



BLACK
GIVING COLLECTIVE



THE
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

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Black Giving Collective Awards \$228,706 to 18 Nonprofits on Juneteenth

Today, the Black Giving Collective announces \$228,706 in grants awarded through its 2025 grant cycle — an example of grassroots philanthropy powered by and for the Black community.

Selected from more than 75 proposals, 18 grants were made to support a range of programs — from mental health services and literacy tutoring to youth enrichment and wellness for seniors.

Powered by individuals who pool their resources to do more together than they could alone, the Black Giving Collective offers an outlet for anyone interested in uplifting the Black community in the greater Rochester region. The Collective builds on the legacy of the African American Giving Initiative, established at Rochester Area Community Foundation in 2011.

“The Black Giving Collective reflects the heart of our mission — connecting donors and nonprofits in order to strengthen our region,” says Dawn Perry, collective giving officer at Rochester Area Community Foundation.

Juneteenth is a time for both reflection and action. It marks a pivotal moment on the path towards liberation: the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in the United States. By announcing grants that center Black-led solutions, racial equity, and community power, the Black Giving Collective is drawing a connection between this historical milestone and ongoing efforts toward justice and equity.

One year ago, [The State of Black Rochester 2024](#) — a documentary film project by the Community Foundation — premiered at the Little Theatre. As part of that initiative, dozens of Black leaders were interviewed to gather data on the multifaceted Black experience in our region. Key community needs emerged, including support for emerging leaders, academic achievement and school success, health and wellness, community safety, and pathways to financial stability.

Nonprofits applying for the Black Giving Collective grants were invited to propose solutions aligned with priorities from *The State of Black Rochester 2024*.

A panel of respected leaders from the Black community leveraged lived experience and insights to help evaluate proposals. The Community Foundation is grateful to those community members for their role in ensuring a thoughtful and equitable review process:

- Tonya Nichol Dickerson – Gates Chili Central School District
- Barbara Jones – African American Giving Initiative, founding member
- Avette Jordan – Executive Director, The Little Theatre
- Dr. Candice Lucas – Sr. VP, Equity & Advocacy, Urban League of Rochester
- CaTyra Polland – Author, Writer, Founder/CEO, Love for Words
- Septimus Scott – Formerly of East House
- Tejan Conteh – Director, Assistant General Counsel, Constellation Brands

Black Giving Collective 2025 Grantees:

BreatheDeep, Inc.: Restorative wellness and mental health through culturally responsive programs

Celebration of Life Community Inc.: Help Me Read One-on-one tutoring

Coordinated Care Services, Inc.: Greater Rochester Parent Leadership Training Institute Teacher Diversity Project

Delphi Rise: Mental health and substance use prevention for youth in rural Wayne County

Dolah Me After Care: The Mom A Hand Ahead (MAHA) Project and The AfterMath Support Groups

Garth Fagan Dance: Garth Fagan Dance Student Ensemble

Glow Up Girl Inc.: Investing in Rural Leadership through Out of School Programming

Heritage Christian Services: Empower to Lead, increasing representation of women of color in leadership roles

HOPE585: Strengthening Families to Prevent Child Welfare System Intervention

Interdenominational Health Ministry Coalition: Community Counseling Circle Mental Health Program

Jefferson Family Health Fund: African American Diabetes Intervention for Brown Square

Rochester Education Association for the Development of Youth (READY): READY Liberation Teaching Academy

Sankofa Family Counseling Services, LCSW, PLLC: Efficiency & Access to Care Upgrade Project

Urban League of Rochester: summerLEAP learning program for children

Visual Studies Workshop: Being Black in America Collective Action Project

Voices of Community Activists & Leaders, Inc.: Growing Black Civic Power in Rochester

YMCA of Greater Rochester: Empowering Connections for Black and Brown Seniors at Thurston Road
YMCA Neighborhood Center

Young Women's College Prep Foundation, Inc. Preparing Young Women for Tomorrow

About the Black Giving Collective

The Black Giving Collective at Rochester Area Community Foundation cultivates broad community support to provide grantmaking for needs that are specific to the Black community in the greater Rochester region. Through its work, the Collective supports Black-led, community-based projects that foster self-sufficiency and address key quality-of-life challenges. Visit www.racf.org/BGC to support the mission.

About Rochester Area Community Foundation

In partnership with generous philanthropists and community partners, [Rochester Area Community Foundation](http://www.racf.org) works to improve the quality of life for people who live and work in the eight-county region through its leadership and strategic grantmaking. As a leading grantmaker, the Foundation is focused on two broad goals: creating an equitable community and strengthening our region's vitality. Since 1972, the Community Foundation has distributed more than \$740 million in grants and scholarships.