

BLACK LIVES MATTER GRASSROOTS

2025 ACTION REPORT





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Message from Grassroots

As fascism takes hold of the United States and the world, everything is at stake. Fights that we thought had been mostly won - from voting rights to free speech, from body autonomy to ethnic studies, and the fundamental value of human life across race, gender, and sexuality, nothing is secure. The notion that we can "sit this one out" is a lie. Black Lives Matter Grassroots understands that with war declared on the people - especially Black people - we must not cower in corners, but fight valiantly for the lives and souls of our people.

Black Lives Matter Grassroots is the original formation of #BlackLivesMatter... the largest racial justice movement in history. We are powered by people, not stolen money. Even as others squander the resources that were meant for the movement, misuse the platforms built by justice warriors, and sully the name that

they stole, we remain undeterred. We stand on the frontlines of the war that must be won for Black people, not on red carpets.

We link arms with thousands of beautiful Black people who make up the Black Lives Matter Grassroots chapters around the world and dive even more deeply into the necessary work of Black liberation and the making of a world fit for the inheritance of our children and generations to come.

We do this in the names of those on whose behalf we struggle...bodies stolen by police and white-supremacist violence, but souls crying out from the ground. We struggle, too, in the names of our mightiest and most righteous warrior Ancestors. And also we fight in the names of our own bloodline and spiritline Ancestors.

Even as white-supremacist-heterosexist-capitalism descends upon us, threatening our lives, our freedom, our livelihood, and our world - we fight. Even as systems of immeasurable power make their victory at our expense seem inevitable - we build. Even as we are fed the lie that the movement is dead - we grow.

What can be found in this action report is only a glimpse of the vital work being moved by regular mamas and babas, workers and students, elders and youth, by those who listen to spirit when it speaks. We are the movement warriors who will topple Trump and every evil that threatens our people and all the Earth and humanity. May this collection of victories, challenges, and fights yet to be won, inspire freedom-loving people everywhere to join the movement. Share your resources, gifts, time, energy, and love to dream and make a free world. Plug in to the vital and urgent work at blmgrassroots.org to join a chapter, engage a campaign, and make a contribution.

Peace and Justice,

Melina Abdullah

Dr. Melina Abdullah
Co-Founder and Director
Black Lives Matter Grassroots



AREA 1 ACTION

Black Lives Matter Grassroots is a boots-on-the-ground organization that takes direction as a primary means of winning Black freedom. Listed below is a summary of the select worldwide campaigns undertaken in 2025.

BLACK WOMEN ARE DIVINE

The indomitable spirit of #BreonnaTaylor - a light and a healer - continues to inspire Black Lives Matter Grassroots chapters to lead the reclamation of Black women's divinity through Black Women Are Divine (BWAD). Louisville police stole Breonna's life on March 13, 2020. Black Women Are Divine was birthed to honor Breonna's life. Black Women Are Divine stands in fierce resistance to a world that attempts to turn Black women into mules, and affirm their divinity, through arts and healing justice. In 2025, festivals, ingathering, and restorative activities were hosted by BLM Grassroots chapters in Atlanta (GA), Birmingham (AL), East Atlanta/Dekalb (GA), Flint (MI), Long Beach (CA), Los Angeles (CA), Stockholm (Sweden), Tampa (FL), and Twin Cities (MN). In Los Angeles, Breonna's mother, Tamika Palmer, and aunt, Bianca Austin, joined the festival in the park along with 500 more Black women, who were serenaded by Aloe Blacc, treated to massages, and soaked in the sun in love and sisterhood with each other. The campaign also honored 31 "divine Black women," one each day of the month, on social media platforms.

2025 Black Women Are Divine Honorees

Jan Williams
Mary Hooks
Meagan Good
Gina Clayton-Johnson
Mary Alice Adams
Joanne N. Smith
Valencia "Ms. Vee" Gunder
Bertha Carson King
Inez Barron
Judge Holly Hancock
Kile Adumene
LaTosha Brown
Sabrina Foster
Tanika Ray
Coach Blossom Brown
Judge Melanie Ochoa

Rev. Keyanna Jones
Dr. Bettina Love
Fawn Walker-Montgomery
Dr. Valerie Grim
Beatrice Dixon
Guerline Jozef
Tiffany Loftin
Dr. Gail Wyatt
Monica Lewis-Patrick
Yandy Smith
Lisa Hines
Sheila Hines
Karen Slade
Dr. Joyce Ladner
Daroneshia Duncan-Byrd



#BlackXmas

Black Lives Matter Grassroots launched #BlackXmas in 2014 after police murdered #JohnCrawford inside a Walmart store in Beavercreek, Ohio. Police killed the 22-year-old Black father of two while he was examining store merchandise, a pellet gun, in the store's toy section. White supremacist capitalism uses police violence to protect corporations and their profits, not Black people. The stolen lives of #YvetteHenderson, #DennisToddRogers, #AlbertRamonDorsey, #StevenTaylor, #RedelJones, #SkyYoung, and #JohnCrawford are striking examples of a system that advances hypercriminalization to feed the prison industrial complex, profits from prison slave labor, exploits Black workers, and cheats Black consumers. From "Black Friday" through January 1st (and year-round), Black Lives Matter Grassroots encourages everyone to:

1. Build Black - Invest in Black organizations that benefit the community.
2. Buy Black - Patronize Black-owned businesses that serve as community resources.
3. Bank Black - Move our money away from white-owned corporate banks to Black-owned banks that share our values.

BLM Grassroots chapters in Stockholm (Sweden), Los Angeles (CA) Tampa (FL), Will County (IL), Boston (MA), Flint (MI), Saratoga Springs (NY), Long Beach (CA), Twin Cities (MN), and East Atlanta/Dekalb (GA) led impactful #BlackXmas actions during the busiest shopping period of the year.



RAPID RESPONSE

Our Rapid Response work provides boots-on-the-ground responses to acute crises and organizes strategically to engage local communities, supporting local chapters and mobilizing teams in places where there are no BLM Grassroots chapters. Rapid response in the immediate aftermath of state-sanctioned and vigilante violence is paired with community care and engagement, which often seeds the formation of new chapters, which proved to be the case for the BLM Grassroots chapters in Buffalo, Houston, and New Orleans.

In 2025, the team continued to engage in the fight for justice in the names of: #BrandonBoyd, a Long Beach native killed by the Long Beach Police Department outside of a church; #GlennFosterJr - a former New Orleans Saints football player who was killed in custody in Pickens County, Alabama. Specifically, the family of Glenn Foster, who founded BLM Grassroots Nola in his honor, led an action outside of the super bowl. Dozens organized and mobilized in Lubbock, Texas for #ErskinJenkins, who was murdered by sheriffs while attending a “freindsgiving[.],” and #KeithPorterJr, a Black father, who was killed on New Year’s Eve by ICE agent Brian Palacios, making him the first American citizen to be killed by ICE.

END POLICE ASSOCIATIONS

End Police Associations was launched in 2020 to abolish the power of police associations across the country. Police associations are fake “unions” that use their power to: bully and bribe elected officials, pilfer the public purse, and cape for even the most murderous and corrupt cops.

Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles and a coalition of local organizations hold weekly demonstrations outside the headquarters of the LA Police Protective League, one of the most corrupt police associations in the nation. Ultimately, End Police Associations is working to support the power of real unions and expose police associations as “organized crime,” whose interests run counter to every other union and working class people.

AREA 2 EDUCATION

RISE IN POWER!

On September 25, 2025, our movement lost from this earth one of our greatest guides. Assata Olugbala Shakur: poet, artist, visionary, mother, and revolutionary, modeled for us what it means to be free. As a Panther and member of the Black Liberation Army, the state attempted to steal her freedom, but she refused to be caged. With the help of comrades, she took her own freedom and lived out her days in Cuba, from where she continued to fuel and spiritually feed the movement. Black Lives Matter Grassroots grounds itself in her teachings, closing every meeting and gathering with her words, as do countless Black liberation movements around the world. May she rise in power as she joins Brother Comrades Dr. Mutulu Shakur, Baba Sekou Odinga, and Zayd Shakur in the realm of the Ancestors from where they continue to power the movement forward.

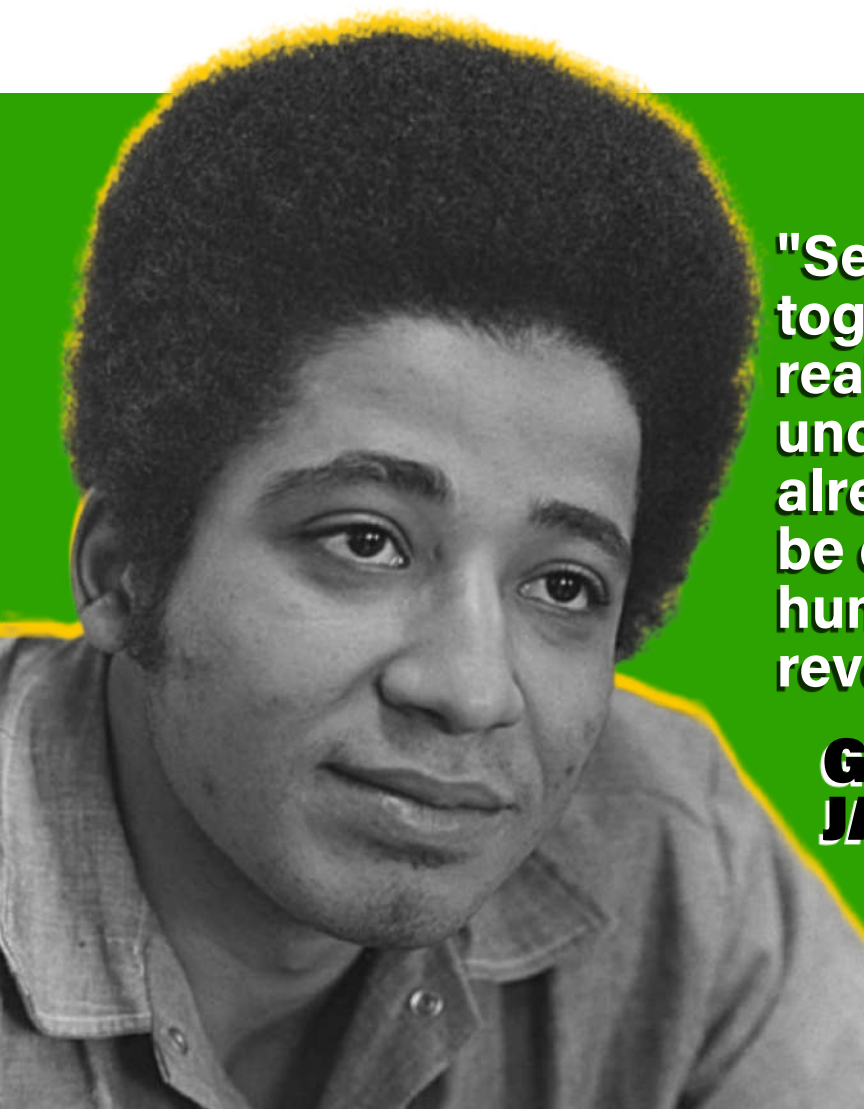


"Black revolutionaries do not fall out of the sky. We are born from our conditions, shaped by our oppression."

ASSATA SHAKUR

BLACK AUGUST

Black August marks a time to focus on our political prisoners and the righteous struggle of our comrades behind the walls. The roots of Black August dig deep into the unforgiving soil of California's prisons, where in 1979 Black organizers inside consecrated this month to honor Jonathan and George Jackson, Khatari Gaulden, and all those who transformed their shackles into weapons. We honor their work, as well as that of Black August co-founder, Comrade Jitu Sadiki, who was deeply embedded in the work of Black Lives Matter Grassroots. By committing ourselves to study, fast, train, and fight, we deepen our connection to each other and those who sacrifice their freedom for ours. Chapters across the country, and especially our three prison chapters in California lead the charge through a collective read of George Jackson's seminal work *Blood In My Eye!*, letter writing campaigns, and the call to #FreeJayBurton and "free 'em all!"



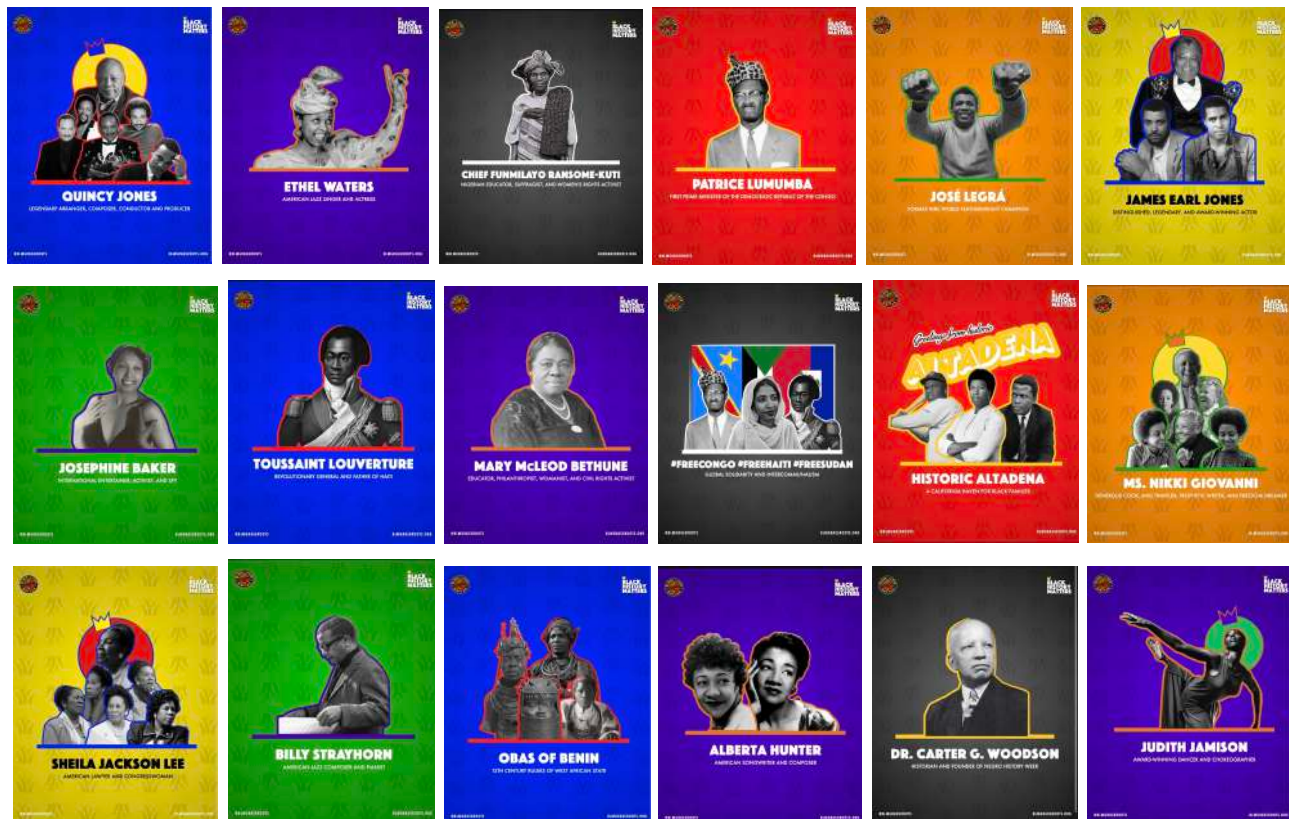
"Settle your quarrels, come together, understand the reality of our situation, understand that fascism is already here... Do what must be done, discover your humanity and your love in revolution."

GEORGE JACKSON

#BlackHistoryMatters

In February, the annual #BlackHistoryMatters campaign, facilitated by Dr. Charles H. F. Davis III, resumed in partnership with Scholars for Black Lives. This annual campaign aims to develop a broad political understanding of important Black political figures, events, and solidarity movements within the global Black freedom tradition. It also serves as a proclamation and pushback against the radical right's efforts to silence truth and remove Black people, including Black Studies and critical race theory, from education.

Each day in February, BLM Grassroots publishes individually designed graphics with educational captions on its social media accounts. Written by movement-aligned scholars, these are more than social media posts; they are mini political education teach-ins that provide succinct insight into the legacies, teachings, and victories of often lesser-known contributors to the struggle for Black liberation.



BLM GRASSROOTS YOUTH VANGUARD SCHOLARSHIPS

The Black Lives Matter Youth Vanguard Scholarship is in its third year. Awardees are active members of Black Lives Matter Grassroots chapters who have committed themselves to liberation work as well as higher education. Cash awards are provided to all scholars, with additional support for Youth Vanguard Scholars who are also Justice Family members.



Amara Kioni Abdullah
Clark University



Mikayla Denise Ellis
CSU Channel Islands



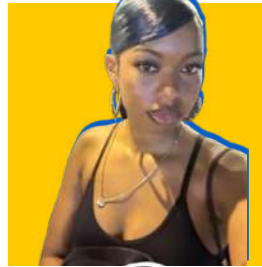
Aadriana Epps
Anoka Ramsey Community College



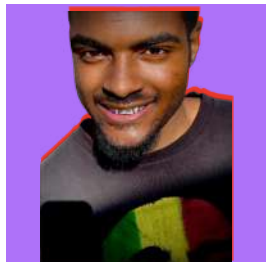
Airyonna Fisher
Milwaukee Area Technical College



Elijah Gelin
Cerritos College



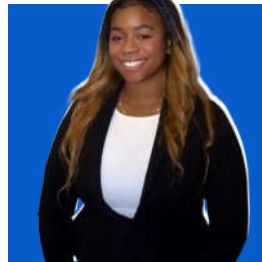
Alysha Graham
Art Center College of Design



Amir Greenridge
CSU Dominguez Hills



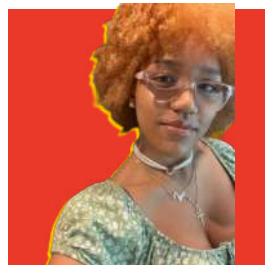
Asha Greenridge
Tuskegee University



De'ja Joseph*
Howard University



Emani Labon
Spelman University



Isis Mack
Temple University- Japan Campus



Laila Miree
Morris College

*Indicates larger award for Justice Family.

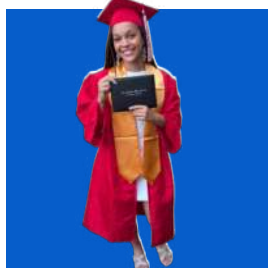
BLM GRASSROOTS YOUTH VANGUARD SCHOLARSHIPS (cont'd)



President Morgan Barnes
Clark University



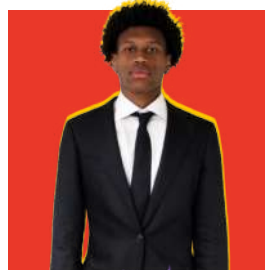
Aaliyah Murray
Normandale Community College



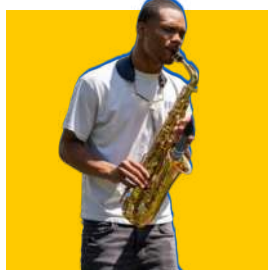
Sydney Oundo
Howard University



William 'Bron' Peoples*
Alabama State University



Perry Rain
Howard University



Jerome Richardson*
Temple University



Kayla Sandoval
CSU North Ridge



Marcus Smith
Alabama A&M



Angelmarie Taylor
CSU Channel Islands



Lakell White
CSU Los Angeles

*Indicates larger award for Justice Family.

AREA 3 COMMUNICATIONS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

BLM Grassroots launched its monthly newsletter to regularly update members and supporters about the boots-on-the-ground work taking place at the local, state, national, and global level. The newsletter highlights national campaigns, reports on frontline organizing and policy efforts, features local BLM Grassroots chapters and organizers, and honors the people whose lives were stolen through police and white supremacist violence. The newsletter also amplifies BLM Grassroots public statements, which provide our official stances and distinctive analyses of current events. Each newsletter also contains urgent calls to action and multiple ways to plug into and support the work. Reaching an audience of more than 20,000 people worldwide through direct email and text messages, the newsletter is posted on blmgrassroots.org and available on our social media platforms.

THIS IS NOT A DRILL!

This Is Not a Drill! is a two-hour weekly radio program on KBLA Talk 1580 AM, simulcast on Facebook Live. BLM Grassroots originally launched the program in 2020 on Facebook in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and unrelenting state of emergency that Black people experience. In 2021, when radio giant Tavis Smiley launched the first Black-owned talk radio station in the West, Black Lives Matter Grassroots was the very first to be offered its own show. Weekly shows focus on a wide range of topics important to Black liberation. Featured guests are global leaders, grassroots organizers, movement veterans, youth activists, intellectuals, spiritual leaders, and those committed to the liberation of Black people. The program includes a weekly #MoreThanAHashtag segment, which features the families of the people killed by police and white supremacists. The program is hosted by Dr. Melina Abdullah, with Baba Akili, Audrena Redmond, Kim Holmes, Joseph Williams, Sheila Bates, and LaMikia Castillo also on the production team. Once a month Amara Abdullah and Shiraz Lawrence host a “Youth Vanguard Takeover.” The show is critical to providing a platform for the work of the movement and the voices of justice families.



PRIORITIZING BLACK MEDIA

Black Lives Matter Grassroots heeds the wisdom of the African proverb, “Until the lion tells the story, the hunter will always be the hero.” The undeniable assault on Black people, Black history, and Black studies under the escalating conditions of authoritarian repression points to the indispensable role of Black journalists and media in the Black freedom struggle. We continue to prioritize building relationships with Black journalists and Black media to ensure their direct access to critical information and perspectives needed to deliver trustworthy reporting on Black life and the boots-on-the-ground work of Black Lives Matter. This happens through hosting regular Black media calls and exclusives, facilitating connections to Justice Families that deepen collective knowledge and understanding of the systemic crises affecting Black people, and directly sharing details about the frontline organizing, support, and policy work happening around the country and world. In 2025, The Los Angeles Sentinel committed a weekly column to the work of the movement, penned by Melina Abdullah.

AREA 4 POWER BUILDING

CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT

Our movement family continues to grow as prospective chapters complete a months-long onboarding process grounded in the Black radical tradition. The onboarding team, led by our own Baba Akili - one of our greatest movement veterans, provides chapters with essential tools for building strength and ensuring alignment across our network - including political education, movement orientation, and training. In 2025, Black Lives Matter Grassroots grew to 51 chapters around the world.

Alabama

Black Lives Matter Grassroots Alabama works to combine grassroots organizing with public accountability to challenge systemic injustice and build long-term power for Black communities in the South. In 2025, the chapter organized to support families impacted by

police violence, including the family of #JabariPeoples. The chapter provided bail support to activists arrested during protests against police violence and engaged city and county officials to demand police accountability and fair representation. The chapter's advocacy for fair maps in Jefferson County resulted in one of the most significant organizing wins—the successful outcome of McClure v. Jefferson County Commission racial gerrymandering case. BLM Grassroots Alabama co-founder and co-lead Cara McClure served as the plaintiff in the case, winning this critical victory. The case serves as an important step toward fair representation in the fight to resist the discriminatory district maps affecting Black communities in Jefferson County.



Alabama

2025 Freedom Brunch for Black Mothers the Alabama chapter successfully bailed out.

Arizona

BLM Grassroots Arizona worked to affirm Black life through policy advocacy and political education. They partnered with the Ending Felony Murder Coalition to advocate for legislation that would end the felony murder law. The statewide formation spent 2025 building coalition, crafting bill language, and assessing the path forward, with a plan for legislative authorship and introduction in coming legislative cycles.

Atlanta (GA)

In 2025, BLM Grassroots Atlanta's organizing strategy focused on mutual aid, family support, political education, direct action, advocacy, and community outreach. The chapter practiced mutual aid through food distribution and providing free haircuts to unhoused neighbors. The annual Black Women Are Divine event nurtured a day of healing, laughter, and growth for Black women in the community. As part of an ongoing commitment to family support, organizers mobilized to provide accompaniment, court support, and rapid response during the acute crises resulting from police and vigilante violence. Throughout the year, BLM Atlanta stood with the families of #KendrickJohnson, #JayvisBenjamin, #JarvisLykes, #QuandavierHicks, #JabrilRobinson, and #JaylinMcKenzie, which fostered powerful solidarity moments between justice mamas Erica Woods and Jackie Johnson. The chapter continued to prioritize the fight to Stop Cop City. Expanding political education and mobilizing the community for action. The chapter partnered with allied organizations to host quarterly People's Movement Assemblies focused on the Stop Cop City campaign and ending qualified immunity. During Black Xmas, the chapter celebrated Black-owned businesses in a digital Green Book.

Birmingham (AL)

In 2025, BLM Birmingham remained unapologetic in its mission to uplift and defend Black lives. Mobilizing against the violent jail conditions that lead to in-custody deaths and demanding police accountability in the names of #JabariPeoples, #VanessaRagland, and #JamalWilliams. The chapter engaged in collective organizing and mobilization through direct action protests, economic boycotts, coalition building, and court support to accompany justice families during legal proceedings. BLM Grassroots Birmingham worked to grow the chapter's membership and strategic partnerships. Among its community events, the chapter hosted a Black Women Are Divine celebration honoring Black trans women, Pride activities, and an awards ceremony recognizing three Birmingham Youth Vanguard scholars. BLM Birmingham fought to protect Black voter rights, stood in solidarity with workers opposing Hyundai Kia's labor abuses, and drew attention to the need to abolish cash bail and end pre-trial detention. The chapter's Black Xmas bailouts freed five people from jail who could not afford to pay bail. At the state level, Birmingham is also working to pass family notification legislation inspired by "Wakiesha's Law" in California.



Birmingham (AL)
Advocating for Voter Rights and protections at the State House.

Boise (ID)

BLM Boise focused primarily on organizing and advocacy, political education, bail funds, and challenging harmful policies at local and state levels. The chapter led political education on qualified immunity and ran voter registration drives to prioritize Black voters and progressive allies ahead of the 2025 local elections. At the city level, organizers mobilized community participation in city council meetings to advocate for divestment from the Boise Police Department budget and investment in community-based safety programs. The chapter led community education on ways to actively participate in city council meetings and partnered with allied groups to enhance the community's presence. During its Black August commemoration, the chapter honored prisoners and freedom fighters and drew important connections to abolition movements today. The chapter provided direct support to justice-involved individuals and their families, advocated for sentencing reform, and challenged inhumane carceral conditions. At the state level, organizers mobilized community testimony about police violence to demand accountability during the legislative session. Through consistent presence, direct participation in city council meetings, coalition-building, and support for impacted families, BLM Boise worked to shift local conversations on police violence, police accountability, and budget priorities. Moreover, the chapter created intentional spaces for Black community members to organize, heal, and build power.

Boston Metro (MA)

BLM Grassroots Boston Metro is among the newest cohort of chapters to onboard in 2025. The chapter “hit the ground running” with their active participation in several foundational BLM Grassroots national campaigns, including Black Women Are Divine, Black History Matters, Black August, and Black Xmas. The core chapter commitments are mutual aid practices, family support, and political education. Deborah Mitchell, chapter founder, hosts the “Keeping It Real Show with Deborah Mitchell” on YouTube as part of a meaningful communication and political education strategy. Show guests discuss a wide range of topics and critical issues shaping Black life. Chapter events, such as participation in local farmer's markets, clothing drives, and tabling at local festivals have represented unique opportunities for base building and broader engagement with the community. The chapter closed out 2025 by celebrating Kwanzaa and promoting Black businesses during Black Xmas.



Boise (ID)

BLM Idaho leadership and community members at the Idaho State Capitol to testify against the repeal of Medicaid expansion and the implementation of restrictive work requirements.

Buffalo (NY)

In 2025, BLM Buffalo focused primarily on community organizing, building people power, pushing for policy change, leading political education, advocating for police accountability, and continuing the fight for racial justice in the city. The chapter's work also extended beyond Buffalo with organizers traveling several times to Erie, Pennsylvania to demand "Justice for Chello" alongside the family of #MarcelloWoodard, who was shot in the back and killed by a white parole agent. The chapter diligently attended townhall meetings, organized protests, and advocated for police accountability in the face of state-sponsored violence, including protesting in name of #RobertBrooks. Chapter organizers also protested and successfully shut down Buffalo's Mandella Market after store workers brutally assaulted Battina Williams, a Black woman and local community member. As part of the chapter's dedication to healing justice as a core commitment, BLM Buffalo hosted monthly community events focused on mental health awareness to create a safe space for healing, resources, support, and open conversations. Community conversations are healing-centered and trauma-informed. The chapter also shares resources to support individual and collective healing from trauma.

California

BLM CA focused on passing two state-level pieces of legislation. Assemblymember Isaac Bryan introduced both bills:

"Wakiesha's Law" The Family Notification of Death in Custody or Life-Threatening Emergency Act (AB 1269) and AB 7 Postsecondary Education: Admissions Preference: Descendants of Slavery. After Wakiesha's Law initially stalled in Congress, Assemblymember Bryan introduced Wakiesha's Law at the state level, strategically paving the way to pass this common-sense legislation nationwide.

Passing with an urgency clause, Wakiesha's Law went into immediate effect and requires California jails to provide notice within 24 hours if someone who is incarcerated or in-custody dies or becomes seriously ill or injured. Wakiesha's Law,

named for #WakieshaWilson is the first piece of California legislation named in the honor of a Black woman. AB 7 was a widely-supported repair bill, which would have granted colleges and universities the ability to give preferential admissions to applicants descending from enslaved people; it was vetoed by Governor Gavin Newsom. BLM CA also fought back against AB 715, a dangerous piece of legislation sponsored by the Israeli lobby and opposed by every educational union which censors teachers' free speech.



California

Advocates and organizers held a briefing on the steps of the State Capitol to advocate for AB 7, a bill to give preferential higher education admissions to applicants descending from enslaved people.

It was rammed through over mass protest. BLM California is continuing to work with labor unions, educators, students, and justice organizations to mitigate its most harmful effects.

Charleston (SC)

Charleston BLM Grassroots is one of the leading Black-led grassroots organizations working to address the critical issues facing Black communities in Charleston. In 2025, the chapter delivered material wins using a comprehensive organizing strategy that involved base building, mobilization and advocacy, direct action protest, political education, mutual aid, arts and culture, and international solidarity. The chapter's signature programs delivered mutual aid to the community through regular grocery giveaways, centered arts and culture through an Afro-Futurist art exhibition series, and created spaces for community advocacy spaces as part of the Lowcountry Black Action Assemblies. The sixth annual Back-2-School Giveaway reached hundreds of families across five neighborhoods in Charleston County.

The chapter intensified the fight against four real estate developments threatening Black communities. It successfully blocked a proposal to build a student dormitory on sacred grounds—the Coming Street burial site, which serves as the resting place for more than 4,000 enslaved African ancestors. Through the chapter's strategic organizing and mobilization, the community fought back and demanded that the College of Charleston halt construction during the listening session that the Department of Environmental Services hosted.

The chapter continued to challenge rising police violence, especially against Black youth, and stood with youth artist Palmetto Rose to demand police accountability after Rose's brutalization. The chapter's #FreePalestine solidarity and interruption at the historic Mother Emanuel AME Church drew national attention, including Chance the Rapper's mention. As part of the Charleston Forum's 10th Anniversary commemoration of the Emanuel 9 massacre, one of the chapter's lead organizers served as a speaker. The chapter also helped to mobilize a strong turnout to the Malcolm X Centennial Commemoration, which was hosted at SC State's 1890 Extension campus in partnership with SC Reparations, Free Palestine Charleston, and other allied groups.

The Lowcountry Black Action Assembly, which was held at Hannibal's Kitchen with food from Bintü Atelier, brought the community together to organize around public education, federal funding cuts,



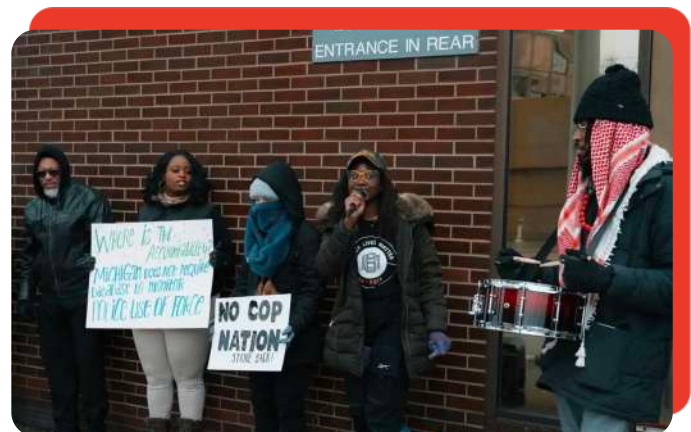
Charleston (SC)
*6th Annual Back-2-School Giveaway
reaching hundreds of families across 5
neighborhoods across Charleston county.*

community land preservation, reparations, Pan-African solidarity, and alternative career pathways for Black youth. The 6000 BLACK: Afro-Futurist Art Exhibition, co-curated by Zania Cummings, was featured at the MOJA Arts Festival and included a commemoration of Assata Shakur the day after her passing.

Detroit (MI)

In 2025, BLM Grassroots Detroit deepened community relationships and worked to build sustainable infrastructure across the Detroit organizing community. As the political climate shifted nationally, BLM Grassroots Detroit focused on building stronger coalitions, which are essential to the fight against fascism. The chapter launched the Detroit Spokes Council, a monthly convening focused on building sustainable infrastructure across Detroit organizations. They also began coordinating organizing efforts statewide, hence deepening coalitions with organizations like PSL Detroit and the African Bureau for Immigration and Social Affairs (ABISA) to build solidarity and support with African migrant siblings. In coalition with local mutual aid networks, the chapter hosted monthly mutual aid events throughout the year to directly meet community needs.

The chapter held signature events: the Juneteenth panel, a Black Joy Beach Party, a panel and reading series focused on “Black Panther Woman” and Ella Baker readings, and BLM Grassroots national campaigns—Black Women Are Divine, Black History Matters, and Black X-Mas. Political education was a robust focus with the commemoration of Black August, de-escalation training, and participation in the Black Radical Organizing Conference. Stop Cop City Nation teach-ins also emphasized learning about the impact of police budgets and were paired with the chapter’s protest at the Detroit Police Association building. Safety Sundays helped the community to prepare critical questions for mayoral candidates ahead of local elections. The Sick of ICE Sick-Out teach-in included a vision-boarding activity focused on seeding collective futures. The chapter invested in base building through community meetings and a co-hosted dinner series that introduced neighbors to the chapter’s work. To invest in food sovereignty, the chapter deepened its organizing and partnership with Freedom Growers, a local farm connecting community members to local produce.



Detroit (MI)

No More Cop Nation protest at the police association building.

East Atlanta-Dekalb (GA)

East Atlanta-DeKalb County, Georgia onboarded in 2025 as part of the cohort of new BLM Grassroots chapters. As the chapter worked to build infrastructure, providing direct family support was a core commitment and practice in the fight to end state and vigilante violence. The chapter stood with the families of Deacon #JohnnyHollman, #GeorgeFloyd, #JaylinMcKenzie, #JimmyAtchison, and #Trayvon Martin. East Atlanta-DeKalb also led the “Free Rodney Taylor Campaign” demanding Taylor’s immediate release from immigration detention. The chapter hosted mutual aid actions to commemorate George Floyd’s birthday and spotlighted local Black-owned businesses across East Atlanta and DeKalb County during Black Xmas. As part of the Hands Off Africa Coalition, the chapter mobilized community participation for rallies and marches, including the Hands Off Africa Day demonstration at the Capitol. Moreover, organizers stood on the front lines of the ICE Out Rally and March and Home Depot boycott. The chapter’s work was formally recognized with a State Resolution and City Proclamation.

Flint (MI)

In 2025, Black Lives Matter Flint focused on providing consistent mutual aid, family support, cultural and educational programming, access to community-centered media, and political education. The chapter provided community care and support to justice families, including the family of #RayvonShahid, by offering accompaniment, advocacy, and resource navigation. In response to broader community concerns, the chapter hosted a community conversation to address local safety and justice issues. The chapter held cultural and political education events, such as the commemoration of Black August and participation in The Traditional Flint Juneteenth Celebration, which provided free, culturally-rooted programming that centered the pillars of Black history, Black joy, and Black unity. As part of an intergenerational Kwanzaa celebration, the chapter distributed handmade gifts, such as coloring books, hats, and gloves, as well as donated shoes, clothing, and toys during Black Xmas. BLM Flint also prioritized access to community-centered media, storytelling, and political education through Fli-City Blackout and the Royale Politikin podcast, which focused on making political education and civic participation relevant and accessible to the community. This year, the chapter held two Black Women Are Divine events, including the movie premiere of “The Six Triple Eight” and a natural beauty event.



East Atlanta-Dekalb, GA
Hands Off Africa Day at the State Capitol.

Florida

BLM Florida, the first Justice Family-led chapter, focused its efforts on rapid response, family support, community organizing, direct action, policy advocacy, healing justice, and community care. The chapter supported six justice families navigating legal and court processes, provided trauma-informed referrals and resource navigation to more than 40 individuals at Freedom Center, and mobilized over 150 community members for public hearings, vigils, and solidarity actions. The chapter's community organizing and direct action involved co-leading 15 public actions, forums, and press events and engaging more than 400 residents in discussions about public safety and police accountability. Additionally, the chapter facilitated 8 strategy sessions focused on policy advocacy and ending qualified immunity. The chapter's media reach is estimated to be more than 10,000 people. To invest in ongoing political education and leadership development, the chapter hosted 10 virtual teach-ins on abolition, systemic change, and trauma management. As part of a coalition and movement-building strategy, BLM Florida partnered with 5 local and statewide organizations; participated in statewide strategy coordination with Black Lives Matter Grassroots; and contributed to campaigns addressing qualified immunity and public safety reform.

The chapter's healing justice and community care strategy is trauma-informed and culturally-rooted, which was evident in each of the chapter's

events, including the 5 healing-centered gatherings that engaged more than 200 attendees. The chapter also continued to amplify survivor-family voices to emphasize the real-life consequences of qualified immunity, the unjust legal doctrine that systematically blocks Justice Families from receiving any semblance of justice. The chapter continues to grow grassroots pressure to advance Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley's bill to end qualified immunity through regular engagement with her office, an online petition, and coalition building with community partners and their networks. The chapter strengthened mutual aid and healing justice partnerships to provide direct, community-based support outside of traditional advocacy spaces by coordinating with local mutual aid networks to distribute essential resources, such as food assistance, emergency support, and transportation for Justice Families. In 2025, BLM Grassroots Florida stood with the families of #RogerFortson, #RonaldGreene, #BreonteJohnsonDavis, DeondrickAnderson, #ErskinJenkins, #JerraldGallion, #CordaleHandy, and #GlennFosterJr.



Florida

BLM standing with the family and community of Deondrick Anderson in Manatee County, FL, demanding accountability in response to a racist hate crime.

Gary (IN)

BLM Gary onboarded as a new chapter in 2025. The chapter focused primarily on base building, community organizing, political education, protesting, civic participation, mutual aid, coalition building, and family support. Four chapter leaders attended the National Black Radical Organizing Conference in Indianapolis. Organizers joined local anti-ICE protests and No Kings rallies. Their advocacy efforts often involved speaking at board meetings and public hearings, hosting virtual forums, such as “Women United Against Genocide,” and leading the environmental justice fight to oppose businesses polluting Gary’s residential neighborhoods. In addition to hosting monthly community meetings, the chapter co-sponsored the Malcolm X Centennial Celebration and several other community events, such as the Black August commemoration program honoring political prisoners and Justice Families, a Juneteenth celebration and symposium, a people’s forum, “We Can’t Breathe,” and a community celebration of Kwanzaa during Black Xmas. While continuing to recover from the loss of a great comrade and organizer who was vital to the chapter’s work, BLM Gary worked to maintain community visibility, expand cultural projects, and build relationships with neighboring organizations.



Hartford, CT - BLM 860

Working to meet material needs and hold the line on abolitionist principles, BLM 860 had a successful 2025 while advancing the BLM Grassroots mission. First and foremost, they were successful at preventing Tyrell McCoy from becoming police chief. Second, they were able to push the City of Hartford to invest in resources and decriminalizing spaces. BLM 860 successfully pushed the City of Hartford to make deeper investments in the local skate park, funding for youth programs, and park maintenance. Hyperlocal organizing also allowed them to support organizing connected to cannabis equity and school-based funding campaigns. This work was done in conjunction with running several survival initiatives, including weekly food distribution. In coalitions and across the state, BLM 860 also continued to be a force, showing up and supporting movements for a free Palestine, joining the Stop Solitary Coalition CT, pushing for justice for J’Allen Jones, fighting evictions, and advancing statewide legislation, such as a bill fighting against anti-Muslim hate.

Gary (IN)

BLM Youth Vanguard members display Malcolm X centennial banner.

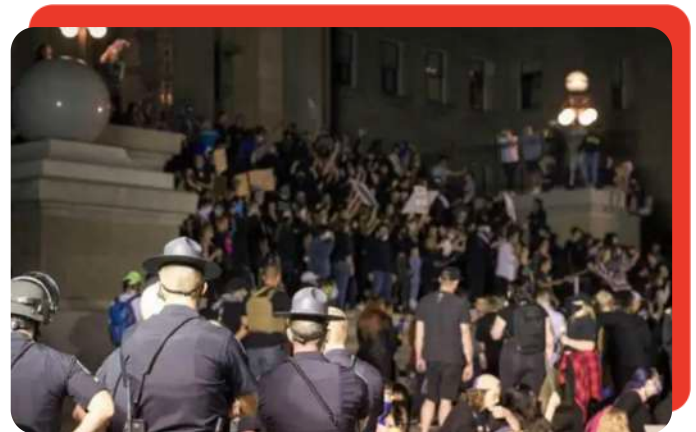
Houston (TX)

After helping lead the effort to successfully unseat former Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg in November 2024, Black Lives Matter Grassroots Houston has continued its work to hold the new District Attorney, Sean Teare, accountable to his promise of increasing transparency and accountability in cases involving police violence.

Black Lives Matter Grassroots Houston was founded by Tiffany Rachal, mother of #JalenRandle, who was fatally shot by Houston Police Officer Shane Privette. Despite what the family believes is overwhelming evidence, along with Privette's documented history of excessive force and prior misconduct allegations, the former District Attorney's Office pursued only a grand jury review. After the grand jury returned a "no bill," no additional criminal action was taken. The Rachal family's civil lawsuit continues to move forward as they seek justice and accountability.

In 2025, Tiffany met Sharon Jenkins, the mother of #ErskinJenkins, and welcomed her into Black Lives Matter Grassroots Houston's Justice Families initiative. Together, they have worked to support families impacted by police violence while helping establish an additional family-led chapter in The Woodlands, Texas, expanding the organization's mission of advocacy, healing, and community empowerment.

In addition to her advocacy, Tiffany Rachal is an internationally recognized Southern Soul recording artist and performer. She uses her platform and musical gifts to uplift Justice Families, raise awareness, and inspire hope, proving that music can be a powerful tool for healing, unity, and the ongoing fight for justice.



Idaho

Advocates and organizers held a briefing on the steps of the Supreme Court of Idaho to demand transparency regarding the new state policy that conceals police misconduct and termination records.

Idaho

BLM Idaho worked tirelessly in 2025 to push back against the rightward shift in local and state politics. First, as a formation, they were able to pass successful legislation - HB 696 - which provides critical new protections against sexual abuse in Idaho correctional facilities. Second, BLM Idaho acted as a moral compass in the Idaho legislature, standing against policies that sought to undermine health care access, conceal police misconduct records, and promote jail expansion. The power behind building this kind of state power is not only in moving through the halls of power, but also in gaining trust with voters. BLM Idaho will be planning to engage in both a voter and policy strategy in 2026 to continue to build power in Boise and across the state. This experience has established BLM Idaho as one of the central voices in the state for progressive politics, in spite of the onslaught of legislation that has sought to unmake the last 10 years of progress.

Kalamazoo/Battle Creek (MI)

In 2025, BLM Kalamazoo/Battle Creek (BLM Kzoo/BC) worked both internally and externally to continue building power. The chapter spent significant time building infrastructure as well as engaging in vital community work. Key highlights include rebuilding coalition relationships across race and difference, launching a podcast to amplify abolitionist perspectives, and engaging in political education through #BlackHistoryMatters. BLM Kzoo/BC also worked to push back on anti-Blackness and state violence, mobilizing to support two community members who were beaten and harassed by police. This has meant challenging both the citizens review board and the district attorney. BLM Kzoo/BC has continued to advance survival programs to meet the needs of community members, namely mutual aid efforts and court support for families navigating the carceral system.

Long Beach (CA) - BLM LBC

In 2025, one of BLM LBC's primary focuses was consistency - building a strong and consistent presence in the community. The chapter organized community members to show up regularly to Police Oversight Commission meetings to support the family of #BrandonBoyd, a Black father of six who was murdered by Long Beach police on the steps of his home church in 2024. Public comments were incorporated into the Commission's first annual report and used to advise LBPD. This reflects a shift from one-time mobilization to ongoing participation that shapes local accountability processes. BLM LBC also strengthened their organizing infrastructure. Monthly chapter meetings and the continued growth of the Black Neighborhood Tenant Council created spaces where residents moved from learning to action, including engaging in civic processes, organizing within their own communities, and building shared analysis around housing, vendor justice, and economic conditions. Another key win was expanding the chapter's reach through partnerships and community-based campaigns. Black Xmas activated Black-owned businesses across the city, and collaborations with partners like LiBRE, the Long Beach Community Land Trust, Black Men Build Los Angeles, and others deepened the impact of the work. Finally, BLM LBC also participated in Long Beach Gives for the first time, raising \$1,040 from 33 donors, marking an important step toward building a sustainable base of community investment in organizing.



Long Beach (CA) - BLM LBC
BLM LBC partnered with BLK Events LA and The Cray Project for a citywide walk highlighting Black-owned businesses.

Los Angeles (CA)

BLMLA started the year supporting Sal'Vyion, a Black middle-school student attacked by a white parent on campus, as well as coordinating with BLM Pasadena in response to the Eaton fire that devastated the historic Black community of Altadena. Other efforts included the annual People's Budget survey and assembly. The chapter stood front and center, protesting ICE raids. The chapter continued to organize alongside Students Deserve and UTLA to protect the Black Student Achievement Plan. Weekly protests and mobilizations include having a regular presence and making public comment at Police Commission meetings and serving as the host chapter for #EndPoliceAssociations rallies, which were initially held in front of the headquarters of the Los Angeles Police Protective League, then moved to the Hall of (In)Justice to target the terrible new District Attorney - Nathan Hochman.

BLMLA hosts the signature Black Women Are Divine event with the family of #BreonnaTaylor and featuring some of the most powerful justice-minded artists in the nation, anchored by Aloe Blacc. 2025 marked the launch of the chapter's monthly all-Black improv show, "Who All Gonna Be There?" The chapter led work to hold DA Nathan Hochman and LAPD Police Chief Jim McDonnell accountable and launched "Bye Campaigns" to oust them, and successfully brought the resignation of former FBI agent Erroll Southers from his seat on the Police Commission. They ended the year celebrating the passing of Wakiesha's Law as a part of BLM CA and shut down a site of white supremacist capitalism, the Beverly Center, on one of the busiest shopping days of the year for the annual Black Xmas action.



Los Angeles (CA)

Standing with the family of Wakiesha Wilson after the passing of Wakiesha's Law.

Memphis (TN)

BLM Memphis primarily focused their work on solidarity with Justice Families, specifically the families of #TyreNichols, who was beaten to death by Memphis police on surveillance video in 2023 and #JaylinMcKenzie, gunned down by Memphis police just weeks earlier. In addition to supporting justice families, BLM Memphis supported the launch of the "Say Their Name" memorial, a days-long collection of actions dedicated to the Black people whose lives were stolen by police and white supremacist violence. The inaugural event brought Justice Families from around the country to build community, share their stories, and engage in collective strategizing and movement building. Chapter organizers are also on the frontlines fighting the invasion of the City by federal forces, including ICE, DHS, the National Guard, and even IRS police.

Miami (FL)

In its founding year, BLM Miami launched the Black Dragons Initiative focused on establishing its foundational architecture rather than active street campaigns or formal legislative lobbying. The chapter dedicated its efforts to building doctrine, formalizing legal infrastructure, and publishing key documents like the BDI Manifesto and the Declaration of Self-Determination. Strategic frameworks were developed for core campaigns, including the FarmBlock Protocol for food sovereignty and research into climate gentrification dynamics in Liberty City, positioning the organization for active engagement in 2026.

Milwaukee (WI)

BLM Grassroots Milwaukee was built by the family of #AlvinCole, who was just 17-years-old when he was killed by Wauwatosa cop Joseph Mensah outside a shopping mall in 2020. The chapter primarily focused on internal development, survival programs, and court support as they pushed for the prosecution of killer cop Joseph Mensah. The trial connected to the theft of Alvin's life began in 2025, and BLM Milwaukee stood firm in their commitment to the family. In addition, the chapter engaged in deep relationship-building work, including a hosted dinner with Danny Glover, a strong Black Women are Divine event, and community beautification and survival projects like book bag drives for young people.

Minnesota

The impact of Black Lives Matter Minnesota in 2025 was more about sustaining pressure and shaping public dialogue than producing a single headline policy change. First, Black Lives Matter Minnesota helped keep racial justice issues highly visible after the murder of #GeorgeFloyd five years ago by organizing community events, public discussions, and advocacy efforts focused on accountability, policing, and long-term equity. This includes highlights like the logistical and coordinating support of the Target boycott, which is one of the most sustained and targeted Black-led boycotts since the Civil Rights Movement. Second, continued organizing contributed to ongoing political influence, as debates over policing, public safety, and systemic racism remained central in local elections and policy conversations. The work BLM MN engaged in around the Minnesota Migration Act best captures this. Finally, BLM MN activism helped maintain a strong grassroots network in Minnesota that could mobilize quickly around emerging issues showing that the movement's infrastructure and community engagement remained active and influential.



Minnesota

Monique Cullars Doty speaks at direct action at Target Headquarters.

New Orleans (LA) - BLM NOLA

Chartered in 2024, the New Orleans Chapter of BLM Grassroots has been able to build power to confront both local and national institutions connected to police violence. First, the family-led chapter (the family of #GlennFosterJr) was successful in making contact with NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, after a year of direct actions and coordinated events to raise awareness about the NFL player Glenn Foster Jr., who was killed in police custody in Pickens County, Alabama. The chapter held a rally outside the Superbowl, which took place in New Orleans, to challenge the League to “Say Glenn Foster, Jr.’s name!” In addition to shifting the public narrative about their loved one, BLM NOLA co-led voting and civic engagement efforts, food sovereignty efforts through community gardens and health equity programming, with a consistent presence in local politics, namely with the Lower 9th Ward Economic Board. BLM NOLA has also been particularly active with other Justice Families in the region, specifically in Jefferson County, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, and Ohio.

North Carolina

BLM North Carolina is among the newest chapters, onboarded in 2025. They first participated in BLM Grassroots programs nationally, supporting advocacy for Wakeishia’s Law. Locally, they have begun implementing some of BLM’s legacy programs, including Black Women Are Divine, Black Xmas, and the People’s Budget. Chapter co-founder “Brother Tig” Whitaker has used his podcast to highlight the work of Black Lives Matter Grassroots and participates has become a core participant in “Black Media Matters” initiatives.



New Orleans (LA) - BLM NOLA

Bringing awareness to Superbowl 2025 visitors from around the world about “What happened to NFL Saints player Glenn Foster, Jr.”

Pasadena (CA)

In January 2025, the Eaton fires ripped through the broader foothill area, tearing through neighborhoods in Pasadena and Altadena, one of the most significant Black homeownership strongholds in the nation. The devastating fires pushed the chapter into emergency response mode., BLM Pasadena refocused its attention to supporting mutual aid drives, providing on-the-ground resources, and participating in advocacy at every level of government to push for equitable investments that help to rebuild the Black homes lost in the fires. The chapter was among the first on the ground to address the specific needs of Black residents, including providing culturally-appropriate resources and care. A particular focus was placed on Black elders who have been core to movement work, including our own Baba Hank Jones. At least 27 Black families who were impacted by the fires are members of or are directly connected to Black Lives Matter Grassroots, including our own

chapter lead, Michael Williams - whose three-generational family was displaced by the fires for weeks. BLM Pasadena also continued to uplift the names of #KendrecMcDade and #CharlesTowns while still participating in and organizing legacy programs like Black Women Are Divine, Black XMas, and Ending Police Associations.

Phoenix Metro (AZ)

BLM Phoenix spent 2025 in a multifaceted struggle to affirm Black life from city hall to kitchen table. They dedicated themselves to a myriad of work areas, including but not limited to: direct support, policy advocacy, and community education programs. Some major wins include the start of a diversion program in the city of Tempe, Arizona, a host of “Know Your Rights” trainings, and a successful political education series called, “Coffee n’ Abolition.” BLM Phoenix brought together Black people from a variety of backgrounds across the region to continuously affirm Black life, both through their advocacy effort, public policy, and our various community programs that allowed Black families, in particular, to exist freely in a world that is otherwise hostile to their persons. The chapter also continued to support the family of #JacobHarris, killed by police in 2019, and advocate for the freedom of the children who remain caged after surviving the devastating murder of their friend by police.

Port Huron (MI)

In 2025, Black Lives Matter Port Huron advanced community advocacy, economic empowerment, and civic engagement across the Port Huron region. The chapter supported parent advocacy within Port Huron Area School District, engaged local and county leaders on issues like housing and public health equity, and worked with state legislators to protect funding for youth out-of-school-time programs. BLM Port Huron saw several meaningful wins through their advocacy and community engagement efforts. One of our most significant

successes came through education advocacy within the Port Huron Area School District, where consistent parent advocacy and community engagement contributed to reductions in suspension and detention rates, particularly for Black and Brown students who have historically been disproportionately impacted by disciplinary policies. The organization strengthened the community through initiatives such as the Juneteenth Black-owned business grants, the Taste of Soul Black History Month event, civic education forums, and mutual aid support for families in need. BLM Port Huron advanced economic empowerment through its Juneteenth Black-Owned Business Grant Initiative, investing directly in local entrepreneurs and increasing visibility for Black-owned businesses across the community. Additionally, by hosting civic forums, cultural events such as the Taste of



Port Huron (MI)
Guests attend the BLM Black History exhibit.

Soul Black History Month celebration, and engaging local and state leaders on issues like housing policy, public health equity, and youth program funding, the chapter helped amplify community voices and strengthen pathways for civic participation and community support.

Santa Clarita Valley (CA)

BLM SCV has spent the greater part of 2025 working on several initiatives, including Black Women Are Divine, family support, and raising awareness in the local K-12 schooling system. As was evident across the country, many local areas are under attack from major conservative groups like Moms for Liberty and others. BLM SCV has been instrumental in the pushback against the conservative agenda, mobilizing people to school board meetings, uplifting Sal'Vyion Torres and family—the Black middle school student, who experienced being violently attacked by a white parent who also hurled racial slurs at him on the campus of Ernest Lawrence Middle School—and, supporting Chazz Jackson and family. In addition, BLM SCV has been working on narrative shift activities, having successfully become co-runners of a podcast about issues in the area.

Saratoga (NY)

In 2025, Saratoga BLM met the needs of their community when the government failed to do so. They provided free food and support during the holidays as funding was slashed for low-income families. While uplifting their folks, Saratoga BLM remained committed to being in the streets to protest the inhumane policies of the local, state, and federal government. Saratoga BLM played a significant role in both protecting free speech rights and uplifting the power of local organizing in upstate New York. First, and most importantly, Saratoga BLM was successful in pushing the attorney general of the state of New

York to advance reforms that would protect their free speech rights. Through this action, Saratoga BLM demonstrated community power. Second, Saratoga BLM played a significant role in implementing survival programs, inclusive of free food giveaways, toy drives, mutual aid programs, and more. In the face of a government that does not care about the well-being of its people, Saratoga BLM showed that they are able to support and protect our communities without them.



Santa Clarita Valley (CA)
BLM standing in solidarity with immigrant communities at an Abolish I.C.E. protest.

Sweden

Black Lives Matter Grassroots Sweden worked to build new infrastructure across borders in 2025. The chapter worked to establish itself as a key space for Black people in Europe. Black Lives Matter Grassroots Sweden serves as the largest Black-led transformative justice organization in the nation and brings a global Pan-African lens to the organization. In addition to leading BLM Grassroots campaigns like Black Women Are Divine, BLM Sweden engages in international solidarity work with grassroots organizations in Oslo and across Sweden and Western Europe. In October, the chapter held a week of consistent programming that spanned the nation for Sweden's Black History Month. One of the chapter's key campaigns, which aligns with BLM Grassroots work on the U.S. child welfare system, involves serving Black children in Swedish schools with special needs. BLM Sweden facilitated a short action research project to determine the scope of the need, and aims to make this a core focus in the years to come.

Tampa (FL)

BLM Tampa serves as the anchor chapter for BLM Grassroots Florida, and helps to lead the work with BLM's justice families and the work to end qualified immunity. In 2025, BLM Grassroots Tampa contributed to statewide organizing across Florida by strengthening coordination between local chapters and aligning efforts around accountability and ending qualified immunity. They amplified survivor-family advocacy in multiple regions, participated in statewide strategy spaces, and supported mobilizations that elevated Florida-based demands for transparency and public safety change. This also included work at the federal level with Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley. BLM Tampa's collective work helped reinforce a stronger, more unified grassroots infrastructure across the state. In 2025, the chapter's impact was strengthening survivor-led advocacy and ensuring families were not isolated in their pursuit of justice. They expanded community engagement through court mobilizations, public testimony, political education, and healing justice spaces that connected immediate support with long-term movement building. BLM Tampa hosted press conferences to amplify the voices of families, they led workshops, and deepened relationships through keep programming like Black Women are Divine. The chapter's work deepened local and statewide organizing infrastructure, reinforcing Florida as a growing hub for sustained, abolition-centered grassroots leadership.



Tampa (FL)
*Deondrick Anderson press conference in
Bradenton, FL.*

Torrance (CA)

BLM Torrance continued to focus on supporting the family of #ChristopherDeAndreMitchell who was killed in 2018 by Torrance cops Anthony Chavez and Matthew Concannon. After years of struggle, community presence, political advocacy, protest, and confrontation, the killer cops were charged by “progressive prosecutor” George Gascon, after BLM chapters and organizers successfully unseated his predecessor, Jackie Lacey. This case was imperative, since police kill approximately 1,200 people a year and less than 5% of police are ever criminally charged. Court support continued through the pretrial hearings. DA Gascon was attacked by the political right and lost his seat in 2024. The new DA threatened to drop the charges against the killer cops. BLM Torrance’s efforts to hold the new DA Nathan Hochman are a chief priority, especially since Hochman fired the special prosecutor who initiated the case and will determine the fate of the case.

Twin Cities (MN)

BLM Twin Cities has been an anchor for Black organizing in Minnesota and throughout the midwest. Led by St. Paul school board member Chauntyll Allen, BLM Twin Cities has developed a strong reputation for grassroots organizing with a thorough inside-outside strategy. First, BLM Twin Cities was successful in stewarding a coalition called, “End Slavery in Minnesota Campaign,” which advanced HF 93 in the Minnesota legislature. In addition to this work, BLM Twin Cities maintained its work building local and regional power by advancing political education and workshop opportunities with a close partner organization ‘Love First,’ and chapter co-lead, Satara Strong Allen. In 2025, BLM Twin Cities worked with BLM Minnesota to create a BLM-focused agenda centered on reparations, police accountability and education (to name a few) and shared it with city officials. In 2025, BLM Twin Cities’ impact was teaching the community about the fact that slavery still exists through the carceral system and encouraging the Minnesota community to END SLAVERY. People continue to see the chapter leads on the frontline and are inspired by their dedication to liberation. Most recently, BLM Twin Cities has been front and center challenging the ICE invasion and has been targeted by the Trump regime for their powerful work.



Twin Cities (MN)

BLM Chapter Lead, Satara, and BLM MN Chapter Lead, Trahern Crews, with BLM youth at the 2025 conference in LA.

Will County (IL)

Initiated in 2025, the Will County IL Chapter of BLM Grassroots was active in a number of ways. The chapter advanced a strategic, abolition-informed organizing framework focused on prosecutorial oversight, public accountability, and systemic reform—building upon advocacy efforts initiated in 2020–2021 that led to a three-year state investigation into local law enforcement policies and practices. The chapter deepened its investment in civic engagement and economic justice by supporting local electoral participation, advancing reparative policy through “The Big Payback” campaign, and contributing to the development and expansion of guaranteed income models tied to cannabis tax reinvestment commitments. Additionally, the chapter strengthened community stability through structured political education programming, food sovereignty partnerships with Equity and Transformation.

Youth Vanguard

The Black Lives Matter Grassroots Youth Vanguard works to bring youth perspective, energy, audacity, and organizing prowess to the movement. In 2025 the Youth Vanguard continued to organize young people in schools, with a strong presence in Birmingham, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Phoenix, and Twin Cities, and grow beyond K-12 students, sowing seeds for BLM Grassroots College, with emerging branches at the Atlanta University Center (Clark, Morehouse, Morris Brown, Spelman), Howard University, Cal State Channel Islands, and San Francisco State. The Youth Vanguard also brings youth perspective to BLM Grassroots’ media work, hosting the “Youth Vanguard Takeover” of the weekly radio program “This Is Not a Drill!” once a month. The #HandsOffStudents effort was launched to organize for the protection of Black student organizers who are disproportionately targeted by campus administrations for discipline and criminalization. In the coming year, legislative efforts to protect campus free speech are planned.

SOLIDARITY/ COALITION BUILDING

In the name of #KeithPorterJr, at BLM Grassroots we know that we do not live single issue lives, so coalition building and fighting on all fronts is critical in liberating Black people here and all oppressed people globally. In Atlanta, Dekalb County, New Orleans, Santa Clarita Valley, Will County, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Twin Cities, and all across the country, BLM Grassroots was present, front, and center at No Kings Day rallies and other demonstrations against ICE. As #KeithPorterJr was killed by an off-duty ICE agent in December 2025, we know that ICE and the violence that the Trump regime is enacting on immigrants is deeply connected to his racist attacks against Black-led cities, his attacks against DEI and Black-led civil rights victories, and everything that doesn't present a white, sanitized version of American empire. We wholeheartedly reject these premises, and we know at BLM Grassroots that coalition-building is key as we continue to fight fascism both here and abroad. BLM Grassroots stands in solidarity with the peoples of Cuba, Venezuela, Iran, and Palestine as they have come under increased fire from the empire. We actively condemn war and militarized violence, and our actions here locally are a reflection of what Dr. Huey P. Newton said in his words, "Think globally. Act locally." BLM Grassroots chapters stood on frontlines all across the country in solidarity with various international causes, and some chapters went further to educate their members about the issues impacting our family members in the diaspora globally, like the Charleston chapter's teach-in on Cuban solidarity.

AREA 5 POLICY AND ADVOCACY

WAKIESHA'S LAW

In 2025, “Wakiesha’s Law” The Family Notification of Death in Custody or Life-Threatening Emergency Act (AB 1269) became California law. Wakiesha’s Law honors the life and memory of #WakieshaWilson, a 36-year-old Black mother, daughter, niece, and light in the world, who was killed in 2016 inside Los Angeles Metropolitan Detention Center. Her family was never notified and spent four excruciating days searching for her before learning of her death. In a years-long fight alongside Wakiesha’s family, Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles and the chapters comprising BLM CA organized a strategic grassroots campaign across the state to pass Wakiesha’s Law, which Assemblymember Isaac Bryan introduced in February 2025 and was passed unanimously and with urgency in October. The California law sets the stage for similar laws to be passed in states nationwide. The bill was first introduced to Congress in 2018 by former Representative and current Mayor of Los Angeles Karen Bass, but stalled. Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager reintroduced “Wakiesha’s Law” on the federal level in April 2025, which BLM Grassroots continues to endorse. Black Lives Matter Grassroots chapters are now working to introduce the bill in several states, thus forging the potential of passing 10 new laws. The passage of Wakiesha’s Law in California and the grassroots organizing across several states will continue to build the necessary momentum and pressure to force Congress to act and ultimately pass Wakiesha’s Law at the federal level.



FIGHTING FOR REPARATIONS

The fight for reparations has roots that date back to before the end of U.S. chattel slavery. Reparations is a massive debt owed to the descendants of enslaved people and requires systemic transformation for the benefit of all Black people. Black Lives Matter Grassroots chapters around the country are prioritizing reparations work, including chapters in Boise (ID), Los Angeles (CA), Richmond (VA), and Twin Cities (MN), Will County (IL), Miami (FL), Flint (MI), and Charleston (SC). BLM California participated in a Caravan for Reparations to the State Capitol on August 29th. They worked throughout the legislative cycle to improve, block, and pursue bills with a coalition of longtime California-based reparationists and were present as Senate Bills SB 437, SB 518 and SB 515 were voted on and ultimately derailed by the State Assembly. The BLMLA Reparations Committee worked throughout the year directly with L.A. Reparations Advisory Commissioners to help craft the recommendations for reparations related to harm caused through violent LAPD policing policies, housing and employment. This work helped to generate the report, *An Examination of the African American Experience in Los Angeles*.

ENDING QUALIFIED IMMUNITY ACT

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressly introduced the Ending Qualified Immunity Act in the spirit of #AndrewJosephIII - the beloved son of our Board member, Deanna Joseph and Rapid Response Coordinator, Andrew Joseph, Jr. Andrew III was just fourteen when he was killed as a result of police misconduct in Tampa, Florida. The sheriffs responsible for Andrew's death invoked qualified immunity at every level of the civil trial to shield themselves from accountability. Even after winning the largest jury award for a police killing in Florida state history, qualified immunity is being used to block its actualization. Qualified immunity is the unjust legal doctrine that shields police who kill and harm our people from accountability. In practice, qualified immunity is a barrier to civil court, which is oftentimes the only semblance of justice for families who are routinely denied accountability through criminal courts. Attorneys representing police weaponize qualified immunity to prevent families from ever getting a day in court. This happens before trial, at every step during court proceedings, as grounds for an appeal, and even after a jury has found the police liable, and when a jury is determining the award to be paid out to the family.

PEOPLE'S BUDGET

2025 was a major year for the People's Budget - a participatory budgeting project where BLM Grassroots surveys and engages community in hyperlocal ways of identifying how they want public dollars spent. Eight chapters (Atlanta, Boise, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Charleston, Flint, North Carolina, Birmingham) led People's Budget campaigns in their own ways. In Los Angeles, BLMLA members presented People's Budget results to the sitting mayor and deputy mayor in hopes of pushing for a police budgeting reallocation towards life-sustaining services. While Los Angeles saw deeper commitments to key health and alternative public safety programs, the police department continued to grow in spite of continued community pressure. However, because of the work of the People's Budget, the LAPD's budget remains one of the most scrutinized city-based departments, particularly in the wake of the devastating Eaton and Palisades fires. In places like Birmingham, Charleston, and Idaho, BLM Grassroots chapters worked to build dashboards for public use (Birmingham), host town halls, distribute surveys, and in many cases, present research directly to municipal governments.

PROTECTING FREE SPEECH

radicalism. In November 2024, House Bill 9495, also known as the Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act, passed in the House of Representatives but stalled in the Senate. Nonetheless, the fallout was earthshaking across organizing ecosystems in 2025. Attacks at the federal level spurred local and at the state level attacks on free speech across governments and systems - from education to housing and beyond. For example, Saratoga (NY) BLM had to push the attorney general to condemn local government for preventing BLM members for speaking at public meetings. In California, the fight against free speech went to the classroom, with attacks on ethnic studies curriculum (that humanizes Palestinians) and attacks on campus-based free speech that BLM California responded directly to in statewide coalitions of educators and students alike.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE WEEKEND

BLM Grassroots participated in the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Weekend in 2025. Throughout the four-day event, organizers served as panelists and attended dozens of educational panels and sessions, deepening collective knowledge on current policy campaigns and expanding grassroots organizing capacity at the national level. There was a roundtable discussion about reparations convened by Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, who took up HR 40. Discussants included our own Dr. Melina Abdullah and Baba Akili and longtime supporter, Dr. Julianne Malveaux. By providing essential materials to advance political education and build Black power, justice families and Youth Vanguard leaders engaged thousands of attendees in the exhibition hall. Additionally, organizers hand delivered informational packets to every member of the Congressional Black Caucus and aligned offices to deepen strategic relationships and advance the movement's top policy priorities.

AREA 6 SURVIVAL PROGRAMS

GRASSROOTS JUSTICE FAMILIES

BLM Grassroots continues the important work of the Justice Families circle, with Board member and mother of #AndrewJosephIII, Deanna Joseph as lead. Each month families of those killed by police and white-supremacist violence convene virtually to provide support, share updates, build skills, and serve as an organized force of directly-impacted families. Chapters in Atlanta, Houston, Memphis, Milwaukee, New Orleans, and Tampa are founded, led, or co-led by Justice Families. The work of Justice Families also means honoring stolen loved ones. BLM Grassroots helped to organize and support dozens of “angelversary” celebrations and “heavenly birthdays” around the country, in person, and through traditional media and online platforms.



COURT SUPPORT

One of the things that families whose loved ones were stolen by police and white-supremacist violence need most is comfort as they enter courtrooms that are cold and hostile to Black life. Less than 2% of police face prosecution when they kill someone and civil trials are rare. In 2025, BLM Grassroots continued court support for #AhmaudArbery (Brunswick, Georgia), #BrandonBoyd (Long Beach, California), #RogerFoston (Okaloosa County, Florida), #AlvinCole (Milwaukee, Wisconsin), #ChristopherDeAndreMitchell (Los Angeles, California), #FrankTyson (Canton, Ohio), and more. Team members join local chapters, Justice Families, and local organizers to accompany loved ones through each phase of the case—routinely offering meals, transportation, a shoulder, community organizing solidarity, and media coordination.

In addition to supporting Justice Families, supporting other BLM member chapters and key court cases is connected to our broader survival strategy. This includes supporting people like Chazz Johnson in Orange County (CA), BLM Buffalo co-founder Cariol Horne in her ongoing court case, those persecuted by state repression, like Dr. Tiffany Willoughby Herard in Orange County, and Black youth who are adultified, railroaded, and targeted by the system like Karmelo Anthony in Collin County, Texas, as well as Justice Families in civil suits.

MUTUAL AID

Black Lives Matter Grassroots chapters practice mutual aid as part of a robust and revolutionary organizing strategy. When federal attacks on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) delayed critical food assistance that millions rely upon for survival, local chapters intensified their efforts to mobilize and meet the urgent needs of our people. BLM Detroit doubled down on its food sovereignty work. The Los Angeles chapter moved their regular monthly mutual aid into overtime, expanding its community food distribution and providing free community access to other essential items like cleaning supplies, diapers, menstrual and hygiene products, and more. Black Lives Matter Grassroots Alabama collaborated with organizations, such as the Faith and Works Collective and Yellowhammer Fund, to host a Food Freedom Fund in December, supporting Black mamas and caregivers impacted by the federal SNAP benefits delay. Mutual aid practices, such as those addressing food insecurity in Black communities, exemplify how community-led efforts and mutual aid networks strengthen community resilience and build local systems of care, thus creating the infrastructure for food and community sovereignty.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Eaton Fire Recovery

Unprecedented firestorms devastated many parts of Los Angeles County in January 2025, including the Eaton fire that ravaged parts of Pasadena and the historic Black community of Altadena. The Eaton fire alone killed 19 people, destroyed nearly 10,000 homes and structures, and displaced more than 100,000 people. Black Lives Matter-Pasadena and Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles quickly mobilized to provide direct relief and assistance for immediate and long-term recovery efforts, distributing nearly \$50,000 in emergency cash, clothing, air purifiers, and other critical and culturally appropriate items (like Black haircare and skincare products) to affected Black communities, including our BLM members and movement elders, who lost or were displaced from their homes and businesses.

Hurricane Melissa Recovery in Jamaica

BLM Grassroots collected donations to send immediate relief supporting the recovery and rebuilding efforts in Accompong Town and Trelawny, Jamaica following the catastrophic devastation of Hurricane Melissa--the strongest hurricane on record to hit Jamaica. The work in Trelawny was spearheaded by the mother and sister of #DavidJosiahLawson, Charmaine and Chloe Lawson, who traveled to Charmaine's hometown to deliver emergency supplies, food, and financial support. In historic Acompong Town, aid and rebuilding was carried by former Black Lives Matter Grassroots and Boston chapter co-founder Rev. Karlene Griffiths Sekou, who remains active in the rebuild and protection of this sacred maroonage space.

AREA 7 ABOLITION

#FreeJayBurton

Jay Burton was just 16-years-old when he was targeted by what is now known to be a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Gang, the Lynwood Vikings. Burton was framed for murder and has served 36 years in prison, much of the time in solitary confinement. For decades he has committed himself to liberation work inside the walls as a jailhouse lawyer and advocate; he founded the BLM Prison Chapters in Lancaster, Corcoran, and Kern Valley California State Prisons. BLM Grassroots won policies that brought the release of several of Jay's comrades who were prosecuted as children, including Lancaster Prison Chapter co-founder Prince Akili. We continue to fight for Jay's freedom, providing books, resources, and advocating for his freedom.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY ACCOUNTABILITY

As we see a shift in prosecutions that are further criminalizing protest, increased prosecutions for minor crimes and a swing of the pendulum back to tough-on-crime penalties with enhancements, charging minors as adults, reinstating the death penalty, harsh sentencing, and a move from care based models, we are also seeing a shift away from prosecuting police and other state actors who kill and harm Black people. Black Lives Matter Grassroots continues to be at the forefront of this fight to protect the lives and liberty of Black people targeted by the state from police and the prison industrial complex.

Work is being done in Houston, Tampa, Los Angeles, Torrance, and Pasadena to hold prosecutors accountable for the decisions they make to prosecute or not prosecute people as a way to help hold police accountable and to prevent further trauma to those criminalized by the criminal-legal system. Los Angeles County chapters, including Long Beach, Los Angeles, Pasadena, and Torrance are working to hold DA Nathan Hochman accountable as he settles into his role as District Attorney. Together they started the campaign while he was still running, attending events to ask him important questions about police accountability and the criminalization of Black people. As he took millions of dollars from police associations, his allegiance was bought and made evident when he had a protester arrested and charged on the day he was sworn in. Upon taking office, Hochman brought back the death penalty and enhancements and began to roll back charges against the police who kill our people. BLM Tampa dealt with similar issues as they struggled to hold police accountable with a DA who was also not interested in justice for the families impacted by police violence. BLM Houston unseated the DA connected to the failure to effectively charge Houston cop Shane Privette for the murder of #JalenRandle.

HANDS OFF STUDENTS

College students across the country are under siege, their Constitutional right to free speech and protest attacked by campus administrations in cahoots with police and the fascist federal regime. Student protesters across the nation are experiencing targeting, harassment, repression, retaliation, criminalization, and violence for their activism. Angelmarie Taylor, a Black student at California State University Channel Islands, was disenrolled twice after being accused of “Time, Place, Manner” violations for her social justice work around labor, survivors, divestment, and Black student resources. A Black student at California State University Northridge was arrested on their campus for simply riding a skateboard. A member of the Youth Vanguard who was set to graduate from Columbia with a near-perfect record, had her degree suspended for two years for simply being present at a pro-Palestine teach-in at the school library. As hundreds of these cases occur, students and faculty are leading the “Hands Off Students” campaign to protect students’ right to free speech and protest. A bill is being developed in California to abolish “Time, Place, & Manner” restrictions, so our schools can become safe spaces for students to learn and become the changemakers our world needs. This is an intentional strategy to further the fight across the country to protect all students.

ABOLITION





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