The Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), which was a group of Mississippi branches of the four major civil rights organizations: Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) began organizing a movement in the summer of 1964. One thousand out-of-state volunteers came together with thousands of Black Mississippians that summer. The project included the creation of freedom schools, freedom housing, and even freedom libraries all in an effort to increase Black voting and education. In July, due to the increase in awareness of the civil rights movement and pressure from supporters across the nation President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

“As far as I am concerned, freedom summer never really ended.” – Victoria Gray Adams

Records:
✔ The Civil Rights Act of 1964, NAID 299891
✔ President Johnson’s Daily Diary 6/25/1964, NAID 192442
✔ Organizational, Research, & Campaign Records, NAID 1503898

Reading:
✔ Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement (Mariner Books), 1999
✔ Coming of Age in Mississippi (Delta), 2004
✔ Freedom Summer: the Savage Season of 1964 That Made Mississippi Burn & Made America a Democracy (Viking), 2010

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