



TIDES 

Frontline Justice Fund

2022 REPORT



COMMUNITY POWER & CLIMATE JUSTICE

Thank you to our generous inaugural donors who supported us in launching the Frontline Justice Fund at Tides Foundation this year. Because of you, we initiated our first grantmaking cycle in spring 2022 and elevated the leadership and vision of 10 community-based organizations across the US and Puerto Rico with grants totaling \$625K.

Practicing participatory grantmaking principles, in January we welcomed a new Independent Advisory Committee comprised of frontline environmental justice leaders and funders who lead the development of the fund's strategy and make recommendations for grantmaking.

Throughout 2022 we continued to build a strong strategic and operational framework for growing support to frontline climate justice groups engaged in litigation or regulatory actions at the local, state, or regional level. And in October, we hired our first program officer, Kimberly Middleton, to manage our climate justice initiatives, including the Frontline Justice Fund.

Our second cycle of grantmaking in December will disburse \$3.63M to grassroots organizations across the US and Puerto Rico and will be our first commitment to multiyear support — 62% of the total number of grants will be two-year commitments.

What makes the Frontline Justice Fund (FJF) unique among climate justice pooled funds is a laser focus on supporting frontline groups who are actively engaged in or anticipate engaging in legal or regulatory actions on an environmental justice issue that is critical for the health and safety of the community. They may have excellent pro bono or paid legal representation, but that alone doesn't guarantee success. What they require is additional support and capacity to mount a holistic and successful campaign. That's where FJF comes in. We hope you'll join our continued efforts in 2023.

Cover photo: Community members with FJF grantee Comité Diálogo Ambiental, Inc., painting a mural in Las Mareas de Salinas.



Navajo Power's mission is to maximize the economic benefits of clean energy for tribal and impacted communities.

WHO WE ARE

The Frontline Justice Fund is a Tides Foundation pooled grantmaking initiative launched in 2022 focused directly on supporting frontline community groups who are fighting for environmental and climate justice through legal advocacy. FJF bolsters these groups by ensuring they have the resources they need to succeed and thrive beyond the courtroom.

Using a participatory grantmaking model and governed by an Independent Advisory Committee (IAC) of environmental justice leaders, FJF acknowledges the personal risk and financial toll of prolonged legal battles undertaken by community groups fighting entrenched perpetrators of the climate crisis. The Frontline Justice Fund is designed to protect, repair, and prepare communities to confront environmental and climate legal battles in the short and long term by providing access to rapid response or multiyear funding to cover non-legal costs associated with mounting and sustaining successful legal advocacy campaigns.



FJF grantee Coalition to SAVE the Menominee River envisions a world where our water, air, soils, wildlife, and people are protected from mining and pollution.

Frontline communities have been organizing across the line, both on the inside and on the outside, using a meta strategy that involves not only fighting the bad but building the new.

— Angela Mahecha, Director, Environmental Justice Movement Fellowship, FJF IAC Member

FUNDING PRIORITIES

Legal Action. Funding groups engaged in, or anticipate engaging in, protracted legal or regulatory actions to advance environmental and climate justice.

BIPOC Communities. Focusing on groups representing Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and/or represent low-income frontline communities most impacted by environmental harm, racism, and injustice.

FUNDING PRIORITIES, continued

Frontline Communities. Lifting up 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.

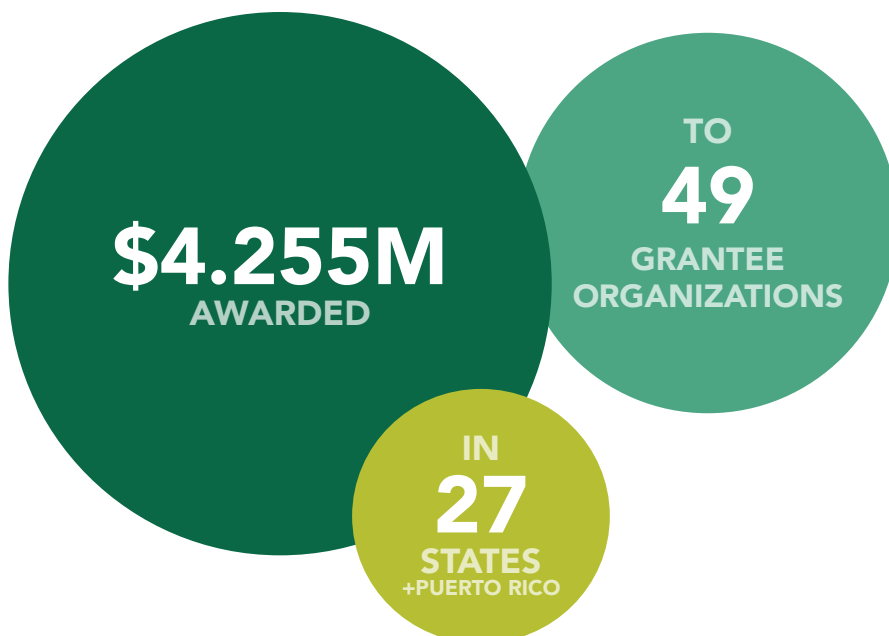
Non-legal Costs. Funding those who require rapid response or multiyear funding to cover non-legal costs with mounting and sustaining successful legal or regulatory advocacy campaigns (i.e., organizing, communications, technical expertise, capacity building, etc.).

Using these priorities as our guideposts, the fall 2022 grantmaking round included two additional criteria given the current legal, policy, and regulatory landscape:

/ Geographic focus: Prioritize funding in chronically underfunded regions, especially the Southeast, Gulf South/TX, and Appalachia/Ohio River Valley. Nearly 70% of funding will be allocated in these regions.

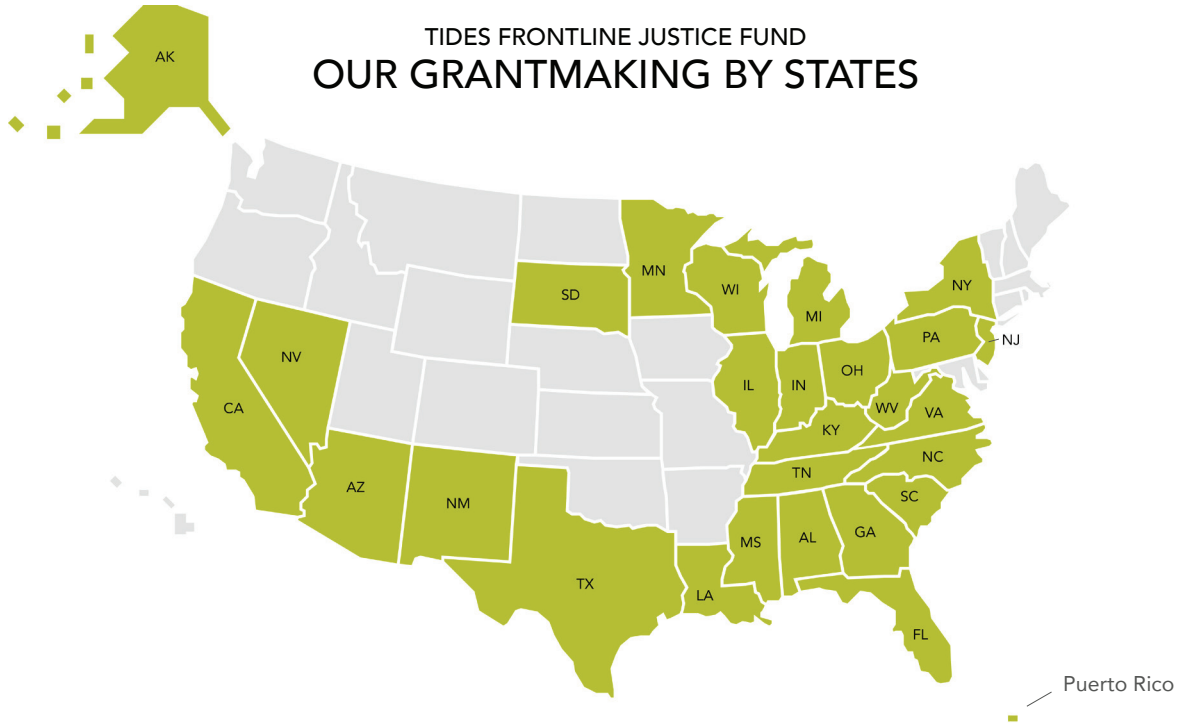
/ Issue focus: While FJF remains committed to funding across a broad range of environmental justice issues, this round prioritized support to groups that are engaged in (or anticipate engaging in) legal or regulatory actions designed to fight existing or proposed extractive industry infrastructure projects that threaten the health, safety, and well-being of frontline communities.

2022 GRANTMAKING BY THE NUMBERS



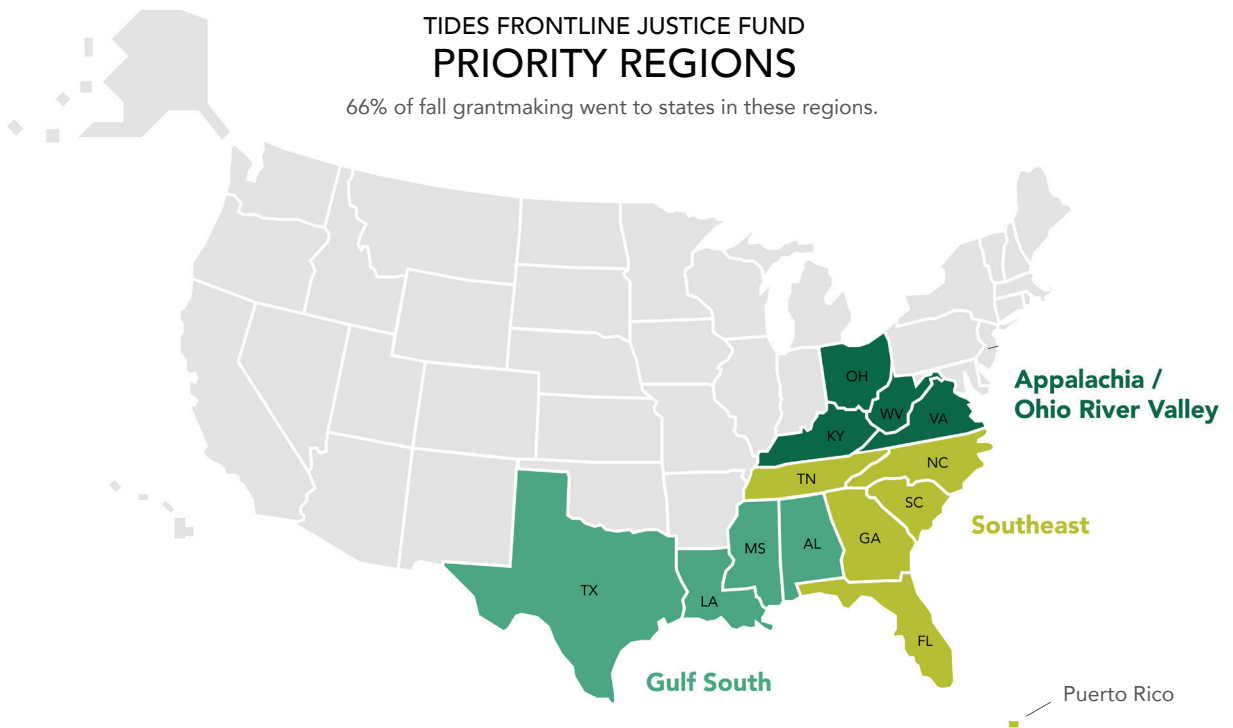
Frontline Justice Fund grantees use advocacy and litigation to protect their communities and their air, land, and water from big polluters.

TIDES FRONTLINE JUSTICE FUND
OUR GRANTMAKING BY STATES



TIDES FRONTLINE JUSTICE FUND
PRIORITY REGIONS

66% of fall grantmaking went to states in these regions.



OUR APPROACH

- / Flexible, unrestricted general operating and project support grants to contribute to the sustainability of frontline environmental and climate justice organizations.
- / Provide rapid-response grants to cover urgent legal battles and multiyear grants on a case-by-case basis to help groups thrive for the long term.
- / Funding decisions through a participatory grantmaking model designed to work directly in partnership with frontline groups, leaders, and activists.
- / Trust-based philanthropy practices that are accessible, transparent, and responsive. The FJF seeks to apply the [6 Practices of Trust-Based Grantmaking](#) to address the inherent power imbalances between funders and grant recipients.
- / Partner closely with national and regional environmental litigation groups to ensure that grantmaking is aligned with larger legal campaigns and strategies.
- / Draw upon Tides' 45 years of experience working hand-in-hand with movement leaders and grassroots environmental and social justice organizations.



FJF grantee **Comité Diálogo Ambiental** leverages deliberative and participatory dialogue for environmental protection and sustainable development.

FUND GOVERNANCE

MOVEMENT LEADERS

Angela Mahecha | Director, Environmental Justice Movement Fellowship at the Tishman Environment and Design Center

Douglas Cox | Chairman, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin

Jacqueline Patterson | Founder and Executive Director, Chisholm Legacy Project: A Resource Hub for Black Frontline Climate Justice Leadership

Maria Lopez-Nuñez | Deputy Director, Organizing and Advocacy, Ironbound Community Corporation

FUNDERS

Ash McNeely | Pacific Foundation Services

Peter Martin | Tides Foundation

By directing funding to under-resourced communities who are using legal advocacy to address environmental injustice, we can help to secure the rights of people and nature and create systemic change so that all can thrive.

ABOUT TIDES

Tides is a philanthropic partner and nonprofit accelerator dedicated to building a world of shared prosperity and social justice. Tides works at the nexus of funders and changemakers, developing innovative solutions that enhance philanthropic giving and grantmaking, impact investing, fiscal sponsorship, collaborative workspaces, and policy initiatives. Applying our equity-centered lens, we work closely with our partners to shift power to BIPOC leaders, their organizations, and those who face systemic barriers to power.



Elevate's vision for the future is one in which everyone has healthy, safe, affordable heat, power, and water in their homes, no matter who they are or where they live.

SPRING 2022 \$625K AWARDED

Inaugural Grantees

Florida

Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc.

Illinois

Little Village Environmental Justice Organization

Michigan

Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition

New Jersey

Ironbound Community Corporation

New Mexico

SouthWest Organizing Project

New York

New York City Environmental Justice Alliance

People United for Sustainable Housing, Inc.

El Puente

Puerto Rico

Comité Diálogo Ambiental, Inc.

El Puente

Wisconsin

Coalition to SAVE the Menominee River

FALL 2022 \$3.63M AWARDED

Alaska

Takshanuk Watershed Council

Alabama

GASP

Arizona

Arizona Mining Reform Coalition

California

Alianza Nacional de Campesinas, Inc.

Central Valley Air Quality Coalition

East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice

Florida

The CLEO Institute

WeCount!

Georgia

Concerned Citizens of Cook County

Illinois

Black Oaks Center

Indiana

Just Transition Northwest Indiana

Louisiana

Louisiana Bucket Brigade
The Descendants Project

Michigan

Detroit People's Platform/
Building Movement Project

Minnesota

East Phillips Neighborhood Institute

Mississippi

Education, Economics, Environmental, Climate
and Health Organization (EEEECHO)

Montgomery Citizens United for Prosperity
(MCUP)

Voices for Sustainability

New Mexico

Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment
NM LAWS Coalition/New Energy Economy

Nevada

Native Community Action Council

New York

Hudson/Catskill Housing Coalition

North Carolina

NC Climate Justice Collective

Ohio

Cleveland Owns

Pennsylvania

Citizens' Environmental Association of the
Slippery Rock Area

Promote PT Inc., DBA Protect PT

Puerto Rico

Firmes Unidos y Resilientes con la Abogacía, Inc.

South Carolina

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
Sustaining Way

South Dakota

Black Hills Clean Water Alliance

Tennessee

Black Millennials 4 Flint

Memphis Community Against Pollution

Texas

Carrizo Comecrudo Nation of Texas

Environment America Research and Policy
Center, DBA Environment Texas Research &
Policy Center

Public Citizen

West Street Recovery

Virginia

Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards

The Clinch Coalition

West Virginia

POWHR (Protect Our Water, Heritage, Rights)

The Frontline Justice Fund is profoundly grateful to our philanthropic partners who are responding to the urgency of the climate crisis and advancing equity and justice by resourcing frontline organizations entrenched in critical legal and regulatory battles. With your support, these frontline champions will win important victories for their communities that will serve as a wake-up call to our state, national, and international leaders.

We thank you.



FJF grantee South West Organizing Project's mission is to empower disenfranchised communities in the Southwest United States to realize racial and gender equality and social and economic justice.