



## **Program Guidelines**

*Adopted December 23, 2019*

### **Background and Purpose**

*The Minority Freedom Community Fund (‘MFCF) is a public charity organized to improve the lives of minorities through economic support, social programs, and spiritual guidance. It was established by philanthropist TeQuion Brookins in 2019 to address the severe unmet need among minorities in the United States. Addressing the economic, social, and spiritual well-being of minorities across the country is done through a variety of programs that are led by community members, civic leaders, other nonprofits, business owners, and government agencies alike. Our delivery method primarily entails serving as a fiduciary for programs and providing grants, interest-free loans, and technical assistance to individuals and businesses that align with our mission. MFCF aims to support existing social service infrastructure and elevate participatory grantmaking among those who are most often the targets but rarely the voices of traditional philanthropy.*

As a community fund, our goal is to ensure that the people we aim to serve have the loudest voices in our decision-making processes. We choose to:

1. Prioritize funding requests from those who have been turned away from other programs, are ineligible for existing supports, or need additional help to fill the gaps other sources have created through insufficient support;
2. Minimize barriers for our recipients and our donors through simplified, virtual application & awarding processes and robust, comprehensive donation acceptance procedures; and
3. Dedicate our resources to core, mission-aligned activities by operating virtually to minimize overhead costs associated with running a national program and expand our reach.

### **Geographic Focus**

The principal area of interest of MFCF is the United States of America, although assistance may be provided to organizations located elsewhere for programs or projects which significantly benefit minorities in the USA.

## **Program Priorities**

We will work to support and strengthen a safety net of essential resources and opportunities for vulnerable members of our community, particularly those experiencing sustained and concentrated poverty. MFCF fulfills its mission via the following mechanisms:

### **Economic Support**

We support programs and ideas that lead minorities toward a more positive view of the future and towards school and employment, developing the skills required for success. Such opportunities can focus on developing the skills, identity, readiness, relationships and *capital* necessary for expanding vocational prospects and mobility. MFCF supports individuals, businesses and programs economically through direct aid in the form of grants and scholarships. We also provide technical assistance & financial education through workshops, literature, and web-based programs & support on economic topics as well as serving as a liaison between clients and financial and/or educational service providers. We assist in the development, purchase and sale of minority-owned enterprises through our business brokerage platform. We also provide grants, interest-free loans and/or serve as fiscal fiduciary for programs that align with our vision.

### **Social Programs**

For minorities, essential resources can take the form of specialized interventions and pathways to new beginnings. We support programs and organizations demonstrating commitment in teaching healthy, violence-free lifestyles and preparing minorities for overcoming future obstacles, increasing self-confidence & sustainability. We partner with and design programs led by certified health professionals to improve the health profiles of minorities and/or projects that increase access to primary health care among minorities. We seek to provide & support charitable programs that respond rapidly to individual family and community-wide emergencies when other sources are burdensome to acquire or unavailable. We also donate or support providers who provide minorities other essential resources such as clothing, housing, jobs and furniture.

### **Spiritual Guidance**

Partnerships are sought with those who provide essential resources that include holistic, transformational programs that, once pursued, lead to greater interconnectedness and solidarity among minorities. We believe that all human beings deserve access to mental health support, without which a healthy, fulfilled life is not possible. We further believe that relationships are essential resources for well-being – for emotional support, for practical help with challenges, for connections that lead to opportunity, and for feeling valued and giving to others. For people who experience the isolating and destructive consequences of systemic racism & discrimination, we strive to facilitate peer networks, community cadres of coaches and mentors, and caring environments where surrogate families can form. Accordingly, we seek to partner with programs, mental health

professionals, life coaches and houses of worship that contribute to supportive relationships, spiritual healing and mental health in the lives of minorities.

## **Types of Support**

MFCF provides a variety of grants to qualifying individuals and organizations. These types of support are listed below. However, we are flexible and will consider exceptions based on the merits and potential impact of a specific request. The preferred types of support and particular emphasis for each are as follows:

**Grant Support** – time-limited support for programs or projects in order to scale, establish proof of concept, bring innovative ideas to the minority community, provide direct emergency or educational assistance. This includes all scholarships and entrepreneurship grantmaking. General operating support is available for organizations & businesses that are working to alleviate the economic, social and spiritual concerns of minorities. Support is also available for the acquisition, construction and/or renovation of facilities of organizations that, are working to alleviate the economic, social and spiritual concerns of minorities. May also be provided for other forms of capital in accordance with a formal capitalization plan. *This is not an all-inclusive list and this list is subject to change at any time with, or without notice.*

**Fiduciary Support** – A fiduciary is an administrative and fiscal agent. We are not service providers. Under this type of support, we are not able to make decisions about the amount or type of services individuals receive or how organizations implement their programs. Instead, we assist organizations or individuals in implementing and administering the funds from their funding source and manage financial accountability and employer responsibilities. *For organizations*, this means that we handle the financial operations necessary to fulfill the standards and guidelines of a grant or other funding program. *For individuals*, this means that we are responsible for the financial and employer responsibilities of **paying employees and vendors and handling necessary legal filings**. We help to manage the supports that have already been identified in the organization's plans and budget. We help ensure that funds are well spent and effectively managed.

**Technical Assistance** – Coaching, training, and various literature provided by MFCF staff and partners. We employ a variety of means to deliver this support both by request and as part of internal initiatives. Our website, blogs, social media campaigns, webinars, and online courses are examples of the various avenues used to provide TA to our community. Upon request and subject to availability of staff, we will also provide in-person or phone-based support in any of the aforementioned program areas (i.e. economic, social support or spiritual guidance. TA is provided by MFCF staff and our partners.

## Timing and Decision Process

All grant decisions are the responsibility of the Board of Trustees which is primarily comprised of members of the communities/populations we serve. Grant requests are welcomed at any time via informal or formal means to ensure access. We prioritize the speed of the decision process based on a variety of factors including the urgency of the request, financial impact on MFCF, internal capacity and availability of funds. Most often, we aim to accommodate the following schedule:

<b>Support Type</b>	<b>Amount/Impact</b>	<b>Decision Timing (est.)</b>
Grant Support	<\$1,000	7 business days maximum
Fiduciary Support	0-10 hours of staff time	
Technical Assistance		
Grant Support	>\$1,000-\$10,000	2-6 months minimum
Fiduciary Support	11-20 hours of staff time	
Technical Assistance		
Grant Support	>\$10,000	6 months minimum
Fiduciary Support	20+ hours of staff time	
Technical Assistance		

## Limitations

All funding is subject to the availability of funds. Receiving support in a prior year does not automatically qualify an individual or organization to receive future years' support.

## Before Submitting an Application

**The application process is initiated by submitting a complete contact form through the Minority Freedom Fund's website.** If the website is unavailable, applicants can:

1. Call or text 810-377-5165 and leave a detailed message regarding their request
2. Mail a letter of inquiry to: PO Box 1891, Warren, MI 48090
3. Submit a direct message on any of MFCF's official social media accounts

Applications must be acknowledged by a MFCF staff or board member to complete the submission process.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible for consideration, applicant individuals & organizations and/or their programs must:

- Identify as a minority **or**
- Provide services primarily to minorities

The term “minority” refers to individuals identifying as African Americans, Hispanics, American Indians and Alaska Natives, or Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Programs for which funding is being sought must align with MFCF’s Grantmaking Priorities. Preference is given to those who have been turned away are ineligible to apply for other forms of support due to financial, discriminatory, or other reasons.

Questions about the grant process or guidelines can be directed to [info@mifreedomcf.org](mailto:info@mifreedomcf.org) or 810-377-5165.