INTRODUCTION

The term bellwether is an apt one for the communities represented by grantee partners of the Tides Foundation Frontline Justice Fund (FJF). Because of their race, income, or location — and often all three — their neighborhoods and communities are the first to suffer the consequences of environmental degradation and climate change, while bearing the brunt of pollution from the very industries that threaten the planet. Their crises of health and habitat are the bellwether for the debilitating effects to come if the environmental justice movement isn’t resourced at scale to meet the moment. Local communities have the solutions, but they need our support to win. Through legislative, legal, and regulatory action, and community education and organizing, these organizations pursue safe spaces, clean air and water, a healthy place to call home and go to school, and an equitable future so all can thrive.

In this inaugural grantee report, we offer an overview of the Tides Frontline Justice Fund and highlight a number of grantee partner stories from diverse communities and cultures across the United States. Through their unique and authentic perspective on local challenges and solutions in the fight for environmental and climate justice, we see reflections of urgency, hope, and resilience. By lifting the voices of those directly impacted, their chronicles demonstrate the link of intersecting issues and the pathways for building local power through community action. We are proud to support these organizations and thank them for their courage, compassion, and conviction to protect, defend, and change the status quo.

GRANTMAKING

The Frontline Justice Fund launched in 2022 with $2.5 million in seed funding for three years and plans to scale to at least $5 million in grantmaking in the coming five years. A successful first round in the spring of 2022 provided one-year grants focused on supporting BIPOC-led organizations; the fall 2022 round maintained that priority and expanded its support to include multiyear funding. In spring of 2023, the FJF anticipates granting as much as $3 million through its Spring 2023 RFP process, with at least 30 percent of the organizations expected to receive multiyear funding.

The Frontline Justice Fund is a pooled grantmaking initiative that provides support at critical junctures. Our funding priorities are:

/ Groups engaged in, or anticipate engaging in, protracted legal or regulatory actions to advance environmental and climate justice.
/ Those who require rapid response or multiyear 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.
/ Communities where resources will have a direct impact on the frontlines. These are communities most impacted by environmental harms, with broader implications in the fight for environmental and climate justice.

East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice is a community-based organization that works to facilitate self-advocates in East Los Angeles, Southeast Los Angeles, and Long Beach.
In 2021, Memphis Community Against Pollution (MCAP) was born from Memphis Community Against the Pipeline. The organization Justin J. Pearson co-founded in 2020 was so successful that it had to change its name: It had defeated the planned crude oil pipeline that would have run under predominantly Black neighborhoods in south Memphis. But while the first iteration of MCAP won that battle, the fight was but one of many in an area that had been termed "the path of least resistance" for locating chemical-processing industries.

Pearson hadn’t expected to return to Memphis so quickly after going north for college, but when he learned about the pipeline, it brought up memories of early experiences of institutional racism: "This community, Boxtown, Westwood, southwest Memphis, the same place I went to school? I had to fight for us to get textbooks," he says. "When I was 15."

The community began to challenge the area’s many other pollutants, including a nearby commercial sterilizer facility that has been releasing ethylene oxide into the air for approximately 50 years. In 2021, the Allen Fossil Plant, which has been emitting chemicals in the area for nearly 60 years, went even further, and began traversing the neighborhood with coal-ash laden trucks destined for the South Memphis Shelby landfill where toxic waste threatens to contaminate the neighborhood’s water source.

Pearson cites the Frontline Justice Fund as enabling them “to access a level of resources that would cost way more than we would be able to afford. We’re a Black-led organization. Most of the dollars do not go to Black-led organizations to do this kind of work. It’s made a big difference in our fights with ethylene oxide, as well as in the fight that’s increasing by the day against the toxic coal ash.”

MCAP employs its own attorneys for local compliance but also works in conjunction with other environmental lawyers, as well as advocating in every forum. In the spring of 2023, MCAP affiliates, including South Memphis octogenarians, waited five hours to address a local Board of Commissioners, demanding that it force the sterilizer facility to cut emissions.

“Older folks in their 80s and stuff, they were marching here in Memphis in the ‘60s, but this is most people’s first interaction with people in positions of power about the preservation of their air, our water, and of our land,” Pearson says. “But we are in a good position to be able to empower people with information that gives them access to the places and positions of power and feeling they’re on the right side of this.”

WE’RE A BLACK-LED ORGANIZATION. MOST OF THE DOLLARS DO NOT GO TO BLACK-LED ORGANIZATIONS TO DO THIS KIND OF WORK. IT’S MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN OUR FIGHTS WITH ETHYLENE OXIDE, AS WELL AS IN THE FIGHT THAT’S INCREASING BY THE DAY AGAINST TOXIC COAL ASH.

— JUSTIN J. PEARSON, CO-FOUNDER, MEMPHIS COMMUNITY AGAINST POLLUTION
Since 2003, the Takshanuk Watershed Council (TWC) has been working in the Chilkat watershed area, a region about the size of Rhode Island but sparsely populated with approximately 2,500 people, about 50 percent of whom identify as having Alaska native heritage.

Until recently, TWC had resisted getting involved in legal battles, choosing to pursue its mission of supporting the health of the salmon habitat in other ways. But in 2016, Executive Director Derek Poinsette says a proposed mine, the Palmer Project, “rose to a level that in the 20 years of the organization’s existence, it hadn’t really faced a threat that big to so many different things: It threatens the fisheries; it threatens the economy; it threatens the persistence of the Indigenous cultures.”

TWC decided to join the Chilkat Indian Village (CIV), a sovereign tribal government, as named plaintiffs in fighting construction of a 1.5-mile deep mining tunnel and the storage of toxic mine waste near the headwaters of the Chilkat River. On their behalf, Earthjustice filed a stay of action to prevent the permit. The proposed site is located just eight miles upstream from the home village of the Jilkaat Kwaan (Chilkat people), thought by some to be the longest continuously inhabited human settlement in North America.

The State of Alaska does not acknowledge the sovereignty of the tribal governments in the state. But TWC, despite being “official” — it was formed by a cooperative agreement with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game — sees itself as following the lead of the tribal government. “We’re the ones that have a staff that goes and does significant research, so we work with the lawyers when they’re writing their briefs to provide technical information, especially this, since this [mining] permit is about water quality,” says Poinsette.

The watershed is vital to the existence of the community. Nearly 100 percent of households fill freezers and canning jars with subsistence-caught fish each year, and 15 percent of local cash income is from commercial fishing. But the local people have learned to fish in harmony with the environment, and that’s an important part of TWC’s philosophy: recognizing that the longtime residents have successfully cared for the watershed for thousands of years.

Yet, as Poinsette says, the financial resources of the tribal government are very limited. He notes that a recent appearance at a conference in Juno by tribal government representatives would have been impossible without support from the Frontline Justice Fund. “This looked like an opportunity where we could get a grant to help them and money to assist them just when they need it.”

Grantee Highlight
TAKSHANUK WATERSHED COUNCIL

NEARLY 100 PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS FILL FREEZERS AND CANNING JARS WITH SUBSISTENCE-CAUGHT FISH EACH YEAR, AND 15 PERCENT OF LOCAL CASH INCOME COMES FROM COMMERCIAL FISHING.

— DEREK POINSETTE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TAKSHANUK WATERSHED COUNCIL
For the people of Long Beach and East Los Angeles, living in a port area means living in a freight hub. “We carry all the goods for the rest of the country on our backs,” says Taylor Thomas, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice’s (EYCEJ) co-director. “This infrastructure doesn’t exist in wealthier, whiter communities. They don’t have freeways going through their communities. They don’t have big trailer trucks going through their communities.” Rather than breathing the fresh sea air, these communities suffer health impacts just because of where they live, she says.

EYCEJ was established in 2001 by concerned residents of the Long Beach and East Los Angeles areas. With expansion projects pending in their neighborhoods, the community members who kept seeing each other at public meetings banded together to fight for the health of their community, and East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice was born.

An affected child of Long Beach, Thomas joined the group about a decade after it was founded. Growing up in Long Beach had taken a toll on Thomas’s health. When she moved away for a few years, her problems diminished. But, as Thomas told the California Air Resources Board while commenting on behalf of EYCEJ, “Even if people could afford to move, the question is why should they? We have a right to a safe and healthy environment. We have a right to clean air.”

EYCEJ ensures that issues of environmental justice and air quality are at the forefront of policy development. They draft legislation, lobby and advocate, and participate in joint legal challenges with the support of larger environmental organizations. But there are also times when EYCEJ needs to challenge smaller local developers or polluters, and the larger organizations that provide pro bono services can’t take on those cases. The Frontline Justice Fund supports EYCEJ when they need to hire independent attorneys for the smaller battles that can have a huge impact.

And community enlightenment is at the core of East Yard’s mission: Thomas’s decade-long involvement with the organization is a direct result of such efforts. “It really changed my perspective on my environment, and what environmental work can and does look like for frontline communities,” she says. “I had no idea about the environmental impacts from all these industries until I went to a meeting at East Yard. So I think when people find that out, it’s sad, but we try to frame it as: But we can do something about it. We’re here. We’re together, we could make a change.”

**THIS INFRASTRUCTURE DOESN’T EXIST IN WEALTHIER, WHITER COMMUNITIES. THEY DON’T HAVE FREeways GOING THROUGH THEIR COMMUNITIES. THEY DON’T HAVE BIG TRAILER TRUCKS GOING THROUGH THEIR COMMUNITIES.**

— TAYLOR THOMAS, CO-DIRECTOR, EAST YARD COMMUNITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
Through many years of education, Treva Gear says that environmental racism was never part of the curriculum. “I cared about the community; I was an advocate for the environment. After all those years and a doctorate degree, nobody had ever addressed environmental racism. I’ve been educated along the way.”

Gear founded Concerned Citizens of Cook County (4C) in 2020. The residents of Adel, Georgia, knew that the Cook County Planning Commission had approved Spectrum Energy Georgia to build a wood pellet plant in Adel, a city that had long been zoned for heavy industry.

Biomass wood-pellet plants can release such pollutants as carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxide, and fine and coarse particulate matter into the air and water, and are most frequently cited in low-income communities of color.

Gear says that growing up in Adel, she took their situation for granted: “I realize our people — people of color — don’t necessarily know it because they’ve always lived by the factory down the road. They’ve always smelled that smell. So they didn’t know they had a right to anything different. So this is why these atrocities are able to continue and which is why we push so hard and fight to educate people. Clean air and water is a human right. It’s a civil right.”

In the early days of 2023, 4C got an unanticipated win: Spectrum bowed and signed an agreement providing for protections and accountability, far beyond, Gear says, what the Cook County residents could have gotten from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD).

Spectrum also agreed that 4C will be an enforcer of the agreement terms, and the company will pay $25,000 to a public health and safety fund for each violation of certain commitments. While Gear says they would prefer that the plant simply not exist, they negotiated the best agreement they could and then filed a Title VI complaint against Georgia’s EPD for refusing to consider the racial demographics and current environmental burden of Adel when authorizing the plant.

While the legal organizations that support 4C work pro bono, Cook County residents do a lot of the legwork. “The Tides funds will actually help us continue with the Title VI complaint and with the fights that have not been brought to their ultimate level,” Gear says, citing the propane tank refurbishing plants and water issues that still need to be addressed. “These funds will help us take care of those.”

I REALIZE OUR PEOPLE — PEOPLE OF COLOR — DON’T NECESSARILY KNOW IT BECAUSE THEY’VE ALWAYS LIVED BY THE FACTORY DOWN THE ROAD. SO THIS IS WHY THESE ATROCITIES ARE ABLE TO CONTINUE AND WHICH IS WHY WE PUSH SO HARD AND FIGHT TO EDUCATE PEOPLE. CLEAN AIR AND WATER IS A HUMAN RIGHT. IT’S A CIVIL RIGHT.

— TREVA GEAR, FOUNDER, CONCERNED CITIZENS OF COOK COUNTY
Katherine Egland, co-founder of the Education, Economics, Environmental, Climate and Health Organization (EEECHO) based in Gulfport, Mississippi, had always been on the frontline of change: as a student she desegregated schools in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. But the effects of Hurricane Katrina on her new community opened her eyes to the devastating effects of environmental racism. It was followed five years later by the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

“Five years after Katrina, I could walk out my front door, and within eight to 10 minutes, I’m looking at sludge in the gulf from the BP oil spill,” she says. The 20th anniversary of Katrina approaches, and Egland has been busy in the intervening years. With Ruth Story, a colleague at the Gulfport branch of the NAACP, she started EEECHO to fight for the health and environmental preservation of the Mississippi Gulf region.

EEECHO contacted the Frontline Justice Fund for support with two crucial cases to protect residential areas significant to African-American history, Turkey Creek and Forest Heights. Forest Heights was an early housing project of HUD and the National Council of Negro Women; Turkey Creek is a “Freedmen’s settlement” dating from the mid-19th century. These historical communities are located at important entry points to the Turkey Creek Watershed.

EEECHO is co-plaintiff in a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Transportation challenging a proposed road that will disturb the wetlands. And, with legal support from organizations like the Mississippi American Civil Liberties Union, EEECHO recently filed its third appeal to prevent a military staging operation that will dredge up a former fertilizer-plant site near these two historic neighborhoods. Locating the operation in that area is based on heavy-industry zoning that Egland says has been in place since the early days of formal segregation.

Egland is particularly incensed that EEECHO has to fight against what she calls “race and class baiting” by the industry actors. “They hired people to say, ‘We sure hope you’re not listening to that Sierra Club because they’re just a bunch of rich white people who don’t care anything about black people and jobs. They just care about birds and trees.’” It was so insulting, Egland recalls, because they were insinuating that she and the other members of the community did not have the intelligence to do their own research.

The tactics were not successful, Egland says: “We knew that we would have to address economic impacts. We knew that it was going to require environmental education. But people are very, very intelligent. And once they get an understanding, you really can’t stop them.”
Like many of the Frontline Justice Fund grantees, the Protect our Water, Heritage, Rights coalition (POWHR) began with concerned citizens coming together in community centers and church basements. “We’re talking about a lot of elderly people and working people in our very rural parts of Virginia, West Virginia,” Russell Chisholm, co-chair of POWHR, recalls.

POWHR formed in response to the 2014 announcement of the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP), a 300-mile fracked gas transmission line from West Virginia to Virginia currently under construction. POWHR is holding the MVP accountable to environmental regulations and educating the public about the potential harms. Along the way the community has learned about the permitting process of environmental agencies, which often involves public comment. But, Chisholm says, the agencies fall short in terms of actual empowerment: “So many times people’s objections are ignored or addressed in insufficient ways. No matter how much people show up for those hearings and say ‘no,’ the agency has a predetermined outcome that they are seeking.”

Experienced attorneys encouraged POWHR to help them build the case: Volunteers affiliated with POWHR provide documentation to legal teams by monitoring their surroundings since they are “living” the issues. As Chisholm says, he is “a directly impacted community member. I can’t come or go from my house to go grocery shopping without passing through MVP’s potential blast zone.” The FJF helps support these monitoring efforts. “It was important for them [the lawyers] to be able to put faces to names, to hear people’s stories, and to identify critical points along the pipeline route; streaming river crossings; endangered species habitats. It’s one thing to have volunteers who are willing to keep tabs on the construction. And it’s another thing to make sure they’re in the areas that are most helpful to the litigation effort.”

Currently, POWHR is reviewing a 438-page bio-opinion that is the direct result of groups like POWHR pushing back. POWHR is also monitoring two key cases brought in Virginia and West Virginia alleging MVP’s violation of the Clean Water Act. On April 3, 2023, the case in West Virginia ruled in favor of POWHR and other coalition members. Chisholm believes that companies accomplish these projects by deliberately passing through communities that may, on paper, look too demographically and politically disparate to work together. But in this instance they were wrong, says Chisholm, as he describes working with organizations further south. “We got everybody on a call last night and had a good discussion about potential options for resisting what might be coming on the legislative side to try to fast-track MVP to completion. It takes all of us to band together and stand up for each other.”
OUR GRANTEE PARTNERS

The grant recipients of the Frontline Justice Fund represent a breadth of environmental and climate justice advocacy and organizing efforts and were chosen for their depth of commitment to their communities. They are working across geographical and perceived borders and intersecting issues to achieve their vision — and our human right — for safe, healthy, and sustainable environments.

ALABAMA
GASP
Utilizing advocacy, collaboration, education, organizing, and the power of the law to fight for healthy air for all Alabamians.

ALASKA
Takshanuk Watershed Council (TWC)
Providing stewardship of the Chilkat, Chilkoot, and Ferbee River systems through restoration, education, research, and community involvement.

ARIZONA
Arizona Mining Reform Coalition
Comprised of Arizona groups that work to ensure that responsible mining contributes to healthy communities, a healthy environment, and is a net benefit to Arizona.

CALIFORNIA
Alianza Nacional de Campesinas
A national alliance of women farmworkers working to increase pesticide protections for agricultural workers.

Central Valley Air Quality Coalition (CVAQ)
Leading a partnership of more than 70 organizations in the fight for clean air for the San Joaquin Valley, one of the nation’s most polluted air basins.

East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
A community-based organization that works to facilitate self-advocates in East Los Angeles, Southeast Los Angeles, and Long Beach.

FLORIDA
The CLEO Institute
A women-led nonprofit, nonpartisan organization in Florida dedicated to climate education, advocacy, and engagement.

Farmworkers Association of Florida
Improving farmworkers’ health, working conditions, and access to quality healthcare; raising awareness of the harmful effects of toxic pesticides; and influencing policy related to health and safety protections for farmworkers.

WeCount!
An organization of agricultural workers, construction workers, and domestic workers in South Florida increasing protections for those forced to work outside in the extreme heat without any local, state, or federal heat standards.

GEORGIA
Concerned Citizens of Cook County
Giving a voice to those who have traditionally been excluded in decision-making, power-building, and advocating for social and environmental justice.

ILLINOIS
Black Oaks Center
Teaching communities to support their own essential needs by centering on resilient food systems with multiple small local suppliers, high biological diversity, high diversity of products, and sufficient redundancy while campaigning for the historic restoration of Pembroke Township, Illinois, a Black agricultural hub.

Little Village Environmental Justice Organization
Organizing alongside those most impacted by industrialization and climate change to accomplish environmental justice in Little Village, a historically Mexican-American enclave.

INDIANA
Just Transition Northwest Indiana
Working to ensure the clean closure of the NIPSCO Michigan City, Indiana, plant and to remove the toxic coal ash waste that is threatening Lake Michigan.

LOUISIANA
Louisiana Bucket Brigade
Using grassroots action to hold the petrochemical industry and government accountable for the true costs of pollution through their most active partnership, RISE St. James, in the 4th and 5th Districts of St. James Parish.

The Descendants Project
Formed by two sisters to support the Black descendant community in the Louisiana river parishes with the support of the Center for Constitutional Rights to fight against the establishment of a heavy industry grain terminal in Wallace, Louisiana.

MICHIGAN
The Detroit People’s Platform
Ensuring that economic expansion in Detroit centers the needs of Detroit’s majority-Black community by reducing the negative health and environmental impacts of industrial sites.

Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition
Working to achieve a clean, healthy, and safe environment for Michigan residents most affected by inadequate environmental protection policies.

MINNESOTA
East Phillips Neighborhood Institute
Striving to reclaim a local site for their urban farm project and prevent the establishment of a truck yard with the commensurate traffic and diesel pollution.

MISSISSIPPI
Education, Economics, Environmental, Climate, and Health Organization (EECHEO)
A Gulf-based network of diverse, consensus-driven policy advocates and professionals focused on education, economics, health, environmental justice, climate justice, and religion.

Montgomery Citizens United for Prosperity (MCUP)
Creating a collaborative community and economic development model based on climate resilience and sustainability principles and practices in North Montgomery County Mississippi.

Voices for a Sustainable Future
Developing a southern strategy to strengthen the organizing power of environmental justice groups by enlisting support from rank-and-file labor leaders and union organizations with a stake in a Just Transition for good, green jobs in Mississippi, and Gulf Coast states.

NEVADA
Native Community Action Council
Advocating for radiation awareness and risk mitigation, as well as an end to nuclear testing and the extraction of lithium from Shoshone homelands in Nevada.

NEW JERSEY
Ironbound Community Corporation
Leading the fight against the polluting factories, waterways, open sewage treatment plant, and emissions released by the thousands of trucks and airplanes traveling through and over the Ironbound neighborhood.
NEW MEXICO
Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment (MASE)
Protecting sacred native land from uranium mining, reducing the effects of the radioactive pollution and preserving the health of the local communities and of future generations.

NM LAWS Coalition/New Energy Economy
Advocating for fundamental rights to clean land, clean air, clean water, the protection of our sacred cultures, and a livable future.

Southwest Organizing Project
Protecting sacred lands, reclaiming water rights, defending against nuclear waste and proliferation while fighting for better air quality and against corporate water and tax grabs.

NEW YORK
El Puente de Williamsburg, Inc.
Engaging community members from youth to elected leaders to address the environmental crisis of toxic air quality in our community through citizen air monitoring studies and advocacy.

Hudson/Catskill Housing Coalition, Inc.
Mobilizing around the right for decent housing and preventing the displacement of longtime community members for development directed at wealthy newcomers.

New York City Environmental Justice Alliance
The NYC-EJIA is a 30-year-old organization that links grassroots organizations around specific common issues in their struggle for environmental justice.

People United for Sustainable Housing, Incorporated (PUSH)
PUSH mobilizes residents to create strong neighborhoods with quality, affordable housing while advancing racial, economic, and environmental justice in Buffalo, New York.

NORTH CAROLINA
Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
For nearly 40 years, winning major cases protecting the environment and communities across the country with a vision of a safe and contaminant-free world for all people.

North Carolina Climate Justice Collective
Working to end fracked gas infrastructure, coal-ash pollution, biogas from factory farms, and biomass from forest destruction in the communities first & worst affected by climate and environmental harms.

OHIO
Cleveland Owns
Supporting five cornerstone cooperatives working in clean energy, food access, and digital access, and collective purchasing.

Pennsylvania
Citizens Environmental Association of the Slippery Rock Area Inc.
Fighting against nuclear waste incinerator construction and the opening of the Tri-County Landfill while monitoring Superfund well sites for the protection of headwaters and watersheds.

PROMOTE PT
Promoting a more sustainable, communal future by connecting community members with new and innovative ways to use sustainable energy, reduce plastic dependence, connect with nature, and protect their health and safety.

Puerto Rico
Comité Diálogo Ambiental
Working to move the island away from its dependence on fossil fuels and protect the Jobos Bay watershed from the toxic emissions of coal-fired power plants.

Firmes Unidos y Resilientes con la Abogacía, Inc. (FURIA)
Assisting the community in amplifying their voices for advocacy and strengthening community resiliency in Puerto Rico.

SOUTH CAROLINA
Sustaining Way
Using education, collaboration, and advocacy to create sustainable, caring, and equitable communities for current and future generations while bringing equity and environmental justice to historically marginalized communities.

SOUTH DAKOTA
Black Hills Clean Water Alliance
Fighting for clean water in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming by preventing future intrusive mining and advocating for the clean-up of hundreds of old, abandoned uranium mines.

TENNESSEE
Black Millennials For Flint
Bringing organizations together to collectively address the crisis of lead exposure in African American and Latinx communities in Tennessee and throughout the nation.

Memphis Community Against Pollution
Centering disenfranchised communities for solutions to systemic and structurally prejudiced practices that have negatively impacted the quality of air, land, and water in Memphis.

TEXAS
Carrizo Comecrudo Nation of Texas
Bettering the welfare of the Carrizo/Comecrudo people and bringing a better understanding of our connectedness to the natural order.

Environment Texas Research & Policy Center
Fostering dialogue, education, and collaboration on environmental issues in the Houston/Gulf Coast region.

Public Citizen
Public Citizen’s Texas office works to protect the health and prosperity of communities and families while supporting a just energy transition that creates jobs, living wages, and a strong economy.

South Street Recovery
Helping communities to rebuild and to be more resilient, secure, and stronger after climate disasters.

VIRGINIA
Protect Our Water, Heritage, Rights (POWHR)
An interstate coalition representing individuals and groups from Virginia and West Virginia dedicated to protecting water, land, and communities from harms caused by the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure, including the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP).

Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards
Building environmental and socially conscious grassroots networks amongst coalfield counties and towns while addressing the current and legacy costs of extraction in the area.

The Clinch Coalition
Protecting and preserving the forest, wildlife, and watersheds of the National Forest and surrounding communities for present and future generations.

WISCONSIN
Coalition to SAVE the Menominee River
Protecting the Menominee River from the deleterious effects of a proposed sulfide mine as it supplies drinking water to towns in Wisconsin and Michigan and runs along sacred sites of the Menominee Indian Tribe.
ABOUT TIDES

Tides is a nonprofit and philanthropic organization dedicated to advancing social justice. We work across the social sector to shift power to leaders, communities of color, and other historically excluded groups who face systemic barriers. Applying our equity-centered lens and leveraging our vast network of changemakers, we work to strengthen the impact of our partners by offering services like fiscal sponsorship, donor advised funds, impact investing, and grantmaking.

ABOUT 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, 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. The Frontline Justice Fund made $4.255 million in grants in 2022 to 49 organizations in 27 states and Puerto Rico.