



Risk Capital For Social Change

Mission Telecom Giving: Grantmaking Theory of Change and Pillar Strategy

Mission Telecom (MT) aims to address societal divides by supporting grassroots organizing, policy and advocacy work with the potential to be transformative and to advance the limits of what is considered possible.

Mission Telecom Grantmaking Principles

1. We seek transformative and systemic change, prioritizing upstream solutions and root causes.
2. We are unapologetically bold, political, and risk-taking in our approach.
3. We support innovation and experimentation where traditional approaches have failed.
4. We invest in authentic leadership from the most impacted communities, often by providing early funding.
5. We support work and leaders with a clear record of impact grounded in racial and social justice.
6. We optimize the use of scarce unrestricted c4 funding in service of building power.

Pillar 1: **Multiracial Democracy and Power Building**

Core support for work that builds power for the New American Majority. This is work to ensure every community has equitable representation in the electoral process and the political power to foster collective agency and well-being.

- Expanding the electorate for under-represented voters, including Native, Black, AAPI, Arab-American, Latino, rural, low-income, disabled and/or LGBTQ voters
- Reflective democracy: increasing representation of elected leaders

- Building grassroots organizing power on or offline (base-building)
- Voter mobilization through advocacy and candidate campaigns
- State and local campaigns, nomination contests, ballot initiatives, and redistricting
- Judicial advocacy and elections
- Co-governance models and accountability
- Content creation or narrative work

Pillar 2: **Movement Infrastructure and Innovation**

Innovation and tools in direct service of racial and economic justice. This is work to build and support critical infrastructure in direct service of movements towards racial and social justice. (If your most of your day to day programming fits one or more of the bullets below we suggest selecting this pillar even if your work also serves multiracial democracy.)

- Forward looking experimentation and model building
- Data and technology infrastructure
- Original research and thought leadership
- Communications and narrative
- Training, development, and support of movement organizations and operatives

Pillar 3: **Telecom Justice/Broadband Access**

Work that leverages telecom access and power towards equity for all communities. This particularly includes policy and advocacy work to ensure that every community has equitable access to affordable and quality broadband.

- Promoting affordable broadband access and combating the digital divide via policy and advocacy (for example, restoration of the Affordable Connectivity Program and resourcing of the Universal Service Fund)
- Nomination contests relevant to equitable telecom policy
- Increasing connectivity for the least well served individuals or communities that are low-income, disabled, of color, and Indigenous (for example, through work to increase equitable BEAD implementation)