



AFRICAN AMERICAN LEGACY

An Initiative of The Chicago Community Trust

Grant Guidelines 2016

The African American Legacy (AAL) of The Chicago Community Trust is a philanthropic and educational initiative led by African Americans to improve the quality of life in the African American community in the metropolitan Chicago area. AAL involves African Americans in philanthropy, collectively and individually, and provides support to nonprofit organizations working day by day to solve community problems. With a permanent endowment as its foundation, AAL uses the power of collective giving and the philosophy of community engagement to make a significant impact on organizations focused on community based services.

EMPOWERMENT FOR PEACE

For the past three years, the African American Legacy has supported organizations with a programmatic focus on developing the voices of African American youth to reduce violence. Even though violence has declined over the past twenty years in Chicago, it remains at unacceptable levels and its concentration in African American communities is particularly devastating. Therefore, the 2016 grant making focus of AAL continues this important work, through an emphasis on the twin themes of power and peace. Empowerment requires that we work together. Hence, proposals for our 2016 grant cycle must bring together two or more organizations whose collective efforts get us further than any one organization working alone. **Empowerment for Peace** recognizes that reducing violence requires building our strength from within and coordinating our collective talents, ideas, and leadership in order to garner the necessary resources to foster peace.

Collaborative proposals may be for specific **programs** that two or more organizations will administer together, or for **relationship-building**, that is, the costs of developing the infrastructure, social ties, and systems necessary to launch and solidify long-lasting partnerships. At least one of the participating organizations must have a three-year average operating budget of less than \$2 million.

The goal of these grants is to achieve impacts that are multiplicative rather than simply additive. Whether the proposal is for specific programming or for relationship-

building, the substance of the work must be aimed at empowering residents in Chicago's African American communities to reduce violence and build peace. Such efforts might be targeted at the individual (e.g., anger management tools), family (e.g., modeling peaceful conflict resolution), neighborhood (e.g., additional youth programming), or institutional (e.g., lobbying for changes in policing policies) level. Measurable outcomes can be at the program level (e.g., reductions in arrests or recidivism, increased work-force attachment, achievement of law or policy change), or at the level of collaborative capacity (e.g., increased number of clients served, more dollars for direct service, deeper professional development).

What will it take to build a more peaceful Chicago? AAL's answer is Empowerment — first, through the specific programs, activities, services, and organizing that individual organizations offer and do; and, second, by fostering and nurturing **partnerships** between organizations in order to multiply their impact. AAL believes that through its investment in collaborative grants that develop and cultivate empowering tools for peace, we are ensuring the success of the entire Black community.

2016 GRANT GUIDELINES

The African American Legacy will consider joint proposals from two or more nonprofit organizations with a focus on empowering individuals, families, neighborhoods, or organizations to reduce violence and foster

peace. Proposals must fall into one of the following two areas, although specific activities may go beyond those listed below:

- **Programs:**
 - > Behavioral interventions that give program participants alternatives to violence
 - > Improving family systems through modeling peaceful conflict resolution
 - > Developing leaders in anti-violence efforts
 - > Organizing or advocacy for juvenile justice reform
- **Relationship-Building:**
 - > Sustained dialogues that lead to or solidify long-term partnerships
 - > Integration of information and technology systems
 - > Development of joint programming that leverages the unique strengths of each partner
 - > Efforts to share facilities, staff, computing, or other organizational resources

AAL will provide one year of support with the possibility of renewal for collaborative grants of up to \$50,000 annually. The proposal should lay out the plan for disbursing the grant across the two or more partnering organizations. Grant amounts cannot exceed 30% of any organization's operating budget. All requests must align with the programmatic focus and must demonstrate how the proposed strategies/activities align with **Empowerment for Peace**. Organizations applying to AAL must serve African Americans as a core constituency.

Applications must be submitted by April 15, 2016.

DURATION OF GRANTS

Grants are for one year. Renewals for up to three years are possible and will be contingent upon funding availability and the organization meeting its performance outcomes from the previous grant year.

Grants or grant requests made through The Chicago Community Trust are separate from those made through The African American Legacy. Therefore, organizations can make grant requests to both AAL and the Trust at one time. All grants made by The African American Legacy require the submission of all paperwork detailed in these guidelines.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR A GRANT?

- Any qualified 501(c)(3) organization, as defined by the Internal Revenue Service Code, that serves the

- residents of metropolitan Chicago, including Cook, DuPage Lake, McHenry and/or Will Counties, Illinois.
- Any other organization that has a minimum of three board members and has a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that will serve as the fiscal agent for the grant.
- Organizations must serve African Americans.
- At least one of the collaborating organizations must have a three-year average operating budget of under \$2 million.

TYPES OF SUPPORT

Grants **will be** awarded for:

- Program Development: To support the joint development and/or operation of a specific program that has a measurable impact on the community.
- Relationship-building: To support the establishment of a long-lasting partnership to deliver programs or share systems that will increase the impact of the work done by both (or all) organizations involved.

The following types of grants **will not be** considered:

- Grants to endowments, or to consultants that help prepare, create and build endowments
- Capital grants to help make improvements or add to a physical plant
- Scholarships
- Grants to individuals
- Emergency grants
- Staff award programs
- Religious proselytizing
- Political campaigns or endeavors
- Solely for writing, publishing, producing or distributing audio, visual or printed material
- Solely for the conduct of a conference, festival, exhibition or meeting
- Reduction or liquidation of existing debt

STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY

The work of The African American Legacy is predicated on the belief that diversity enhances an organization, regardless of age, disability status, economic circumstance, ethnicity, gender, race, religion, or sexual orientation. This commitment will be reflected in the standards applied to proposal evaluation.

How to Apply

1. THE PROPOSAL

An online application will be available in GrantCentral, The Chicago Community Trust's grants management system, beginning on February 15, 2016. If your work advances the goals described by these guidelines, please submit your application no later than April 15, 2016.

2. PROPOSAL REVIEW

The Chicago Community Trust receives and reviews all proposals in consultation with The African American Legacy's Board of Advisors.

3. PROPOSAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Trust will promptly confirm receipt of all proposals.

- **Staff Contact:** The Trust staff/consultant will contact the agency to confirm that the required content has been included in the proposal, request any needed additional information, schedule an appointment or site visit as appropriate and discuss any special needs or circumstances that may exist.
- **Staff Review:** As part of the review process, staff/consultant may contact other agencies, foundations or individuals who have knowledge of the grant seeking agency. Staff/consultant often will make site visits.
- **Executive Approval:** Staff/consultant recommendations are reviewed by the Board of Advisors of The African American Legacy.
- **Notification of Decision:** Notification will be sent from the Trust by the end of September 2016.
- **Changes:** During the time that a proposal is under review, an applicant must notify the Trust of any significant changes in leadership (staff or board), financial circumstances or the capacity of the agency to accomplish the proposed activities.

If you have questions about this grant process, please contact Kathy Pope at kpope@cct.org.