



AFRICAN AMERICAN LEGACY
AN INITIATIVE of



THE CHICAGO
COMMUNITY TRUST
AND AFFILIATES

Requests for Proposals: African American Legacy Fund 2022

RFP Release Date:	April 15, 2022
Information Webinar:	April 27, 2022 at 11:00 AM
Full Application Deadline:	June 1, 2022 at 11:59 PM CDT
Site Visits:	June 2022- July 2022
Funding Decisions:	September 2022

Background:

African American Legacy (AAL) Fund is a philanthropic 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.

We continue to be concerned about the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically as it relates to:

- a) long-term educational losses of Black students as a result of limited in-person schooling
- b) mental health challenges
- c) job instability, financial strain, new employment opportunities
- d) systemic racism and its impact on the health and wellbeing of our communities
- e) viability of Black arts organizations

2022 Focus Areas:

AAL will support Black community organizations working in the following areas:

- a) Education- we seek to support organizations that provide academic enrichment assistance in the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics to Black students, grades K-12
- 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 responds 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) Activism- we seek to support organizations that actively dismantle anti-Black racism and improves the quality of life for Black people and communities.
- d) Arts- we seek to support arts and cultural organizations that share and celebrate the lived experiences of Black people past, present, and future.
- e) Job Creation- we seek to support organizations that create jobs through social enterprises, worker cooperatives or micro entrepreneurship for youth, ages 16 to 24

Grantmaking Criteria:

Black- Led and Black-Serving. AAL is committed to improving the quality of life of Black people throughout metropolitan Chicago.

AAL is committed to supporting organizations that are *Black-serving* which 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) and *Black-led* meaning the staff and board leadership (president) are predominately (51%) Black and/or from the African Diaspora.

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 range in size between \$20,000 and \$30,000. 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 2022 AAL grants will be for general operating support of programs that meet the defined focus area needs.

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.

An AAL grant awarded in the 2021 grant cycle would not prohibit an organization from applying for another AAL grant in 2022. **Please note that a prior grant from AAL does not guarantee renewal or continuous 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 one time. All grants made by The African American Legacy require that the online application be completed in its entirety.

Eligible Applicants:

Eligible organizations are Black-led and Black-serving, responsive and rooted in community, and whose work is focused in one of the five programmatic areas are eligible to apply.

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; (c) or 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 clearly identify their 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 organization profile in GrantCentral at <https://community-cct.force.com/grantcentral/> prior to application submission.

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://community-cct.force.com/grantcentral/>.

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, updated, and certified prior to application submission. *All organizations MUST update their profile information in GrantCentral this year. The Trust has implemented an updated version and everyone, regardless of prior registration, must register or reregister for FY 22.*

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://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 aalchicago@cct.org