

2023 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Borealis Philanthropy is pleased to announce the 2023 Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Black-led Movement Fund (BLMF).

This announcement includes background information about the BLMF and important details about how to apply for funding.

ABOUT THE BLACK-LED MOVEMENT FUND

The Black-Led Movement Fund (BLMF), based at Borealis Philanthropy, supports the Movement for Black Lives (M4BL) and other politically-aligned organizations to better shape policy agendas for Black communities, create alternatives to institutions that have been harmful to Black people, and build local Black community power. The BLMF is a donor collaborative that provides a dedicated vehicle for funders to support the ecosystem of grassroots, Black-led power building organizations working towards community safety, justice and liberation. More information about the Fund can be found at: borealisphilanthropy.org/project/black-led-movement-fund

ABOUT BOREALIS PHILANTHROPY

Borealis Philanthropy is a social justice philanthropic intermediary working to resource grassroots movements for transformative change. From Black-led movement-building, to queer and trans liberation, to disability justice and inclusion, our work is rooted in the understanding that in order to upend oppressive systems, we must support the people most impacted by those systems. Founded in 2015, Borealis has grown to include nine collaborative funds working to enhance our collective impact within and between movements across the country.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The Black-led Movement Fund will provide **\$200,000 general operating support grants (\$100,000 per year) over a two year period, 2024-2026**, to U.S. based Black-led organizations or projects working within the Movement for Black Lives ecosystem, or within other movement ecosystems that are aligned with the M4BL Values.

Borealis Philanthropy believes that directly affected communities are the essential creative force in the larger arc of social change. As a Borealis fund leading the resourcing of social change within Black communities and larger ecosystems, BLMF defines “Black-led” as any organization with 75% or more of its organizational composition self-identifying as Black.

BLMF GRANTMAKING PROCESS AND TIMELINE

The deadline for proposals is **November 10, 2023 at 9pm PST / 12am EST**. Borealis staff and a [committee of leaders](#) from communities, groups and networks in and/or politically aligned with the Movement for Black Lives will review the proposals from November 2023-March 2024. Grant notifications will be made in April-May 2024. Below you will find more information about funding priorities, criteria, and an upcoming informational webinar.

BLMF’S VALUES

The Black-Led Movement Fund is rooted in a commitment to:

- Intersectional feminism* and the leadership of Black women/femmes, girls, queer and trans people as well as Black disabled people;
- Funding organizations addressing the root causes of anti-Black racism, misogyny, ableism, racial capitalism, xenophobia, homophobia, and transphobia;
- Being adaptive, flexible and responsive;
- Funding work that centers Black joy;
- Resourcing anchor organizations in interconnected movement ecosystems, and
- Solidarity, collaboration, and transparency.

CURRENT GRANTMAKING PRIORITIES

1. **Groups center intersectional feminism* and the leadership of Black women/ femmes, girls, queer and trans people as well as Black disabled people.**
2. **Groups are building local power**, particularly in the South and Midwest where funding opportunities for Black-led organizing are more often scarce.
3. **Groups are less likely to be funded by institutional philanthropy.**
4. **Groups have an intersectional connection to other issues and movements**, such as climate justice, food and land justice, im/migration, reproductive justice, prison industrial complex abolition, disability justice, transformative justice, gender justice, arts and culture, and economic justice.
5. **Groups work within the Movement for Black Lives (M4BL) ecosystem**, or within other movement ecosystems that are politically aligned with the **M4BL Values**.

*Please see the BLMF RFP Frequently Asked Questions for the definition of intersectional feminism that we use.

M4BL VALUES



ABOLITIONIST



TRANSFORMATION
AND RADICAL
REALIGNMENT OF
POWER



ANTI-
CAPITALIST



CENTER THOSE
MOST DIRECTLY
AFFECTED



BELIEVE IN
ORGANIZING AND
ORGANIZATION

GRANT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- **75% or more of your organizational composition self-identifies as Black.** The BLMF defines “organization” to include the membership/community served, the Board of directors/ executive leadership and staff (3 of 3).

NOTE: For fiscally sponsored organizations, the fiscal sponsor does not need to meet the black-led eligibility criteria; however, the fiscally sponsored organization must be at least 75% black-led to be eligible for this funding opportunity.

- **Black-led organizations working within the Movement for Black Lives ecosystem (M4BL) OR Black-led organizations that are aligned with**

M4BL Values and a part of other movement ecosystems, even if they are not working directly with or within the M4BL.

- **U.S based or U.S. territories based 501(c)3 organizations or fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)3 organization.**

- **U.S. TERRITORIES INCLUDE:** American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, United States Virgin Islands, Minor Outlying Islands, Bajo Nuevo Bank, Baker Island, Howland Island, Jarvis Island, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Midway Islands, Navassa Island, Palmyra Atoll

We Cannot Support:

- ⊗ *Universities and colleges*
- ⊗ *Organizations that are non-U.S. based or not based in a U.S. Territory*
- ⊗ *Individuals (private individuals who are not affiliated with an organization)*
- ⊗ *Hospitals*
- ⊗ *Government agencies*
- ⊗ *Organizations or projects that only provide direct service (i.e., Personal Care Attendants, durable medical equipment, behavioral or medical care, employment supportive programs, adaptive sports, etc.) Organizations or projects that provide direct services are eligible only if they also engage in community organizing, advocacy, and/or policy work.*
- ⊗ *Organizations or projects that only provide research - Organizations or projects that provide research are eligible only if they also engage in community organizing, advocacy, and/or policy work.*
- ⊗ *Current BLMF Core Support grantees who have an active grant for the period 2023-2025.*

HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

Proposals will be submitted by using the Borealis online grant portal.

You will need to log in before completing the eligibility quiz.

1. Log into the grant portal [here](#). If you do not have a user account, you can create a new one by clicking on “new user.”
2. Take the eligibility quiz [here](#). You will not see the eligibility quiz once you log into the grant portal. Please use the link provided.
3. If the eligibility quiz is successful, you will have access to the grant application.

Please see our [**Frequently Asked Questions**](#) for additional information about the application and narrative questions.

For questions related to the application, please email [**blmf@borealisphilanthropy.org**](mailto:blmf@borealisphilanthropy.org).

For technical questions, please email [**grants@borealisphilanthropy.org**](mailto:grants@borealisphilanthropy.org).

REQUIRED ATTACHED DOCUMENTS TO APPLY

The following documents are required to apply. If these documents are not included, this could make you ineligible for funding.

→ **501c3 letter**

→ **Most recent organizational budget**

→ **Most recent financials** (e.g. most recent audit or most recent 990 or statement of activities and balance sheet)

If you are fiscally sponsored organization:

→ **Project budget** (briefly including how you plan to spend BLMF funds)

→ **Current MOU** (outdated, unsigned MOUs will not be eligible for funding)

→ **Most recent fiscal sponsor financials** (e.g. most recent audit or most recent 990 or statement of activities and balance sheet)

→ **501c3 letter of fiscal sponsor**

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

We will be hosting an informational webinar to explain the Request for Proposals process and answer any questions you may have. Please participate in the [upcoming webinar](#):

Tuesday, October 24, 2023
at 9:30am PT/10:30am MST/11:30am CT/12:30pm EST

The webinar will be recorded, and the recording will be shared with all registrants shortly afterwards. **We hope you will join us for the webinar, and please share this opportunity with your networks!**