

Mitchell Kapor Foundation
Black Boys College Bound Initiative
Program Guidelines

Goal

The goal of the 2008 Black Boys College Bound Initiative (BBCBI) is to increase the number of college-ready black male youth from Bay Area public schools, particularly in San Francisco and Oakland. In time, we hope to expand our focus to include college retention and graduation of black men.

Our Strategy

We have outlined three strategies for accomplishing this goal:

- Grantmaking to increase number of young black men who graduate from high school prepared for college
- Peer support, grantmaking, and limited technical assistance to strengthen organizations that work with young black men
- Advocacy to advance policies and practices that improve student achievement, particularly among young black men

We seek to partner with 10-15 nonprofit organizations, both existing and startup efforts, that are working to increase outreach, support, and college preparation efforts for school-aged black boys in the Bay Area, particularly in Oakland and San Francisco.

The Foundation has allocated \$500,000 for grants to organizations. Each organization will receive between \$25,000 - \$75,000 for direct service work, and will participate in trimesterly meetings with other Initiative organizations. This collection of organizations will form a cohort to network informally, as well as share strategies, work challenges, and possibilities for collaboration.

Additionally, we aim to support and work with advocacy organizations to advance policies and practices that improve student achievement and promote institutional/structural changes that will increase black boys' educational opportunities.

And finally, BBCBI will remain connected to national efforts, such as the 21st Century Foundation's Black Men and Boys Initiative, to address the overall achievement and well-being of black males, from the perspectives of both funders and practitioners. Ultimately we hope that BBCBI can serve as a local-level model for other communities and funders in the U.S.

The first phase of the Initiative is over a 15-month timeline, from April 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. At the end of this time span, we expect to see measurable progress towards our goal of increasing the number of college-bound participants. BBCBI grants (and cohort membership) may be renewable, given sufficient progress by both individual organizations and the Initiative as a whole.

Selection Criteria

Participant organizations must:

- be a 501(c)3 organization (or have an appropriate fiscal sponsor) based in San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, Marin, Santa Clara, or San Mateo counties. Organizations in San Francisco and Oakland will have highest priority in the selection process, however.
- work with self-identified black male youth who attend public schools.
- have an explicit program focus on college preparedness (highlighting A-G requirements, monitoring grades, developing age appropriate academic and social skills, and fostering an understanding of the importance of a college education).
- demonstrate evidence of organizational stability and program rigor.
- commit executive/program staff to participate in trimesterly sharing meetings (possibly including a full day retreat) and cohort activities with a positive spirit of community.
- present a solid, sustainable, and culturally competent strategy for increasing the numbers of black boys in the college-bound pipeline.

The strongest programs in the BBCBI selection process will have:

- rigorous, interactive learning opportunities
- high quality instruction and guidance
- consistent and frequent interactions with students
- an adequate number of trained and experienced adult staff
- a culturally and age appropriate program design
- a progressive and positive program culture

We envision that the majority of organizations in the BBCBI cohort will work with high school young men. Even so, the Initiative also may include strong programs targeting middle and elementary-aged students.

How will we measure our success?

While our intention is to work with BBCBI organizations to develop mutually befitting metrics of success, we are most interested in progress with respect to the following:

- Number of program participants who meet A-G requirements
- Number of program participants who graduate from high school and enroll in community college or four year universities
- Number of students who articulate and exhibit college readiness practices

Proposed Timeline

February 28	Application deadline
April 15	Notifications to applicants
May	First convening of cohort
September	Second convening
January 2009	Third convening
June	Fourth convening

Black Boys College Bound Initiative Grant Application

Instructions

Please address the grant application information using standard document formatting (portrait style, 11 point font, one inch margins).

A. Cover Sheet

Organization Name

Mailing Address

Website

Telephone Number

Primary Contact Name

Contact Email Address

Fiscal Sponsor Name and Address (if applicable)

Fiscal Sponsor Contact Name

Organization Annual Budget

Grant Funds Requested

Year Organization was Founded

Organization Mission Statement

B. General information

Please briefly discuss your grant request in four pages or less, addressing the following questions in any order you deem appropriate.

- How will your organization work to increase the number of college-ready black boys? What strategies will you use? What are the specific strengths or assets that your organization possesses that will allow you to be effective? Who is your target audience and how will you engage them?
- How will the funds be used to establish new programs and services, and/or sustain or expand existing programs and services? What organization challenges or opportunities might be addressed with increased funding support?
- Which staff members will carry out the plans outlined in this request? Please include copies of any relevant bios and resumes
- How does your organization generally approach diversity issues (i.e. through board and staff composition, programming, outreach, etc.)?
- How often does the board meet? How long are board members' terms?

C. Organizational Structure/Administration

Please provide the following lists:

- an organizational chart or list of staff in order of managerial/decision-making responsibility.
- your organization's current board of directors, their roles, and their professional affiliations.

D. Finances

Please provide the following information (in one spreadsheet or document if possible):

- Organization's current annual operating budget, the requested project/program's budget, and a list of other funding sources, including amounts requested, received, or committed.

Sending the Application

Save this document as a PDF and email it to grants@mkf.org by **Thursday, February 28** (you can create a free PDF online at <http://createpdf.adobe.com>). You will receive an automated response from our grants tracking system once we receive your request.

We are trying to create a paper-free process, so please do not send faxes, printed copies, additional materials, or attachments. If you do not have easy access to a computer, please call us at 415-946-3023 to discuss other options.

Next Steps

Mitchell Kapor Foundation staff will read and consider all grant applications. We may follow up with additional questions if need be. We will also try to arrange a site visit or meeting with the most compelling organizations before making final decisions. All recommendations for grantees must be approved by the Foundation's trustees. You don't need to worry about following up with us; we will email notifications to all applicants by Tuesday, April 15.

Questions?

Contact Cedric Brown, Grants Director, at 415-946-3023 if you have any questions. Please do not email questions to grants@mkf.org, which is our grants tracking system address.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THE BLACK BOYS COLLEGE BOUND INITIATIVE!