

BUILDING INSTITUTIONS AND NETWORKS

# We Believe in Building Resilience

This video transcript captures conversations with leaders from four of the first organizations to receive BUILD grants:

Marcia Smith, President & Co-founder, Firelight  
Purity Kagwiria, Former Executive Director, Akili Dada  
Nancy Northrup, President & CEO, Center for Reproductive Rights  
Heather McGhee, Trustee Emeritus & Former President, Demos

The Ford Foundation's BUILD initiative provides grantees with multiyear flexible funding, enabling them to build more durable, resilient, and impactful organizations and networks.

## Transcript begins.

[Leaders from four BUILD grantee organizations sit for interviews.]

**MARCIA SMITH:** Ford is really onto something in offering general support, in offering infrastructure support, capacity-building support, and multiyear support. It's critical.

**PURITY KAGWIRIA:** I like to think of BUILD as just having the peace of mind to know that the work you do matters, and it matters that you do it well. So, for us, what has changed is BUILD is allowing us the space to actually think strategically on what scale looks like. Most donors will think of scale in terms of numbers. BUILD has allowed us to think of our scale in terms of ideas, and how we think about our work, how we think about ourselves, and just realizing that institutions are grown by individuals who are growing themselves.

**NANCY NORTHRUP:** In working on social change, of course, there's an impulse to put 100% in program, to just do program, program, program. The reality is that we are an institution of people, who have to communicate with each other, who have to plan together, who have to think about the objectives of what we want to achieve down the line. And then we have to have the systems and processes in place that enable us to do it, so that actually it makes our work easier to do, that our efforts can go farther.

**HEATHER MCGHEE:** Ultimately, we need partners who are with us for the long haul. And the reason why BUILD is so important is that it gives an organization a five-year runway to have flexible funding that we can use to respond to the needs as they evolve in our mission area.

**PURITY KAGWIRIA:** So BUILD gives us the security to focus on the areas that we think are relevant to us, in ways that are relevant to us in our context. And also the trust to just know we are doing the right thing.

[on-screen text: We believe in building resilience.  
We believe in reimagining philanthropy.  
[fordfoundation.org/build](https://fordfoundation.org/build)]

[on-screen graphic: Ford Foundation logo]

**End of transcript.**