Sustainability Fellowship
Democratic Grant Making & Grassroots Trend Reports
New England Grassroots Environment Fund
Newmarket, NH

Summary:
The Sustainability Fellow will develop partnerships and conduct research to support The Grassroots Fund’s democratic grant-making process. The Grassroots Fund is committed to shifting power in philanthropy directly to communities and organizers. In order to do this, the Grassroots Fund supports a democratic grant-making process by conducting an open call for Grant Reviewers that engages a variety of voices, experiences, and perspectives in making funding decisions. The Grassroots Fund also works with partners to develop pools of funding to support critical needs and innovation at the grassroots level. To inform this process, the Grassroots Fund works with grantees and partners to identify opportunities and challenges, and shares these trends as part of our democratic grant-making process to provide applicants and reviewers with context on the grassroots landscape within which we work. This context setting allows any individual to join the grant making process and to bring their own unique experience and perspective, while also ensuring that all have a common basis of understanding.

The UNH Sustainability Fellow will work with the Grassroots Fund and an advisory committee of partners and grantees to research the landscape, trends, barriers, and opportunities within grassroots organizing around one of the Grassroots Fund’s five issue areas (Food, Energy & Climate, Land & Water, Environmental Health, Living Economies). The issue area focus for the research will be dependent on the fellow’s interests and the Grassroots Fund’s needs. As part of this work the Fellow will help to build and establish new partnerships with organizations relevant to the identified issue area. The Fellow will share results publicly through both a formal written Trend Report and, time permitting, through an interactive Grassroots Catalyst Conversation Webinar. If interested, the fellow may also have the opportunity to participate in other aspects of the Grassroots Fund’s work including grant review and RootSkills training series as time allows.

Deliverables:
1. **Revised Issue Area Survey & Grantee Report** - The Fellow will work with partner organizations to update and augment an existing survey to glean trends, barriers, challenges, and opportunities within one of our key issue areas.
2. **Formal Trend Report (5-8 pages)** - The Fellow will develop a report that will provide a summary of the key findings from grantee interviews, partner interviews, research, grant reports, and surveys within the key issue area of focus.
The report will provide recommendations that grassroots groups, non-profit organizations, and grantmakers can use to inform their work and programming.

3. **Grassroots “Catalyst Conversation” Webinar** – Time permitting, the fellow will organize, design, and co-host an interactive webinar to share the key findings and recommendations with grassroots groups, nonprofit organizations, and grantmakers/funders, and to invite input from attendees as well as conversation around collective opportunities.

**Impact:**
This fellowship opportunity is deeply integrated into the existing programming of the Grassroots Fund and will be both utilized and highly valued by the Grassroots Fund itself, its external Grant Making Committee, and numerous funding and nonprofit partners. The Fellow will see tangible outcomes from their research as their work will be directly informing funding and driving dollars towards projects that align with their recommendations. This opportunity will allow the Fellow to gain strong insight into deep democratic grant-making, which is an important area of exploration and growth within the funding community. The fellow will also develop a strong understanding of grassroots organizing strategies and will make numerous connections to funders, non-profit environmental and social justice organizations, and grassroots organizers.

**Location:** New England Grassroots Environment Fund, Newmarket, NH  
**Time commitment:** 40 hours per week, June 4-August 17, 2018  
**Compensation:** $6000 stipend

**Desired Qualifications:**
- Commitment to the [Grassroots Fund’s Guiding Values](https://grassrootsfund.org/dollars/guiding-values)
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, including commitment to practicing non-violent communication
- Self-motivation and independence, ability to manage time and meet deadlines
- Holistic perspective and interest in systems thinking
- Strong writing skills, including with both formal research writing as well translating complex topics into easily accessible language for the general public
- Background and interest in one of the [Grassroots Fund’s issue areas](https://grassrootsfund.org/dollars/issue-areas): Environmental Health, Living Economies, Energy & Climate, Land & Water, Food
- Background and interest in environmental and/or social justice

**UNHSI Sustainability program eligibility:**
Graduate students, exceptional undergraduate students, and recent graduates are eligible. We will encourage, but not require, an academic sponsor or reference for each fellow, and where possible we will ask that course credits are awarded.

**Supervision, Training, Mentoring and Evaluation:**
This fellow will receive supervision from Leigh Cameron, Program Manager of the Grassroots Fund and Julia Dundorf, Executive Director of the Grassroots Fund, as well as mentoring and extensive professional development offerings from UNHSI.
Fellows will be expected to participate in the following MANDATORY events:

- A three-day, two-night orientation in Durham, NH, May 29-31. Lodging and meals will be provided. A limited number of travel scholarships will be available to assist with transportation to Durham.
- Weekly webinars during the course of the 10-week fellowship.
- Midterm project presentations to UNHSI staff, faculty and relevant project partners in Durham, NH, July 12. Travel support provided.
- Final project presentations to UNHSI staff, faculty and relevant project partners in Durham, NH, August 10. Travel support provided.

Apply by February 14 at www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/sustainability-fellows.