



2021 Grant Guidelines: Advancing Equity in Education Grants

ABOUT BPI

Launched in 2007, the Black Philanthropy Initiative (BPI) serves as a model for rethinking philanthropy in Forsyth County's Black community. BPI encourages people to utilize their philanthropic strengths of time, talent, and treasure to impact meaningful change and address identified needs in the Black community.

OUR GRANT PROGRAMS

BPI makes grants to local programs and initiatives that are working to improve outcomes for Black communities in Forsyth County. We currently offer two grant programs: **Impact Grants**, and this grant round, which is **Advancing Equity in Education Grants**. Funding for both programs comes from the Black Philanthropy Fund, which is supported through community donations.

ELIGIBILITY

BPI is requesting proposals that work toward our goal of *Advancing Racial Equity in Education* so that Black students and graduates can gain access, advance, and have the support needed to thrive. This focus area comes from the data in BPI's [*Rethinking Philanthropy*](#) report released in 2018, which reveals how systemic inequities have disproportionately affected the Black population.

BPI recognizes that the pandemic has only heightened systemic inequities that continue to prevent Black students from thriving. Within this focus area, we will support grant proposals that:

- **address equity issues within the K-12 and higher education systems.**
- **are designed with the goal to make a positive impact on students of color with an explicit focus on Black students.**
- **are making an impact within Forsyth County, NC.**
- **are being implemented by a 501 (c)(3) organization, public school or higher education institution, or a faith-based organization. (Organizations that do not have a 501(c)(3) may use an organization with one to serve as a fiscal agent.)**

Potential grant requests could include those that address remote learning access issues, disciplinary policies and practices that negatively impact students of color, and implicit bias training for educators.

Overall, we are looking for proposals that address systemic barriers that make it more difficult for students of color to reach their full academic potential.



PRIORITIES

A *racially equitable society* is one where the distribution of resources, opportunities, and issues is not determined or predictable by race. BPI strives to support programs that address racial disparities for the Black population in Forsyth County.

Priority will be given to:

- **Black-led groups/organizations** (organizations with more than 50% of Black staff in leadership positions and/or more than 50% of board members are Black)
- **Public schools with a high population of Black students**
- **Organizations and programs that invest directly in predominately Black schools and/or neighborhoods** (including 27101, 27105, and 27107)
- Organizations/schools that **are actively engaging students, parents, and/or educators in helping to guide** the organization's work in education and determine its goals
- Organizations/schools that **did not receive a 2020 Equity in Education grant from BPI**

Why do we use Black and not African-American? We define "Black" to include the geographical and cultural traits that defines Black people as people of African descent, including Africans, African-Americans, Afro-Caribbeans, Afro-Latinos, and people of mixed ancestry who identify as being Black, either alone or in combination with one or more other races.

FUNDING GUIDELINES

Examples of the types of grants BPI *will support*:

- **Program or Project grants:** to support existing or to start new programs or projects (Funding for one-time events or for media and art projects will be considered if they are part of a larger strategy that otherwise meets the funding criteria.)
- **Planning grants:** to develop new programs or to modify existing programs to better meet the needs of the Black population in Forsyth County
- **Collaboration grants:** to provide funding to bring together groups in collaborative or cooperative projects that will yield greater impact than the groups would be able to achieve on their own
- **Evaluation grants:** to evaluate the impact on the Black community of an existing or new program that meets the funding criteria (Evaluation funding may also be included in a program or project grant request.)
- **Research grants:** to support social sciences research on educational issues that impact the Black population in Forsyth County. Requests for research funding will be considered if the research will have a direct application toward implementing a program to address the root causes of a problem or to create social change around an issue, including for advocacy purposes.
- **Pilot Programs:** initial small-scale projects that are used to assess the viability of program ideas



BPI *will not fund* the following:

- Programs or organizations that discriminate based on ethnicity, race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veterans' status
- Programs that proselytize or promote any particular religion or sect, or deny services to potential beneficiaries based upon religious beliefs
- Individuals, including direct scholarships
- Scholarship funds for general educational programs. Funds to support educational expenses will be considered if tied to the focus areas in these guidelines. This funding should be part of a larger program.
- Programs that focus only on providing subsidies for childcare, health insurance, housing, or any other similar services (A small portion of the project budget may be used for these items if they are part of a larger project.)
- Programs that focus only on providing direct financial assistance to meet the immediate needs of individuals (A small portion of the project budget may be used for these items if they are part of a larger project.)
- For-profit organizations
- Capital campaigns, annual campaigns or fundraising events, endowment campaigns, or retirement of debt
- Political campaigns or other partisan political activity

GRANT AWARDS

Organizations can submit one application for any amount up to **\$10,000**. BPI has discretion as to the amount awarded and may elect to make partial grants. Grants are typically made for one year.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

- **Monday, April 12** – RFP released
- **Monday, May 17 (midnight)** – Application deadline
- **Thursday, July 1** – Notification of funding decisions

HOW TO APPLY

Visit bpiws.org and scroll down to the “Grants” section. The application contains brief organizational questions followed by a few open-ended questions. We will schedule brief phone calls with applicants during the first two weeks in June to learn more about their proposals.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

We are available to talk through any proposal ideas you may have and to answer any questions about the application process. Please contact **Andrea Hulighan**, director of strategic initiatives at ahulighan@wsfoundation.org or (336) 604-5034.