Black Benefactors (BB) is a giving circle based in the Washington, DC area with the mission to enhance the well-being of Black children, youth and families by encouraging philanthropy, community service and advocacy in the DC region. Launched in 2007, our members pool time, talent, treasure and testimony to provide grants and in-kind support to local Black-led organizations serving the Black community.

BB is excited to invite organizations to apply for a grant. Grantmaking focus areas for 2019-20 are **Affordable Housing, Education and Youth Development**. Funding can be requested for general operating support or program support up to $10,000. The deadline to apply is May 13, 2019 by 11 pm EST.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

Black-led nonprofits with 501c3 status or community-based organizations using a fiscal sponsor with 501c3 status that meet the following criteria:

- Have provided services for a minimum of two years
- Annual operating budget of $500,000 or less
- Serve at least a 51% Black clientele
- Have at least 51% Black staff, board and/or executive leadership
- Primarily provide services in the Washington, DC metropolitan region: Washington, DC; Montgomery County, MD; Prince George’s County, MD; Arlington County, VA; Fairfax County, VA; the city of Alexandria, VA; the city of Fairfax, VA; and the city of Falls Church, VA

Previous BB grantee partners are eligible to apply, but priority will be given to new applicants.

**WHY BLACK-LED?**

Black-led organizations, which we define as having predominantly Black boards, executive leadership, staff leadership, and constituents, have historically been underfunded due to bias and false narratives about their effectiveness and worthiness for investment (“The Case for Funding Black Social Change,” ABFE, 2017). We believe that communities most impacted by societal ills are best positioned to lead the charge in addressing it. Our intentional funding focus is guided by research and a desire among our membership, who make our grantmaking possible, to support talented Black social change leaders and organizations that are often overlooked.
WHAT WE DON’T FUND

● Special events/event sponsorship
● Requests for one-time activities e.g. field trips, community fairs
● Capital campaigns and endowments
● Individuals
● Government agencies

2019 GRANTMAKING FOCUS AREAS

AFFORDABLE HOUSING
Safe, stable and affordable housing provides many social, economic and health benefits to a community. Our interests include, but are not limited to:

● Advocacy for affordable housing
● Support for special populations, e.g. veterans, LGBTQ, children and families
● Homeless youth

EDUCATION
We believe that education provides the basis for individual opportunity, economic vitality, and social stability. This focus area is intended for academic enrichment and not “educating” the community on an issue area. Our interests include, but are not limited to:

● Higher education access/college preparation
● Addressing the achievement gap
● S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics)

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
We’re seeking to fund organizations that serve youth and young adults to help them achieve their full potential. Our interests include, but are not limited to:

● Youth leadership and youth-led organizing
● Mentoring
● Safety and anti-violence
● Employment and job training
● Black girls

Applications outside of our eligibility criteria and focus areas will not be reviewed.

HOW MUCH IS AVAILABLE?
Funding can be requested up to $10,000. Please request only what you need. The selected grantee partner(s) will also be eligible to receive in-kind and capacity building support from BB members and community partners.
HOW TO APPLY
Grant applications will be accepted from April 4, 2019 through May 13, 2019 by 11:00 pm EST.

Applications submitted by email or mail will not be reviewed. Please submit ONE application per organization and do not send additional attachments such as brochures, annual reports or other materials. If selected to advance, you may provide this information.

The application can be accessed here: http://bit.ly/BB2019Grant

TIMELINE
Selected applicants will be contacted in mid-late June 2019 for a site visit or in-person meeting. New grantee partners will be notified in July 2019.

QUESTIONS?
For more information about Black Benefactors and past grantee partners, visit www.blackbenefactors.org. If you have questions about your application, please contact us at blkbenefactors@gmail.com.