operations  
\$306,981

9% Fundraising  
\$225,386



# New Breath Team

## New Breath Staff

Eddy Zheng  
*President & Founder*

Mari Yamagiwa  
*Program Manager*

Stephanie Gee  
*Sr. Director of Operations & Communications*

Thy Vu  
*Development & Operations Coordinator*

Maya Iwata  
*Director of Strategic Partnerships*

Claudia Leung  
*Director of Programs*

## Board of Directors

Jonny Moy  
*Chair*

Isabelle Leighton

Aakar Vachhani  
*Treasurer*

Daniel Lee

Jina Freiberg  
*Secretary*

Zachary Nightingale

Luigi Fu

Adria Orr

McArthur Hoang

Doua Thor

Sachi Yoshii

## Community Advisory Committee Members

Liyah Birru

Lon Chhay

Micky Huihui

Leesa Nomura

Paul Briley

Alina Fa'aola

Tin Nguyen

Thanh Tran



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