The Black Fund
AUSTIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Grant Opportunity Webinar

October 25, 2022

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

2022 Grants Committee Leadership

Kendra Garrett
2022 Grants Committee Chair,
Co-Founder, The Black Fund

Development Consultant at
Betco Housing Lab

Introductions: ACF Staff

/ Terry P. Mitchell
Co-Chair & Consultant
tmitchell@austincf.org

/ Pamela Benson Owens
Co-chair & Consultant
powens@austincf.org

/ Meagan Anderson Longley
VP of Community Impact
mlongley@austincf.org

AGENDA

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Overview of The Black Fund
- Funding Opportunity
- Eligibility
- Application & Review Process
- Common FAQs + Tips for First Time Applicants

STRATEGY OVERVIEW

The Black Fund
AUSTIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Founders

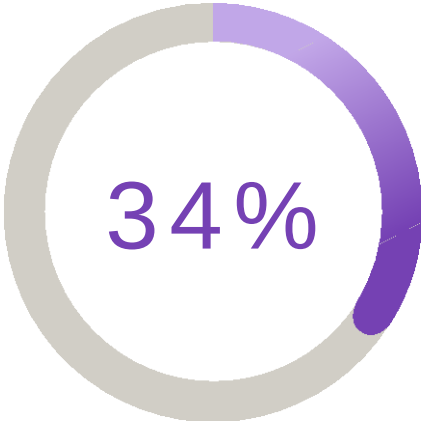
Dr. Colette Pierce Burnette, Ed.D.

Kendra Garrett

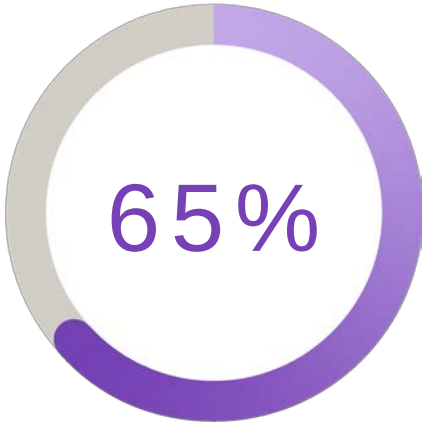
Jameila “Meme” Styles

Shining a light on systemic racism & inequity

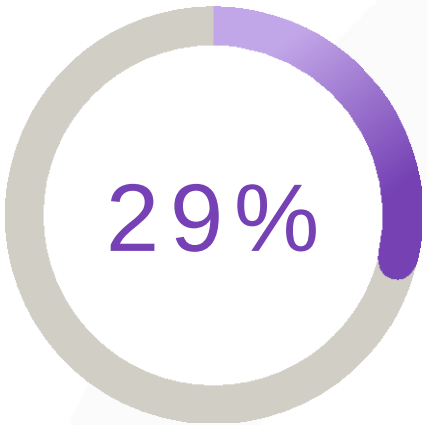
In Central Texas…



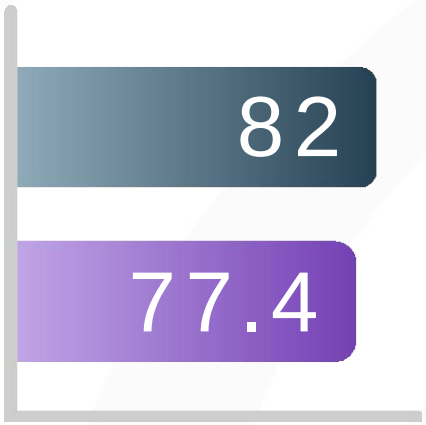
of Black residents have zero net worth, the highest level in the region.



of low-income Black children do not meet "kindergarten-readiness" criteria.



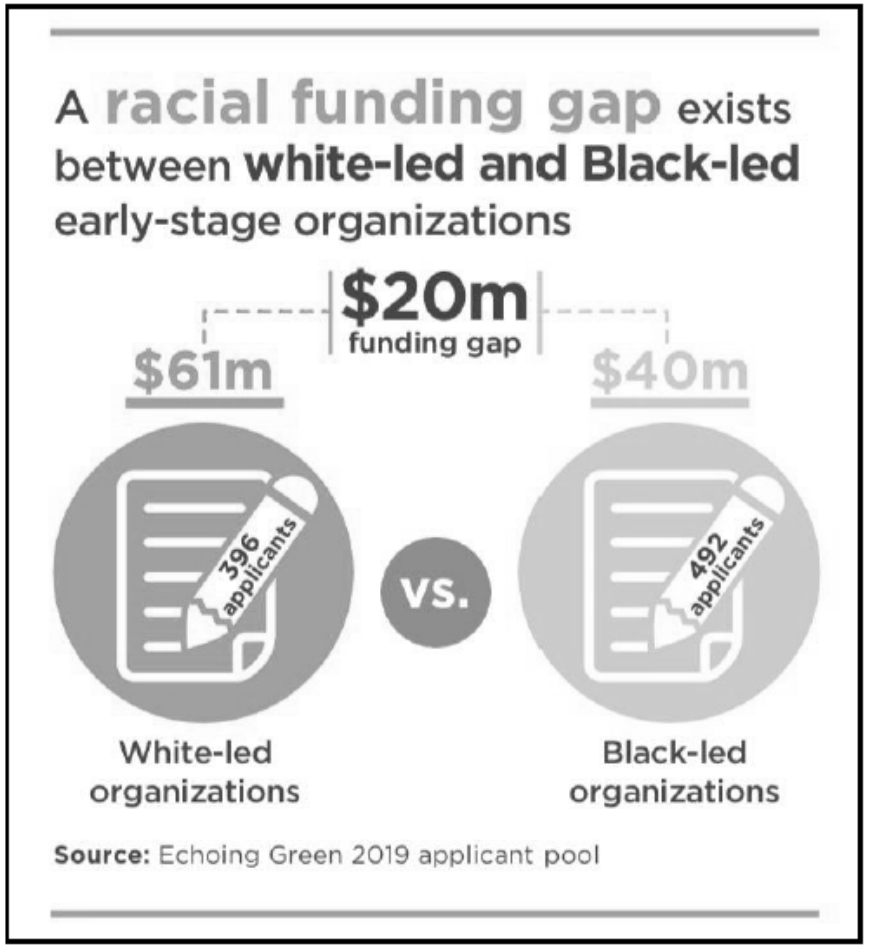
of Black residents have attained a BA or higher, compared to 54% of whites.

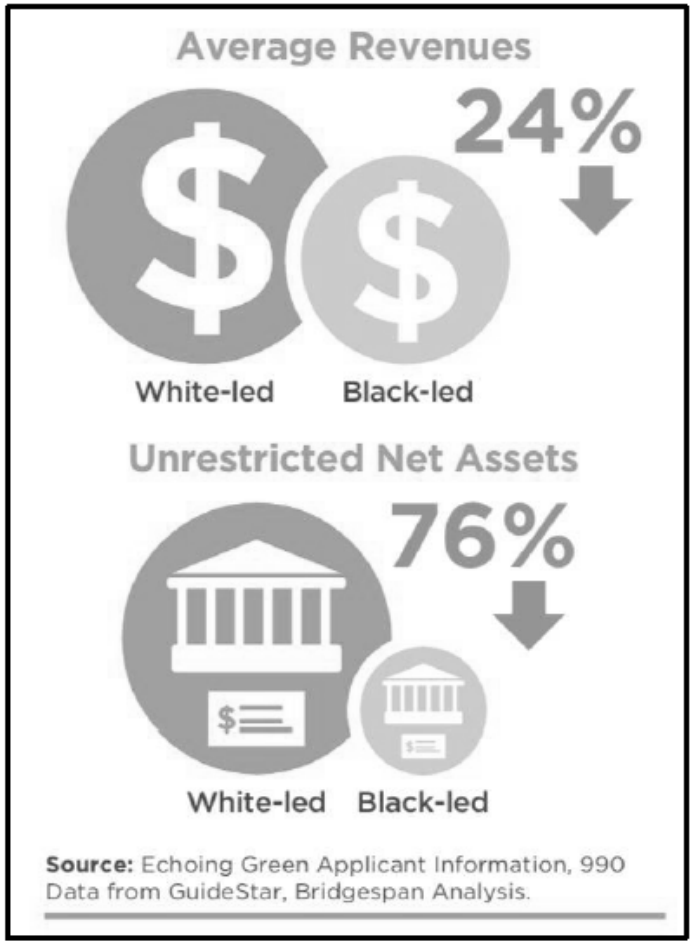


Black Austinites have a life expectancy almost **5 years** less than whites.

And yet…

Deep philanthropic disparities persist





The Black Fund

A data-informed and community-led effort.

The Black Fund, a strategic program of Austin Community Foundation, aims to unleash the power of Black-led organizations and uplift solutions to benefit the Black community in Central Texas. Driven by data and community voice, The Black Fund strives for an equitable, just society that nurtures the growth, economic security, and wellness of Black people.

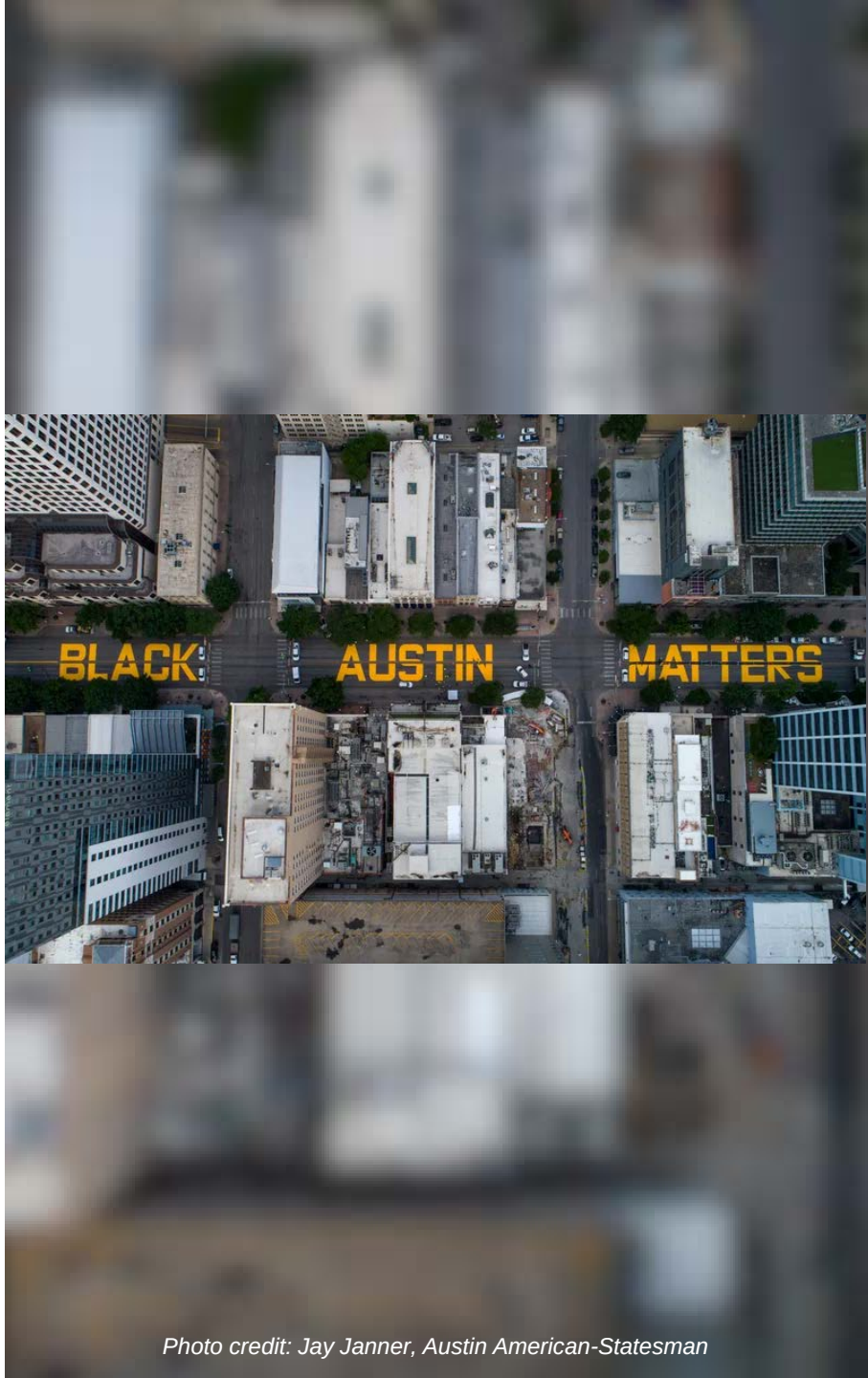


Photo credit: Jay Janner, Austin American-Statesman

The Black Fund Steering Committee

- Colette Pierce Burnette, Ed.D.
- Kendra Garrett
- Jameila “Meme” Styles
- Ashton Cumberbatch
- Shaleiah Fox
- Pastor Laurent Grosvenor
- Priscilla Hale
- Tam Hawkins
- Stephanie Lang
- Judge Lora Livingston
- Terry P. Mitchell
- Pamela Benson Owens
- Shuronda Robinson
- Llyas Salahud-din
- Yasmine Smith
- Matt Stephenson

How we approach change

The Black Fund is a collective giving network that supports Black-led solutions by making nonprofit grants in following areas:

EDUCATION

HEALTH & WELLNESS

POWER BUILDING, ORGANIZING & ADVOCACY

WEALTH BUILDING

EDUCATION

/ We invest in educational initiatives and spaces that support successful outcomes for Black people

HEALTH & WELLNESS

/ We advance the mental, physical, and spiritual health and wellness of Black Central Texans

POWER BUILDING, ORGANIZING & ADVOCACY

/ We harness the collective power of Black people as a means of challenging, redesigning, or uprooting systems to continually move us towards an equitable society

WEALTH BUILDING

/ We work to close the racial wealth gap for Black Central Texans by providing an ecosystem of support resulting in increased individual and shared growth and prosperity

2022 GRANTMAKING

Inaugural Grant Cycle

/ In total, **$340,000 in unrestricted, general operating support** will be awarded to **16 different nonprofit organizations** supporting the economic security of Black Central Texans

/ In each of the 4 strategies, 4 grants will be distributed as follows:

- / One winning finalist – a $40,000 multi-year grant over 2 years - $20,000 in 2023 and $20,000 in 2024
- / Two semi-finalists – a $20,000 grant in 2023
- / One runner up - $5,000 in 2023

Distribution Plan - $340,000

Improving Education Access & Outcomes	Health & Wellness	Racial Wealth Gap	Power Building, Organizing & Advocacy
Finalist: $40,000 2 year payout	Finalist: $40,000 2 year payout	Finalist: $40,000 2 year payout	Finalist: $40,000 2 year payout
Semi-Finalist: $20,000	Semi-Finalist: $20,000	Semi-Finalist: $20,000	Semi-Finalist: $20,000
Semi-Finalist: $20,000	Semi-Finalist: $20,000	Semi-Finalist: $20,000	Semi-Finalist: $20,000
Runner Up $5,000	Runner Up $5,000	Runner Up $5,000	Runner Up $5,000

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility

- Applications **must** be submitted by organizations or initiatives that are Black-led.

- For the purposes of this grant application, **Black-led** is defined as:
  - Black-identified Executive Director, CEO, or Project Lead, ***and***
  - At least 50% of Board Black-identified, ***or***
  - At least 50% of staff Black-identified.

- Scoring rubric allocates points based on percentage of Black-identified board and staff leadership

Additional Eligibility Considerations

/ All applicants must be tax-exempt organizations or units of government serving the six county Central Texas region - Bastrop, Burnet, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, or Williamson counties. **This includes projects that are fiscally sponsored by a nonprofit.**

/ The Foundation does not fund:

- Endowment funds
- Religious organizations for religious purposes
- Fundraising activities or events
- Political lobbying or legislative activities
- Individuals

A Note About Fiscal Sponsorships

- A **fiscal sponsor** is a nonprofit organization that provides fiduciary oversight, financial management, and other administrative services to help build the capacity of charitable projects. For the purposes of this grant application, the following organization has been identified as a recommended fiscal sponsor:

- Six Square: Austin's Black Cultural District

- Applicants interested in applying through a fiscal sponsor should reach out directly to Six Square at: info@sixsquare.org.

APPLICATION & REVIEW PROCESS

Grants Review Process

RFP
Submit an application

Due **November 18** at 5PM

Application Scoring
Grants Committee score all applications

November 30 – Decmber 12

Semifinalist Selection
Grants Committee selects 4 semifinalists in each area based on scores

December 13

Zoom Learning Sessions
Four semifinalists and Grants Committee participate in Zoom Learning Sessions

January 9-20

Finalist Selection
Grants Committee selects finalists based on Zoom Learning Sessions

January 25

Grants Announced & Celebrated

February 2023

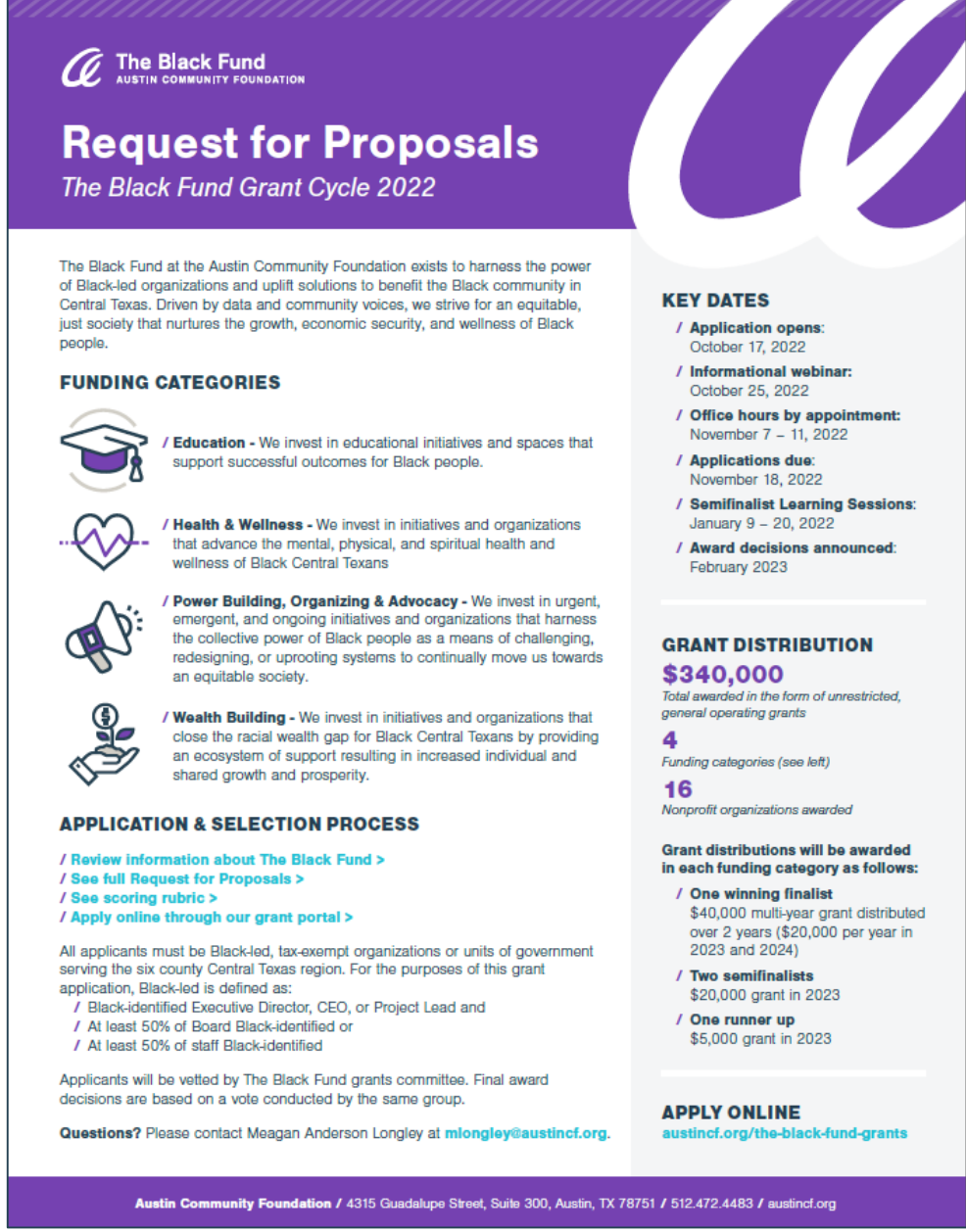
Request for Proposals

/ Grants cycle opened October 17, 2022

/ Applications due **5PM CDT on Nov 18, 2022**

/ You will need to log-in or create a log-in and submit your application via the ACF grants portal

/ Visit The Black Fund RFP webpage (www.austincf.org/the-black-fund-grants) to access the ACF grants portal



The Black Fund
AUSTIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Request for Proposals

The Black Fund Grant Cycle 2022

The Black Fund at the Austin Community Foundation exists to harness the power of Black-led organizations and uplift solutions to benefit the Black community in Central Texas. Driven by data and community voices, we strive for an equitable, just society that nurtures the growth, economic security, and wellness of Black people.

FUNDING CATEGORIES

/ **Education -** We invest in educational initiatives and spaces that support successful outcomes for Black people.

/ **Health & Wellness -** We invest in initiatives and organizations that advance the mental, physical, and spiritual health and wellness of Black Central Texans

/ **Power Building, Organizing & Advocacy -** We invest in urgent, emergent, and ongoing initiatives and organizations that harness the collective power of Black people as a means of challenging, redesigning, or uprooting systems to continually move us towards an equitable society.

/ **Wealth Building -** We invest in initiatives and organizations that close the racial wealth gap for Black Central Texans by providing an ecosystem of support resulting in increased individual and shared growth and prosperity.

APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCESS

/ Review information about The Black Fund >
/ See full Request for Proposals >
/ See scoring rubric >
/ Apply online through our grant portal >

All applicants must be Black-led, tax-exempt organizations or units of government serving the six county Central Texas region. For the purposes of this grant application, Black-led is defined as:

- / Black-identified Executive Director, CEO, or Project Lead and
- / At least 50% of Board Black-identified or
- / At least 50% of staff Black-identified

Applicants will be vetted by The Black Fund grants committee. Final award decisions are based on a vote conducted by the same group.

Questions? Please contact Meagan Anderson Longley at mlongley@austincf.org.

KEY DATES

- / **Application opens**: October 17, 2022
- / **Informational webinar:** October 25, 2022
- / **Office hours by appointment:** November 7 – 11, 2022
- / **Applications due**: November 18, 2022
- / **Semifinalist Learning Sessions**: January 9 – 20, 2022
- / **Award decisions announced**: February 2023

GRANT DISTRIBUTION

$340,000
Total awarded in the form of unrestricted, general operating grants

4
Funding categories (see left)

16
Nonprofit organizations awarded

Grant distributions will be awarded in each funding category as follows:

- / **One winning finalist** $40,000 multi-year grant distributed over 2 years ($20,000 per year in 2023 and 2024)
- / **Two semifinalists** $20,000 grant in 2023
- / **One runner up** $5,000 grant in 2023

APPLY ONLINE

austincf.org/the-black-fund-grants

Austin Community Foundation / 4315 Guadalupe Street, Suite 300, Austin, TX 78751 / 512.472.4483 / austincf.org

The Application

/ Eligibility & Applicant Information

/ Diversity and Representation Data

/ Proposed Work & Impact

- Select **one** strategy to apply to for your organization's proposal
- Address how your work aligns with your selected strategy
- Describe your work and the needs your programming aims to address
- Cultural competency & history with priority population
- Share client demographics, specifically percent of those you will serve using that are at or below 200% of the federal poverty level

The Application, continued

/ Zoom Learning Session availability – **Please hold dates with all participants**

/ Assurances Checklist

/ Attachments – only IRS determination letter (for you or your fiscal sponsor) and organizational operating budget (no template, this can be a working document for your agency)

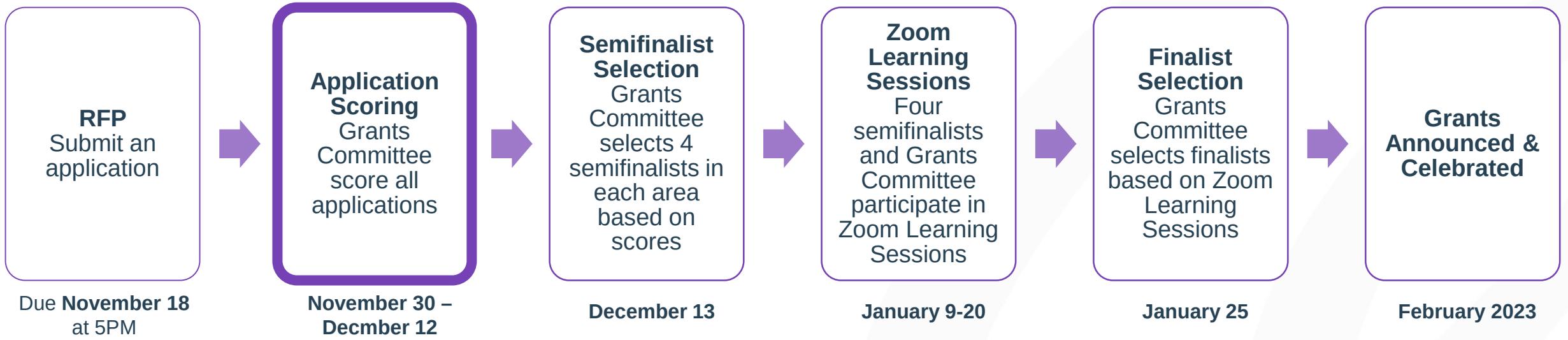
*ACF Staff can offer a sample template if it would be helpful in developing your proposal.

Important Notes

/ As you draft your application, please reference the **scoring rubric** to get a better of understanding of the criteria that will be applied to your proposal

/ While applicants can be considered in multiple categories if they submit multiple proposals, they can only proceed to the semi-finalist stage in the category in which they scored/ranked highest.

Grants Review Process



Application Scoring

/ Who will review your application?

- Staff reviews to confirm eligibility
- Grants Committee members
  - Grants Committee is comprised of Black volunteers
- Committee must participate in unconscious bias training & disclose conflicts of interest

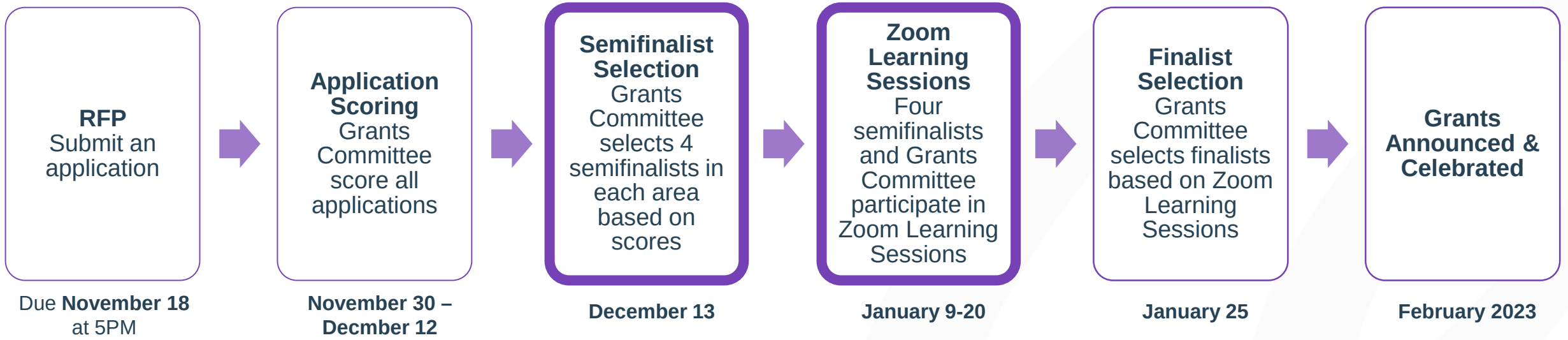
/ How were Grants Committee members selected?

Application Scoring, continued

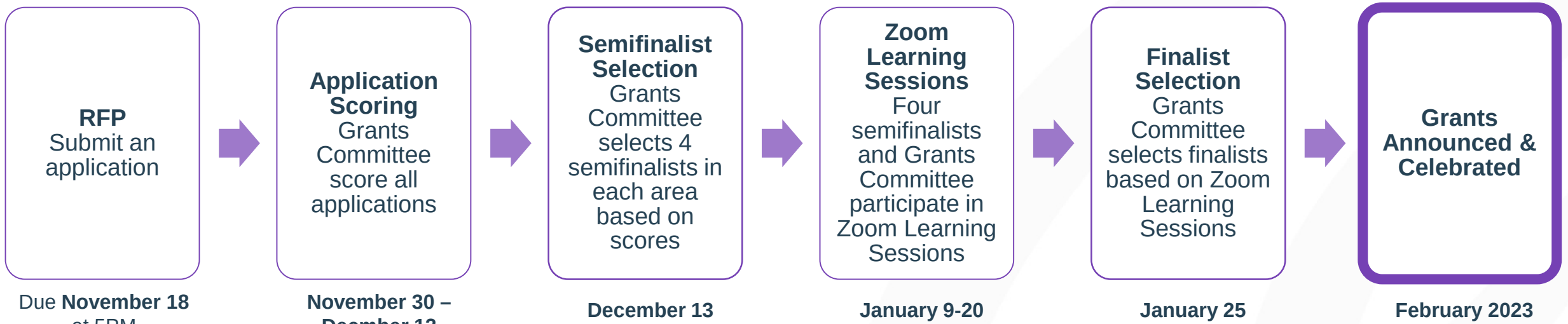
/ How will my application be scored?

- Using the **scoring rubric, which prioritizes Black leadership**
- Rubric directly ties back to each question in the application
- Rubric prioritizes diversity and partnership with communities served
- Scoring rubric can be found on the Foundation website
- **We highly encourage all applicants to review the scoring rubric to understand how your application will be evaluated**

Grants Review Process



Grants Review Process



Grants Annouced

/ Grantee Celebration - February

Stay tuned for details

FAQs & TIPS

How will I know if my application is declined? Can I receive any helpful feedback?

We don’t exclusively serve Black Central Texans. Can we apply even if not all of our clients identify Black?

We have a very diverse staff but not everyone identifies as Black. Are we eligible to apply?

Do you have any tips for first time applicants?

Tips for First Time Applicants

- We encourage you to review the grant guidelines, scoring rubric, guiding definitions, and requirements early.
- Take care to avoid industry-specific jargon and acronyms when you draft your application.
- Have someone not familiar with your program read your application before submitting.
- Plan on submitting your application earlier than the deadline so staff can address any last-minute questions you may have.

QUESTIONS?

Still have questions?

- Sign-up for Office Hours
- November 7 – November 11
- 20 minute session with ACF Staff, Meagan Longley and Black Fund Grants Committee members
- Please only 1 reservation per organization
- Sign-up online at: calendly.com/acfcommunityimpact/theblackfund-rfp-officehours

Here to Help

/ Meagan Longley

mlongley@austincf.org

VP Community Impact

Email questions about:

- Questions on strategic fit
- Scoring rubrics, learning sessions, application reviews
- Reviewer feedback

/ Sara Watson

swatson@austincf.org

Grants Administrator

Email questions about:

- Online portal
- Application or reporting submissions