



Hartford Foundation
FOR PUBLIC GIVING

Newsletter



New Collaboration With Beta Iota Boulé Foundation Will Support Mental Health of Black Boys and Men

A 2023 White House Roundtable on Young Black Men's Mental Health highlighted that **nearly 40% of Black teens struggle with persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness**. Here in Greater Hartford, [DataHaven research](#) found Black adults were 1.6x more likely to report feeling down or depressed, as compared to white adults. To add to this challenge, African American men are significantly less likely to seek help for depression compared to white men.

To help make progress in this area, the **Beta Iota Boulé Foundation** and the **Hartford Foundation for Public Giving** [have announced a collaboration](#) to support the mental health of Black boys and men. The effort includes an investment of \$400,000 from the Boulé Foundation placed with the Hartford Foundation. The Hartford Foundation will match the Boulé funds with up to \$600,000 in additional funding **to create a \$1 million impact**.

A portion of the funds, \$200,000, will be made available to our [Black Giving Circle](#), a group of community members whose mission is to create sustainable change in Greater Hartford's Black community.

We have long believed that [supporting the basic human needs of Greater Hartford residents](#) is vital to creating a more vibrant region. In 2022 and 2023, the Foundation made significant investments in comprehensive, multi-service mental and behavioral organizations that serve boys and men of color in our region, along with grantmaking and capacity building resources to BIPOC-led nonprofits that serve Black residents. Our new partnership builds on that past grantmaking. Together with the Boulé Foundation, we hope to take on this challenge and contribute to a stronger Greater Hartford.

[Read more about this partnership.](#)

Grant Opportunity: Basic Human Needs Emergency Assistance Grants

On **Tuesday, April 2**, we will release a request for proposals for our first round of **Basic Human Needs Emergency Assistance grants** in 2024. These grants can support nonprofits in providing food, personal care items, emergency financial aid (e.g., rental assistance, utility assistance), one-time easily distributable, non-prescription durable medical equipment or medical aid assistance, immediate or informal case management services, or other critical basic needs.

[Visit our Grant Opportunities web page](#) to learn about this and other upcoming opportunities.

You can also [sign up to be notified when new grant opportunities are announced](#).



Hartford Foundation Scholarship Website: Find a Scholarship

The Hartford Foundation's Scholarship Website is now open with scholarships for the 2024-25 school year. We offer more than 100 scholarships for all types of students. **The deadline is approaching**, so don't wait!

[Visit our Scholarship Website to find the right scholarship for you.](#)

Please help us spread the word by sharing this with a parent or student who may be interested.

**Sharon O'Meara
shared over 30
adventurous years
with her beloved
wife, Cheryl
O'Meara.**



The Sharon R. O'Meara Fund

Our former colleague Sharon O'Meara was a beloved member of the Hartford Foundation staff, having dedicated more than 20 years of service to the Foundation and our community. Sharon was well-known for her wonderful sense of humor and commitment to her work with nonprofits. Her wife Cheryl set up the **Sharon R. O'Meara Fund** as a tribute to Sharon after her passing. Through the fund, which supports projects that help to alleviate poverty, serve the homeless and protect vulnerable populations, Sharon's legacy and love of nonprofits lives on. [Watch our short video to learn more.](#)



Shawnee Baldwin with her grandchildren

New Fund Story: Acacia Zawadi Seeds for Change Fund

Shawnee Baldwin is deeply concerned about the environment, for herself, but more so for her six grandchildren who will inherit this planet. Instead of waiting for the legislature or large organizations to act, she chose to create the **Acacia Zawadi Seeds for Change Fund** at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, a donor advised fund that she can use to help "green source" local projects.

"Many towns and schools have exciting initiatives, such as composting, expanding the tree canopy, curtailing idling of internal combustion engines, planting pollinator pathways, and making buildings more efficient," said Baldwin. "These projects often require some seed funds to get off the ground, so that's what the Acacia Zawadi Seeds for Change Fund will support. It's going to take many creative minds to chop away at the things that contribute to the health of our air, water, and soil. If we each plant one seed of an idea, imagine what we can do."

Want to create your own fund to support an issue you care about, or honor a loved

one? Contact Deb Rothstein at drothstein@hfpg.org or 860-548-1888.

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