



Cycle 2 Grants: December 2021

Priority: Equity and Inclusion - \$318,000

- **A Friend of Mind**, \$8,000 to support QPR Suicide Prevention Training programs that will train community members to understand, recognize, and talk to at-risk individuals to help reduce the immediate threat of suicide.
- **Alabama Appleseed Center for Law and Justice**, \$43,000 to support the hiring of a formerly incarcerated individual and certified Recovery Support Specialist that will assist with re-entry of clients returning to Jefferson County following imprisonment and will increase public awareness and advocacy regarding impacts of excessive punishment.
- **Anti-Defamation League**, \$5,000 to expand leadership programming for high school students and increase access to their 'Never is Now' and 'No Place for Hate' annual summits. ADL's leadership development programming empowers young adults to fight hatred and bigotry in their own communities by learning about advocacy and strategies to combat hate.
- **Bib & Tucker Sew-Op**, \$25,000 to support the A(MEND) Quilt Project. A(MEND) will allow Bib & Tucker facilitators to partner with local agencies working toward equitable change for their constituents. Our partners will facilitate dialogue among their stakeholders that will then be illustrated with needle and thread. Quilt blocks will be collected from 25 hosting sites and combined into quilts that represent the most pressing concerns of our community.
- **Crisis Center**, \$42,000 to address mental health and suicide in marginalized communities by providing Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training in two-day, intensive workshops where participants learn about the signs of suicidality and appropriate interventions.
- **Lakeshore Foundation**, \$25,000 over two years to support "EveryBODY Moves" in Birmingham City Schools. The project will promote positive attitudes for disability inclusion, build knowledge, and increase participation in adapted sports and recreation.
- **Miles College**, \$47,000 to support the Miles College Center for Economic and Social Justice. Funds will be used to hire the first executive director, further develop and implement the strategic plan, and support inaugural year outreach and activities.
- **PEN America**, 25,000 to support "PEN Birmingham Reads", a proposed city-wide campaign dedicated to engaging and uniting Birmingham community members in reading one selected book in a given year. The project will offer public programming including book discussions, public readings, teach-ins, and book parties.
- **Sight Savers America**, \$50,000 to expand SSA's low vision program and partnership with the Alabama Institute of the Deaf and Blind. This project will identify individuals with the greatest medical and financial need to provide Electronic Video Magnifiers, OrCams, and other recommended vision aids at no cost.
- **The Flourish Alabama**, \$8,000 to support Flourish Fest and Cell Phone Cinema programs in

Birmingham City and Jefferson County Schools. Students will create short films that will be showcased at a film festival hosted at Sidewalk Film Fest.

- **The Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama**, \$40,000 to ensure just and equitable access to Emergency Rental Assistance and related housing resources throughout Alabama; to promote increased visibility of and education on available resources; to engage statewide partners and connect with program administrators; and to work with statewide legal services to enhance homelessness prevention and diversion mitigation.

Priority: Economic Opportunity for All - \$363,000

- **Birmingham-Southern College**, \$24,000 over two years to provide an intensive data science program at a tuition that is 50% below market rate. The twelve-week, four-course curriculum gives students insight into various data science disciplines and connects them with technology companies in the region.
- **Bitwise Impact**, \$75,000 to support Bitwise Industries' Workforce Programs, which teach tech skills to historically marginalized people using a proven apprenticeship program that creates onramps to careers in technology.
- **Girls Incorporated of Central Alabama**, \$60,000 over three years to support Project Accelerate. The program addresses the sexism and racism that affects young women of color as they train and enter the work force. It ensures that participants complete college, participate in paid internships, establish relationships with mentors and receive career and postgraduate education resources.
- **i3 Academy**, \$40,000 to expand the career readiness curriculum in i3 Academy's school community. Funding will expand the World of Work career readiness curriculum to students' parents and guardians and will provide career assessment, personalized career paths, and mentorship opportunities.
- **Leaders of Excellence**, \$8,000 in operational support for Workforce Development, Financial Literacy, Entrepreneurship, and Career Development programs. Leaders of Excellence aims to continue educating and connecting low-income children and families to the resources they need to thrive.
- **Restoration Academy**, \$20,000 to purchase a new math curriculum for the entire school (k-12) that seamlessly transitions to online usage.
- **REV Birmingham**, \$50,000 for pipeline development and technical assistance to support the Magic City Match program, a partnership with Prosper that provides grants directly to Black business owners. Funding will also be used to provide technical assistance and business recruitment services to grow the pipeline of women and minority entrepreneurs who are prepared to open brick-and-mortar businesses.
- **The Literacy Council**, \$25,000 to support educational programs including adult literacy, English for speakers of other languages, workforce development, and youth and family literacy.
- **Urban Ministry**, \$40,000 to support the WE Work apprenticeship program that hires young adults living in West End, provides a stipend and health insurance, and offers work experience in a marketable trade aligned with their passions.

- **Woodlawn Foundation**, \$21,000 to support the Woodlawn WORx online portal that provides a communication platform for Woodlawn WORX adult education program participants, employers, and partners.

Priority: Persistent Poverty - \$277,000

- **Better Basics**, \$38,000 to expand its signature Reading Intervention program by increasing from 22 units to 35 units. The expansion will allow growth into Bessemer and Northwestern Jefferson. Reading Intervention targets elementary-school students who are functioning below grade level and helps them grow key reading skills.
- **Birmingham Talks**, \$50,000 over two years to expand their professional development model, LENA Grow, which provides childcare centers serving primarily low-income children with talk pedometers, award winning curriculum, and personalized coaching to impact early literacy.
- **Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama**, \$35,000 to support home ownership for low-income Hispanic families through financial education, coaching, and housing assistance.
- **Holy Spirit Wind Ministries**, \$6,000 to assist homeless individuals and families with stable housing and basic household necessities such as mattresses, furniture, and personal care products. Funds will be used for operating expenses and for storage and distribution of household furniture and furnishings.
- **Jones Valley Teaching Farm**, \$40,000 to increase food access and security through urban farming. In response to COVID, JVTF converted their teaching farms to production farms distributing 11,000 pounds of produce and 7,000 seedlings at no cost to those in need. Funding will sustain and expand these efforts, making them a permanent component of JVTF's work.
- **Second Shift**, \$8,000 to support HomeFULLness, a transitional housing program that provides life skills and financial support to former foster youth who are at risk of homelessness. The goal of the program is to create an equitable transition into adulthood, preventing unemployment, incarceration and human trafficking, breaking the cycle of generational foster care.
- **The WellHouse**, \$50,000 over two years to increase capacity and expand services to reach minor victims of human sex trafficking. Funding will be used for therapy, medical expenses, food, clothing, education, transportation, and personnel with the goal of helping children reclaim their lives, see their value, and live healthy, independent lives.
- **Youth Towers**, \$50,000 over two years to support transitional housing and basic living needs relief programs. Youth Towers assists with bus passes, GED preparation, clothing, hotel rentals, and food. Funds will be used to lease an additional transitional house and maintain two existing houses.

Priority: Regional Cooperation - \$25,000

- **Friends of the Market**, \$25,000 to support the development of a regional market network. Funds will be used for research, data collection, and strategic planning, in partnership with Project for Public Spaces, to increase food access, vendor opportunities, and community development.

Priority: Thriving Communities - \$294,000

- **Bush Hills Connections**, \$35,000 to support Bush Hills Market, a market with diverse offerings from multiple vendors providing fresh and sustainable food options for residents of Bush Hills.
- **Cahaba Valley Health Care**, \$7,000 for two additional treatment rooms at the Cooper Green Clinic. Funding will allow the dental clinic to serve an additional 672 patients each year by providing preventative services in addition to fillings and extractions.
- **City of Ashville**, \$20,000 to support a park redesign including a nature trail, playground and sidewalks, creating a more inclusive and safer play area for the City's main park.
- **Coosa Riverkeeper**, \$40,000 over three years to support outreach initiatives by hiring an Outreach Manager who will build a collaborative network of individuals, local watershed groups, businesses, and municipalities to better educate and protect Alabamians who rely on the Coosa for food, fun and business.
- **Friends of the Locust Fork River**, \$8,000 to support creation of an access point up-stream from the Overlook Park with the goal of increasing ecotourism, bring more revenue to Blount County, offer additional access for educational opportunities, create further habitat for the Monarch Butterfly, and place the river on the Alabama Scenic Trail.
- **Mitchell's Place**, \$25,000 to support expansion of the Southside location, including two sensory rooms and one therapeutic playroom. This expansion will allow Mitchell's Place to serve more children and provide additional services such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, and comprehensive evaluations.
- **R & H Recycling**, \$8,000 to support the creation of the first state-certified compost facility. Through this project, local organic waste will be diverted from landfills and repurposed to develop a healthy, marketable soil alternative.
- **Rebirth Community Corporation**, \$8,000 to support "REBOOT: Rebuilding Better", a mental health and emotional wellness initiative that offers an eight week virtual program at no cost. Participants complete a mental health and emotional wellness assessment and receive tailored emotional support through individual, group, and/or family therapy.
- **The Arc of Shelby County**, \$50,000 to support New Visions Day Services for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Funding will assist with start-up costs and the addition of staff to expand the program and increase the number of individuals served.
- **The Holland Project**, \$50,000 to support the renovation of the historic Lincoln Theatre in Bessemer. As a cinema and performing arts space, the mission of the Lincoln will be to promote, present and celebrate diverse cultures with an emphasis on African American cultural heritage while also creating jobs, spurring business growth, and stimulating nearby real estate interest.
- **Town of Morris**, \$35,000 to build a safe and accessible inclusive playground for the community, which will link to the Morris Town Park. The envisioned playground will be a place where all children, regardless of ability, can play, form relationships, develop social skills, as well as explore, learn, and grow together.
- **Ursula Smith Dance**, \$8,000 to support performing arts opportunities, cultural enrichment, community events, and dance programs such as "Get Fit, Dance, Live", the Brown Sugar

Nutcracker and the Discovery Dance program.

Cycle 1 Grants: May, 2021

Equity and Inclusion - \$421,000; 22 Proposals

Engaging Diverse Communities grants were made in partnership with the Instruments of Hope Unity Fund to support organizations who are working to advance unity and collaboration in our region.

- **Alabama Appleseed Center for Law and Justice**, \$25,000 to support Reset, a new program that works to dismantle systemic racism pervasive in low-felony convictions. Reset provides a pathway for young people arrested for first time, low-level felonies to participate in short-term programs in lieu of prosecution.
- **Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice United**, \$30,000 to support the work of community leaders across Alabama in collecting and sharing the stories of immigrants and their families.
- **Red Mountain Theater Company**, \$20,000 to support preparation for the 4th annual Human Rights New Works Festival, including the commissioning of two works: Memorial, which will honor the lives of lynching victims from Jefferson County, and Word of Mouth, which will tell the stories of local Holocaust survivors.

Advancing Equity in Grantmaking is designed to address racial disparities and build the capacity of Black-led organizations working to build and sustain Black communities. The Foundation partnered with the Birmingham Change Fund, a 16-year old African-American giving circle housed at the Foundation, to implement this RFP.

- **Breakthrough Birmingham**, \$15,000 to support an explicit shift toward equity-centered programming, including: a curriculum rewrite; teacher training on anti-racism and trauma-informed practices; literacy training on social justice/activism texts; books written by/about BIPOC; creating community discussions; and increasing student leadership.
- **Bronze Valley Corp.**, \$30,000 to expand the C-Suite technical advisory to more diversely led companies and scale the accelerator to support more companies from underserved communities and students from HBCUs.
- **Cancer Awareness Network for Children, Inc.**, \$13,000 to further the Telehealth Service program pilot designed to provide education and decrease the mortality rate for cancer patients.
- **Community Care Development Network**, \$10,000 to increase capacity and infrastructure by engaging in a strategic planning process, annual auditing process and developing a funding strategy.
- **Croom Foundation**, \$13,000 to support the Everyday Lifting Individuals Through Excellence program that provides teen students with the tools needed to create a solid educational foundation.
- **Exposure Community Development Corporation**, \$11,000 in operational support to help improve early learning by creating a positive learning experience, improve test scores, language skills, math Skills, and creativity; to provide free music lessons to underserved individuals and providing them an opportunity to showcase their talents.

- **God Did It Ministries**, \$11,000 to identify and meet the needs of primarily black families, at-risk youth, and low-income residents by providing food, shelter, transportation, home repairs, and health assistance.
- **Modern House Inc.**, \$18,000 to accelerate the coffee shop opening and ensure its first full year of operations will continue to provide employment, life skills training, and workforce development for vulnerable populations in Birmingham.
- **Neighborhood Housing Services of Birmingham, Inc.**, \$20,000 in operational and capacity building support to provide eviction/foreclosure prevention, rental assistance, housing counseling, repair projects, and financial coaching.
- **Offender Alumni Association**, \$25,000 in operational support to create a network of former offenders and their families who uniquely support and inspire each other to reduce recidivism, develop healthy relationships within their communities, and share opportunities for social, economic, and civic empowerment.
- **Run Bike & Swim Inc.**, \$10,000 to support Got My Shot, a strategic educational and empowerment program that addresses vaccine hesitancy.
- **Sixteenth Street Baptist Church**, \$35,000 to build capacity and provide initial funding of a Director of Tourism that will focus on financial management, fund raising, and tourism.
- **TAP Inc.**, \$10,000 to assist with a STEM program that focuses on increasing low-income, minority student-athletes' interest and success in STEM.
- **Titusville Development Corp.**, \$20,000 to support Phase II of the Greek Street Initiative that will revitalize the North Titusville community through replacing housing stock, repurposing vacant lots, and providing residents with resources.
- **TruFund Financial Services, Inc.**, \$30,000 to strengthen organizational capacity to continue improving the economic conditions within MWBE, with a special focus on predominately Black communities.
- **Urban Impact Inc.**, \$50,000 in staff support to ensure quality program delivery, resource generation, operations, and communications to advance work in equity and inclusion.
- **Woodlawn Foundation**, \$15,000 to support the Leadership Accelerator and Civic Engagement Fellowship program that addresses Woodlawn's gap in access to leadership development opportunities.
- **Yellowhammer Fund**, \$10,000 to enhance and expand Margins, a program led by black women from the communities that they serve to provide material and financial support to marginalized mothers in the Elyton, Avondale, and Kingston housing communities.

Economic Opportunity for All - \$359,000; 11 Proposals

- **ASL Creative Firm**, \$25,000 to support the firm in creating spaces, partnerships, and education with the purpose of eliminating the racial wealth gap by supporting the creation and scale of black-owned businesses; services include technical assistance, business coaching, success and execution management, project management, and business model adjustments.
- **College Admissions Made Possible**, \$30,000 to incorporate career readiness and planning

components, including paid internship placements and career coaching workshops, into CAMP's high school programming.

- **College Choice Foundation**, \$40,000 to support the Bateman Scholars Program, which provides students with an immersive college admissions summer camp, ACT prep, resume and financial aid application assistance, and college visits.
- **Hearts of Wheels**, \$30,000 to support the Car Ownership and Mentoring Program that empowers economically disadvantaged youth by providing participants with a car and with car safety, maintenance, and ownership courses.
- **Horizons School**, \$35,000 to improve prevocational training and support provided to participants of Horizons School and Disability Rights and Resources, and to expand the Readiness for Employment and Disability Inclusion program.
- **IGNITE Alabama**, \$50,000 to support their holistic and supportive ecosystem that educates and bridges communication gaps between organizations, service providers, and minorities in Alabama; to provide forensic financial analysis and individualized business action plans to at least 200 minority small business owners.
- **Jefferson State CC**, \$50,000 to provide financial aid (stipends for books, childcare, housing, transportation, gas, and other living expenses) to at least 40 unemployed, low-income adults, with a focus on women and minorities, who require assistance to enroll and complete fast-track training and enter into the labor force.
- **Momentum**, \$23,000 to support Men with Momentum, a program designed to facilitate open dialogue among men in leadership positions about creating equitable work environments and challenges they face in recruiting, managing, and promoting women and other minority groups.
- **Shepherds Fold, Inc.**, \$25,000 in operational support for the re-entry program that provides residential housing and support services (assessments, intervention, education, and job training) for homeless, formerly incarcerated men in Alabama.
- **University of Montevallo**, \$35,000 to support the M.A.D.E. (Minorities Achieving Dreams of Excellence) program that assists participants in successfully transitioning from high school to life as a University of Montevallo student, and from life as a UM student to a successful wage earning member of society.
- **Workfaith Birmingham**, \$16,000 to support the implementation of two job readiness workshops, preparing up to 40 individuals for career-track employment and further vocational training.

Persistent Poverty - \$75,000; 5 Proposals

- **Christ Episcopal Church, Fairfield**, \$13,000 to support a community laundry program for the Fairfield community in conjunction with other services, such as literacy training, AA meetings, and community lunches.
- **P.E.E.R., Inc.**, \$38,000 to support multiple food/nutrition programs including the Senior Market Basket program, the East Lake Mobile Market, a new mobile grocery store, and a new meal delivery service for seniors.
- **Redemptive Cycles**, \$6,000 in operational support for the Earn-a-Bike program and Sliding Scale

Repairs services.

- **SafeHouse of Shelby County**, \$10,000 in operational support to provide safety, assistance, education, shelter, and employment support services to victims of domestic violence.
- **WorksFirst**, \$8,000 to support WorksFirst's mission of providing state-licensed student loan products and free tax preparation for families utilizing the Alabama School Transfer Credit (to bridge the timing gap of private school tuition being due in the Fall, and tax credit refunds not arriving until the following Spring).

Regional Cooperation - \$72,000; 3 Proposals

- **One Place Metro Alabama Family Justice Center**, \$30,000 to create a collaborative data-sharing structure that will consistently collect domestic and sexual violence across the Greater Birmingham region and allow partners to expand the pool of resources to support domestic violence services. Funds are to engage a consultant, purchase software, and provide operating support to evaluate, assess, and develop the structure.
- **Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama**, \$17,000 toward a project to standardize reporting of municipal finances in Jefferson County and research the possibility of streamlining local government accounting and financial reporting more widely in Alabama. This will support more effective regional government and regional cooperative efforts.
- **Red Mountain Park Fund**, \$25,000 to support Red Mountain Park, Ruffner Mountain, and Turkey Creek Nature Preserve to engage Clarus Consulting on a planning and proposal process to secure county-wide funding to support parks and green spaces. This would bring Jefferson County in line with other counties in Alabama and regionally that have dedicated funding for parks.

Thriving Communities - \$597,000; 23 Proposals

- **AIDS Alabama**, \$34,000 to establish a comprehensive health access program (Eliminando Barreras) that will provide resources, health screenings, mental health services, and additional support to uninsured and underserved Latinx individuals living in Alabama, while also investing in the LGBTQIA+ Latin community.
- **Alabama Poverty Project dba Alabama Possible**, \$32,000 to support the Alabama Goes to College Campaign (increases financial aid accessibility and college application completion) and the Break It Down Series (statewide, virtual discussions on barriers to prosperity in Alabama).
- **Arc of Walker County**, \$28,000 to adapt and transition to remote work and learning with new technology, allowing virtual therapy, video assessments, online education, and community engagement to support services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- **Bessemer Redevelopment Corp.**, \$50,000 to create two community gardens in the former Bessemer Train Depot that will provide fresh produce to potentially 1,500 individuals.
- **Birmingham AIDS Outreach**, \$50,000 to support counseling services for the students at Magic City Acceptance Academy through a full-time licensed professional counselor (LPC).
- **Birmingham Education Foundation**, \$25,000 to support advocacy work by the Birmingham

Coalition for Student Mental Health, a network dedicated to pursuing equitable, community-driven policy proposals to address mental health disparities.

- **Birmingham Public Library**, \$16,000 to support the Literacy Leaders Summer Tutorial Program that provides intensive reading and math tutoring for at-risk elementary students in Birmingham City Schools.
- **Brilliant Kids Academy**, \$5,000 to support homework assistance, individualized and group tutoring, summer enrichment, and mentoring for Birmingham City students.
- **Cahaba River Society**, \$50,000 in operational support to expand river restoration impact, combat litter and invasive species, create internship opportunities, engage community volunteers, and advance equity and inclusion in CRS' work and outreach.
- **Children's Policy Cooperative of Jefferson County**, \$25,000 to support the Safe Connections - Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange program that provides physical and emotional safety for domestic violence victims and their children.
- **City of Oneonta Alabama**, \$50,000 to install updated, ADA compliant playground equipment, safe ground coverage, and inclusive facilities in Woodland Scout Park. This is part of a major, \$10 million parks revitalization project the city is taking on.
- **Community Grief Support Service**, \$3,000 to support a new strategic plan that addresses COVID impacts on future goals, objectives, and strategies.
- **Faith in Action Alabama**, \$25,000 to support campaigns that address gun violence, barriers to voting for formerly incarcerated individuals, and voter engagement; to support leadership development, base-building work, and other operational costs.
- **Freshwater Land Trust**, \$25,000 to build the next phase of the Jones Valley Corridor bike and pedestrian trail in Avondale, known as the Continental Gin Connector.
- **Fruit of Eden**, \$6,000 to support a 10-week program that targets COVID-related learning loss and provides a well-rounded curriculum of reading comprehension, math, technology, art, and life skills to elementary and middle school students.
- **Girl Scouts of North Central Alabama**, \$15,000 to develop Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access (DEIA) training for volunteers and staff; to develop a patch program and DEIA training videos for troop members; to create a Super Troop in Ensley.
- **Khairi and Little Angels' Memorial**, \$8,000 to provide mental health and counseling assistance to women that have experienced the loss of an infant in pregnancy or childbirth; to bring awareness for infant and maternal mortality, women's healthcare, and mental health, especially for women of color.
- **Miles College Community Development Corporation Inc.**, \$33,000 to support a strategic planning process that will result in a new and comprehensive ten-year plan for the City of Fairfield.
- **NAME Ministries Inc.**, \$5,000 to support a new Healing Through the Arts program in Ensley that will combat stress, fatigue, and isolation related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Samford University**, \$37,000 to support the Advanced Placement STEM Success project, which provides students of marginalized backgrounds advanced educational opportunities by helping teachers in Birmingham City, Fairfield City, and Holy Family Cristo Rey create more Advanced Placement opportunities for their students.

- **St. Vincent's Foundation of Alabama, Inc.**, \$35,000 to promote patient engagement among uninsured individuals by ensuring every patient has a medical home and by addressing the social determinants of health (food insecurity, transportation, medication access, and self-care tools).
- **VIDAL Access**, \$15,000 to continue and expand elite, in-school college counseling services to low income students in Birmingham City Schools.
- **Vulcan Park and Museum**, \$25,000 to support the Kiwanis Centennial Plaza Interpretation Project by providing audio interpretation, interpretive signage, and video interpretation for points of interest.