

Grants for BIPOC Leaders and Communities

In 2021, the Delaware Community Foundation launched a new opportunity as part of its overall community impact grants. Leadership in Community Grants supported leaders of color in Delaware and the organizations and communities they serve, as part of the DCF's commitment to build opportunity so all Delaware residents can overcome barriers to success, benefit equitably and thrive. For 2022, we have modified this program to become the BIPOC Leaders and Communities Grants Program.

We believe that philanthropy is an important part of solving big challenges, especially when it has been part of the problem. We know there is a historically significant problem throughout our country and in our community: the need for greater investment in Black-led and Latino-led nonprofits and in communities of color.

In 2022, the BIPOC Leaders and Communities Grants Program will target funding to significantly increase leader-of-color-led organizations amongst our grantees, support community-driven change, and provide capacity-building funding to support current and next-generation leaders' long-term success. The grant program is a partnership with the African-American Empowerment Fund (AAEFD) at the DCF.

Through this initiative, the DCF, in partnership with AAEFD, will support organizations throughout Delaware that are seeking to:

- Build the capacity (e.g., skill building, training, and mentorship) of existing, new, and emerging leaders of color.
- Build the capacity (e.g. skill building for board, staff, or volunteers; improving financial management) of nonprofit organizations that serve communities of color.
- Strengthen an organization and allow it to more effectively and efficiently advance its mission, through things like: Strategic planning, financial management, identifying a communications strategy, improving volunteer recruitment, ensuring thoughtful leadership succession.
- Support grassroots organizing and advocacy efforts that aim to change policies and practices that negatively impact people of color, because of their race or ethnicity.
- Alleviate the impact of race-based discrimination and disparities.
- Improve economic well-being, such as increasing access to employment opportunities or access to education and professional development.
- Prepare and empower communities to participate in decision making processes.

To be considered for funding a proposal must involve people of color in one or more of the following ways:

- in leadership positions on board and staff of the organization
- involved in the design, delivery, and evaluation of the programs and services
- most of the participants or intended recipients.

Grants will not support rent, utility bills, staff salaries, or other expenses related to the daily operation of an organization.

Eligibility Criteria:

Agencies receiving DCF grants must serve the state of Delaware and its residents without discrimination based on race, religion, gender, age, disability, national origin or sexual orientation.

We do not support:

- Non-501(c)3 nonprofit organizations
- Purchase of office equipment, furniture or electronics
- Sports clubs, leagues or facilities
- Public or tuition-based educational institutions
- Fundraising entities for programs and organizations that are primarily supported through public funding (e.g., schools, parks, libraries)
- Purchase of vehicles (i.e. mobile machines that transport people or cargo)
- Endowment
- Religious organizations for sectarian purposes (However, projects that serve the entire community, regardless of religious affiliation, are eligible for support.)
- Annual fundraising campaigns or general operating expenses
- Projects completed before June of the current year
- Individuals
- Special events
- Debt reduction