



## **Black Opportunity Fund Launches National Community Grants Program**

1 March 2022— The Black Opportunity Fund (BOF) grants program officially kicked off across Canada today, marking a significant move towards improved education experiences and health outcomes for Black Canadians.

The program aims to help dismantle the impacts of anti-Black racism and systemic discrimination by allocating resources to Black-led, Black-serving community organizations which undertake initiatives that impact the quality of life in Canada's Black communities.

“This is a great day for Black Opportunity Fund, said Donna Walwyn, Chair, BOF Grants Committee. “This first round of grants with a focus on health and education represents two key pillars for Black Opportunity Fund.”

“There’s still much work to do in creating more access to capital throughout the Black communities of Canada,” added Craig Wellington, Executive Director, Black Opportunity Fund. “However, thanks to our corporate partners and individual supporters, we are moving forward with incredible momentum.”

A significant financial commitment from TD Bank has been directed to the BOF grants cycle. Qualified applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible via the BOF website: <https://www.blackopportunityfund.ca/funding-programs/grants-for-education-and-health-focused-initiatives/>

### **Important Information on Program Criteria**

Below are some examples of priority focus issues in the areas of education and health:

#### **Education**

- Digital access/communication across Canada connecting Black educators, parents and kids who can interact.
- Peer-to-peer mentorship programs
- Educational resources
- Culturally focused programming

#### **Health**

- Implicit bias training
- Accountability for health inequities faced by Black Canadians
- Social isolation/mental health
- Black Transgender experience in healthcare

- Artificial intelligence to advance equity
- Research in Black healthcare
- Mobile/virtual social work

### **Program Eligibility**

- Must be a Black-led\* and Black-serving\*\* organization.
- Must be a registered Canadian not-for-profit organization or charity.
- Must have an existing project in the areas of education or health which meets the granting program criteria, or a proposed project for which initial funding has already been secured.
- Must have an online web presence (i.e., website, social media, etc.)
- Must be able to show up-to-date financial statements.
- Must be able to provide a project budget for the initiative for which funding is being sought.
- Organization cannot have any outstanding tax debt – or should have an up-to-date payment plan (demonstrating at least two (2) months of on time payment of outstanding tax debt).
- Organization cannot have declared bankruptcy

Black Opportunity Fund is committed to reducing the power imbalances inherent to funder/fundee relationships, and to using an anti-oppression and intersectional lens. We use trust-based participatory decision-making processes so the communities who are most impacted by our work have a say in how we carry out our mandate.

#### \*Black-led:

At least two-thirds of the leadership (e.g., board of directors, executive, management team) must self-identify as Black

#### \*\*Black-serving:

Significant portion of program activities prioritize serving Black communities of Canada

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### **About Black Opportunity Fund**

Black Opportunity Fund (BOF) is a community-led registered Canadian charitable organization, whose mandate is to dismantle anti-Black racism by establishing a sustainable pool of capital to fund Black-led businesses and Black-led not for profit organizations and charities, in order to improve the social and economic well-being of Canada's Black communities.

The fund will catalyze the cultural, socio-economic, institutional, and political change required to enable Canada's diverse Black communities to thrive. Black Opportunity Fund will prioritize initiatives around education, health, women, criminal justice, entrepreneurship, arts & culture, and youth that impact the quality of life in Black communities across Canada.

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