Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
2022 Fall Grantmaking Cycle

Who is Tides?

Tides is a philanthropic partner and nonprofit accelerator dedicated to building a world of shared prosperity and social justice. Our mission is to accelerate the pace of social change, working with innovative partners to solve society’s toughest problems. We work at the nexus of funders, change makers, and policy, bringing together a larger and diverse coalition of mission-aligned actors to amplify our power to scale positive impact.

Tides aims to strengthen the power of groups who face systemic barriers to resources and opportunities – especially BIPOC leaders, their organizations, and communities. We are committed to building capacity and growing resources for those who face barriers to power in order to influence a more equitable social change sector.

What is the Frontline Justice Fund?

Launched in 2022, the Tides Foundation Frontline Justice Fund (FJF) provides grants to groups representing communities who are living with and fighting against toxic pollution, the fallout from climate disasters, and the looming threat of new and expanding oil pipelines, mines, deadly petrochemical plants, and other dangerous and destructive projects.

In concert with public mobilization, leveraging the power of the law with highly impacted community-based plaintiffs, is by far the most compelling pathway in advancing equitable environmental protections and safeguards.

By directing funding to under-resourced communities who are using legal advocacy to address environmental degradation and injustice, we can help to secure the rights of people and nature and create durable and impactful systemic change so that all can thrive.
What are the priorities for the 2022 Fall Grantmaking Cycle?

The Frontline Justice Fund would like to support organizations that have the following characteristics:

- Groups engaged in, or anticipate engaging in, protracted legal or regulatory actions to advance environmental and climate justice.
- Those who require rapid response or multi-year funding to cover non-legal costs with mounting and sustaining successful legal or regulatory advocacy campaigns. (i.e., organizing, communications, technical expertise, capacity building, etc.)
- Groups representing Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and/or low-income frontline communities most impacted by environmental harm, racism, and injustice.
- Resources will have a direct impact on the frontlines, in communities most impacted by environmental harms, with broader implications in the fight for environmental and climate justice.
- Grassroots and frontline organizations with climate/environmental program budgets under or close to $2 million.

What will the Frontline Justice Fund not fund?

- Work or organizations outside of the United States
- Projects inconsistent with a legitimate charitable purpose and applicable law, including any political campaign intervention or impermissible private benefit
- Projects inconsistent with Tides vision, mission, and approach, our organizational values, and FJF’s funding priorities
- Groups that currently have an open grant with FJF, are not eligible to apply for this round of grantmaking. We anticipate another RFP in early 2023.

What is the grant size and overall funding available?

- The Frontline Justice Fund will grant a total of up to $4M.
- We anticipate grants will fall in the range of $25k-$150k.
- At least 30% of the total number of grants will be two-year commitments, paid either in one installment or in two annual installments at the grantee’s discretion.

Will the Frontline Justice Fund provide general operating grants or programmatic grants?

FJF will provide general operating grants to organizations; however, the Fund will review and potentially support project specific initiatives.
What is the geographic focus for this grant cycle? And will FJF fund organizations in the U.S. territories?

FJF will invest in chronically underfunded regions, especially the Southeast, Gulf South/TX, and Appalachia/the Ohio River Valley. While groups across the country are encouraged to apply, at least 75% of funding in this round will be allocated to these regions.

And Yes, FJF will review and potentially support organizations that work in Puerto Rico.

How will FJF make grantmaking funding decisions?

The Independent Advisory Committee will make decisions based on the criteria and priorities outlined in the RFP. Our review process is aligned with trust-based philanthropic practices that ensure transparency and responsiveness. Funding decisions will be communicated to applicants by Wednesday, November 30, 2022.

How can I apply?

In an effort to streamline our grantmaking processes and make them less burdensome for grant seekers, proposals will be submitted through JustFund, an innovative grants platform that utilizes a common proposal model.

When is the proposal deadline?

Proposals are due by Tuesday, November 1st, 2022, at 5 pm (PT).

Will there be an informational webinar?

To learn more about how to apply, please join the JustFund staff on Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 1 PM (PT)/4 pm (ET) conducted a grantseeker introductory training. We do not have a recording of this session.

If I have any additional questions, who should I contact?

If you have any questions about the Frontline Justice Fund or the 2022 Fall RFP, please contact us at fji@tides.org. And if you need assistance with submitting your proposal, please contact info@justfund.us

To learn more about the Frontline Justice Fund, visit our website.