

# 2023 IMPACT REPORT

**We foster investigative journalism that has an impact – when and where it's needed most**

This year, the Fund for Investigative Journalism provided funding and other critical support for 120 new investigative projects in 44 states – more than at any time in our 54-year history. Stories published with our support sparked 34 changes to policies and practices, and other critical impact, this year.

*2023 Impact Snapshot*

## Report exposes abuse by Utah therapist; leads to arrest

**THE STORY:** The Mormon church sent men to a therapist who allegedly sexually abused them

**OUR HELP:** A \$5,500 grant for in-state travel to interview victims and to obtain and analyze data on the state's licensing system

**THE IMPACT:** The therapist was arrested on several charges; Brigham Young University launched a review of referrals to him, and his business closed



*2023 Impact Snapshot*

## Story on county home sales sparks audit and federal legislation

**THE STORY:** The City Attorney's family buys homes from a county guardianship program and flips them for a profit

**OUR HELP:** A \$10,000 grant to obtain records and a \$2,500 follow-up grant; legal help from RCFP

**THE IMPACT:** The county froze sales and launched an audit; a U.S. Senate bill was introduced; families filed a lawsuit



# The journalists we're supporting – and the impact of their work

We provide grants and other support directly to journalists to foster high-quality investigative reporting that has an impact.

## 2023 AT A GLANCE

120

new grants to journalists or teams

62%

also matched with free legal and editorial help

75%

covered state and local stories

42%

are journalists of color, or had a person of color in a lead role on the team

54%

are women, or had a woman in a lead role on the team

68%

are freelancers

### New programs in 2023

We provided grants for investigations on any topic in any medium.

We launched or expanded several programs:

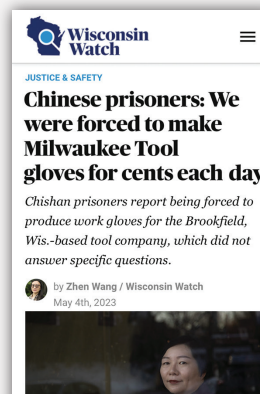
- Seed grants for very early reporting
- Diversity Fellowships that embed reporters in state & local outlets

- Follow-up grants to extend the impact of initial reporting
- Emergency grants for stories on threats to democracy in the U.S.
- Stories in Chicago media, as the area's journalism field struggles
- Grants for science stories, in honor of one of our early leaders

## 2023 IMPACT SNAPSHOTS

### 2023 Impact Snapshot

#### Fellow exposes company using slave labor in China, sparks action from Congress and WalMart



**THE STORY:** A major manufacturer uses slave labor in China to make gloves

**OUR SUPPORT:** \$30,000 to embed a full-time Diversity Fellow for six months to report the story

**THE IMPACT:** WalMart stopped selling the gloves and a U.S. Congressional Committee launched an investigation

### 2023 Impact Snapshot

#### Report shows EPA helped mine company attack scientists, triggers policy changes and new health research



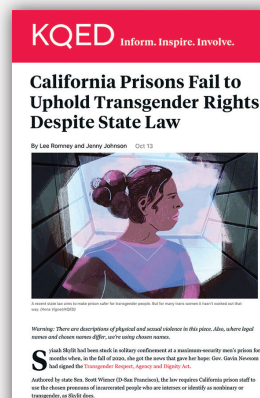
**THE STORY:** Instead of regulating a potentially hazardous mine in Montana, the EPA helped the mine company attack scientists

**OUR SUPPORT:** A \$10,000 grant to the nonprofit outlet that reported the story

**THE IMPACT:** The EPA changed how it reports hazards and hired new staff; the mine company funded research on its impact

### 2023 Impact Snapshot

#### Story documents plight of transgender prisoners in California, prompting fixes to new state law



**THE STORY:** Transgender prisoners in California face abuse from prison staff and other inmates, despite a state law intended to protect them

**OUR SUPPORT:** A \$6,663 grant for freelancers' time and expenses, and an editorial mentor

**THE IMPACT:** Within days of the story airing, the state senator who authored the bill to protect trans prisoners announced that he's working to expand it

### 2023 Impact Snapshot

#### Investigation exposes universities using AI tool to monitor students' political activity, leading 11 campuses to end the practice



**THE STORY:** An AI tool that was supposed to monitor social media to identify college students who might be suicidal was misused to track political activity

**OUR SUPPORT:** A \$10,000 grant for two reporters

**THE IMPACT:** 11 of the 38 universities that used the tool have stopped using it, and the state of North Carolina launched an investigation

## 2023 IMPACT

49

new stories or series have been published, from grants we made in the last 18 months (others are still in the field reporting)

34

of these stories have already led to impact

This impact includes

9

practice changes by governments or major corporations

8

official audits and/or investigations

5

policy changes

8

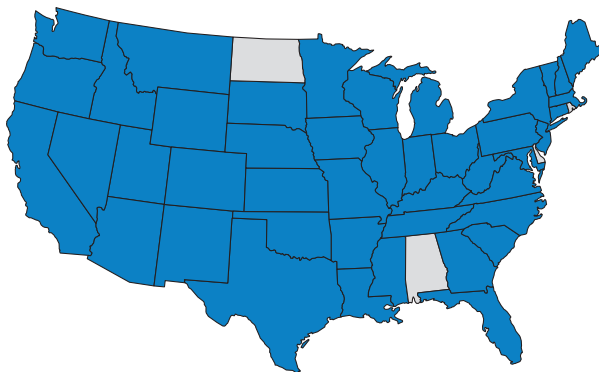
legislative actions

4

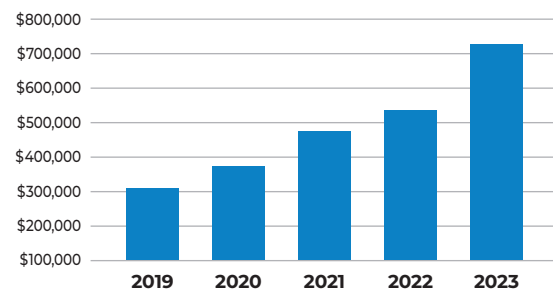
lawsuits

# A growing network of supporters is helping us expand our work and impact at a critical time

The Fund for Investigative Journalism has nearly tripled the number of grants we provide to journalists in just the last four years. We've been able to do this because donations from individuals and foundations who support public-service journalism and democracy have nearly tripled. As more people stand up to support this work, we are able to foster more reporting that has an impact.



**Grants to Journalists – 5 Year Growth**



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