



August 18, 2020

Dear Colleague,

The Black Giving Circle Fund (BGCF) was established in 2015 to create sustainable change in the Black community by leveraging the efforts of donors and celebrating Black philanthropy. This year the Black Giving Circle Fund is pleased to announce its competitive grant opportunity that offers financial resources of up to \$20,000 for one year to eligible nonprofits whose projects demonstrate benefit for the Greater Hartford Black community. All applications requesting the full amount or below will be fully considered. **Applying for and/or being awarded the Black Giving Circle Fund grant will not preclude any agency of being eligible to apply or receive any other Hartford Foundation for Public Giving grant award.**

Eligibility is restricted to organizations with a demonstrated record of service to the Black community. The funding requested should be for programs/projects that serve a majority of Black participants. The Fund's membership will consider thoughtful and innovative proposals that provide direct services to members of the Black community.

For more information on the fund visit www.hfpg.org/blackgivingcircle.

Request for Proposals (RFP)

Purpose and Goals: The Fund is seeking proposals for projects that benefit the Black community. While over the years the Black community has made some positive advances, there are still unmet needs that disproportionately impact this community, requiring special and culturally competent consideration. The Black Giving Circle Fund is seeking strategies that build upon the community's strengths and assets to address such needs.

Eligible Applicants: The Fund will consider proposals from individual organizations or collaborative proposals by multiple organizations that have a successful record of serving the Black community in the Greater Hartford region. All applicants must be federally recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, or use a fiscal agent that is a 501(c)(3). The applicant/co-applicants must demonstrate a track record of serving a majority of Blacks and detail how the proposed project builds upon that success.



Eligible Requests for Funding: Requests for funding can be for any program/project enhancement or strengthening, equipment/capital project, or capacity building need. All funding opportunities must be focused on the enhancement or advancement of the Black community at-large or for a particular subset of the Black population. The funding requested should be for programs/projects that serve a majority of Black participants.

Eligible funding requests should include one of these areas: Establishing a new or innovative program/service; expanding access to an existing program/service; enhancing practices; purchasing equipment and/or renovation improvements; or building agency infrastructure that advance the Black community (In general, these funds are not meant to maintain the current activities or level of service).

Selection Criteria: All projects should clearly articulate:

- Community Need - highlight the unmet community need and how the need was determined.
- Community Input – explain how community input was obtained for this project.
- Target population – identify the subset of the Black population that is serviced/engaged.
- Organizational capacity- articulate what makes the organization uniquely positioned to address this need.
- Quality of the proposed project – demonstrate the extent to which the proposal is based on best practices or credible research and why the approach was chosen?
- Management of funds – detail use of funds and the cost-effectiveness of the project
- Impact – list the expected outcomes. Describe how the outcomes will be measured.
- Sustainability – detail how the project will continue beyond the grant period

Eligibility – Successful applications will...

- Demonstrate a track record of serving Blacks in the past, present and future.
- Serve a majority of Black participants
- Communicate a clear mission and show a record of filling a demonstrated community need
- 501(c)(3) or fiscally sponsored status with annual operating budgets
- Articulate the organizational or community need the project will address



Black Giving Circle Fund

Technical Assistance: A virtual technical assistance meeting will be held on **September 15, 2020** at 12 pm to answer any questions that you may have regarding the application and/or the application process. To register for the virtual meeting, please [click here](#). Enter the code **2020 BGC Grant**.

Please direct any questions or clarifications to Dawn Grant (dgrant@hfpg.org or 860-548-1888, ext. 1039) or Chari Chester Anderson (canderson@hfpg.org or 860-548-1888, ext. 1016). All technical questions should be directed to Grants Administration (grantsadministration@hfpg.org) or 860.548-1888).

Grant Award: The Black Giving Circle Fund expects to fund a grant request of up to \$20,000 for one year.

Key Dates:

Issuance of Request of Applications	August 18, 2020
Technical Assistance Meeting	September 15, 2020 @ 12 p.m. Zoom (meeting information will be provided.)
Applications Due	September 28, 2020 (by 11:59 p.m.)
BGCF Grantmaking Meeting	November 12, 2020

Application:

To complete the online application, please visit, <https://www.grantinterface.com/sl/9YE4qF>.

If you have used the Foundation’s online application system for previous grants, please use your organization’s log-in information created at that time. If you have not used the system, please create an account by clicking the “new applicant” link underneath the space where the email address is entered. After submission of your completed application, you will receive a system-generated confirmation email.



Each agency is invited to submit one application including all attachments. The deadline is **September 28, 2020, at 11:59 p.m.** Please direct any questions or clarifications to Dawn Grant (dgrant@hfp.org 860-548-1888, ext. 1039) or Chari Chester Anderson (canderson@hfp.org or 860-548-1888, ext. 1016). All technical questions should be directed to Grants Administration (grantsadministration@hfp.org) or 860.548-1888).

Please note: Proposals will be reviewed by the Black Giving Circle Fund members. Applicants under consideration will be required to present at the virtual grantmaking meeting on **November 12, 2020 (6 - 8 p.m.)** and give brief presentations of the proposed project to members of the Black Giving Circle Fund. The presentation will be 10-15 minutes and presenters should be prepared to answer questions about the proposal.