

Black Boys College Bound Initiative

Mitchell Kapor Foundation



Rooted in the belief that a college degree is a vehicle for greater economic and social mobility; focused on college-bound pipeline.

Commissioned overview compilation of programs across the nation that work with black men and boys, *Addressing the Shame of Higher Education*.

In 2007, began research to lay groundwork for a grantmaking initiative. Influenced by two major findings on high school and college graduation rates.

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Provided support to nonprofit organizations, both existing and startup efforts, that are working to increase outreach and college preparation.

Allocated and awarded \$500,000 in grants to organizations. Each organization received between \$10,000-\$50,000 for direct service work.

Gathered to network informally as well as to share strategies, work challenges, and possibilities for collaboration.

First Year Results

Hosted launch meeting on January 28, 2008, attended by 120 people.

Considered 55 applications from CBOs, both established and startups.

Shared applications with reading panel: Tamara Moore, College Access Foundation of CA; John Newsome of Public Equity Consulting.

Recommended nine organizations for larger funding (>\$40k) and two well-established orgs for small grants (\$15k) totaling \$500,000 in grants.

Held three cohort meetings: May, November, March.

Set up cohort listserv to share resources and information (averaging one message per week).

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First Year Results

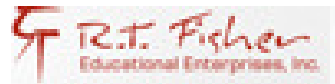
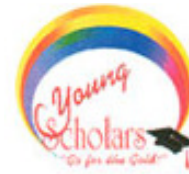
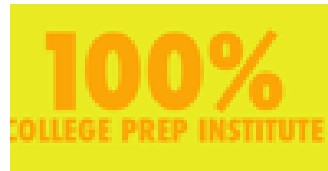
Sponsored registration and travel to The College Board's conference on African American educational issues, A Dream Deferred.

Moderated BBCBI panel presentation at A Dream Deferred.

Hosted culminating event on June 8 at Oakland Museum; received press coverage from Oakland Tribune, KTVU, ABC-7, Oakland Post.

Established larger connections to other philanthropic/community efforts focusing on black men and boys: *21st Century Foundation's Black Men & Boys Initiative* (supported locally by the California Endowment), *Project 2025*, *Open Society Institute's Campaign for Black Male Achievement*.

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11 organizations working with approximately 250 boys and young men!

Challenges & Issues

Very high demand for limited funds; continued to regularly receive inquiries even after selection process ended.

Difficulty fostering connections between grantees. Cohort needed to build common agenda and bond organically and over more frequent time intervals.

Lack of internal attention/prioritization necessary to shape work and help form bonds for learning community.

Listserv went largely unused by the cohort; information tended to be unidirectional (from Foundation).

Nearly all grantees need **capacity and skill building** to be competitive in other open grants processes.

Lack of clarity around what needs to be done to ensure college bound work, especially regarding the appropriate role that mentoring plays.

Lingering ambivalence over the term “black boys”.

No effective baseline for measuring achievements or changes.

2009 Goals

To strengthen the college-going culture for young black men.

To build a college access movement for organizations focusing on/serving black male youth.

To provide resources to build stronger, more effective organizations.

To increase the number of college bound young men in the Bay Area.

And to re-brand the initiative: **College Bound Brotherhood.**