



MISSISSIPPI

One Voice grew out of the work undertaken by the Mississippi State Conference NAACP in response to housing, education, civil rights, and other related policy advocacy needs facing historically disadvantaged communities in the wake of the 2005 hurricanes. That work revealed significant needs within the non-profit sector. One such need was access to current and relevant data required to do effective policy analysis. Another need was one of connections between trained and networked community leadership and non-partisan, community-based structures through which broad public involvement could be organized and sustained. One Voice, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was formed to address these needs.

In 2021, SEAP began working with One Voice and Mississippi NAACP to produce a Mississippi-focused [American Rescue Plan \(ARP\) Toolkit](#) to expand their advocacy in ensuring funds are appropriately and equitably spent.

From Kyra Roby, One Voice Senior Policy Analyst:

"The [ARP] toolkit got much traction among minority supervisors across the state and some NAACP branches. For example, members from the Natchez, [Mississippi] branch of the NAACP [developed] a paper on poverty and used our ARP information to advocate for more money for their community.

In addition, a Black superintendent in Jones County secured a fair share of funding for his community. At first, white supervisors offered him a very small portion of the funds. He is the Black supervisor on the board. [One Voice] provided him with our [ARP] report and other resources and helped NAACP and other community members attend the board meetings in support. We also assisted them with public comments. Those efforts helped change the allocation of funds within the county to be more equitable. We've had several calls from minority supervisors about that very same thing.

We could not have done the work without you.

We are honestly still getting calls about it. [Here's more explanation about what happened in Jones County.](#) It wasn't mentioned, but [ARP] toolkit was instrumental in getting the community and the minority supervisor to push for change. **Without it, he would have only received about \$100,000 but successfully secured \$1,000,000 for his community."**