



AFRICAN AMERICAN LEGACY
AN INITIATIVE of



THE CHICAGO
COMMUNITY TRUST
EQUITY • OPPORTUNITY • PROSPERITY

Requests for Proposals: African American Legacy Fund 2024

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| RFP Release Date: | April 5, 2024 |
| Information Webinar: | Wednesday, April 10 at 11 AM |
| Full Application Deadline: | May 13, 2024 |
| Site Visits: | July 15 - August 2, 2024 |
| Funding Decisions: | September 2024 |

Background:

African American Legacy (AAL), an initiative of The Chicago Community Trust, is a philanthropic and educational initiative led by Black civic and community leaders who share the common goal of improving the quality of life among Black people throughout metropolitan Chicago. AAL engages leaders in philanthropy, collectively and individually, and provides support to nonprofit organizations that work at the community level to educate and engage communities, and to provide neighborhood-based services and solutions to address community problems. Grounded in the philosophies of collective giving, community engagement, and grant making, AAL serves as a convener and catalyst to promote significant impact in Black communities through the organizations that it supports. The ultimate goal of AAL's grantmaking cycle is to strategically assist organizations in their growth and development so they can leverage these funds to attract new, larger investments.

2024 Focus Areas:

AAL will support Black-led and Black-serving community organizations working in the following areas:

- a) **Community and Civic Engagement:** We seek to support organizations doing work in the areas of leadership development, voting rights/access activism, and community organizing that actively dismantles anti-Black racism, and uplifts, empowers, and strengthens Black communities.

- b) **Mental Health:** We seek to support organizations that prepare providers or community members to deliver or advocate for a broad range of mental health services, including trauma-informed care, and in doing so actively respond to the disproportionate burden of stress on Black people and Black communities due to employment instability, financial strain, family stress, trauma, and gun violence.
- c) **Wealth Creation:** We seek to support organizations that are working to build wealth in and economically empower Black communities through financial management and literacy, entrepreneurship, workforce re-entry, and trade skills and training initiatives.
- d) **Arts and Sciences Education:** We seek to support organizations that spur creativity and imagination and/or provide academic enrichment assistance to Black children and young adults in the areas of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM).
- e) **Environmental Justice:** We seek to support organizations that seek to protect, monitor, advocate for, or provide access to the built/natural environment or nature. These organizations might also work to ensure that people and communities of color are not disproportionately impacted by exposure to pollution and toxins, lack of access to clean water and air, or inadequate waste management.

Grantmaking Criteria:

Black-Led and Black-Serving. AAL is committed to supporting Black leaders in organizations and organizations that serve Black communities or constituents. *Black-serving* means constituents are predominantly (51%) Black and/or from the African Diaspora (Africans brought primarily to the Americas as slaves who live around the globe—Brazil, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Europe, and Asia).

Organizations that are older than five years will not be considered if the Executive Director and Board Chair are the same individual.

Place-based. Primarily located in the Chicago metropolitan area and accessed by Black people living in this geographic region.

People-driven. Program direction and design are grounded in the needs of the constituency and the community served. Using an asset-based approach means that the organization's work is done not only for the people involved but also by them.

Successful requests will demonstrate how the organization's mission, strategies, and activities contribute to and advance one of the five focus areas as defined in this request for proposals.

Average AAL grants for 2024 will range in size between \$10,000 to \$20,000 based on the scope of the grantees' general operations or project-based needs. Eligible organizations must have current and prior year annual operating budgets that are not less than \$50,000 and not more than \$2,000,000.

Types of Support:

All 2024 AAL grants will be for general operating support or project-based support of organizations or programs that align with the defined focus areas.

Grant Amounts Available and Grant Term:

Grants are for one year. An organization may only submit one request for funding per cycle. The AAL grant cycle is from October to September of the following year.

An AAL grant awarded in the 2023 grant cycle would not prohibit an organization from applying for another AAL grant in 2024. **Please note that a prior grant from AAL does not guarantee renewal or continued annual AAL support.**

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 the same time. All grants made by The African American Legacy require that the online application be completed in its entirety.

Eligible Applicants:

Preference is for organizations that support Black leaders and Black communities, are responsive to and rooted in community, and whose work is focused in one of the four programmatic areas outlined above.

To be eligible for a grant award, an applicant must be:

- A nonprofit organization with evidence that it (a) has been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code; (b) is fiscally sponsored by a Section 501(c)(3) organization; or (c) is a governmental unit within the meaning of Section 170(c)(1) of the Code; and
- Described in Section 170(b)(1)(A) of the Code, other than a “disqualified supporting organization” within the meaning of Section 4966(d)(4) of the Code.

Sponsored organizations without 501(c)(3) status must clearly identify a fiscal sponsor and have the sponsoring agent complete an Organizational Profile in GrantCentral prior to submitting a full request for funding. Fiscal sponsors must log in and complete and certify an Organizational Profile in GrantCentral at <https://community-cct.force.com/grantcentral/> prior to application submission. They must also submit its most recent 990 or audited financial statement and a signed copy of the fiscal sponsor agreement.

Application Process:

Applicants must complete an application via GrantCentral, The Chicago Community Trust's online grants management system. To access an application, grant seekers must log into GrantCentral at <https://community-cct.force.com/grantcentral/>.

Applicants must complete an Organizational Profile, which is on the last tab within the GrantCentral account. **If the Organizational Profile was completed for a previous funding opportunity, it must be reviewed, updated, and certified prior to application submission.**

Sponsored organizations without 501(c)(3) status must identify their fiscal sponsor as soon as possible and ask them to complete an Organizational Profile in GrantCentral prior to the sponsored organization's application submission. Fiscal sponsors must log in and complete and certify an Organizational Profile in GrantCentral at <https://community-cct.force.com/grantcentral/> prior to application submission.

Contact Information:

For technical questions regarding GrantCentral, email grants@cct.org.

For programmatic and application content questions, email Carrie Goodale at cgoodale@cct.org.