Requests for Proposals: African American Legacy Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RFP Release Date:</th>
<th>April 8, 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information Webinar:</td>
<td>April 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Application Deadline:</td>
<td>May 18, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Visits:</td>
<td>July 2020 - August 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Decisions:</td>
<td>September 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Background:**

African American Legacy (AAL) is a philanthropic initiative led by African American civic and community leaders who share the common goal of improving the quality of life among African Americans throughout metropolitan Chicago. AAL engages African Americans 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 addressing community problems. Grounded in the philosophies of collective giving, community engagement and grant making, AAL serves as a convener and catalyst, making significant impact through the organizations that it supports.

**2020 Focus Areas:**

The African American Legacy will support community organizations with a strong commitment to social justice and a programmatic focus on the following areas:

1.) **Arts**- we seek to support artistic expression that share and celebrate the lived experience of Black Chicagoans

2) **Immigration** - we seek to support policy/systems change and direct service specific to those of the African Diaspora

3) **Mental Health** - we seek to support trauma informed care that actively responds to street, gun and police violence

4) **Youth Micro Entrepreneurship**- we seek to support 6 to 12-month efforts that prepare youth, ages 16 to 24, to start, run and grow a business
Grantmaking Criteria:

Black Led/Black Serving. AAL is committed to improving the quality of life of African Americans throughout Metropolitan Chicago and sees it support of community organizations as a key component in that effort. In particular AAL is committed to supporting organizations that are black serving which means constituents are predominantly 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) and black led meaning the staff and board leadership are predominately black and/or from the African Diaspora.

Place-based. Primarily located in Metropolitan Chicago. Connected space defined by physical geography, provides a spatial context for defining outcomes, social problems are interrelated and sometimes grounded by concentrations of poverty and gaps in opportunity.

People-driven. Program direction and design are grounded in the needs of the constituency and the community served. Most of the work is done not only for the people involved but also by them. An asset-based approach is used to discover and bring forth the individual’s gifts in service of the community.

Social Justice. A demonstrated commitment to address the fair redistribution of resources, opportunities, and responsibilities across all communities; empowers all people, particularly those who have been historically disenfranchised, to realize their full potential; and actively build the community’s capacity for collaborative action.

Types of Support

Grants are intended to fund either General Operating or Project support.

Grant Amounts Available and Grant Term:

Grants are for one year. No organization shall have more than one active grant or grant request with The African American Legacy Fund at any one time. The AAL grant cycle is historically from October to September. An AAL grant awarded in the 2019 grant cycle would not prohibit an organization from applying for another AAL grant in 2020.

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 Fund require that the online application be completed in its entirety.

Eligible Applicants:

Organizations that are considered Black led/Black serving, responsive to and rooted in community, and whose work is focused on any one of the four programmatic areas are eligible to apply.

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

- Applicants must be grassroots organizations (Annual budgets of $50,000 - $1.5 M)
- 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; (c) or is a governmental unit within the meaning of Section 170(c)(1) of the Code;

• 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; and

• Located within and/or primarily serving residents of Cook County, Illinois.

Sponsored organizations without 501(c)(3) status must identify their fiscal sponsor as soon as possible and ask them to complete an organization profile in The Chicago Community Trust’s grants management system, GrantCentral, prior to the sponsored organization’s application submission. Fiscal sponsors must log in and complete and certify an organization profile in GrantCentral at [https://cct.smartsimple.com](https://cct.smartsimple.com) prior to application submission.

**Evaluation and Learning:**

Sharing successes or challenges in achieving measures of progress is critical to our collective learning, decision-making and impact.

The Trust is committed to achieving our long-term goals and outcomes. We are developing outcome measures both internally and with our partners that inform progress towards our shared mission. Your project outcomes should be informed by why you think that the project or strategy will lead to the anticipated result or long-term change (i.e., your theory of change). After you identify those outcomes, we are asking grant applicants to develop specific, time-limited measures of progress. For shorter term grants (1-year), these outcomes may not be achieved during the duration of the project. Measures of Progress provide measurable and reportable evidence that a proposed project and/or organization has effectively achieved – or is on the path to achieving - its objectives. These are what can be measured during the term of the grant period and contribute to your longer-term outcomes and are aligned to the Trust’s strategic priorities. We also recognize that there could be challenges to the implementation of any grant, many of which are not under the control of grant recipients, which may prevent you from achieving your targets. Learning with you about the progress made towards your outcomes and measures is part of the Trust’s evaluation and learning efforts.

**Collection of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Demographic Data:**

The Trust asks that grant-seekers provide demographic data on board and staff as well as clients/beneficiaries of programs and services. The Trust believes that the board and staff composition of grantees should be inclusive and reflect the diversity of the demographics of the region and the individuals they serve. Diversity for the Trust encompasses but is not limited to ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation and identification, age, economic circumstance, class, disability, geography and philosophy. For this reason, the Trust does take into consideration the demographic make-up of the board, staff and clients of a grant applicant as an important proposal evaluation criterion.

**Application Process:**

Applicants must complete their application via GrantCentral, The Chicago Community Trust’s online grants management system. To access an application, grant seekers must log into GrantCentral at [https://cct.smartsimple.com](https://cct.smartsimple.com).
Applicants must complete an Organization Profile, which is on the last tab within their GrantCentral account. If the Organization Profile was completed for a previous funding opportunity, it must be reviewed and, if needed, 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 organization profile in GrantCentral prior to the sponsored organization’s application submission. Fiscal sponsors must log in and complete and certify an organization profile in GrantCentral at https://cct.smartsimple.com prior to application submission.

In addition to completing the application, please provide the following supplemental responses in your application. Include the name of your organizations on both attachments.

**Attachment 1:** Microsoft Document answering the 2 questions below:

- In which of the 4 program areas are you seeking funding?
- What will a grant from AAL allow your organization to accomplish that it could not without this support?

**Attachment 2:** Upload Logic Model (provided in the Grant Central Application)

You will be able to upload any additional documents requested in the RFP as part of your application submission in GrantCentral.

**Contact Information**

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

For programmatic and application content questions, email aalchicago@cct.org