



FRI Frontline Resource
Institute

Frontline Momentum

A Newsletter by FRI

Issue 1: July 2023

A Letter from FRI's Acting Director

On behalf of EDF, I am honored to welcome you as a valued member of the Frontline Resource Institute (FRI) network.

FRI was founded on a simple promise: to provide frontline groups with the funds, support, and resources needed to advance environmental and climate justice. FRI isn't just another resource hub. It's built by and for frontline communities like you, by people and organizations who know the challenges you face and the resources you need to get the work accomplished.

The launch of FRI has been a long time coming for me. It's an effort that's close to my heart and I'm excited to finally share this incredible resource with you. Over the coming months, I look forward to engaging with you and learning how we can make FRI better so it can continue to meet and serve your needs.

Through this newsletter, we aim to keep you up to date on happenings at FRI, share what FRI has to offer, and keep you informed of external funding opportunities. We also hope to inspire you by sharing success stories from frontline communities across the country. This is your newsletter, so if you have questions, concerns, or want to share a resource or success story, please reach out and tell us! We are here to serve you.

Dr. Margot Brown

Margot Brown



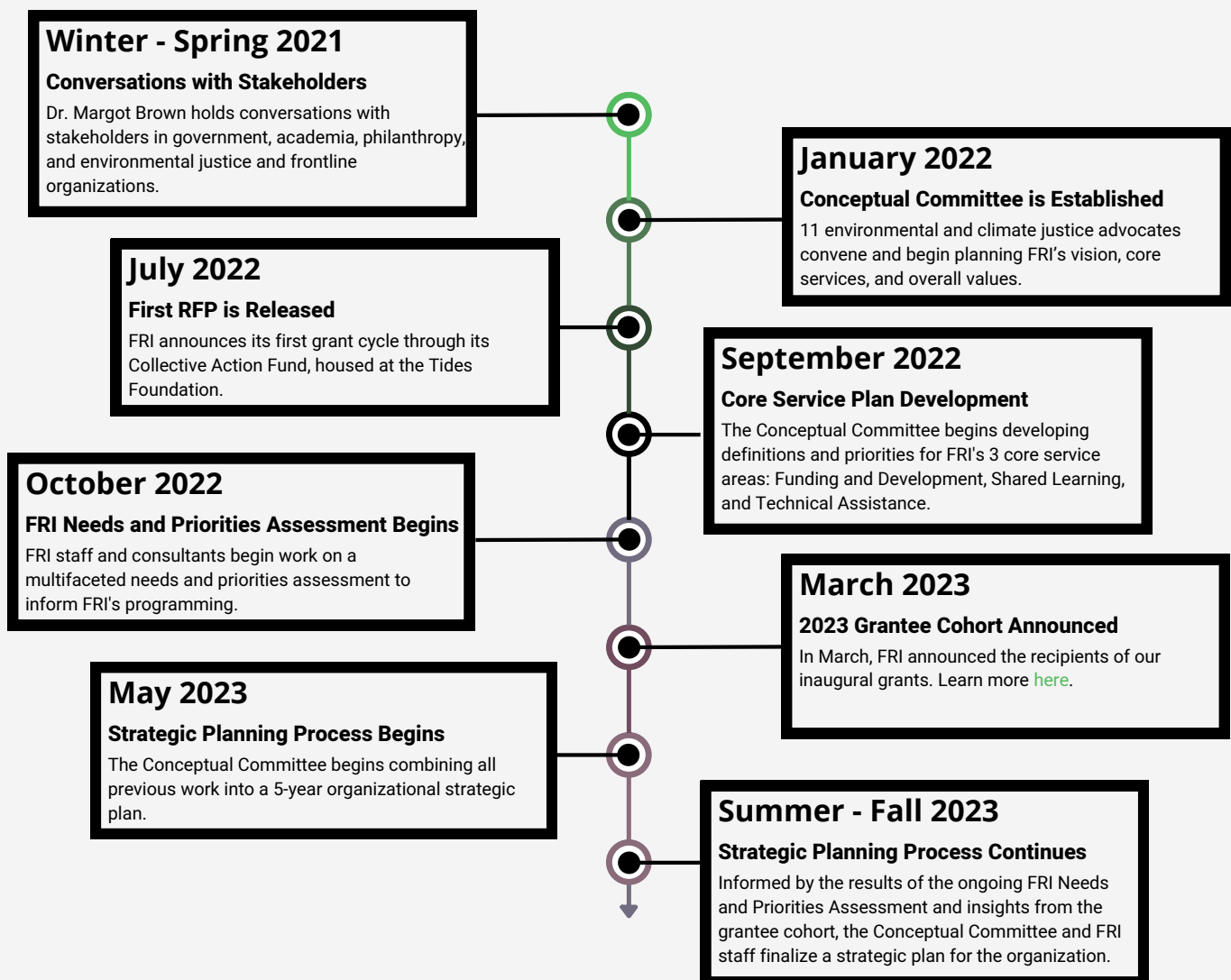
Read more of Margot's reflections on FRI and its founding in [this blog post](#).

What is FRI?

FRI is a strategic intermediary organization that supports frontline communities.

We do this through direct funding and by acting as a comprehensive resource hub that creates avenues for shared learning and community building as well as providing opportunities for technical assistance and organizational support.

FRI fosters movement building through a broad constellation of efforts toward systemic change across the geographic and organizational spectrum. We adapt and grow according to the dynamic landscape of environmental and climate justice needs of frontline communities.



What does FRI do?

Frontline groups need comprehensive support that meets each community's unique needs and priorities – and extends beyond an individual grant cycle. Despite a long history of successful organizing, many organizations working to address environmental injustices do not have sufficient resources and adequate funding opportunities.

FRI is part of a growing effort to address these gaps.

The Conceptual Committee

FRI's purpose, vision, and values are guided by its Conceptual Committee. The Conceptual Committee is a select group of 11 environmental and climate justice leaders, independent of FRI and EDF, who live in and serve frontline communities and Indigenous tribes and nations. You can find a full list and profiles of Conceptual Committee members [here](#).

Specifically, FRI...



FUNDS frontline groups to support organizational needs (e.g., strategic planning, staff salaries and benefits).



SHARES and develops resources – including technical tools, best practices, and scientific expertise – to create a system of support for frontline groups.



CONVENES a network of frontline groups to identify opportunities and challenges and share movement-building lessons and knowledge.



CONNECTS frontline groups to resource and assistance providers who can provide readily available and accessible tools, training, and expertise.



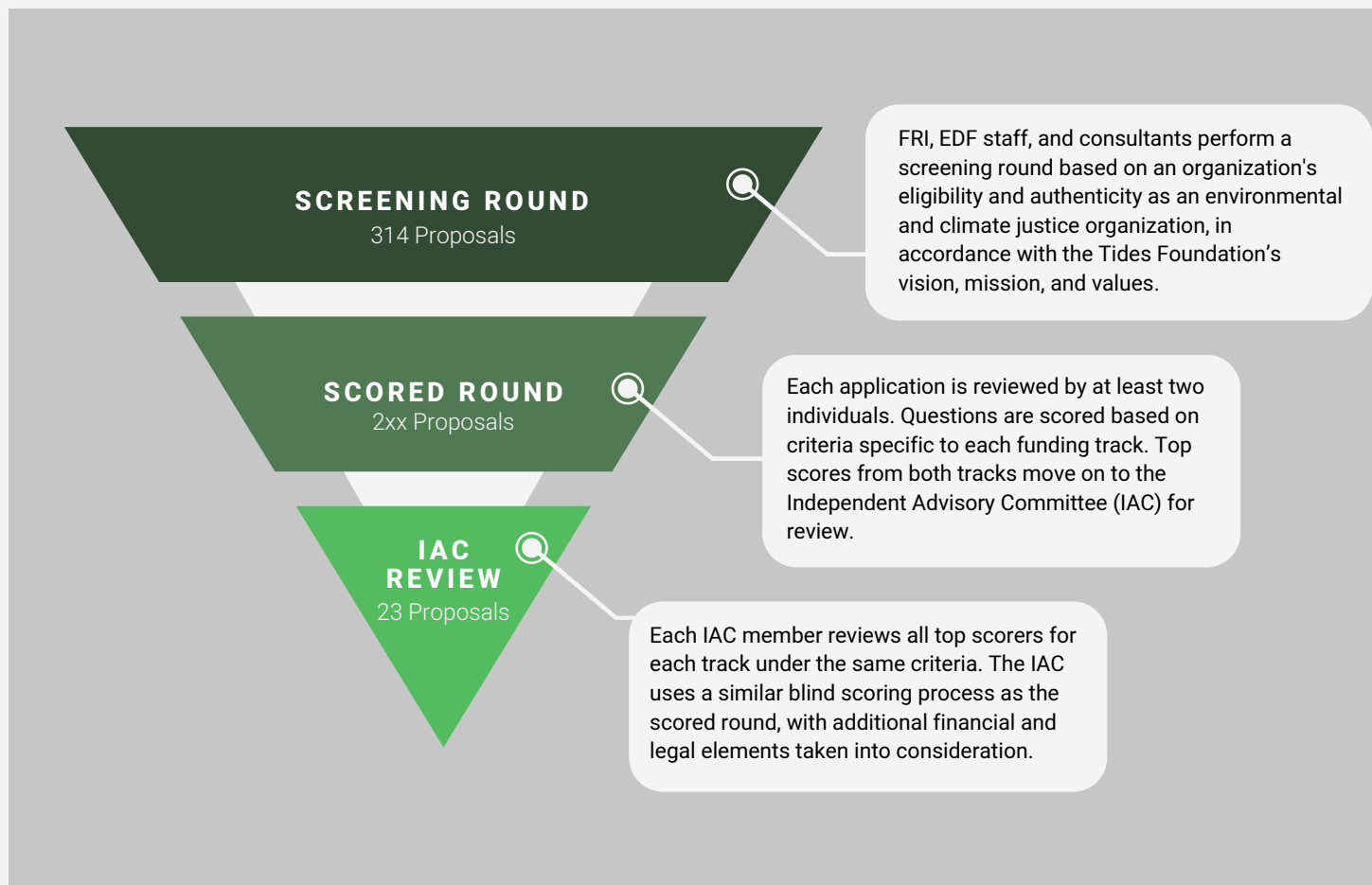
EVOLVES by examining gaps and needs of frontline groups from around the world to provide dynamic tools and resources that fit the needs of each group.

Introducing the Inaugural FRI Grantee Cohort

FRI places its highest funding priorities on addressing the needs of community-led, frontline environmental and climate justice organizations.

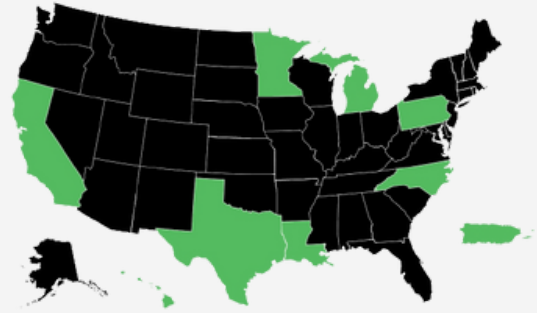
In 2022, FRI released two grant opportunities intended to bolster frontline groups in building organizational capacity, developing strategies, and promoting shared learning between grant recipients and the wider environmental and climate justice resource network. Funding was issued in two tracks: one focused on organizational strategy development and the second focused on flexible funding for organizational capacity. The intent of these tracks is to allow grantees to take a step back from day-to-day mission-based activities and create space to strategize, grow, and build a strong organizational foundation.

The Review Process



The Grantees

In March 2023, FRI announced its inaugural grantee cohort, including 13 frontline groups that represent nine states and U.S. territories and six EPA regions. Through our partnership with these organizations, FRI provides financial and technical support, a space for shared learning and networking, and tools for the grantees to build capacity and organizational strength. FRI also intends to convene its grantees to exchange and share knowledge and best practices, report progress, and provide feedback.



Track 1

LA MUJER OBRERA [↗](#)

COMMUNITY IN-POWER AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION [↗](#)

DREAM OF WILD HEALTH [↗](#)

ONE LOVE GLOBAL [↗](#)

Track 2

CALIFORNIANS FOR PESTICIDE REFORM [↗](#)

HACIENDO ACCIONES SOCIÓ-ECOLÓGICAS RESILIENTES (HASER) [↗](#)

HAWAI'I PEACE AND JUSTICE [↗](#)

KUMANO I KE ALA [↗](#)

PARTNERS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE [↗](#)

RIDGES TO RIFFLES INDIGENOUS CONSERVATION GROUP [↗](#)

RISE ST. JAMES [↗](#)

TOXIC PRISONS CAMPAIGN OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COALITION [↗](#)

CHESTER RESIDENTS CONCERNED FOR QUALITY LIVING* [↗](#)

* Approval of this grantee is pending final due diligence by Tides Foundation's internal grants compliance team

Resource Hub Spotlight

In this section, you will find some of the most crucial and timely resources from [FRI's resource hub](#) and our partners.

FRI's comprehensive resource hub is designed to consolidate movement-wide knowledge and create an accessible space for frontline groups across the world to create partnerships, link resources and best practices, and engage in shared learning to build an ecosystem of sustained collective action.

EPN's Suggested Application Processes for DOE and EPA Funding Opportunities

Our partners at the [Environmental Protection Network \(EPN\)](#) have put together suggested pre-application and application processes, respectively, for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas Program and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Great Lakes Community Environmental Justice Grant Programs.

EPN has been providing [pro-bono technical assistance](#) to environmental justice communities for the last two years. Their [550+ EPA alumni volunteers](#) and their [6 \(soon to be 10!\) Community Outreach Associates](#) help disadvantaged communities, community-serving NGOs, and under-resourced state/local/Tribal agencies:

- navigate and understand government programs, data, and processes;
- gain access to partners, allies, and decision makers; and
- apply for funding.

EPN works on community-identified issues including petrochemicals, air quality, safe drinking water, brownfields redevelopment, Superfund cleanups, climate resilience, and more. To date, over 120 of their volunteers have provided pro bono assistance on over 300 technical assistance requests, and have assisted over 100 organizations registering for and/or applying for [federal funding](#).

Grant Opportunities

Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas [DOE]

DEADLINE: July 13, 2023 for pre-applications

FOR: Funds community-driven clean energy solutions in rural or remote areas.

AMOUNT: \$500,000 - \$5,000,000

[Click here](#) to view Environmental Protection Network's suggested six-step application process!

[MORE INFO](#)

Supporting Communities to Reduce Lead Poisoning [CDC]

DEADLINE: July 31, 2023

FOR: Supports 10 community-based organizations working to mitigate risks of lead exposure through: 1) prevention education and 2) community engagement.

AMOUNT: Up to \$200,000

[MORE INFO](#)

Great Lakes Community Environmental Justice Grant Programs [EPA]

DEADLINE: August 11, 2023

FOR: Funds 1) projects in a particular region of the Great Lakes Basin and 2) projects across the entire Great Lakes Basin.

AMOUNT: \$10,000,000 - \$20,000,000 (Basin-wide applicants); \$2,000,000 - \$10,000,000 (Regional applicants)

[Click here](#) to view Environmental Protection Network's suggested six-step application process!

[MORE INFO](#)