



WITH THE LAUNCH OF THE BLACK EMPOWERMENT FUND, WE REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TOWARDS BUILDING A MORE EQUITABLE LOS ANGELES COUNTY BY COMBINING OUR STRENGTH OF GRANTMAKING, LENDING, FUNDRAISING, STEWARDSHIP, CONVENING, ADVOCACY, COMMUNICATIONS AND MULTI-SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC PLIGHT OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY. TOGETHER WE CAN CREATE LASTING CHANGE.

ABOUT THE BLACK EMPOWERMENT FUND

The California Community Foundation has created the Black Empowerment Fund to support Black-led and Black-empowering organizations throughout Los Angeles. We define Black Empowerment as investing in Black leaders that develop transformational, community-centered solutions for the Black community, and investing in Black infrastructures that create conditions for the Black community to thrive and achieve their full potential for self-actualization and social and economic prosperity.

This Fund will seek to advance the cause of Black equity with the following goals:

- **GOAL 1:** To invest in strengthening the infrastructure for Black-led and Black-empowering organizations focused on power building and systemic transformations.
- **GOAL 2:** To reverse the pattern of underinvestment in Black-led and Black-empowering organizations, so that the Black community can thrive.
- **GOAL 3:** To support the ecosystem of organizations and institutions that are engaged in moving forward the agenda for Black equity.

OUR FUNDING PRIORITIES

- **Black community organizing groups and networks.** There is a need to strengthen the leadership pipeline of individuals leading equity work and organizing was specifically identified as a proven leadership development strategy in highly marginalized communities. Investing in organizing also leads to policy changes that advance social justice.
- **Policy Advocacy & System Reform.** Greater capacity is needed to support legislative and other forms of advocacy to influence, develop and disseminate policy and model legislation, and to assess their impact on the Black community. In addition, it is important to fund multi-issue work that allows intersectional approaches to address the complexity of anti-Black racism.
- **Economic Development & Economic Empowerment.** Wealth building/creation is a major strategy toward better opportunities for the Black community. Therefore, the Fund should expand Black businesses, small business development, provide capacity building, and increase access to credit and operating capital (through CDFIs, etc.), in addition to workforce readiness and skills development.
- **Research & Intellectual Advancement.** To facilitate change in the Black community, stronger connections between Black researchers and research organizations are needed to carry out work relevant to our experiences and needs and unlock innovative ideas/solutions that will lift the Black community.
- **Communications Narrative & Social Power.** Change for the Black community is intrinsically tied to the “narratives” about who Black people are. It is important to strengthen media and strategic communications to advance accurate portrayals and images of Black realities. This includes support for Black media and Black media advocacy for the use of the arts to shape accurate Black narratives.
- **Support Community Contiguity.** Empowering Black community to have direct voice requires supporting a strong collective Black voice across the African American Diaspora in Southern California. We support strengthening organizational networks across the region.
- **Leadership Development & Strategic Convenings.** Philanthropy must invest in supporting and expanding the leadership pipeline of Black systems change leaders across a wide spectrum of issues and sectors. This can be done through supporting skills building trainings, fellowships and other leadership development strategies.

MAKE A DONATION

To make a secure, tax-deductible donation online, visit calfund.org/black-empowerment-fund.

You may also send checks payable to the California Community Foundation to the address below, noting that the donation is for the Black Empowerment Fund.

