The overarching goal of the Cleveland Black Futures Fund (CBFF) is to strengthen the ecosystem of Black leaders and Black-serving organizations in Greater Cleveland by providing intentional resources to help grow organizational infrastructure and capacity. Long term, the fund aims to deepen the field of leaders working to dismantle systemic racism and advance the community toward racial equity.

Cleveland Black Futures Fund Round 5 Application

Round 5 Application
May 2024

Section 1: About your Organization

1. **Organization Name:**

2. **Address of Headquarters**
   - Headquarters/operational address:
     - Do you own, lease, have an in-kind/partnership space agreement, or other?
     - Is this the primary address for your program's work?
       - Yes/No
     - Is your program's office a commercial or residential office or other?

3. **Executive Director Contact Information**
   - Name
   - Email

4. **Applicant Contact/Project Person**
   - Name
   - Phone Number
   - Email
   - Mailing Address (Applicant address)

5. **Organization Type**
   - Which of the following categories does your organization primarily identify with?
     - **Arts & Culture:** Organizations that preserve core functions of our vital arts and culture sector.
     - **Economic Development & Workforce:** Organizations working to strengthen Greater Cleveland's economy to ensure equitable economic opportunities for all residents.
     - **Education**: Organizations working toward assuring access to a high-quality education that prepares every child to be independent thinkers, engaged citizens and successful adults.
     - **Environment**: Organizations working to preserve, protect and restore our region's environment to ensure residents can lead healthy lives today and in the future.
     - **Leadership:** Organizations working to attract talent in the workforce, civic sector, and at home - creating a place of opportunity from early childhood to retirement.
     - **Neighborhood Revitalization & Engagement:** Organizations working toward vibrant, healthy neighborhoods, with a focus on the interactions of people, place, and power.

- ○ **Youth:** Organizations working with young people to develop and lead happy, productive lives.
- ○ **Health & Social Services:** Organizations seeking to provide residents of all ages and backgrounds access to equitable opportunities, comprehensive programming and holistic support systems that maximize their potential in school, work and life.
- ○ **Digital Excellence** : Organizations working to build a strong, equitable, and resilient digital community.
- ○ **Other**
- Does your organization identify with any other categories?

6. **Staff and Volunteers**
   - Please tell us about your staff and volunteers.
     - ○ # of Full-time staff, paid
     - ○ # of part-time staff, paid
     - ○ # of seasonal staff, paid
     - ○ # of volunteers, unpaid
     - ○ # of board members

7. **Organization Mission:**
   - What is your organization's mission?

8. **Annual Revenue:**
   - What was the annual revenue that your organization had in your most recent fiscal year?

9. **Fiscal Agent:**
   - Does this request involve the use of a Fiscal Agent? (Yes/No)
     - ○ If so, who is the Fiscal Agent? (Short Answer)
     - ○ What group/entity is being fiscally sponsored? (Short Answer)

10. **Applicant History:**
    - Is this your first time applying to the Cleveland Foundation? (Yes/No)
    - Is this your first time applying to the Cleveland Black Futures Fund? (Yes/No)
    - Have you received a monetary award from the Cleveland Black Futures Fund in a previous round? (Yes/No)
    - Have you participated in the fellowship program through the Cleveland Black Futures Fund? (Yes/No)
    - Are you currently or have previously worked with Neighborhood Connections? (Yes/No)

Section 2: About your Work

11. **Programming**
    - Describe how your mission and programming meet the needs of the community.

- Please describe how your organization is uniquely positioned to meet the particular needs of the population you serve.

12. **Service Population**
    - Which Geographical Area aligns best with your service area? Please select one.
        - Cleveland - All Neighborhoods
        - Cleveland - Mainly Downtown
        - Cleveland - Mainly Eastside
        - Cleveland - Mainly Westside
        - Greater Cleveland (City and Suburbs)
        - Cuyahoga County - Whole County
        - Geauga County
        - Lake County

    - Below is a list of populations that organizations serve; we know that many organizations serve many populations. Please check the primary population your organization serves below. (choose one)

    - Children and Youth
    - Healthcare, Service, and Part-time Workers
    - Incarcerated or Returning Individuals
    - People with Limited English Proficiency
    - Low-Income Individuals
    - Black Individuals
    - LatinX Individuals
    - Other People of Color
    - People with Physical or Mental Health Needs
    - People with disabilities
    - Pregnant Individuals
    - People Over 60 Years of Age
    - Homeless or Housing Insecure
    - LGBTQ+ Individuals
    - Refugees
    - Other

13. Below is a list of populations that organizations serve; we know that many organizations serve many populations. Please check the second primary population your organization serves below. (choose one)
    - Children and Youth
    - Healthcare, Service, and Part-time Workers
    - Incarcerated or Returning Individuals
    - People with Limited English Proficiency
    - Low-Income Individuals
    - Black Individuals
    - LatinX Individuals
    - Other People of Color
    - People with Physical or Mental Health Needs
    - People with disabilities
    - Pregnant Individuals
    - People Over 60 Years of Age
    - Homeless or Housing Insecure
    - LGBTQ+ Individuals
    - Refugees
    - Other

14. **Program Timing**
    - Is your programming seasonal or year-round? (choose one)
        - Seasonal
        - Year-Round

15. **Strengths**
    - What are your organization's top three strengths?

16. **Challenges**
    - What are the top three challenges your organization needs to solve?

17. **Capacity Building Needs**
    Below is a list of common capacity -building needs for organizations. Please list your top 3 greatest capacity-building needs below.

- Board Development
- Business Planning
- Collaboration Development
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Evaluation
- Facilities and Operations Costs

- Financial Management
- Fundraising and Grant Writing
- Information Technology
- Leadership and Management Development
- Legal Services

- Marketing and Communications
- Program Development
- Risk Management / Disaster Planning
- Staff Salaries
- Strategic Planning or Long-term Planning
- Succession Planning

18. **Partnerships**
    - Please describe how your organization leverages partnerships to increase the impact of your programming or operations.

Section 3: Use of Funds

Below is a list of capacity-building categories to which you can apply funds. Please select which area you plan on applying most of your funding request.

- Board Development
- Business Planning
- Collaboration Development
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Evaluation
- Facilities and Operations Costs
- Financial Management

- Fundraising and Grant Writing
- Information Technology
- Leadership and Management Development
- Legal Services
- Marketing and Communications
- Program Development

- Risk Management / Disaster Planning
- Staff Salaries
- Strategic Planning or Long-term Planning
- Succession Planning
- N/A - I am applying for the Capacity-Building Fellowship only

19. Please describe how you would spend these dollars. If you received a grant in a previous round, please describe how you used the previous grant, and how you will use this new grant.

20. Please complete the budget tables below to reflect the budget of the particular project you are applying for a monetary grant to support.

Organization Name:				
Total amount requested:				
Requested grant period:				

PROJECT INCOME	Anticipated	Committed	Total	Line Item Description
Please provide details for each line item in your project budget. Example: Other Foundations- Gund Foundation has awarded $15,000 listed under the Committed column; a proposal pending with Sisters of Charity for $10,000 listed under the Anticipated column.				
The Cleveland Foundation				
Other Foundations				
Government Grants or Contracts				
Organizational Budget (ie: individual contributions, fundraising events/products, membership/fees/earned income, endowed income)				
In-kind support				
Other				
TOTAL				

PROJECT EXPENSES	Cleveland Foundation Request	Other Funding	Total	Line Item Description
Please provide details for each line item in your project budget. Example: Salary and Wages - $3,500 in wages will support the Early Childhood Coordinator to implement the program in classrooms and small groups. Wages were calculated as 10% of the Coordinator's time at a salary of $35,000.				
Salaries and Wages				

Consultants and professional services				
Travel				
Equipment				
Office Supplies/Materials				
Postage/Mailing				
Indirect expenses (ie: rent/occupancy, utilities, maintenance)				
Other				
TOTAL				

*If your request is for capital expenses, please edit or add the line items to include the following:

Acquisition Expenses		**Construction Expenses**	
Lands Costs		Construction or Renovation Costs	
Building Costs		Fees	
		Equipment	

21. If you are applying and did not previously receive a grant from the Black Futures Fund: Please describe how these funds will build your capacity to better fulfill your mission. If you did receive a grant from the Black Futures Fund in a previous round, please describe how a second grant will help your organization to continue to build capacity.
22. If awarded the grant, when would your organization begin proposed activities? (choose one)
    ○ <Options> Immediately, Within 3-months, Within 6-months, Other

Section 4: Demographic Data

This section will collect information about the race of your Executive Director, Board, Leadership Team, and population served.

23. Racial demographic of your Executive Director:
- White/Caucasian/European
- Black/African American/African

- Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Latinx
- Native American/Indigenous
- Asian/Asian American/Pacific Islander
- Multiracial/Multiethnic
- Additional Ethnicities
- Unknown or Decline to State

24. Racial makeup of your Board of Directors (in percentages)

White/Caucasian/European	
Black/African American/African	
Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Latinx	
Native American/Indigenous	
Asian/Asian American/Pacific Islander	
Multiracial/Multiethnic	
Additional Ethnicities	
Unknown or Decline to State	
Total (should equal 100%)	

25. Racial makeup of your Leadership Staff (in percentages)

White/Caucasian/European	
Black/African American/African	
Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Latinx	
Native American/Indigenous	
Asian/Asian American/Pacific Islander	

Multiracial/Multiethnic	
Additional Ethnicities	
Unknown or Decline to State	
Total (should equal 100%)	

26. Racial makeup of your Staff (in percentages)

White/Caucasian/European	
Black/African American/African	
Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Latinx	
Native American/Indigenous	
Asian/Asian American/Pacific Islander	
Multiracial/Multiethnic	
Additional Ethnicities	
Unknown or Decline to State	
Total (should equal 100%)	

27. Racial makeup of your Population Served (in percentages)

White/Caucasian/European	
Black/African American/African	
Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Latinx	

Native American/Indigenous	
Asian/Asian American/Pacific Islander	
Multiracial/Multiethnic	
Additional Ethnicities	
Unknown or Decline to State	
Total (should equal 100%)	

Documents to Upload:

- Board List with Affiliations
- Organization Budget (all applicants, both monetary and fellowship)
- Current audit report or most recent financial statement if no audit available
- Optional Additional attachments pertinent to the project

Round Five Application Scoring Rubric

Main Category	Subcategories	1 *Below expected level*	3 *At expected level*	5 *Above expected level*
Alignment with Goals	Purpose Part I	The organization is either not black-led and black-serving **or** does not have a need for capacity-building support.	The organization is black-led and black-serving with capacity-building needs, however hasn't defined a clear or specific capacity-building need.	The organization is black-led and black-serving with capacity-building needs, and has defined a clear capacity-building need.
	Purpose Part II	The organization lacks understanding of the needs of its community or has not made a case for why or how it is able to meet those needs of the community it serves.	The organization has a deep understanding of its community and may be able to utilize that understanding to meet the needs of the community it serves.	The organization has a deep understanding of the needs of its community and is uniquely positioned to meet those needs.
	Budget	The budget is nonexistent, inaccurate, or not reasonable for the expressed need or size of the organization.	The budget mostly aligns with the stated need, is somewhat reasonable for the size of the organization, but has questionable or incomplete components.	The budget accurately reflects the need for resources, is reasonable as it relates to the size of the organization, and is reasonable relative to the expressed needs.
	Geography	The organization is outside of or does not serve the Cleveland Foundation's geographical footprint (Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga).	Some of the organization's services are within Cleveland Foundations' geographical footprint (Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga).	The organization serves within the Cleveland Foundation's geographical footprint.
Capacity Building Needs	Program Areas	The organization does not align with Cleveland Foundation program areas and does not appear to have the capacity needed to be successful at this effort. The project is unlikely to succeed.	The organization somewhat aligns with Cleveland Foundation program areas and demonstrates the capacity needed to execute this idea, and/or the organization has articulated how this award will help to build that capacity.	The organization aligns with one or more of Cleveland Foundation's program areas and has significant capacity needed to execute this idea, and has a strong plan in place. The project is highly likely to succeed.
	Capacity to Apply Funding	The organization does not have the organizational or human capacity to apply the grant to its stated purpose.	The organization might have the organizational and human capacity to apply the resources to its stated purpose, but it is questionable.	The organization has the organizational and human capacity to apply the grant to its stated purpose.
	Clarity of Need	The organization has not identified how it will use a Cleveland Black Futures Fund grant to build capacity.	The organization has identified at least one way it will build capacity utilizing the Cleveland Black Futures Fund, but it is vague or unaligned.	The organization has identified one or more ways it will build capacity utilizing the Cleveland Black Futures Fund and has clearly described how it will affect the organization.
	Connection between	The proposal does not explain how receiving the grant will build its capacity to provide better	The proposal does explain how receiving the grant will build its capacity to provide better	The proposal clearly articulates how receiving the grant will build its capacity to

	building capacity and services	services.	services, but the explanation is vague or unclear.	provide better services.
Impact of Grant	Population Served	*The organization does not appear to provide culturally appropriate/specific services to a marginalized population affected by racism.*	*The organization does appear to provide culturally appropriate/specific services to a marginalized population affected by racism, however, the connection is unclear or vague.*	*The organization provides culturally appropriate services to a population marginalized by the effects of racism.*
	Sustainability	*It is unlikely that even with the resources of the Black Futures Fund the organization will become sustainable over time.*	*It is likely that investment from the Cleveland Black Futures Fund will help this organization move toward sustainability.*	*With investment from the Cleveland Black Futures Fund, this organization is highly likely to continue its path toward sustainability.*
Outcomes	Connection between need, mission, and programming	*There is no connection between the organization's mission and programming.*	*There is a lack of clarity on how the programming fits within the mission or how the mission and/or program meets community needs.*	*There is a strong connection between community needs and the organization's mission and programming.*
	Ability to Leverage Collaboration to Increase Impact	*The organization has not identified any partners.*	*The organization has identified partners but it is unclear how these partnerships enhance programming or operations.*	*The organization has partners that strengthen the operations or programming.*
			Score	XX/60