

TIDES

ADVOCACY

2022

IMPACT REPORT

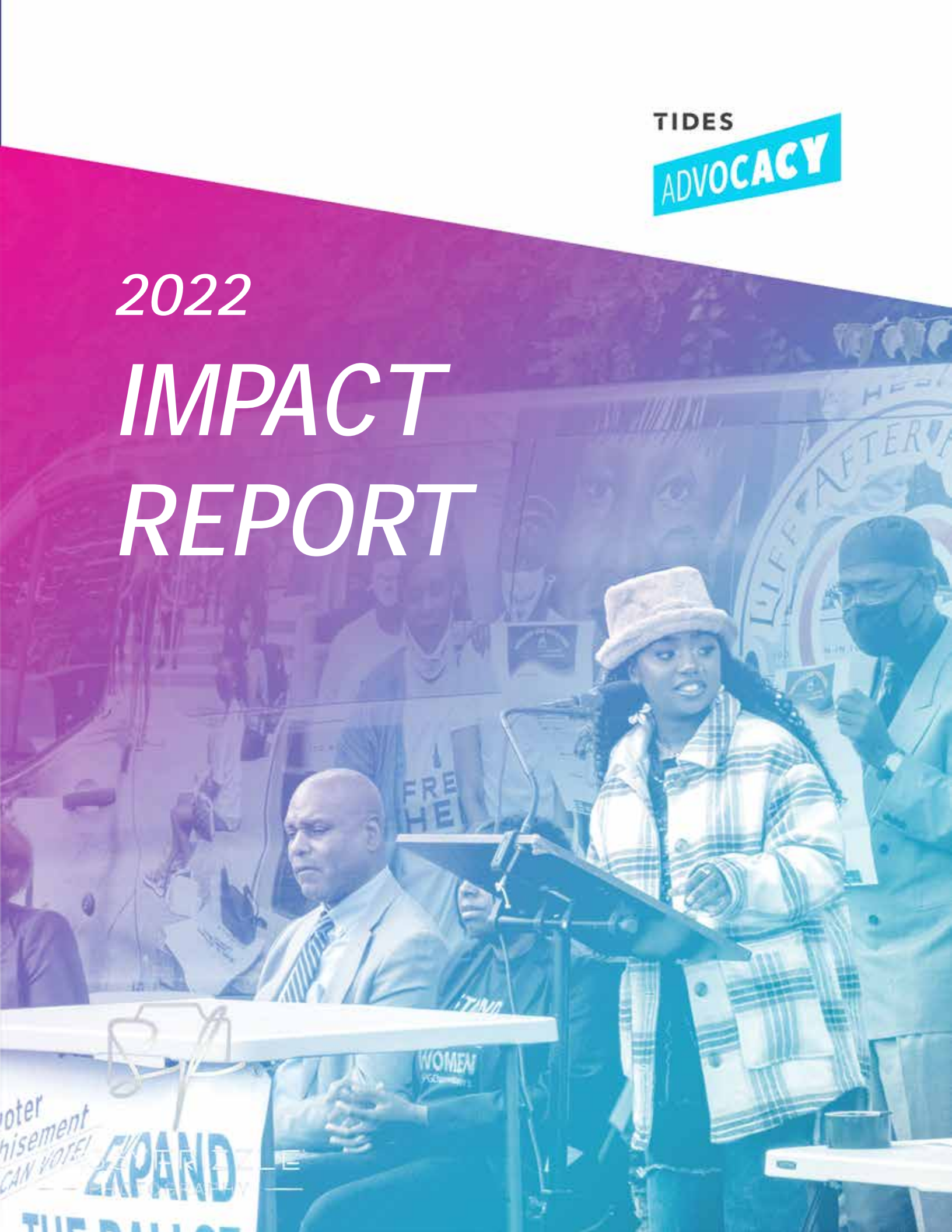


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MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

As a pro-Black fiscal sponsor, we are committed to centering the needs of Black, Indigenous, and people of color-led political organizations that are transforming policies and systems at the grassroots level, while building an infrastructure uniquely purposed to sustain them.

The work of our movements is generational and unwavering. At this political juncture, while critical losses have reshaped the political landscape, these losses have also re energized and activated the raw power of Black-led political organizing to achieve meaningful, significant wins. A multi-racial, feminist, and reflective democracy built on co-governance is achievable. We must provide the necessary support to effectively cultivate Black political infrastructure by fortifying 501c4 organizations that seek to inform, influence, and build electoral power at the local and state level.

Since our systems have roots in oppression and anti-Blackness, we must build better systems for Black people. It is not enough to be anti-racist. We must be [pro-Black](#). Being pro-Black is about centering Black people and centering Blackness. It is a commitment to the freedom and liberation of Black people across the spectrum and intersections of their identities. It honors the dignity, humanity, autonomy, and restoration of Black lives, essential to collective liberation.

Black people have resisted, survived, and thrived through centuries of atrocities and harm. With that knowledge, we join in solidarity with other people of color and communities who have survived historical and contemporary structural oppression. Together, we can build a radical future that values equity and justice for those most harmed by white supremacy.

The act of change is the liberatory act of love; that is what our partners achieve every day. We are anchoring ourselves in joy, equity, integrity, sustainability, and solidarity – we desire to center love, co-governance, and accountability at the forefront of our work. Shifting a 25-year institution to pursue justice and center movements has not been easy, and we appreciate the grace and support of our network. This is a worthy and righteous road we seek to honor.

As we journey through this next year together, we are ready to work even harder to continue our longstanding commitment toward racial justice and advancing a pro-Black agenda.

The beauty of our dreams is that they keep us working toward what is possible.



ROMY AVILA
Tides Advocacy CEO



MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS VINCENT JONES

Tides Advocacy's Board of Directors is honored to serve and support an organization that is firmly committed to advancing social justice and building political power. It is my deep honor to serve as Board Chair alongside some of the nation's foremost leaders in social justice and philanthropy as we lend our expertise to support the vision and growth of the nation's only pro-Black fiscal sponsor.

As we embrace this new year, our unwavering commitment to creating a sanctuary for people committed to justice is renewed through centering and advancing our pro-Black framework. And by no means is our work done.

Tides Advocacy exists to be of service to support and sustain movements. To achieve real change, we must be devoted to disrupting the systems that have oppressed many of us in this country – and Tides Advocacy's work to strengthen advocacy infrastructure in this political system is just that.

Our partners are building transformative power for Black futures through democratic participation and accountability, environmental and reproductive justice, and the safety of all communities fighting to end institutional and systemic violence.

These actions are crucial to attaining and creating a more just and inclusive democracy for us all.

Our collective and unique gifts are needed to meet the moment and achieve our greater purpose of individual and collective liberation.

On behalf of each member of the Board, we look forward to continuing to work together to ensure that we are serving our partners and the field with excellence, integrity, and commitment to ensuring our democracy is not only surviving but thriving for everyone.

In solidarity,



VINCENT JONES
Board Chair



2022 BY THE NUMBERS

\$54.5M IN TOTAL ASSETS

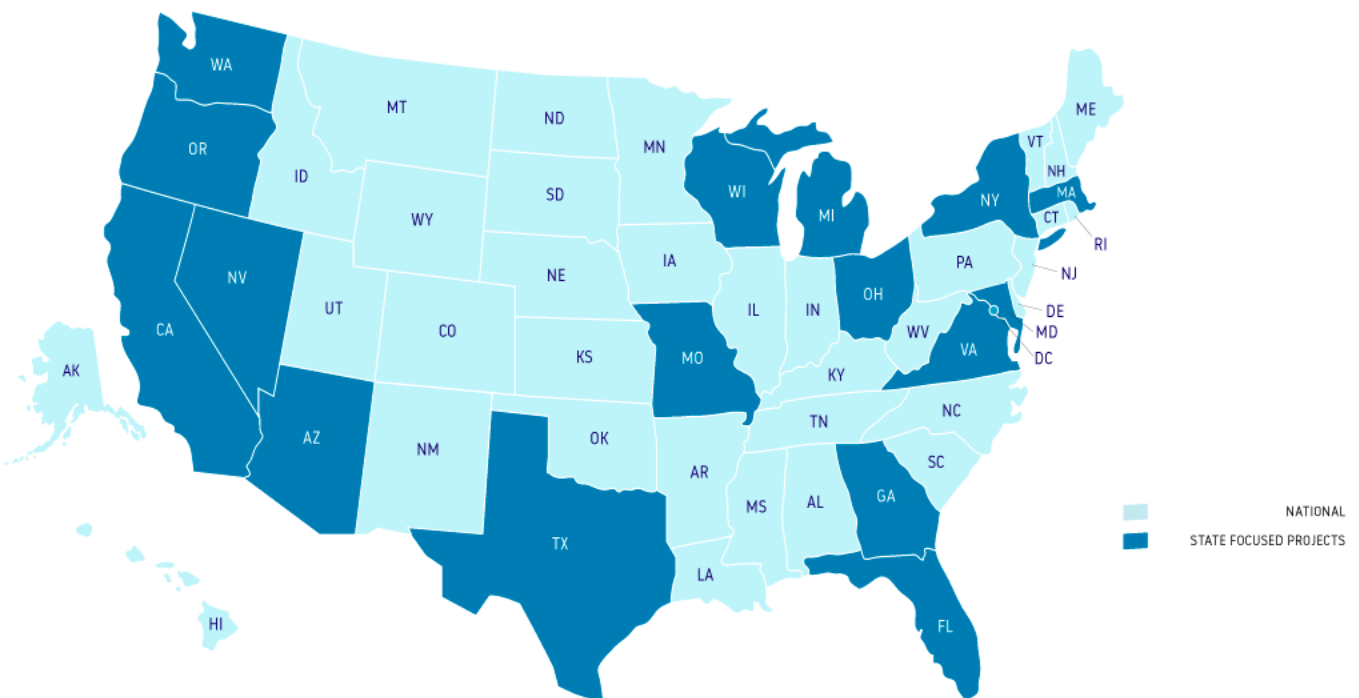
\$26.6M GRANTED BY TIDES ADVOCACY

90+ FISCALLY SPONSORED PROJECTS

50 GRANTEES

20 STATES

TIDES ADVOCACY PARTNER GEOGRAPHY FISCALLY SPONSORED PROJECTS



State-based work refers to advocacy efforts to influence policy and legislation at the state level. This may involve lobbying state lawmakers, advocating for policies and legislation that positively impact their communities, and engaging in grassroots organizing and mobilization.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: LIFE AFTER RELEASE

Life After Release's mission is to build a movement among Black women and families to abolish the criminal legal system, rebuild our devastated communities, and keep each other safe through community safety alternatives. Established in 2017 in the DC-Maryland-Virginia metro area, Life After Release (LAR) is led by formerly incarcerated women; their work has made national impact by setting a standard for community-based safety and care alternatives. They are organizing to build a post-conviction movement where individuals have the right to challenge their convictions and the system responsible for convicting them in the first place. By 2021, their legal empowerment and participatory defense work had saved 23 Black loved ones from 839 years of prison time.

In the last two years, LAR has bailed out over 50 Black mothers during their annual Mother's Day Black Mama's community bailouts. Through bailouts, court support, food, transitional housing, and other mutual aid efforts, more Black mothers are now free and gaining the resources that they need in order to better themselves and the wider community.

Their Justice and Liberation Institute provides life skills, grassroots organizing, and leadership skills training for formerly incarcerated individuals and their loved ones. Between 2021 and 2022, the institute has graduated 27 fellows, who have all engaged with critical criminal justice issues and campaigns, gained self-confidence, and connected with community members.

LAR has an ambitious vision for building power for and with formerly incarcerated and directly impacted people. Ahead of the 2022 midterms, they conducted a nationally sponsored bus/van tour with Black Voters Matter to get directly-impacted people to the polls to vote in Maryland. Their efforts helped produce a record-breaking turnout in the 2022 Maryland General Election.

"Between 2022 to 2024, we aim to register 50,000 formerly incarcerated people to vote and will pair our voter registration campaign with mutual aid and a needs assessment so that we can build a political platform that is responsive to the needs of criminalized people and communities," says Alexis Kurtz-Hoggard, LAR's Director of Operations.

Learn more about their liberatory work at lifeafterrelease.org.



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Life After Release

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: AHRI

Ahri is a traditional Korean word meaning “paving new paths.” Ahri for Justice is a women-led, pan-Asian, and Latinx team of experienced organizers and advocates for immigrant rights and community empowerment in Southern California. Founded in 2019, Ahri focuses on how voter participation and civic engagement create systemic change and support the needs of low-income communities, such as affordable housing, healthcare, and education.

“Our organization’s proudest moment this past year has been engaging with voters throughout Orange County for primary and midterm elections,” says Jinkyung Park, Ahri’s Communications Director. “We were able to speak to over 8,000 voters on the importance of participating in local elections, debunking voter myths, and providing in-language resources in English, Korean, and Spanish. This year, we cultivated our year-round in-language field team composed of Korean monolingual parents and adult volunteers. Our dedicated ‘mom squad’ leads this dynamic group who believe in voter rights and community empowerment. Our college youth participating in Service Learning also engaged in in-person campus voter registration and GOTV for the first time since the pandemic.”

In the long-term fight for collective justice, Ahri is addressing their community’s needs through policy, advocacy, and voter engagement while always centering wellness and community care in the process. The organization aims to expand their immigrant justice, wellness, racial justice, and gender justice programs in the coming years.

Learn more about Ahri’s work for progressive change at ah-ri.org.



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Ahri

EMBRACING CHANGE AND LEADERSHIP

Tides Advocacy is made up of a stellar group of political, legal and financial experts that identify, connect, and fuel movements for social justice and the health of our democracy. Over the last year, we focused on scaling up and adding new members to our leadership team - General Counsel Jen Jorzak, Chief Strategy Officer Renita Francois, and Chief Advancement Officer Jessica Mofield -three bold women who have brought essential political, legal, and operational expertise to our work. We are now proud to be an all-women led organization, which is unfortunately still uncommon in the world of philanthropy and advocacy work. As we prepare to become the first pro-Black fiscal sponsor, we asked members of the Tides Advocacy team to reflect on their roles and their drive to serve our partners and grantees in this moment.



SIHLE DINANI
Chief Financial Officer

“I came to do this work because I believe that political power is a key tool needed to impact structural change. 501(c)(3)s, philanthropy and individual goodwill are not enough to transform the systems harming our families and communities. As CFO, my privilege and responsibility is to help nurture all leaders across the organization. I am grateful every day that I am given the opportunity to learn about the gifts and strengths of this amazing team and the cultures and experiences that inform them.”



JORDAN BROWN
Senior Advisor

“What drew me to Tides Advocacy is the opportunity to work with a national 501(c)(4) organization that supports powerful Black-led grassroots organizations, allowing me to continue expanding my proficiency to provide quality capacity building support to leaders on the ground. It’s sincerely a privilege to be able to concurrently work across issue areas of climate, voting rights, criminal justice reform, and housing through an advocacy lens.”



CHARLOTTE WILLIAMS
Director of Communications

“I was drawn to work here because of the commitment to transformative policy change, the focus on BIPOC organizations, and the leadership of a Black woman CEO. Whether it is print or digital, verbal or image-based, telling Black people’s stories and realities fully, accurately, and with love is critical to the journey to create meaningful change in our democracy.”



ANDREA GRANDA
Senior Director of Advising

“I feel so lucky to be surrounded by all kinds of leaders at Tides Advocacy, who bring their best to the work every day. I’m passionate about figuring out how to support under-resourced communities- Black people, Native people, brown people, immigrants, disabled people, queer, and trans people - in accessing the economic justice and freedom they deserve. Economic justice is racial justice.”



JOSE PLASCENCIA
Senior Advisor

“Tides Advocacy asks some of the same questions that I have reflected on in my experience as an organizer, such as how can we operationalize social movement infrastructure? This work is part of my life’s purpose – building alternatives to extractive systems.”

BECOMING A PRO-BLACK ORGANIZATION

The foundation of American systems is rooted in its 400+ year history of the forced subjugation of Black people. Anti-Blackness has permeated our DNA and set the stage for the oppression of people of color, women, differently-abled people, and the LGBTQIA+ communities in this country and worldwide. Thus, centering the freedom and liberation of Black people is central and critical to the collective liberation of *all*.

To achieve collective liberation, it is not enough to be anti-racist. We must be pro-Black. Capitalistic labor was stolen from Black people through chattel slavery, so philanthropy is reparations, plain and simple. For us, being pro-Black in the philanthropic sector, therefore, means returning the wealth extracted from Black people and all communities of color.

In 2022, Tides Advocacy put words into action to do just that. Through our listening sessions with partners and stakeholders, we gathered honest reflections and feedback and discussed how to better center Black people and Blackness in our work. We looked at our governance, diversity and inclusion, leadership, voice, and policy to understand how our complete infrastructure can be of service to and rooted in the community with Black-led groups around the country.

We are excited to be on this journey through several efforts, including:

- Highlighting work and creating opportunities for Black-led projects and grantees to gain more visibility in our storytelling
- Incorporating a more deliberate partner planning process to ensure we align our support to partners' priorities for their success
- The Healthy Democracy Action Fund, which has distributed over \$11 million of funding to more than 50 BIPOC-led organizations since 2020
- Launching the Political Infrastructure Project ahead of the 2022 midterms to sustain BIPOC-led power-building organizations beyond the electoral cycle
- Creating the Power of Us Fund to be a culturally responsive and movement-centered model to support progressive and BIPOC-led C4 organizations
- Investing more in the safety and security of movement groups

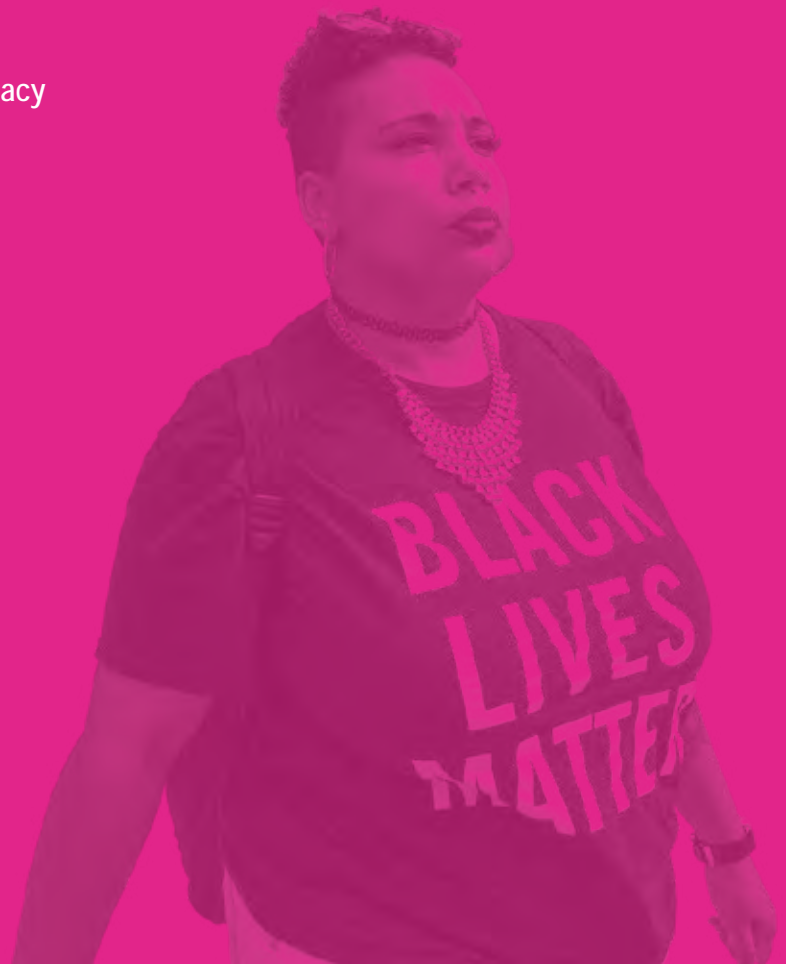


We believe a multi-racial, feminist, inclusive democracy built on co-governance is achievable. By cultivating and investing in Black-led organizations that are doing advocacy and political work and seeking to inform, influence, and build power at the local and state level, we are mounting an offense against the unjust systems designed to uphold white supremacy. We invite you to join us in this essential work of transforming philanthropy's role in securing a more just, more liberated future for us all.



Using a pro-Black approach is a new way to see myself alongside the crucial topics our partners face and are attempting to shift. Social justice is “every-minute-of-the-day” type of work, and I’m dedicated to helping our partners succeed. As a Black woman, I must remain steadfast in that conviction as I occupy space at the nexus of doers and donors. If not me, then who?

SONYA WATSON,
Senior Advisor, Tides Advocacy



GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT: EMGAGE ACTION MICHIGAN

A grantee of our Healthy Democracy Action Fund, Emgage Action Michigan educates and mobilizes Muslim American voters to be politically engaged and build their power. Emgage runs voter engagement campaigns, lobbies state and local government, and empowers Muslim communities with the resources and information they need to advocate for their issues, run for office, and elect values-aligned representatives.

In the last year, Emgage's impactful work to organize and activate their communities garnered historic wins. "For the first time in history, we had an opportunity to elect the first Muslim American Mayor Abdullah Hammoud in 2021. This win was not only about representation but the story of someone who grew up like us, with the same challenges, and who knew how to serve us," says Executive Director Nada Al-Hanooti.

"Because it was considered an off year, we had funders tell us there is no money, so we used old t-shirts and spent every single dime on our field engagement work. We knocked on 24,000 doors, and we helped elect the first Muslim American mayor to represent us who will uplift us. So, that was one of the most special moments."

Emgage Michigan's organizers speak Arabic and prioritize the diversity of their organizers to be able to reach people of different generations and language fluency from aunties to grandmothers, and naturalized citizens. Moving forward, Emgage aims to win more representation for Muslims in public office, strengthen their infrastructure, and build political power for the communities and families they serve.

Learn more about Emgage's advocacy work at emgageusa.org/emgage-michigan



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Emgage Action Michigan

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT: ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER POLITICAL ALLIANCE

The Asian Pacific Islander Political Alliance (API PA) is the first and only statewide political organization by and for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Pennsylvania. Through electoral engagement, policy advocacy and leadership training, API PA is building long-term power for APIs in Pennsylvania and deepening solidarity with other aligned communities of color across the state. With the support from our Healthy Democracy Action Fund, API PA was able to launch culturally competent and linguistically accessible direct voter contact and political persuasion programs.

“Language justice is language access,” says Executive Director Mohan Seshadri. “It’s not just a value of ours or a moral right that our people, as Pennsylvanians and as Americans, deserve to have. It’s also a strategic and tactical necessity when it comes to reaching out to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.”

In Pennsylvania, 78% of Asians and Pacific Islanders speak a language other than English at home and roughly 1 in 5 of Asian Pacific Islanders speak English less than well or not at all. Being able to meet their language needs is critical to involve more people in political conversations and get them engaged with priority issues, values, and candidates.

Launched in 2020, API PA is a fairly new organization with some great achievements already under their belt. They helped double Asian American turnout and got the highest AAPI turnout in Pennsylvania and U.S. history in the 2020 election. Last year, through their statewide c3 coalition table, the AAPI PA Power Caucus, API PA had 1,600 conversations in 15 different languages, asking their communities what they wanted and needed out of state government. Whether it be education, anti-Asian violence and community safety, or climate change and the environment, the Power Caucus has assembled an inclusive issue platform and will support and resource grassroots leaders working on the ground to take action.

To learn more about how API PA is building collective power in Pennsylvania, visit apipennsylvania.org.



Photo: Courtesy of the Asian Pacific Islander Political Alliance

MEETING THE MOMENT 2022

In 2022, amidst a divided and toxic political climate, our partners held the line on the vision of a multiracial democracy. As fierce collaborators, Tides Advocacy provided financial, legal, and political support to groups - both new to politics and seasoned campaigners - building operations to meet the moment of the midterm elections and beyond. BIPOC-led groups were front and center leading strategy and organizing with an intersectional and inclusive lens of democracy that includes reproductive justice, climate change, justice reform, and workers' rights. This is how we build power with an eye towards long-term liberation.

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

When the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe vs Wade came down in July 2022, Tides Advocacy provided resources and support to BIPOC-led groups, such as Groundswell Action All Above All Action Fund, Mothering Justice Action Fund (MI), Color Action Fund (CO), WV Free Action Fund, Third Wave Fund, SWAN, Make it Work Nevada, Poder Latinx, and National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, among many others. One of our partners, Mass Liberation Arizona, led by a formerly incarcerated Black woman, organized voters around a pro-choice candidate in the Maricopa County Attorney race who pledged not to prosecute doctors for performing abortions. We produced a [guide](#) on "Reproductive Justice and the 2022 Elections" to highlight work in key states with anti-abortion ballot measures. Our Healthy Democracy Action Fund supported more than 50 BIPOC-led powerbuilding groups. Through our partners' year round civic engagement work, we saw positive results in California, Vermont, Michigan, Kansas and Kentucky.

TRANSFORMING PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety is critical to the inclusive, co-governing, and reflective democracy we all wish to see. It provides the foundation for a safe and secure society that allows Black, Indigenous, and communities of color to exercise their rights and participate in the democratic process freely.

As we continuously mourn the devastating acts of violence in our country every day, we are reminded that we are beyond thoughts and prayers and ignited by actions to honor those closest to the pain because they are closest to the solutions.

Community-led solutions to violence are critical to policy changes to transform public safety because they are grounded in lived experiences and informed by the unique cultural, social, and economic factors within those communities. This requires a nuanced bottom-up approach to develop effective and sustainable strategies to address community needs.

We stand in solidarity with Tides Advocacy partner [Community Justice Action Fund](#), working tirelessly to promote transparency, democratic participation, and accountability to end gun violence. When communities are centered in the policymaking process, they are empowered to have a voice in shaping the public safety issues that impact their lives.



CLIMATE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

It was a historic year for climate justice with Congress passing the first ever [climate action](#), the Inflation Reduction Act. This victory is not enough and more work needs to be done to strengthen climate leadership and fight back against fossil fuel companies across the country. [Lead Locally](#), a Tides Advocacy partner that promotes community leaders across the country to state and local offices, saw significant wins. In Louisiana, Lead Locally went all in for [Davante Lewis](#), a candidate for Public Service Commissioner, who ran and won on a climate change agenda, pledging to fight against fossil fuel companies. In the Golden State, the [California Environmental Justice Alliance Action PAC \(CEJA Action PAC\)](#) distributed a voter guide supporting a slate of candidates and a ballot initiative that would have a direct impact on communities of color and environmental justice.

POLITICAL ORGANIZING

Tides Advocacy partners in states such as Arizona, Michigan, Wisconsin and across the country showed up and showed out in the midterm elections. These BIPOC-led groups were clear in their theory of change: in order to bring the political process closer to the people, we must see beyond election cycles and organize all year round. [Detroit Action](#) continued to build a political home of Black and Brown working class. BLOC in Wisconsin activated voters through their ambassadors program, lobbying, court watching and electoral engagement. Life After Release in Maryland and Mass Liberation Nevada worked to register recently incarcerated people to get to the polls.





GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT: FLORIDA IMMIGRATION COALITION

Florida Immigration Coalition (FLIC) is a statewide coalition of more than 65 member organizations and over 100 allies working to protect Florida immigrants. One of the grant partners in our Healthy Democracy Action Fund, Florida Immigration Coalition supports organizations that range from LGBTQ advocacy, labor unions, women’s rights, immigrant rights, and faith-based, because immigrants are part of all of these communities.

“The attack on immigrants has gotten to the point that it feels like we are never going to have enough people to help us and support our communities,” says Executive Director Tessa Petit. “In Florida, we have a lot of protection work to do.”

FLIC was founded in 2004; its sister 501c4 organization FLIC Votes was created in 2015 to address the reality that immigration is a political issue that needs a political response. The FLIC team began doing electoral organizing to encourage Black, brown and Latino communities to vote for immigration champions.

Some of the impactful work FLIC has engaged in includes:

- Launching a civic engagement continuum plan to support base-building year-round
- Growing their capacity with a permanent political director and field director
- Canvassing in Miami County in the 2022 electoral season for pro-immigration candidates

Advancing a positive narrative of immigrants in Florida and debunking harmful myths is an essential part of their work, so FLIC is investing in digital strategy and message testing to support a progressive agenda. They are also careful to not treat immigrants as a monolith, recognizing the different countries, languages, and values.

In the next year, FLIC plans to intensify their New American voters campaign to engage the nearly 800,000 legal, permanent residents in Florida by helping them through the naturalization process and registering them to vote once they become U.S. citizens. They are also working on a Driver’s License for All campaign.

To learn more about FLIC, visit floridaimmigrant.org.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: COMMUNITY JUSTICE ACTION FUND

Community Justice Action Fund is a survivor-led, Black-led national advocacy organization that engages and empowers impacted communities to implement community-led policies that reduce violence.

“This year has been an unprecedented challenge for our communities. As the COVID crisis continues, gun violence has reached historic highs across the country, and communities of color have been hit the hardest,” says Greg Jackson, Executive Director of Community Justice.

Despite the challenges, Community Justice made impressive progress in the movement to end gun violence and invest in community-based violence prevention and intervention programs. Some of their achievements include:

- Releasing the first City Violence Prevention Index Report, which assessed the top 50 cities most impacted by violence and their approach to ending gun violence
- Leading community responses in Buffalo and Uvalde after the tragic mass shootings that occurred in those cities
- Securing \$14.2 billion in community violence intervention funding at the federal, state and local level
- Helping pass the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the first gun violence prevention bill passed in nearly 30 years which will allocate \$250 million over five years to community violence prevention and intervention efforts

“At our core, our organization serves as a bridge between communities and Congress, and we engage in education awareness activities to create a diverse coalition of leaders that can carry the weight of working to end the gun violence that has been present for far too long,” Jackson says.

We are proud to support Community Justice in holding elected officials and community leaders accountable and treating gun violence as a critical public health issue.

Learn more about their policy agenda and community building work at cjusticeactionfund.org.



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Community Justice Action Fund

CONTACT US

CONNECT. PARTNER. MOBILIZE.

Be a fierce collaborator for justice with Tides Advocacy.

If you're looking to build political power and increase your impact, reach out to learn more about how we can support your goals at tainfo@tides.org

We are the Power we are looking for. Together we can change the culture of philanthropy by investing in POWER. Learn more about how you can make a real difference by amplifying the [Power of Us Fund](#).

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