A FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM + NARRATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE FRONTLINES

Climate Justice Alliance, Center for Story-based Strategy and The Solutions Project are partnering to build narrative power and communications capacity among grassroots organizations in frontline communities across the United States.

This groundbreaking pilot program showcases transformative possibilities when our movement is resourced. The two-year cohort provides 20 BIPOC-led grassroots organizations with the funding, training and movement infrastructure to support their communications and narrative strategies for Just Transitions to Regenerative Economies. Designed by a grassroots-centered, expert-facilitated nine-month process, the fellowship launches in 2022 with a curriculum, workshops, project planning, experimentation, and peer-to-peer learning through 2023.

A 2019 report commissioned by the Hewlett Foundation identified climate communications priorities in the United States that align with community expertise, stories, and visual narratives rooted at the grassroots level. In 2020-21, after decades of powerbuilding in communities across the country, grassroots movements for climate justice are now setting the debate. Frontline leaders are bringing their visions, voices and victories to global climate negotiations, to the White House, and to mainstream media. The influence and impact of frontline solutions show a visionary movement rooted in justice and ready to win in 2022 and beyond — it is time for philanthropy to invest in this transformation at scale.

Thanks to our funders, we have raised $7.8M to date — $4M of which funds 20 organizations to hire staff and build their own communications capacity, anchoring a network of grassroots organizations across 16 states. We seek an additional $1.8M for pilot operating expenses and $3M for creative and digital production.

- COHORT MEMBER

It is important to build capacity in-house, especially content area expertise and communications capacity. We benefit greatly from collaboration and learning from other frontline climate justice organizations and feel that we have a strong network that will continue to grow organically.”

-HOLLY BAKER | holly@climatejusticealliance.org
Philanthropic Partnerships Director, Climate Justice Alliance
Alternatives for Communities & Environment, Boston, MA
Blacks in Green, Chicago, IL
Community to Community Development, Bellingham, WA
Detroit Black Food Security Network, Detroit, MI
Farmworker Association of Florida, Apopka, FL
Ironbound Community Corporation, Newark, NJ
Kheprw Institute, Indianapolis, IN
Little Manila Rising, Stockton, CA
Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, Chicago, IL
Native Movement, Anchorage, AK
Native Renewables, Flagstaff, AZ
Parable of the Sower Intentional Community Cooperative, Vallejo, CA
PODER, San Francisco, CA
RISE St. James, New Orleans, LA
SouthWest Organizing Project, Albuquerque, NM
Southwest Workers Union, San Antonio, TX
The People’s Justice Council, Birmingham, AL
The Smile Trust, Miami, FL
UPROSE, Brooklyn, NY
Virginia Interfaith Power & Light, Richmond, VA