



**Black Giving Circle Fund
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
Request for Proposals | August 2025**

Established in 2015, the Black Giving Circle Fund seeks to create sustainable change in the Black community by leveraging the efforts of donors and celebrating Black philanthropy. This year, the Beta Iota Boulé Foundation¹ and the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving have announced a \$1 million collaboration to increase access to quality culturally relevant mental healthcare for Black men and boys in Greater Hartford. Boulé invested \$400,000 with the Hartford Foundation, who committed matching funds up to \$600,000 to maximize their impact.

Now in its second year, the Black Giving Circle Fund at the Hartford Foundation is proud to continue its partnership with Beta Iota Boulé and the Hartford Foundation to distribute \$200,000 of these available funds over a two-year period. This year, the Black Giving Circle Fund is offering a competitive grant opportunity that will award \$100,000 through five \$20,000 one-year grants for projects as described below.

Applying for and/or being awarded the Black Giving Circle Fund grant will not preclude any agency from being eligible to apply or receive other Hartford Foundation for Public Giving grant award.

I. Eligible Applicants:

The Black Giving Circle expects to support nonprofit organizations having a 501(c)(3) or community groups with a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor looking to **EITHER**:

- Increase their ability to respond to the mental health needs of Black men and boys through training (see section *Mental Health Training* below). **OR**
- Develop and/or engage in mental health awareness campaign that center the needs of Black men and/or boys (see section *Awareness Campaigning* below).

In addition:

- Applicants must choose **ONE** type of **project** for their application (*see next section for description of project options*).
- **Applicants may choose to focus on Black boys; or Black men; or both Black boys and men.**
- Applicants must clearly demonstrate the ability to reach Black men and/or boys and a track record of successful engagement with Black men and/or boys.

¹ Beta Iota Boulé Foundation supports programs serving the African American community in the areas of Health/Human Services, Education, Youth Development, Arts/Culture, Recreation or Civics as well as scholarships for African American young men from the Greater Hartford region to help with the costs of attending a 4-year accredited college.

II. Project Options:

Option 1: Mental Health Training

To increase knowledge of mental health training available to nonprofit organizations and community groups some opportunities are featured below. Applicants may apply for these, or mental health training opportunities not listed. We prefer training to be completed within a year of the grant award, however we understand training availability may affect when training takes place.

Well suited for everyone

- **Mental Health First Aid:** This 8-hour course teaches people to help those experiencing mental health problems or crises, covering identifying, understanding, and responding to signs of addictions and mental illnesses.
 - This training is appropriate for human service providers, youth development workers, educators, etc.
 - **Cost per participant: Varies (\$0-\$75)**
- **Question, Persuade, Refer:** This training helps people recognize and detect when others may be experiencing suicidal ideation provides strategies and talking points to begin a conversation with a reluctant person to encourage an openness to receiving help.
 - This training is appropriate for anyone interested, but “gatekeepers,” someone in a position to recognize a crisis include, parents, friends, neighbors, teachers, first responders, caseworkers, and office supervisors.
 - **Cost per participant: Varies (approx. \$50)**

Well suited for professional service providers

- **Transformative Mental Health Core Curriculum:** This curriculum provides an introductory resource for those interested in exploring the challenges of the current mental health system, offering a unique learning and unlearning journey with 8 modules and 22 hours of original video content.
 - This training is appropriate for mental health practitioners, health support specialists, educators, community organizers, etc.
 - **Cost per participant: \$299**
- **Urban Trauma Framework:** An introductory course covering the three main components of urban trauma, equipping participants with the knowledge necessary to understand racial trauma.
 - This training is appropriate for mental health practitioners, health support specialists, educators, community organizers, etc.
 - **Cost per participant: (\$500 - \$3,200)**

Option 2: Mental Health Awareness Campaigning for Black Men and Boys

Campaign subject matter that would increase accessibility to quality culturally relevant mental healthcare for Black men and boys might include:

- Destigmatizing receipt of mental healthcare by Black men and/or boys
- Raising awareness of the signs that a Black man and/or boy may need mental health services
- Increasing awareness of the existence of “nontraditional” therapeutic activities that have been proven to be impactful

- Raise awareness of mental health resources available to Black men and/or boys

Potential activities might include:

- Radio spots
- Appearances at community events
- Public access channel spots
- Development and airing a public service announcement(s)
- Hosting independent community events
- Developing a locally available repository (paper/online) of mental resources for Black men and boys
- Social media campaigning

You can find an abridged list of resources that organizations might find useful for mental health awareness campaign content [here](#).

III. Selection Criteria:

All projects will be evaluated against the rubric presented [here](#).

IV. Reporting Requirements:

The Beta Iota Boulé, Black Giving Circle and Hartford Foundation partnership is interested in learning how the training provided or the awareness raising campaign waged has positively contributed to Black men and/or boys ability to be able to access to quality culturally relevant mental healthcare in Greater Hartford. If awarded, the Foundation will assist grantees to develop reporting that highlights the impact of their project.

The types of information you might tell us in a report may include:

- Total number of people who received mental health training (if relevant)
- Total number of mental health awareness campaigning activities conducted along with the number of people reached through each activity (if relevant)
- Total number of Black men and/or boys that received services from your organization during the grant period
- Observations about the positive benefits of the mental health training or the health awareness campaigning on the people in your immediate scope (e.g. Black men and/or Boys served by your organization; staff that received mental health training; members of the general public who were witness to the mental health campaigning)

V. Information to Apply:

To apply for this grant opportunity, [click here](#).

Please direct any questions or clarifications to Ramonita Garcia at rgarcia@hfpg.org. Any technical questions should be directed to Grants Administration at grantsadministration@hfpg.org.

Grant Award: The Black Giving Circle Fund expects to fund five grant requests for \$20,000 for one year.

Key Dates:

Application Due Date:	September 30, 2025
BGCF Grantmaking Meeting:	November 11, 2025

Please note: Applicants under consideration will be expected to present at the grantmaking meeting on **November 11, 2025**, and give brief presentations of the proposed project to members of the Black Giving Circle Fund. The presentation will be up to 10 minutes and presenters should be prepared to answer questions about the proposal.

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