



The Lenny Zakim Fund

BRIDGING COMMUNITIES

Dear Friends,

The Lenny Zakim Fund stands in solidarity with protestors both locally and across the country who are giving voice to those who are tired of having their worth and humanity continually devalued. We stand in solidarity with the young people, activists, and regular community members who have had enough.

Our mission of advancing social, racial, and economic justice remains just as central to our core as it ever has. The polarization, angst, and chaos we are seeing should come as a surprise to no one. And, we must never forget that the roots of systemic injustice and white supremacy have been embedded into the fabric of this country since its founding.

The onus and burden of getting rid of racism should not and cannot rest solely on the shoulders of Black people and other people of color. The COVID-19 pandemic has already ravaged communities of color and the recent uprisings are a clear sign that equity and justice are not a "nice-to-have", but a "must-have" because power cedes nothing without a demand and millions of our fellow Americans are clearly demanding change.

The Lenny Zakim Fund is guided by its values; which are the foundation of everything we do, every decision we make, person we work with, and statement we make. These values - Social Justice, Grassroots Leadership, Diversity and Belonging, Learning, Bridge Building, Responsiveness, and Love - compel us to continue and enhance our support of those who are working every day to advance the cause of justice and equity in our society.

Our mission is to listen to those most impacted by inequity and provide the funding, essential resources, and support they need to create lasting change.

We pledge to stand in solidarity as a funder, capacity-builder, and advocate to make that change a reality.

Eric Esteves
Executive Director

[Donate today to stand in solidarity](#)

Emergency Fund Grants Announced

LZF awarded \$186,225 in a [first round of grants to 29 nonprofits](#) - 2/3 of

which are led by people of color – from our **COVID-19 Emergency Response and Recovery Fund**. With these emergency grants, we're helping grassroots leaders address the needs of communities struggling during the COVID-19 pandemic and provide immediate relief to those who've been hit the hardest.

The [COVID-19 Emergency Response and Recovery Fund](#) was created to provide critical funding to current and former LZF grant recipients to help maintain staff, services, and programs. Emergency grants prioritized a focus on food insecurity, housing insecurity, health accessibility, undocumented immigrants and refugees, domestic violence, and criminal justice.

As communities throughout Massachusetts reel from the challenges of COVID-19, those who experience discrimination and financial insecurity in the “best of times” are now more vulnerable than ever. To-date, LZF has raised a total of **\$315,000** and will award at least two additional rounds of emergency funding. Applications for the next round are due on June 15th, to be distributed by July 1st.

[\[Learn More\]](#)

Meet our Director of Development



We are excited to share that **Allison Picott** has joined the LZF family as our Director of Development. A seasoned fundraising professional, Allison has spent the past two decades working in the nonprofit sector, most recently as the Social Innovation Forum's first Director of Development.

[\[Learn more about Allison\]](#)

Donor-Advised Funds Made Easy

Do you have a donor-advised fund (DAF)? Did you know that the Lenny Zakim Fund (LZF) offers a simple and direct way for you to take control of your charitable giving? [With just a few clicks](#), DAF donors can recommend and approve grants from their DAF to LZF in a matter of minutes. Donors can currently recommend grants through DAF Direct from Fidelity Charitable®, Schwab Charitable, and BNY Mellon Charitable Gift Fund. [\[Learn More\]](#)

