



Association of Black Foundation Executives
Effective and Responsive Philanthropy in Black Communities:
Building a Framework and Agenda for Change©

ABFE's mission is to promote effective and responsive philanthropy in Black communities. Our agenda for change will customize a set of tools and resources to specifically address the role of philanthropy in supporting Black communities, and to provide expert and strategic counsel to help advance this agenda. In order to facilitate this, ABFE is creating the *Effective and Responsive Philanthropy in Black Communities* toolkit, a product that increases the capacity of all philanthropy to more effectively do their work.

The approach emphasizes a careful and conscious analysis and application of strategies that result in opportunities for grantmakers to support Black communities, and in a broader sense, the greater society. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and others promoted the vision of the "beloved community" where all of our destinies are integrally interwoven – that all boats rise on the tide of prosperity, equality and justice. That aspiration compels us to look at each individual community as a part of the whole; thereby ensuring that as Black communities are strengthened, other communities, and the nation, gain a set of tangible social, economic, and political benefits.

STARTING ASSUMPTIONS

- Race matters; Blacks fare worse than whites on almost every indicator of child and family well-being. On many indicators, Blacks fare worse than other communities of color even within class groupings.
- The only way to close gaps in racial disparities for Black communities is to be intentional about this work.
- Grantmaking to Black communities made by large foundations is declining at a time when outcomes and disparities for Black children, families and neighborhoods in many areas are getting worse. Advocacy is needed to reverse these trends.
- Trend data on population growth suggests that U.S. grantmaking organizations will increasingly be challenged to work in concert with Black communities and nonprofits serving those communities.
- Given the right tools and technical assistance, we can direct more effective and responsive philanthropy to Black communities.



DEFINING ABFE'S APPROACH

Constituency Engagement

- Philanthropy engages the specific constituency/target population of Black communities in which it ultimately aims to support in the design and evaluation of grantmaking, policy and/or programs.

Policy Change, System Reform and Program Delivery

- Philanthropy focuses on influencing the root causes of disparities to primarily include the federal, state and local policies and program practices and regulations that disproportionately and adversely impact Black communities.
- Philanthropy addresses the interaction and relationships between systems and programs (child welfare, corrections, workforce development, homelessness, health, education, etc.) and their inter-connected and cumulative effect on Black communities.

Leadership and Infrastructure in Black Communities

- Philanthropy aims to build the leadership capacity of Black communities and strengthen the infrastructure of its core institutions.

Research/Data

- Philanthropy is built on, and supports activities to build, data sets disaggregated by race to inform how the Black community fares.
- Philanthropy supports evaluation activities that rely on the use of varied data sets and is transparent and clear about the impact of investments on Black communities.

Communications

- Philanthropy minimizes the dominance of negative images in Black communities.

(Notes on this document can be obtained by Sharon Toomer at stoomer@abfe.org)