



The Lenny Zakim Fund distributes \$619,000 to 58 nonprofits addressing social, racial, and economic justice

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The Lenny Zakim Fund (LZF) has awarded a total of \$619,000 to 58 nonprofit organizations in Eastern Massachusetts as part of its annual grantmaking program. Ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000, the unrestricted grants will help local nonprofits support vulnerable populations and address a range of issues such as maternal health, food access, community organizing, special education, domestic violence, career development, housing instability, criminal justice reform, harm reduction, environmental justice, and workers' rights.

Eric Esteves, Executive Director of the Lenny Zakim Fund, said, "Our grantmaking continues to evolve to meet the demands of small, grassroots nonprofits with limited ability to raise other funds. Given the well-documented disparities in philanthropic investment, I am proud of the Fund's sustained commitment to address that racial funding gap with two-thirds of the nonprofits we fund led by people of color."

On Thursday, February 25th, the Fund's 25th annual [Awards Ceremony](#) will gather nearly 300 representatives of grassroots organizations and the Fund's donors for a free virtual event to celebrate the outstanding work of each of the 2021 grant recipients. Featured keynote speakers include **Ben Echevarria of [The Welcome Project](#)**, which builds the collective power of immigrants to participate in and shape community decisions; **Olu Ibrahim of [Kids in Tech](#)**, which excites, educates, and empowers children to develop the necessary tech skills and aptitudes to participate in and be future leaders of the 21st-century innovation economy; and **Daniele Levine of [Community Cooks](#)**, which mobilizes volunteer cooks to help their neighbors struggling with food insecurity. Attendees will also enjoy a special musical performance written and sung by an inspiring teen mentor from the [Dream Out Loud Center](#) in New Bedford and experience the rhythm and energy of Afrobeats with a special routine from [Africano Waltham's](#) youth dance group, the Afro Diamonds.

"The Awards Ceremony is our way of highlighting and honoring those at the center of social justice work; the changemakers and community heroes who continually push for equity and justice," said Esteves.

About The Lenny Zakim Fund

Established in 1995 by the late civil rights leader Lenny Zakim, The Lenny Zakim Fund continues to reflect his work and ideals by providing financial support, education, technical assistance, and networking opportunities to small, community-based organizations and individuals who are determined to become vehicles of critical change. Its mission is to develop deep relationships and build bridges among people and communities to advance social, economic, and racial justice.

2021 GRANT RECIPIENTS:

Access to Food, Housing and Economic Security

- [Attleboro Area Interfaith Collaborative](#)
- [Boston Affordable Housing Coalition](#)
- [CodeSquad](#)
- [New England United 4 Justice](#)
- [Rachel's Table](#)
- [Sitters Without Borders](#)

Child and Youth Development & Education

- [Building Bridges Through Music](#)
- [Empowering People for Inclusive Communities \(EPIC\)](#)
- [Groundwork Southcoast](#)
- [Institute for Pan African Cultural Education](#)
- [Kids in Tech](#)
- [LYSOA \(Lynn Youth Street Outreach Advocacy\)](#)
- [My Brother's Keeper 617](#)
- [PieRSquared](#)
- [Sibling Connections](#)
- [Somali Parents Advocacy Center for Education \(SPACE\)](#)
- [Top Notch Scholars](#)
- [To the Moon and Back](#)

Civil and Human Rights Advocacy and Support

- [Encuentro Diaspora Afro](#)
- [Muslim Justice League](#)
- [Right to the City Boston](#)
- [Union of Minority Neighborhoods](#)

Health Promotion and Accessibility for All

- [Adaptive Sports New England](#)
- [Autism Sprinter](#)
- [Community Caring Clinic](#)
- [Greater Boston Chapter of United Spinal Association](#)
- [Hands to Heart Center – Yoga for the People](#)
- [Healthy Waltham](#)
- [Living Independently for Equality](#)
- [Resilient Sisterhood Project](#)

Organizing and Support for Immigrants & Refugees

- [African Bridge Network](#)
- [Africano Waltham](#)
- [Ansaar of Worcester](#)
- [Brazilian Women's Group](#)
- [Center for Cooperative Development and Solidarity](#)
- [Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores](#)
- [Community Economic Development Center of Southeastern MA](#)
- [English At Large](#)
- [Lynn Worker Center](#)
- [Massachusetts Coalition of Domestic Workers](#)
- [Matahari Women Workers' Center](#)
- [Mount Olives Community Center](#)
- [Student Immigrant Movement](#)
- [The Welcome Project](#)

LGBTQIA Community Support & Organizing

- [Black and Pink Massachusetts](#)
- [Feminine Empowerment Movement Slam \(FEMS\)](#)
- [Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition](#)
- [Southcoast LGBTQ Network](#)
- [SpeakOUT Boston](#)

Violence Prevention, Criminal Justice Reform & Family Outreach

- [365Dad](#)
- [Families for Justice as Healing](#)
- [I Have A Future](#)
- [Legendary Legacies](#)
- [Partakers](#)
- [Saheli](#)
- [THRIVE Communities of MA](#)
- [Transformational Prison Project](#)
- [We Are Better Together](#)

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