



THE TRUTH TELLING PROJECT

www.thetruthtellingproject.org

www.grassrootsreparations.org

April 5, 2022

BUDGET DREAMS

The Truth Telling Project, and our program, the Grassroots Reparations Campaign, celebrate a year of amazing growth. Our vision continues to sharpen. We are actualizing our mission to build a culture of reparations due to increasing generosity and gifts supporting our capacity in the work of truth telling and reparations. We currently seek support to better communicate our story in ways that better explains who we are, what we are doing, and the impact we aim to make.

Overview: We seek \$320,000 to support storytelling about truth and reparations by deploying the use of podcasting and video production; engaging accounting and information technology professionals as needed support for our growing capacity; and funding for our Fellowship program that brings new activists into our areas of organizing and expanding our footprint in the social landscape.

1. As part of our vision, we are creating a podcast that tells the story of the Truth Telling Project and our work in transitional and reparative justice. Concurrently, we will be highlighting the experiences of those victimized by police and other forms of state sanctioned violence. We do this in order to advance abolition education, transform policing, and support survivors and victims of police violence. We are beginning the storytelling through the podcasting and the video production of our two co-founders, Rep. Cori Bush and Dr. David Ragland, as they teach a course at George Mason University in the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School of Conflict Resolution entitled, "The Public Pedagogy of Truth and Reparation." This course, from May 2022 to July, 2022, takes students on a journey of discovery through the lens of the Ferguson Uprising and subsequent responses to civil unrest sparked by state sponsored violence. Students will also join the Truth Telling Project's current racial justice activities; including the monthly Radical Truth Tellers Award, the 6th cohort of the Building a Culture of Reparations course, and a national collaboration for the 2022 Juneteenth event sponsored by MacArthur grantees. As such, this course is groundbreaking in its content and in its pedagogical methods. It deeply engages audiences in the current public discourse of reparations and truth telling in these dynamically challenging times.

The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School attracts students interested in peace and conflict resolution from around the world. Many of the students come from active areas of violent conflict. The documentary and podcast will add an important layer to conversations that the TTP is facilitating about reparations, racial justice and solidarity as students bring their own international experiences to bear on these important topics. More importantly, it will also chronicle their insights as they explore their role as peacemakers and experiment with the tools developed by the TTP project while building a global community of practice around this work.

2. We have identified a gap in connection to our growth needs in our organization. Basic roles that maintain the integrity of the work, such as timely payment for services and security of work in online spaces are either absent or underfunded in groups that do activism, advocacy and nonprofit work. To this end, we seek and need support in finding and sustaining professionals who engage in the functions of budgeting, payroll, accounting and information technology. Presently, our current fiscal

sponsor, Northeast Illinois University (NEIU), provides payroll services for minimum cost. However, we have found difficulty in receiving timely responses and on-time payments. Consequently, we are seeking funding for a finance professional to support these activities in partnership with our fiscal sponsor, NEIU.

In addition to financial and accounting management support as we grow, we further seek a professional IT team member to maintain our website updates, internet security, social media movement technology, and email support. These needs are imperative in the face of rising cyberspace threats to racial justice activists organizations such as ourselves.

3. Recently, the Truth Telling Project launched the Truth and Reparations Fellowship Program to support leadership development within the areas of truth telling and reparations to build our internal capacity and the broader social movement infrastructure. The Truth and Reparations Fellows participate in the Truth Telling Project and its Grassroots Reparations Campaign community through the programmatic areas of:

- Activism
- Education
- Policy.

It is our expectation to offer a Movement Economics Fellow in the near future. The Fellows co-facilitate a small team using a shared leadership approach to identify and assist in ongoing and emerging efforts in their respective programmatic areas. In light of the manifest challenges of the pandemic, racial hatred and violence and ecological crisis confronting the communities we support, we are seeking funding for the Movement Economics Fellowship position. The Movement Economics Fellow will work with our reparations fund, mutual aid work, and will build education around solidarity economics.

Click [here](#) to read more.

