



# 2021 Grant Guidelines: Building an Inclusive Economy 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 offer three grant programs: **Impact Grants**, **Advancing Equity in Education Grants**, and this grant round, which is **Building an Inclusive Economy Grants**. Funding for these programs comes from the Black Philanthropy Fund, which is supported through a variety of individual, corporate, and funder donations.

## ELIGIBILITY

This grant program is designed to support organizations that are focused on economic empowerment for Black households and working to rewrite the rules to make Forsyth County a place where we all have the resources we need to support our families. This grantmaking program aligns with The Winston-Salem Foundation's [focus area](#) of the same name, though our decision-making is distinct.

### We have a goal to support grant proposals that:

- address one or more of the following areas we see as critical to building economic security and prosperity for Black households in Forsyth County: creating accessible pathways to family-sustaining and high-paying careers, offering tools for wealth-building and financial stability, and supporting a thriving community of Black-owned businesses.
- 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 ask an organization with this exemption to serve as a fiscal agent.) **While BPI's grants are not for businesses**, BPI will fund nonprofits, schools or faith-based organizations providing resources or programming for Black entrepreneurs and small business owners.

Examples of potential grant requests include programs that support: Black entrepreneurs, Black families wanting to learn about investing or how to purchase a home, or inclusive **pathways to family-sustaining careers**.

## 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 Black populations 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.)
- **Organizations and programs that invest directly in predominately Black neighborhoods** (including 27101, 27105, and 27107).
- Organizations that are **actively engaging people and communities who are directly impacted by the program, setting goals with them, and listening and responding to their guidance about how the work is implemented.**

*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 programs or projects, or to start new ones. (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 Black populations 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 Black populations 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 **\$15,000**. BPI has discretion as to the amount awarded and may elect to make partial grants. Grants are typically made for one year.

Thanks to the generous support of the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, and numerous individual donors, BPI has over \$80,000 to grant for this inaugural Building an Inclusive Economy grants program.

## APPLICATION TIMELINE

- **Monday, September 27** – RFP released
- **Monday, November 1 (midnight)** – Application deadline
- **Week of December 20<sup>th</sup>** – Notification of funding decisions

## HOW TO APPLY

Visit [bpiws.org](http://bpiws.org) and select the “Grants” section under “Our Work.” The application contains brief organizational questions followed by a few open-ended questions. We may send additional questions to applicants during the last two weeks in November to learn more about their proposals.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

We are available to talk through proposal ideas and answer questions about the application process. Please contact **Shamika Starke**, strategic initiatives officer at [sstarke@wsfoundation.org](mailto:sstarke@wsfoundation.org) or (336) 604-5160.