

WOMEN DELIVER 2026

PUTTING OUT FIRES TILL WE BURN OUT: SUPPORTING FEMINIST ACTIVISTS THROUGH COLLECTIVE CARE

Hosted By [Urgent Action Fund for Feminist Activism](#), in this session, frontline activists and feminist funds made the case for resourcing collective care as an essential part of movement-building and sustenance, especially in times of acute crisis.

FRIDA on grantmaking infrastructure as collective care:

For us there is no separation between programmatic work and the conditions that make feminist activism possible. We don't treat collective care as an afterthought or add on, but as something we see as vital in sustaining movement work.

Care is woven directly into FRIDA's grantmaking practice. While do we specifically fund care initiatives, our model itself has care built into it, specifically in how we resource and accompany groups by foregrounding flexibility; unrestricted funding, low reporting and low proof of concept burden.

FRIDA has historically provided special grants to support movements and activists with collective care across the regions where we fund. We've awarded grantee partners with Safety, Security and Healing Grants, Capacity Strengthening Grants and Risk Reserve Grants which partners have used to care for their movements and communities especially during direct action and crisis. In order to be able to do this, we have had to translate care, rest, and security into language funders are more accustomed to, such as resilience, risk mitigation, or organisational sustainability.

The question is no longer whether care should be funded, but whether funders are willing to recognise that movements cannot thrive on programmatic funding alone - also the unfairness of this expectation falls yet again on racialised groups.

What does it look like in practice to fund collective care well?

- Trusting that activists and collectives are best placed to define what care looks like in their contexts
- Flexibility and large breadth of 'eligible' activities
- Pairing funding with accompaniment and open avenues of communication
- No stress on reporting or the demonstration of impact + results
- Accountability: we center relationships and trust and shared learning, rather than traditional monitoring models and expectations
- Over-defining care is counterproductive and actually does not result in care