



Black Migrant Power Fund

The **Black Migrant Power Fund** is a community-led fund that urgently seeks to raise \$10 million for the immediate, no-strings distribution of funds to Black-led, grassroots organizations on the frontlines fighting for immigrant and racial justice. We are launching this campaign during Black History Month and aspiring to raise the initial **\$10 million by Juneteenth (June 19)** to seed investment for the fund.

Leading Black migrant organizations are launching this urgent call to action and planning to distribute money raised through this newly-created fund, which will be housed at the Four Freedoms Fund. By trusting Black immigrant-led organizations that are doing the work to make funding decisions, this newly launched fund seeks to move money to under-resourced, grassroots organizations that are oft-neglected by philanthropy; invest in the leadership and resilience of Black migrant communities; and transform the US immigration system to embrace the humanity and dignity of ALL migrants.

GIVE TO THE BLACK MIGRANT POWER FUND

- **If you are an individual donor**, [click here to give directly to the community-led fund](#) or choose to donate directly to one of the anchor organizations launching this fund.
- **If you are an institutional funder** and would like to join other foundations supporting this critical work, please contact Rini Chakraborty with Four Freedoms Fund at rchakraborty@neophilanthropy.org.

CONTEXT

In September 2021, horrifying images of Border Patrol officers attacking Haitian migrants at the US-Mexico border drew national outrage and condemnation. Videos of officers on horseback, wielding their horses' reins as they intimidated and abused Black migrants and their families, painfully hearkened back to centuries of racial terror and violence inflicted on Black communities in the U.S. Sadly, this appalling mistreatment of Haitian migrants is not an aberration, but emblematic of the U.S. immigration system's historic and ongoing discriminatory treatment, incarceration, exclusion, and deportation of Black migrants.

Black migrant organizations have responded by meeting the urgent needs of their communities, who are facing life and death situations, and by leading the way. Here are a few recent examples of the major strides Black migrant organizations have made in movements for migrant, racial and social justice, despite historic underinvestment from Philanthropy:

- Freeing families from detention and decarcerating immigrant prisons from Pennsylvania to California
- Winning Temporary Protected Status and immigration relief benefiting vulnerable migrant communities across the country, including TPS for Afghanistan and Cameroon, as well as the Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act, the largest legalization program in recent history
- Ending Title 42, a policy used to expel and/or bar entry to hundreds of thousands of migrants

Resources are urgently needed to build on these wins, confront intersecting crises and fight to dismantle racist immigration policies and practices. **By supporting the Black Migrant Power Fund, you are:**

- ***Abolishing stark funding gaps and historic philanthropic underinvestment.*** The [Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity](#) found that funding for racial justice, grassroots organizing, and movement-oriented work remains low – even after the racial justice uprisings of 2020. Similarly, the [National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy's recent analysis](#) of Candid data found that ***merely 1.4% of foundation funding for the pro-immigrant, pro-refugee movement in the U.S. goes to groups whose primary focus is Black migrant communities.***
- ***Strengthening the humanitarian and power-building infrastructure needed to address current needs and the future flow of migrant communities into the U.S..*** Black immigrants are the fastest growing segment of the immigrant population in the U.S.. According to a new [Pew report](#), the number of Black immigrants in the U.S. increased by 475% over the last 40 years – with one-third of the U.S. Black population projected to be foreign-born by 2060.
- ***Being strategic about using your dollars to strike at the root-causes of forced migration, displacement and criminalization.*** Centering Black liberation should be a philanthropic mandate since anti-Black racism is a core tenet of the harmful immigration system our movement aims to transform.

GOALS

The Black Migrant Power Fund is a community-led fund that will move immediate, no-strings funding to Black-led, grassroots organizations that are on the frontlines of addressing the urgent needs of Black migrants and building power with and for Black immigrants in the U.S. By trusting Black immigrant-led organizations that are doing the work to make funding decisions, this newly launched fund seeks to move money to under-resourced, grassroots organizations that are oft-neglected by philanthropy; invest in the leadership and resilience of Black migrant communities; and transform the U.S. immigration system to embrace the humanity and dignity of ALL migrants – including Black people.

PROCESS

Following a funder briefing on *Centering Collective Black Power for Migrant and Racial Justice* last October, several Black migrant organizations (listed below) called on funders to raise \$10 million in initial funding to benefit Black immigrant justice organizations in 2022. These groups partner with one another and center Black, LGBTQI+, undocumented, youth, and formerly incarcerated leadership to lead transformative change with their communities.

A number of these exemplary Black-led organizations are grantees of the Four Freedoms Fund, which is hosting this fund. Ola Osaze, the former co-director of BLMP and current FFF Deputy Director, is working with Black migrant organizational leaders to develop a community-led grantmaking process as part of this fund. The [National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy](#) is assisting with strategy and outreach.

GOVERNANCE & GRANTMAKING (IN PROCESS)

The 13 Black migrant organizational partners will comprise the BMPF Steering Committee, making decisions about the vision, structure, as well as priorities and strategies. A Grantmaking Subcommittee will assemble twice during our inaugural year to implement a grantmaking strategy that prioritizes local and regional partners, organizations that experience the greatest funding gaps, and rapid response needs to address emerging or longstanding crises. BMPF will also tap into FFF's treasure trove of capacity

building expertise and resources to provide infrastructural support necessary in ensuring the Black migrant sector’s sustainability and growth.



ABOUT US

Four Freedoms Fund is a national funder collaborative that strengthens the capacity of the immigrant justice movement to ensure all immigrants, regardless of immigration status, have dignity, power to shape change, and agency to determine the quality of their life, community, and future. Through sustained grantmaking, ongoing technical assistance to grantees, and funder education and coordination, FFF invests in the long-term growth and ability of the immigrant justice movement to thrive, achieve bold, transformational reforms, and win lasting justice. Since its founding in 2003, FFF has infused the immigrant justice field with over \$190 million.

Across FFF’s various long-term initiatives, we support Black-led organizations playing critical roles in the fights for immigrant and racial justice. Through our Black Immigrant and Refugee Initiative, launched in 2020, FFF provides multi-year general support grants and tailored capacity-building support to strengthen the power and capacity of Black-led immigrant justice organizations.

Ola Osaze, FFF Deputy Director, is the lead advisor of the Black Migrant Power Fund. Ola co-founded and served as the Director of the Black LGBTQIA+ Migrant Project (BLMP), the first organization of its kind to exist nationally. A formerly undocumented migrant and longtime leader in movements for social justice, Ola has amassed decades of experience organizing in Black and Brown, LGBTQ+, and migrant communities as well as with organizations such as Transgender Law Center, the Audre Lorde Project, Uhuru Wazobia, Queers for Economic Justice, and Sylvia Rivera Law Project.