



# California Black Freedom Fund Round VII Request For Proposals (RFP)

## TIMELINE

**June 1** | RFP Release + Applications Open

**June 23** | Applications Close

**August** | Awards Announced (by Mid-August)

## CALIFORNIA BLACK FREEDOM FUND INVESTMENT APPROACH

The purpose of the California Black Freedom Fund (CBFF) is to invest in Black power building infrastructure to sustain the movement and dismantle systemic racism and racial inequities faced by Black communities. CBFF provides multi-year, operational grants to increase Black-led organizations' (BLOs) access to the practical resources and tools needed to continue driving transformative, multi-sector, policy change.

CBFF's objectives and expected outcomes include:

1. Reimagined agenda for racial justice and equality in California through policy and systems change.
2. A strengthened ecosystem of diverse, Black-led organizations working at local, regional and state levels coordinated to dismantle cultural and systemic anti-Black racism.
3. Established and emerging Black-led organizations will advance in their capacities, skills and expertise.
4. More Black leaders in positions of decision-making power.
5. Increased active participation of Black communities in civic matters that impact health, safety and socio-economic opportunity.
6. Increased and sustained funding of Black-led organizations at the center of the racial justice movement in California from the public sector as well as a diverse set of state and national foundations, corporate and individual donors.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Organizations should meet the following criteria (underlined wording includes link to definitions):

- The entity must be led and controlled by Black people
- The entity must be primarily serving Black people
- The entity must include as a core mission the goal of combating anti-Black systemic racism and advancing Black communities' priorities
- The grant request should equip the organization to confront Black communities' long-term exposure to state-sanctioned violence and abuse
- The grant must help achieve the ultimate objective of increasing the power and influence of Black communities to effect structural policy change.
- The entity must have a focus on power-building. CBFF recognizes that there are many different ways to build power. i.e.: Narrative power, Political power, Economic Power, and People power. CBFF views Black power-building infrastructure as a growing ecosystem of locally rooted, Black-led organizing efforts that develop a statewide base of Black community members with the ability to:
  - develop and advocate for policy changes based on a Black community agenda;
  - exercise culturally competent and responsive leadership and play decision-making roles in multiple sectors;
  - deploy multiple forms of power, informed by an intersectional lens, to win systemic change through strategies including advocacy, mass protest, and voter organization and mobilization.

## FOCUS OF CBFF GRANT ROUND VII

Through this RFP, general operating support grants will be given to organizations addressing the multiple and intersecting harms of systemic racism, police violence and racial inequities faced by California's Black communities.

In service of CBFF's goal to provide multi-year, operational support; and to build a strengthened ecosystem of diverse, Black-led power building organizations working at local, regional and state levels, priority will also be given to:

- 1) Organizations that align with CBFF's selection criteria and the focus of this RFP
- 2) Renewal grants to previous grantees
- 3) Grants to organizations that have a connection to one of CBFF's three primary networks (California Black Power Network, Black Equity Collective, and LIVE FREE CA)

- 4) Grants to organizations serving under-resourced populations, regions, and/or issue areas in California (examples may include, but are not limited to):
- a) Populations - Black people on the margins (e.g., trans communities, unhoused communities, immigrants, formerly incarcerated communities, criminal legal system involved communities, unemployed communities)
  - b) Regions - Black people who are geographically or politically isolated (e.g., historic Black communities, growing Black communities, rural Black communities)
  - c) Issue Areas - BLOs that are marginalized in movement building spaces (e.g., immigration, environment/climate issues, property justice, youth justice)

This grant will support Black organizations, networks, and coalitions to increase their capacity to enhance advocacy and organizing efforts. *This grant does not fund direct services.* Power building organizations engaged in organizing and advocacy that also have a direct service component are welcome to apply.

## ELIGIBILITY

- Organizations based in California and working with Black communities.
- Organizations with a 501(c)(3) designation or those that have a fiscal sponsor with a 501(c)(3) designation.
- Organizations with religious affiliations will be considered for funding only if the project for which they seek support attempts to address the needs of the wider community without regard to religion or religious affiliation.

## GRANT AWARDS

CBFF will award approximately \$2 million in grants (ranging from \$20,000-\$100,000), and award amounts will be determined based on the criteria and priorities listed above, need, and size of organization. Grant awards will be provided to nonprofit organizations in California in the form of a two-year grant; the total grant award will be split into two annual payments.

For example, if an organization receives a \$20,000 grant, it would be awarded \$10,000 upon execution of a grant agreement, and another \$10,000 at the beginning of the second year of the grant.

Please note that grantee organizational names and descriptions may be posted publicly on our website to reflect our value of transparency and belief in elevating the work of our community partners.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Review this RFP and learn more about the California Black Freedom Fund (CBFF).
2. Participate in the RFP information session. The information session will provide an opportunity for applicants to review the RFP in more depth and ask questions. The information session will be recorded and posted online afterward on the CBFF website.

**June 6, 2023 | 3-4 PM Virtual Convening**

**Topic: CBFF Round VII RFP Info Session**

**Time: Jun 6, 2023 03:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**Register in advance for this webinar:**

[https://siliconvalleycf.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_WhA9pEI-Q16H364xoS9TIQ](https://siliconvalleycf.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WhA9pEI-Q16H364xoS9TIQ)

3. Submit grant application, including required attachments, online at the following link:

**APPLY HERE**

**Applications must be submitted by Friday, June 23, 2023, 11:59 PM, PST.**

After reviewing the RFP and information session, for technical support regarding the application or programmatic questions regarding eligibility, please email: [cablackfreedomfund@siliconvalleycf.org](mailto:cablackfreedomfund@siliconvalleycf.org).

The CBFF Review Committee will review and provide recommendations for funding. Applicants may receive a telephone call or other type of communication from CBFF staff as part of the review process. Please ensure that the primary contact listed on your grant application will be available to answer questions that may arise. If this changes, please notify CBFF by email with the updated information of the new point of contact.

**Applicants will be informed of grant decisions in August 2023. If awarded a grant, a short final report will be required at the end of the grant term to elevate the work of our community partners.**

**Check out our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).**