

TRAINING · SESSION ONE

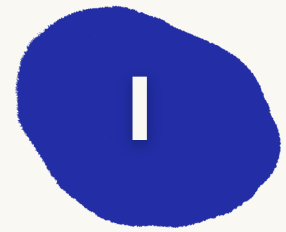
The Progressive Political Ecosystem

Understanding the landscape, and where you already fit within it.



THE ARC OF THE SERIES

Six sessions in all: three now on the ecosystem and your place in it, and three more after election day.



The Progressive Political Ecosystem

TODAY

See the whole landscape and notice where you already fit within it.



Career Pillars in Progressive Politics

UP NEXT

Get to know the five kinds of work, and which ones pull at you.



Political Networking & Job Searching

TO CLOSE AND PREPARE

Turn your organizing skills toward your own next role.

AFTER ELECTION DAY Three more sessions to gather manager feedback, shape your story, and build a job-search plan.

BY THE END OF TODAY, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO

01

Name the sectors

Name the major sectors of the progressive ecosystem, and feel familiar with what each one is.

02

Connect your work

See how your own work connects to the broader, longer-term infrastructure.

03

Follow the throughline

Understand the role of relational organizing, and that people move across the map.

04

Notice what pulls at you

Start to notice which sectors pique your interest, based on your own wants, goals, and values.

OUR TWO HOURS TOGETHER

0:00	WELCOME	Welcome & Framing Intros, the arc of the series, what you'll walk away with, and our norms.
0:15	PAIRS	Who Brought You Here? Share who first connected you to this work.
0:30	CONTENT	Ecosystem Map Walkthrough A visual tour of the sectors and how money, talent, and strategy move across them.
0:50	BREAKOUTS	Where Have You Touched the Map? Place yourself and name the sectors you've had contact with.
1:00	CONTENT	The Role of Relational Organizing How your organizing feeds long-term power, well beyond election day.
1:15	GUESTS	Guest Voices People who moved from organizing into other parts of the ecosystem.
1:45	TOGETHER	Reflection & Close Journal on what pulls at you, and a look at Session Two.



HOW WE TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER

We set these at the launch session. Let's revisit them for this group.

Cameras on when you can

We do our best connecting when we can see each other.

Notifications off

Give the room your attention, and protect everyone's focus.

Bring snacks & water

Two hours is a while. Take care of yourself as we go.

What else should we add so this is a space you can learn and grow in?

SOLO, THEN PAIRS • 15 MINUTES

Who Brought You Here?

Who or what first connected you to progressive politics, and which part of the ecosystem did you land in first?

IN THE ECOSYSTEM EXPLORER

First, on your own: open the Explorer (link in the chat) and answer the opening question, “**Where It Started.**” Then share with your partner.



HOW TO READ THE MAP

Three things move constantly across the whole ecosystem: **money, talent, and strategy**. As we walk the sectors, watch for two patterns.

SPINS UP FOR A RACE

Election-year infrastructure

Some parts of the ecosystem build fast for a cycle and dissolve after election day: candidate campaigns and the money vehicles around them.

RUNS YEAR-ROUND

Permanent infrastructure

Others operate cycle after cycle: parties, advocacy orgs, labor, media, think tanks, and the philanthropy that funds them. This is where lasting power lives.

FOURTEEN SECTORS, ONE ECOSYSTEM

Spins up for a race

Cycle-driven. Builds fast, then winds down.

Candidate Campaigns

PACs

Super PACs

Runs year-round

Permanent infrastructure: the power that outlasts any single race.

 Political Parties	 Democratic Committees	 Labor Unions
 501(c)(3) Nonprofits	 501(c)(4) Advocacy	 Issue Advocacy
 Consulting Firms	 Progressive Media	 Think Tanks
 Philanthropy	 Government	

Money, talent, and strategy flow across every one of them.

IN THE ECOSYSTEM EXPLORER

Follow along in “**Explore the Map**”: click any sector to see what it is and how people get in.

WHERE HAVE YOU TOUCHED THE MAP?

Groups of 3–4.

01 Place yourself Point to where you sit on the map right now: the sector your current role lives in.	02 Name your sectors Name the sectors you’ve had contact with, directly or through a mentor or supervisor.	03 Notice & debrief What surprised you? Which sectors still feel unfamiliar or like a blank spot?
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REPORTERS, BE READY TO SHARE

Which corner of the map did your group touch most, and which did none of you know well?

IN THE ECOSYSTEM EXPLORER

Mark each sector you’ve touched on the map, and watch your **Marked** count climb.



THE ROLE OF RELATIONAL ORGANIZING

You are **experts in relational organizing**. That skill isn't just how you win a race. It's how the whole ecosystem builds power.

IT CAN FEEL LIKE

“I have a job on a campaign.”

One narrow door. A role tied to a single cycle, a single candidate, a single election day.

YOU ACTUALLY ARE

An actor in a larger ecosystem.

Your relationships, turnout work, and base-building feed infrastructure that outlasts the race, and open doors across every sector on the map.

Putting it Together

- 1 What sector areas are piquing your interest?
- 2 What questions do you have about any part of the ecosystem?
- 3 What connections do you already have in any of the sectors?

IN THE ECOSYSTEM EXPLORER

“Where Do You Fit?” asks these same three questions. Write straight into it, then download a copy to keep.

EXTRA CREDIT, IF YOU WANT IT

You already used the Explorer's map and reflection today. Two optional modules are waiting whenever you want to go deeper, with points and a badge.

01

Election-Year or Permanent?

Sort all fourteen sectors into the two buckets, and test your read of the map.

02

Ecosystem IQ

Eight quick questions on how money, talent, and strategy move across sectors.

WHAT'S NEXT

See You Next Time

SESSION TWO

Career Pillars in Progressive Politics

2 HOURS • ZOOM

The five kinds of work (organizing, communications, data, fundraising, operations) and how they fit together on a live campaign.

Between now and then: keep exploring the map, and notice one sector you want to know better.

