

# **TAKEROOT JUSTICE**

2019 Overview Report

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# WELCOME

On behalf of our entire team, I'm thrilled to say that TakeRoot Justice is here!

This incredible group worked collaboratively to build an organization aligned with our values of justice and equity, standing on a foundation of 18 years of impact as a project of the Urban Justice Center. In this moment, our team is proud to carry forward our deep relationships forged in struggle and progress, our practice areas and our mission to strengthen the work of grassroots and community-based groups in New York City to dismantle racial, economic and social oppression.

We believe in a theory of change where short-term and individual successes help build the capacity and power of our partners, who in turn can have longer-term impact on policies, laws and systems that affect their communities. Change is happening, and it looks like community control over neighborhood development, progressive legislation for workers and tenants, alternative ownership structures like Community Land Trusts and worker cooperatives.

TakeRoot is part of this change. Grassroots organizations are working together with funders, movement lawyers, participatory researchers and advocates. Together, we resist and break down systems of marginalization in order to build systems grounded in equity. We center our work around racial justice, create an equitable city from the neighborhood level, strengthen our democracy from the bottom up, and fight at the intersections of justice and economic opportunity.

Thank you for your partnership – past, present and future. The fights we take on together are the fights we will win.



**IN SOLIDARITY,  
ELIZABETH CLAY ROY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Who  
We Are



# MISSION

TakeRoot Justice provides legal, participatory research and policy support to strengthen the work of grassroots and community-based groups in New York City to dismantle racial, economic and social oppression.

## OUR NAME

Our name reflects community organizing language associated with the earth, cultivation and growth, from “grassroots” and “ground game” to nurturing and growing leaders. “Take root!” is a rallying cry, a call for communities to draw deep from their values and histories, claim their power, and stand firmly planted with our support.

## OUR APPROACH

TakeRoot Justice employs a unique model of partnership with grassroots and community-based groups. Our partners take the lead in determining the priorities and goals for our work, and advance our understanding of justice. This upends the traditional power dynamics between communities and service providers. We believe in a theory of change where short-term and individual successes help build the capacity and power of our

partners, who in turn can have longer-term impact on policies, laws and systems that affect their communities. Our work has greater impact because it is done in connection with organizing, building power and leadership development.

## OUR STRUCTURE

Only true democracy will achieve the progressive change we need to end systemic oppression. We model our internal structure on an anti-oppressive framework and democratic principles in order to create an environment that mirrors the progressive change we pursue through our work.



# Our Areas of Work



# OVERVIEW

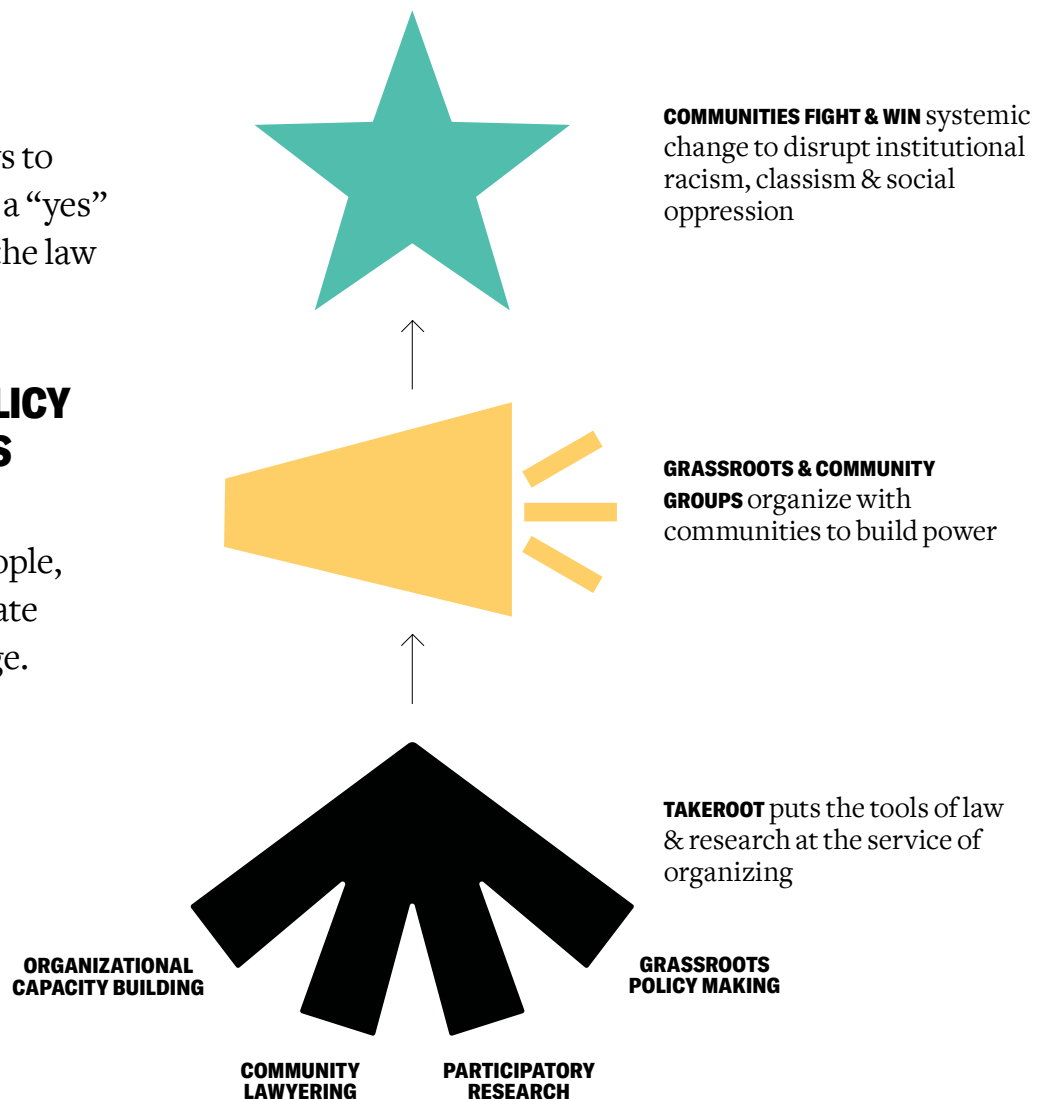
TakeRoot Justice uses legal services, participatory research, and policy support to help grassroots and community groups — who power social movements — achieve long-lasting systemic change that disrupts institutional racism, classism, and social oppression.

## COMMUNITY LAWYERING

We look for new ways to use the law to create a “yes” where traditionally the law said “no.”

## RESEARCH & POLICY FOR MOVEMENTS

We guide research processes for the people, by the people, to create policies & real change.



# CAPACITY BUILDING

**WE BELIEVE THAT THE SHARED CONTROL OF RESOURCES AND WEALTH IS A KEY COMPONENT TO A JUST SOCIETY.**

Our team helps create and foster cooperative and non-exploitative institutions where control of resources is shared. We focus particularly on Indigenous, Black and Brown communities, which historically have been exploited and marginalized.



## Our Services

**WE HELP WORKERS** to gain economic power through forming worker cooperatives.

**WE HELP NON-PROFITS AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS** to form, comply with regulations and develop structures to keep them sustainable long-term.

**WE HELP SMALL BUSINESSES** with negotiating commercial leases or landlord harassment.

**WE HELP CO-OP INCUBATORS AND WORKER-OWNERS** get trained about legal issues affecting their business, clients, and members.

**WE HELP PUBLIC POLICY CAMPAIGNS** to benefit small businesses and cooperatives by lending our technical expertise.





“You will find few advocacy organizations, much less legal technical assistance and service groups, that build active partnerships with and are willing to cede power to community-based organizations. Along with common values, TakeRoot brought a team of attorneys that could help seamlessly extend our capacity and reach into new areas of community engagement.”

**MARK WINSTON GRIFFITH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
BROOKLYN MOVEMENT CENTER**

# CONSUMER JUSTICE

**ALL NEW YORKERS HAVE A RIGHT TO FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT AND PROTECTION FROM PREDATORY FINANCIAL PRACTICES.**

We provide individual legal representation for low-income consumers and partner with community organizations to address systemic policies that destabilize communities, and limit both their growth and ability to hold onto resources.



**REPORT (2012)**

## Our Services

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION WORKSHOPS AND MATERIALS** that teach consumers how to protect and assert their rights.

**DIRECT LEGAL SERVICES** for consumers who are targets of unlawful or abusive debt collection practices. Topics include breach of lease, student loans, and identity theft.

**LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY ADVOCACY** with our partners to address employment agency fraud, injustice in the bail bond industry, and inadequate regulation of debt collectors and process servers in NYC.





# PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH & POLICY

**LOCAL GROUPS ARE THE EXPERTS ON WHAT THEIR COMMUNITIES NEED TO THRIVE.**

## **EXPLORE OUR RESEARCH FOR ORGANIZING INTERACTIVE TOOLKIT AND WEBSITE:**

tools, templates, facilitation guides and case studies for Participatory Action Research projects. The site has everything you need to design research, collect data, write a report and release it.

**[RESEARCHFORORGANIZING.ORG](https://RESEARCHFORORGANIZING.ORG)**

## Our Services

### **RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS TO**

**STRENGTHEN ORGANIZING:** We partner with groups to create participatory action research reports, from design to analysis to write-up.

### **TRAININGS FOR ORGANIZERS AND**

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS** to conduct, understand and use research, then share their skills with others.

### **STRATEGIC CAMPAIGN RESEARCH**

to develop factsheets with strategic data for organizing campaigns. Our partners use these materials for leadership development, base-building, and to educate public officials.

**ACTION & MEDIA:** Our reports help groups move their targets, advance legislative campaigns, garner press coverage, and more. We assist with media engagement and strategic report releases, which often launch our partners' campaigns.

We partner with organizing groups on research projects and policy analysis to document problems, formalize issues for policy-makers, and help move campaigns forward.

We use a participatory action research model where organizers and members participate in every stage of a project. Our community partners are centered as experts, trained in research techniques, and get the information they need to power their own organizing.



# EQUITABLE NEIGHBORHOODS

THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE AND WORK IN NEW YORK CITY MUST HAVE A VOICE IN THE FUTURE OF THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS.

We partner with residents and groups in historically under-resourced areas to fight for stable, affordable housing, community spaces, jobs to make a good living and other opportunities for people to thrive.



## Our Services

**REZONING:** promoting community-centric planning by fighting harmful rezoning, enforcing the City's zoning maps, and supporting communities' rezoning applications.

**COMMUNITY LAND TRUSTS (CLTS):** maintaining permanent affordability and community control of land.

**FORECLOSURE PREVENTION:** defending community institutions against foreclosure and eviction in tax-lien sales.

**COMMUNITY-BENEFITS AGREEMENTS (CBAs):** supporting negotiations for development that truly benefits local residents and small businesses.

**PRESERVING NYCHA'S PUBLIC HOUSING AND SPACES:** helping residents fight market-rate infill and privatization.

**LAND-USE LAW & POLICY:** educating the public and elected officials, providing technical and strategic assistance in campaigns to change policy.



“TakeRoot is at their best when they’re centering folks who don’t normally have access to legal assistance. [Their] actions make sure that the process of engaging with the legal system isn’t reproducing the same power structures we’re fighting to take down.”

**QUEENS NEIGHBORHOOD UNITED**



# HOUSING JUSTICE

**WE BELIEVE THAT ACCESS TO SAFE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS CRUCIAL TO AN EQUITABLE NEW YORK CITY.**

Our team works side-by-side with tenants as they fight against gentrification to demand better living conditions, affordable rents, and a voice in the policies that shape their neighborhoods. Our advocacy has resulted in millions of dollars' worth of repairs in low-income housing and has kept many New Yorkers in their homes.

## Our Services

### **FIGHTING BACK AGAINST HARASSMENT:**

helping low- and moderate-income tenants end illegal harassment & intimidation intended to drive them out in favor of higher-paying tenants.

**HOUSING REPAIRS:** representation of tenants in litigation to combat willful neglect and to correct poor and dangerous housing conditions (such as lead paint, lack of heat and hot water, inadequate security, faulty plumbing and unsafe elevators and staircases).

### **TENANT ORGANIZING & POLICY CHANGE:**

helping community groups and tenants come together in coalitions to advocate for policies that stop predatory and abusive landlords.



# IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS

**WE BELIEVE IN THE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND MIGRATION FOR ALL PEOPLE.**

The immigration system was designed to uphold white supremacy and has used the law to exclude, surveil and punish immigrants of color. Our team finds creative ways to use and change the law to build power in immigrant communities of color, support campaigns for legislative and policy changes and create spaces where immigrants can thrive.



## Our Services

### **POPULAR EDUCATION WORKSHOPS**

to provide essential and up-to-date information on changing immigration policies.

### **KNOW-YOUR-RIGHTS TRAININGS**

to empower individuals during ICE interactions.

### **RAPID RESPONSE AND SUPPORT**

for individuals targeted by ICE.

### **COMMUNITY-BASED LEGAL CLINICS**

to provide screenings and take on immigration cases.

### **IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY DEFENSE**

network development.

### **LEGISLATIVE & CAMPAIGN ADVOCACY**

(often in local/national coalitions) to:

- Promote language access.
- Combat immigration fraud.
- Challenge harsh immigration laws and enforcement practices.

# WORKERS' RIGHTS

**WHEN WORKERS STAND UP FOR THEIR RIGHTS IN THE WORKPLACE, THEY ARE TRANSFORMED AND EMPOWERED IN EVERY AREA OF THEIR LIVES.**

Our team mission is to ensure that labor and anti-discrimination laws are enforced and workers are able to lead lives of strength and dignity. We have helped secure more than \$22 million in judgments and settlements for our clients.

## Our Services

**LITIGATION** to recover stolen wages, combat violations such as unpaid minimum wages and overtime, tip theft, discrimination, sexual harassment and retaliation against workers who assert their rights under the labor laws

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION WORKSHOPS** on workers' rights.

**LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY ADVOCACY** campaign support.

**FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING** around New York City.





# COALITION COORDINATION

**WHEN WE FIGHT TOGETHER, WE WIN.**

We coordinate with community groups, resource allies, elected officials and other players across the city and state in powerful coalitions to amplify the voices of directly-impacted people, advocate for funding and resources, and make lasting institutional change.



TakeRoot plays a key role in coordinating several coalitions focused on housing and immigrant justice:

## **STABILIZING NYC (SNYC)**

18-group citywide network to combat tenant harassment by predatory equity landlords and preserve affordable housing

## **LEGAL ADVOCACY PARTNERS (LEAP) ANTI-HARASSMENT TENANT PROTECTION INITIATIVE**

13 legal services providers working to prevent eviction through full representation, brief legal assistance, community education, landlord-tenant mediation, and representation on group tenant actions and building-wide lawsuits

## **CITYWIDE IMMIGRANT LEGAL EMPOWERMENT COLLABORATIVE (CILEC)**

Consortium of 7 community-based organizations and 6 legal services organizations providing immigration and employment civil and legal services to low-income immigrants and New Americans in NYC

# Our Partnerships



## OUR COLLABORATIONS IN 2019

919 Prospect / 851 E. 163rd St. Tenant Associations	•
Action NYC	•
Adhikaar	• • • •
African Communities Together	• • • • •
Asian Americans for Equality (AAFE)	• • • •
Banana Kelly Community Improvement Association	• • • •
Black Alliance for Just Immigration	• • • •
Brooklyn Movement Center	• • • •
CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities	• • • •
Community Action for Safe Apartments/New Settlement	• • • •
Catholic Migration Services	• • • •
Center for Family Life	• • • •
Chhaya CDC	• • • •
La Colmena	• • • •
Carroll Gardens Association	• • • •
Cooper Park Residents Council (NYCHA)	• • • •
Cooper Square Committee	• • • •
Crown Heights Tenant Union	• • • •
Chinese Staff and Workers' Association (CSWA)	• • • •
Damayán Migrant Workers Association	• • • •
Domestic Workers United	• • • •
Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM)	• • • •
Faith in New York	• • • •
Fifth Avenue Committee	• • • •
Flanbwayan Haitian Literacy Project	• • • •
Flatbush Tenant Coalition	• • • •
Families United for Racial and Economic Equality (FUREE)	• • • •
Goddard Riverside SRO Law Project	• • • •
Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES)	• • • •
Green Worker Cooperatives	• • • •
Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees	• • • •
Harlem Solidarity Defense	• • • •
Housing Conservation Coordinators	• • • •
IMPACCT Brooklyn	• • • •
Justice Center en El Barrio	• • • •
LaGuardia Tenants Association (NYCHA)	• • • •
Lands End One Tenants Association	• • • •
Lenox Hill Neighborhood House	• • • •
Linden Plaza Tenant Association	• • • •
Make the Road NY	• • • •
Mary Mitchell Center	• • • •
Manhattan Together/South Bronx Churches	• • • •
Met Council on Housing	• • • •
MinKwon Center for Community Action	• • • •
Mirabal Sisters Cultural & Community Center	• • • •
Mission to End Modern Slavery	• • • •
Mothers on the Move/ Bronx Organizing Neighborhoods & Development (BOND)	• • • •
Movement for Justice in El Barrio	• • • •
National Domestic Workers Alliance	• • • •
Neighbors Helping Neighbors	• • • •
Neighbors Together	• • • •
New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE)	• • • •
Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition	• • • •
New York City Community Land Initiative (NYCCLI)	• • • •
PA'LANTE Harlem	• • • •
Pan-African Community Development Initiative	• • • •
Participatory Budgeting Project	• • • •
People Power Movement	• • • •
Project Hajra	• • • •
Queens Neighborhoods United	• • • •
Ridgewood Tenants Union	• • • •
Right to Counsel NYC Coalition	• • • •
Right to the City	• • • •
South Bronx Tenant Movement	• • • •
St. Nick's Alliance	• • • •
Sure We Can	• • • •
Sylvia Rivera Law Project	• • • •
Tenants & Neighbors	• • • •
Tenants United Fighting for the Lower East Side (TUFF-LES)	• • • •
University Settlement	• • • •
Urban Homesteading Assistance Board (UHAB)	• • • •
Voices of Community Activists & Leaders (VOCAL-NY)	• • • •
Woodside on the Move	• • • •
Workers Justice Project	• • • •
Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice	• • • •



“You help build the skills, capacity and leadership of membership groups, deepening and sharpening their toolbox to make change.”

**SUSANNA BLANKLEY, COORDINATOR  
RIGHT TO COUNSEL NYC COALITION**



# PARTNER. WIN. CHANGE.

How our work has bolstered  
organizing victories in NYC

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## FUNDING FOR WORKER CO-OPS (2014), RESULTANT LAUNCH OF INNOVATIVE CO-OPS (2018-2019)

New York becomes first US city to fund worker-owned cooperatives, invests \$1.2 million to grow the worker cooperative economy

**START OF CAMPAIGN:** 2013

**TAKEROOT'S ROLE:**

**2014:** joined Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative (WCBDI); helped create materials to educate WCBDI partners, elected officials and the public; testified before City Council on economic and empowering benefits of co-ops

**2018:** legal assistance for 2 co-ops to join the nation's first worker co-op franchise, Brightly, a high-quality commercial & residential cleaning enterprise

**2019:** creation and infrastructure development of the first openly trans migrant, women-led cooperative in New York City: Mirror Trans Beauty Coop

**TEAM:** Capacity Building

**PARTNERS:** WCBDI Coalition: Center for Family Life, Democracy at Work Institute, FPWA, The ICA Group, CAMBA, Green Worker Cooperatives, New York City Network of Worker Cooperatives (NYCNOWC), Community Economic Development Clinic (CUNY Law), The Working World, Worker's Justice Project, Urban Upbound, Bronx Cooperative Development Initiative and Business Outreach Center.

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## PASSAGE OF THE JUSTICE FOR JOB SEEKERS BILL (2016)

State law to curb widespread abuse and fraud by employment agencies against low-income workers

**START OF ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN:** 2014

**TAKEROOT'S ROLE:**

**2012:** partnered with New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE) to document experiences of new immigrants who were targets of predatory and deceptive practices by employment agencies and businesses providing immigration services; resulting report

recommended stricter regulation of employment industries

**2014:** joined in formation of Justice For Job Seekers (J4JS) coalition

**2015-2016:** legislative policy research, assisted in drafting of J4JS bill, lobbied elected officials and regulators

**2016:** collaborated with NICE on Know-Your-Rights trainings to educate community after the bill passed into law

**TEAMS:** Workers' Rights, Research & Policy, Consumer Justice

**PARTNERS:** NICE, J4JS coalition

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## NEW AVENUE OF IMMIGRATION RELIEF FOR TENANTS WHO ARE VICTIMS OF LANDLORD HARASSMENT (2016)

NYC Human Rights Commission (NYCHRC) issued first-ever U-visa certifications for immigrant tenants facing criminal harassment & threats by their landlords; U-visas give status to crime victims

**START OF CAMPAIGN:** 2015

**TAKEROOT'S ROLE:**

**2015:** collaborated with organizers at Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES) to fight against landlord harassment of tenants across multiple buildings, including threats referencing immigration status, stalking & extortion; approached several state & city agencies to obtain U-Visa certification; advocated with NYCHCR to create a U certification process worked with tenants to prepare certification requests to NYCHRC

**2016:** filed U-visa applications with federal government

**2017:** continue working with clients to ensure safe housing and opportunity for immigration relief

**TEAMS:** Housing, Immigrants' Rights

**PARTNER:** GOLES

---

## PASSAGE OF RIGHT TO COUNSEL LEGISLATION (2017)

Historic NYC law that provides right to an attorney to low-income tenants facing eviction

**START OF ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN:** 2014 – introduction of Right to Counsel bill Intro 214

**TAKEROOT'S ROLE:**

**2013:** co-released report with Community Action for Safe Apartments (CASA) documenting tenant experiences & challenges in housing court; made policy recommendation to increase resources for tenant legal representation

**2014:** joined our partners to form Right to Counsel NYC (RTCNYC) coalition, which lobbied successfully for passage of Intro 214 in 2017

**2018:** co-developed with RTCNYC a toolkit to share history, documents and strategies nationwide with other housing advocates pushing for similar laws in their own cities

**TEAMS:** Housing, Research & Policy

**PARTNERS:** CASA, RTCNYC coalition

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## PASSAGE OF STAND FOR TENANT SAFETY LEGISLATION (2017)

12 NYC laws that significantly expand protections for tenants against landlord harassment by increasing tenants' ability to take abusive landlords to court and establishing measures to curb dangerous and unsafe construction

**START OF ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN:** 2014

**TAKEROOT'S ROLE:**

**2015:** co-released report with Stand for Tenant Safety (STS) coalition revealing how aggressive construction in occupied buildings was used to displace rent-regulated tenants; the release marked launch of advocacy campaign

**2015-2017:** crafted language for each of the bills, met with lawmakers and city agencies to advocate for passage (Housing Justice team)

**2019:** publicized report card giving C's and D's to NYC departments of Buildings and Finance on how well they protected tenants in enacting the laws

**TEAMS:** Housing, Research & Policy

**PARTNERS:** members of the STS Coalition including CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities (CAAAV), Chhaya CDC, Cooper Square Committee, Fifth Avenue Committee/Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES), Housing Conservation Coordinators (HCC), Los Sures, Met Council on Housing, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation (NMIC), Northwest Bushwick Community Map, St. Nick's Alliance, Tenants & Neighbors, Urban Homesteading Assistance Board (UHAB), West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc.

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## LEGAL RECOGNITION & FUNDING OF COMMUNITY LAND TRUSTS (CLTs) IN NYC (2016, 2019)

City Council passed 2016 law enabling communities to control and develop public land to preserve affordable housing through CLTs; allocated funding in 2019 for communities organizing to form a CLT

**START OF ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN:** 2011

**TAKEROOT'S ROLE:**

**2016:** endorsed New York City Community Land Initiative (NYCCLI), a coalition of groups forming community land trusts

**2017:** collaborated with several partners to submit plans for CLT-formation in response to City pilot program; developed workshops as part of 1-year Learning Exchange among groups selected by the City

**2018-19:** helped NYCCLI and our partners organize CLT Initiative to





“TakeRoot listened to us, they respected the issue, they let us be the expert in the room on the issue. Because of their dedication and commitment to the partnership we were able to accomplish a lot.”

**DARNELL BENOIT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
FLANBWAYAN HAITIAN LITERACY PROJECT**

lobby City Council; won \$870,000 to support CLT organizing and technical assistance starting July 2020.

**2019:** ongoing legal representation & assistance to Bronx, Manhattan & Queens partners in forming CLTs

**TEAM:** Equitable Neighborhoods

**PARTNERS:** NYCCLI, Picture the Homeless, Chhaya CDC, CAAAV, Mothers on the Move, Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC), Nos Quedamos

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## **PASSAGE OF THE SECURING WAGES EARNED AGAINST THEFT (SWEAT) BILL (2019)**

Statewide legislation protecting workers' ability to recoup stolen wages from their employers

**START OF ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN:** 2013

**TAKEROOT'S ROLE:**

**2015:** collaborated with the SWEAT coalition to issue the report “Empty Judgments: The Wage Collection Crisis in New York,” which presents the case for why the SWEAT law is so necessary for

workers to achieve justice

**2016-2017:** active member of SWEAT coalition, preparing clients & partners to testify in support, lobbying lawmakers

**TEAMS:** Workers' Rights, Research & Policy

**PARTNERS:** National Mobilization Against Sweatshops (NMASS), SWEAT coalition members

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## **RENT LAW REFORMS (2019)**

Unified statewide tenant movement won passage of historic rent law reforms that closed landlord-friendly loopholes through which landlords removed apartments from rent stabilization and raised rents (based on “improvements” or revoking preferential rents), these loopholes caused a hemorrhage of rent-stabilized apartments over the past two decades

**START OF ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN:** 2015

**TAKEROOT'S ROLE:**

**2017:** joined No More MCIs coalition, began background research to develop policy recommendations of campaign,

eventually presented to NYS Homes & Community Renewal agency

**2018-19:** trained organizers & tenants, drafted comprehensive Major Capital Improvement (MCI) abolition bill, created materials used by community leaders and elected officials to counter the arguments of the real estate industry, lobbied legislators

**2019:** ongoing work to continue pushing for complete elimination of MCIs

**TEAMS:** Housing, Research & Policy

**PARTNERS:** No More MCIs Coalition members CASA, Catholic Migration Services (CMS), Woodside on the Move, NWBCCC, Chhaya CDC, Zara Tenants Coalition, CAAAV, GOLES

**HOUSING JUSTICE 4 ALL MEMBERS:** Met Council on Housing, Cooper Square Committee, Flatbush Tenant Coalition, Voices Of Community Activists & Leaders (VOCAL-NY), Equality for Flatbush, Picture the Homeless, Ridgewood Tenants Union, St. Nicks, UHAB, Make the Road New York (MRNY)

# OUR BOARD

**Nisha Agarwal**

*Senior Advisor to the Deputy  
Mayor, City of New York*

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Hunter College*

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writer, musician*

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*Executive Director,  
TakeRoot Justice*

**Irene Linares**

*Research & Policy  
Coordinator, TakeRoot  
Justice*





“The meetings we had with [state agencies] over the last few years were a model for how lawyers and community organizers and tenants can come together to do work that honors and respects the needs of community members.”

**PABLO ESTUPINAN - LEAD TENANT ORGANIZER  
CASA NEW SETTLEMENT**

## PAST & PRESENT FUNDERS

TakeRoot gratefully acknowledges our funders, without whom our work would not be possible. These include:

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Center for Court Innovation  
Equal Justice Works  
Ford Foundation  
Furman Academic Fellowship Program  
Immigrant Justice Corps  
M&T Bank  
Mertz Gilmore Foundation  
Neighborhoods First Fund  
New York Bar Foundation  
New York City Council  
New York Commons  
New York Community Trust  
New York Foundation  
New York State Assembly  
New York State Interest on Lawyer Account Fund  
New York State Office of Court Administration  
New York State Senate

New York Women's Foundation  
NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development  
NYC Department of Small Business Services  
NYC Department of Youth & Community Development  
NYC Human Resources Administration  
Oak Foundation  
Poverty Justice Solutions  
Robin Hood Foundation  
Rockefeller Foundation  
Sociological Initiatives Foundation  
Scherman Foundation  
Skadden Fellowship Foundation  
Solidago Foundation  
TD Charitable Foundation  
The Manhattan Borough President's Office  
The New York Bar Foundation  
Wachs Family Fund

## PRO BONO PARTNERS

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The Boies Law Firm PLLC  
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Covington & Burling LLP  
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New York Law School – Asylum Clinic  
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