



AFRICAN AMERICAN LEGACY  
AN INITIATIVE of



THE CHICAGO  
COMMUNITY TRUST  
AND AFFILIATES

## **African American Legacy 2018 Grant Request for Proposal**

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 grassroots 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.

### **2018 Focus Areas:**

The African American Legacy will support grassroots organizations with a programmatic focus on the following areas:

- 1) Social Justice: Education and Training of Youth Activists
- 2) Immigration: Policy/Systems Change and Direct Service specific to those of the African diaspora
- 3) Mental Health: Responding to Street, Gun and Police Violence

### **2018 Grant Guidelines**

AAL will provide one year of support for grassroots organizations. Successful requests will demonstrate how the organization's mission, strategies and activities contribute to and advance the three areas as defined in this request for proposals. Grants will range in size up to \$5,000 - \$10,000. Grant amount will not exceed more than 30% of an organization's operating budget.

- Applicants must be grassroots organizations (Annual budgets of \$50,000 - \$2.5M)
- Organizations must serve the African American community and/or those of the African Diaspora as a core constituency
- Organization leadership must be majority African-American and/or of the African Diaspora

**Applications must be submitted May 9, 2018.**



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## Glossary

AAL is committed to improving the quality of life of African Americans throughout Metropolitan Chicago and sees its support of grassroots 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.

Organizations defined as grassroots shall be informed by the Grassroots Grantmakers definition:

Grassroots = people who are drawn together by something that they have in common that has personal and community consequences and grant themselves the authority to solve the problem they are facing or create the future that they desire. *(Definition of Grassroots by Janis Foster Richardson, Grassroots Grantmakers' former Executive Director)*

**Place-based.** Grassroots groups are quintessentially local—with specific connections to a block, neighborhood, local institution (school, library, church, community center, etc), park, or rural area and arise from people's shared experience with and interest in a place—an urban neighborhood or a rural community.

**People-focused.** Grassroots groups are directly and immediately responsive to the needs and wishes of the people involved. A defining characteristic is that most of the work is done not only for the people involved but also by them. Grassroots groups provide the mechanism for individuals to discover and bring forth their individual gifts to their community.

**Informal structure.** Grassroots groups vary in structure and formality, from more formal (with elected officers/or a board of directors, written bylaws, and members who pay dues) to very informal (without any officers or formal memberships—perhaps even without a name). They may or may not operate as a 501(c)(3) entity—but more typically do not have (and probably do not need) this designation.

**Membership.** While membership may not be explicitly defined, grassroots groups work with a clear sense of who “belongs” and with the understanding that the group is a vehicle for the collective action of the members. Membership can range from two to hundreds of members.

**Duration.** Grassroots groups can be temporary, transient or ongoing; they stay together so long as those involved find the association useful and fulfilling. They can be focused on a single issue or task or can work on multiple issues or tasks.



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### **Duration of Grants**

Grants are for one year. No organization shall have more than one active grant or grant request with The African American Legacy at any one time.

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.

### **Types of Support**

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

### **Who can Apply?**

Organizations that are considered Black led, Black serving and grassroots, whose work is focused on any one of the three programmatic areas are eligible to apply.

**Please note that while organizations do not have to have 501c3 status, they MUST have a registered fiscal agent to apply. The fiscal agent will need to be identified on the application.**

### **Application Components**

- Short Form Application online
- Logic Model Template
- Current Year Operating Budget
- Previous 12-month operating statement
- Project budget
- Current Board list
- Board composition matrix

### **PROPOSAL REVIEW**

**Proposal Acknowledgement:** All applicants will receive a confirmation receipt of the proposals.

**Contact:** The consultant will contact the agency to request additional information and schedule a site visit. Please note due to the large volume of requests received we are only able to schedule site visits with applicants who have a compelling story and are deepening their impact in the community.



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## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Information Session:** April 16, 2018 -- AAL will host an information session for those interested in applying.

**Proposal Submission Deadline:** May 9, 2018

**Site Visits:** May through July 2018

**Notification of Decision:** By September 30, 2018 -- Letters of notification will be sent from the Trust.