

FRI

**Frontline Resource
Institute**

2023 IMPACT REPORT

Supporting frontline leaders advancing
environmental and climate justice





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A LETTER FROM FRI'S ACTING DIRECTOR

Dr. Margot Brown

Building something new and innovative is not an easy task.

It takes time, hard work, and lots of patience. In July of 2022 when we launched the Frontline Resource Institute, I was filled with a tremendous sense of hope of what could be, and anticipation to realize our vision – supporting frontline leaders trying to advance environmental and climate justice.

Today, I am filled with abundant joy and pride. FRI has supported the needs of frontline organizations throughout 2023, facilitating increased access to funding for frontline organizations in a multitude of ways. In 2023, we distributed over a million dollars to our first cohort of grantees - community-based organizations engaged in transformational work for the frontline communities they serve. My joy extends beyond the act of regranteeing funds. While this kind of funding is critical, we know frontline organizations require support in many different forms. Because of this, we also offered technical assistance on grant writing, created spaces for shared learning, and helped to cultivate future leaders. The report that follows this letter expands on the ways we're building these support networks and how we'll build on them in 2024 and beyond. We take pride in knowing our strong partnerships, global and local, have helped to unlock millions of dollars in funding through grant writing training and uplifting a global climate youth movement.

2023 had many successes, but it was also a year of immense learning and growth for FRI. Throughout it all, we held one consistent belief: the people closest to the solution are closest to the problem. FRI's **Conceptual Committee**, made up of 11 frontline leaders from across the U.S. and abroad, brought an incredible amount of insight and creative thinking to the design of FRI and our emerging strategy. I could not be more enthusiastic, nor humbled to work with this tremendous group of thought leaders. I am confident that FRI will be a more durable and responsive organization because of the Conceptual Committee's dedication and work.

I want to thank everyone who has been part of this journey – the conceptual committee, donors, our contractors, the FRI team, our grantees, and the folks who have become members of our growing network. I am profoundly grateful for your support in shaping and making FRI a trusted partner for frontline communities. Our work is not finished- it's just beginning. In 2024, we will operationalize our new formula for accelerating progress, **data + storytelling + resources = movement building**. I am certain the best is yet to come!

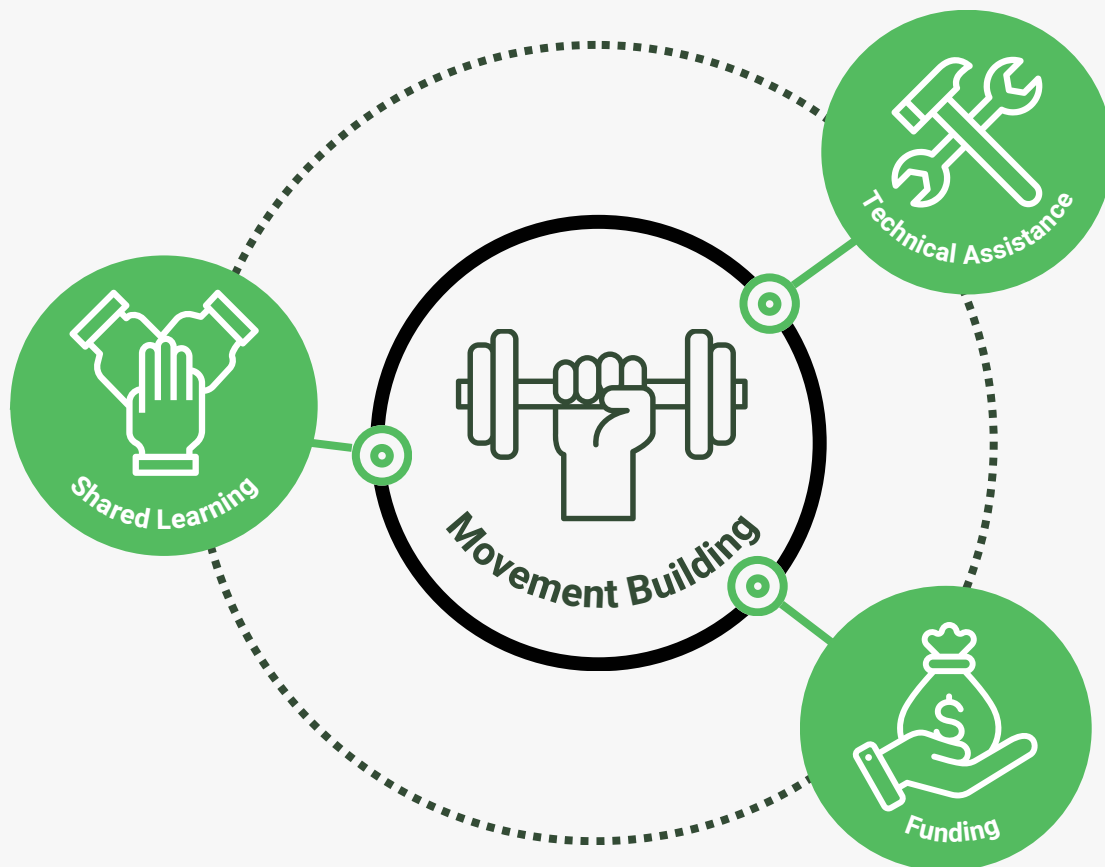
Dr. Margot Brown



WHY THE FRONTLINE RESOURCE INSTITUTE?

Frontline communities – those who experience the first and worst impacts of climate change – and the organizations that represent them have long fought for equal environmental protection and equitable solutions. The Frontline Resource Institute (FRI, pronounced “free”) was founded in 2021 to support their efforts, funneling resources to the frontlines through funding, technical assistance, and knowledge transfer for movement-wide capacity building. Guided by our Conceptual Committee of frontline leaders, we have made important strides to support a just, equitable, and community-centered environmental movement, and we are only getting started.

Our Priority Areas



Our core services - **shared learning, technical assistance, funding, and movement building** - make up our approach to movement-wide capacity building.

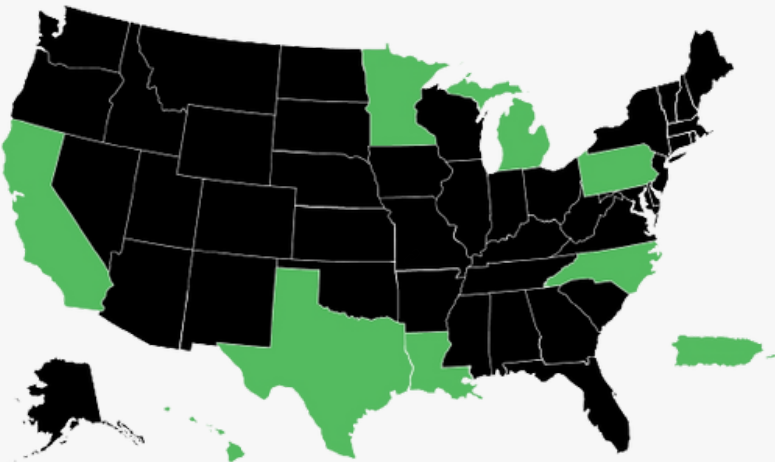
SUPPORTING THE FRONTLINES

Meeting Frontline Priorities

To ensure that frontline priorities are central to our structure, values, and programming, FRI commissioned a comprehensive needs assessment of 300 frontline organizations, led by experts from **KTLN Consulting** who specialize in inclusive and anti-racist research design. The research – and the insights from Conceptual Committee members – will help shape our upcoming five-year strategic plan and continue to inform our four core services.

Direct Funding to Strengthen Frontline Organizations

In 2023, FRI released \$1 million in its first round of grant funding through our Collective Action Fund at the Tides Foundation. Grants support frontline organizations from across the United States and its territories to build capacity, develop organizational strategies, and advance environmental and climate justice.



[Click here](#) for more information on our grantees and their work.

TRANSFORMATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



Unlocking Millions through Grant-Writing Training with Writing for Green

Writing for Green's expert grant writers worked with FRI to pilot an intensive 35-hour grant-writing training course and year-long coaching for FRI network members in spring 2023. In fall 2023, FRI and Writing for Green launched a "train the trainer" program for representatives at eight of the US EPA's Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs), who will pass on their skills to at least 200 community-based organizations.

10

community-based organizations trained

8

EPA TCTACs trained

\$136

million secured



Uplifting the Global Climate Youth Movement with Pan African Climate Justice Alliance

FRI is partnering with the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) to extend the reach and impact of PACJA's signature program, the Nairobi Summer School for Climate Justice, which draws youth leaders ages 18 to 35 from across the global South, including members of parliament and UN climate negotiators. In 2023, FRI delivered training modules to hundreds of student leaders, and we will serve on NSSCJ's planning committee in 2024, helping shape the summer school curriculum.

400+

students reached

70

countries

10

students sponsored



Our Vision: Healthy, Safe, and Sustainable Environments for All

In a few short years, FRI has built powerful momentum toward our vision. In 2024, we will continue to increase our reach and impact, including by: 1) expanding the grant-writing trainings that have already garnered more than \$130 million for frontline organizations; 2) launching “How’d They Do That?”, a program that allows our 400 frontline leaders to share stories of success and tips with one another; and 3) building climate curricula and connections among youth climate leaders globally. We’ve compiled everything we learned in 2023 into one equation: **data + storytelling + resources = movement building**. All three aspects are individually critical, but when combined, we can create sustainable, equitable change.

To learn more and stay connected, please visit [our website](#).