

FOOT LOCKER FOUNDATION COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

Grantees from Rounds 1 -3

ROUND 1 GRANTEES

Sixteen organizations across 12 metro areas received grants ranging from \$25,000-\$100,000 each.

Atlanta

- [City of Refuge](#) – Workforce/career development, sports, mentorship, and STEM programming for youth in the Bankhead community.

Baltimore

- [Safe Alternative Foundation for Education](#) – Training for youth ages 18-24 in construction and technology skills and STEAM, along with workshops for middle school students in West Baltimore.

Chicago

- [Spark Chicago](#) – Mentorship program that matches students with committed mentors for 13 weeks of engagement each spring.
- [AeroStar Avion Institute](#) – Aviation/aerospace STEM education and training for Chicago Housing Authority youth ages 13-20.

Dallas

- [Mercy Street](#) – Sports, mentoring, and leadership programs in West and South Dallas, which were constrained due to COVID-19.

Detroit

- [Detroit Phoenix Center](#) – Drop-in program for young adults ages 13-24 at risk of and/or currently experiencing homelessness, offering services such as personal care, job training, and after-school enrichment.
- [Cody Rouge Community Action Alliance](#) – Customer service and sales associate training for youth, with direct exposure to relevant careers and work environments.

Houston

- [Civic Heart Community Services](#) (formerly known as Change Happens) – Each One of Us mentoring program for boys and young men in the city's Third Ward to help address day-to-day challenges, build self-confidence, and promote well-being.

Los Angeles

- [Step Up](#) – A cohort-based program for teen girls, which encompasses social-emotional skill development, career experiences, and mentorship.

Miami

- [Overtown Youth Center](#) – College and career readiness program that provides services ranging from financial literacy to educational support for marginalized youth in Miami-Dade County.

New York City

- [Peter Westbrook Foundation](#) – Saturday Fencing Program and Academic Enrichment Program, which provide youth with health and wellness opportunities, mentoring, and academic support with a pathway to quality jobs.
- [Figure Skating in Harlem](#) – Coaching, tutoring/STEAM, fitness, and ice time for more than 200 girls in the I Can Excel (ICE) and Summer Dreams Programs.

Oakland

- [Health & Human Resource Education Center](#) – Enhancement of Downtown TAY Program, through which youth participate in peer support groups, mentoring sessions with coaches and job readiness workshops.

Philadelphia

- [HopePHL](#) (formerly known as People’s Emergency Center) – Hiring of youth as Community Connectors to assist with emergency food distribution and information dissemination throughout the federally designated West Philadelphia Promise Zone.

San Francisco

- [City of Dreams](#) – After-school and Saturday programming in San Francisco's Bayview District, including mentoring, field trips, access to a health & wellness advocate, and gardening education/skills.
- [LYRIC](#) – Workforce program to provide low-income, LGBTQ+ youth of color with culturally competent, identity-affirming services that promote education and workforce development.

ROUND 2 GRANTEES

Twenty community organizations across 10 metro areas received grants ranging from \$25,000-\$100,000 each.

Atlanta

- [The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc.](#) – Provide civic education with hands-on participation in student government, workshops led by prominent leaders, and meaningful local projects.
- [Science, Engineering and Mathematics Link, Inc.](#) – Support STEM programs, launch a new mobile lab in the community, and upgrade their facility.

Baltimore

- [10:12 Sports Inc.](#) – Support growth and development of mentoring, workforce training and community outreach.
- [Ballet After Dark](#) – Advance dance therapy programs and aqua ballet for survivors of violence.
- [Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood](#) – Fuel tutoring, work skills, career exploration, mentoring and cultural enrichment programs.

Chicago

- [Project SYNCERE](#) – Promote engineering academy that provides curriculum, technology, tools, instructors and role models as well as peer mentoring and internship opportunities.
- [Totally Positive Productions](#) – Provide after-school and Saturday programs at crime prevention organization focused on youth.

Dallas

- [Rae's Hope](#) – Offer leadership development, social-emotional training, technology, and financial education in conjunction with volleyball development program for girls from age 5-18

Detroit

- [Developing Kingdoms In Different Stages \(K.I.D.S.\)](#) – Renovate and refurbish a newly purchased property, adding a coffee shop and banquet facility to serve the community and provide hands-on training and paid work experience to youth.
- [Give Merit, Inc.](#) – Increase the number of both high school and alumni participants in the college/career readiness and leadership program called Design Your FATE.
- [MACC Development](#) – Support K-12 students with sport for development, career experiences, social-emotional learning, tutoring and mentoring.
- [Single Family Living](#) – Provide an after-school work program where 10th-12th graders are paid to learn leadership and financial education skills, manage the IT lab and community library, and mentor 6th-9th graders.

Los Angeles

- [Peace4Kids](#) – Enhance the Transition Age Youth (TAY) program with deeper engagement on a range of self-care and self-acceptance skills, as well as independent living skills like financial management.
- [Pete Brown Jr. Tennis Program](#) – Provide free tennis instruction plus mentoring, leadership and life skills development as well as nutrition and wellness coaching.

New York City

- [Hands That Make A Difference](#) – Support after-school program for youth ages 5-12, including the addition of individual and group mentoring activities.

- [The Community Initiatives of NY](#) – Fund “Teaching a Generation” (TAG) program to give youth a safe space each week to express their thoughts, feelings and outlook on various aspects of their lives.

Oakland

- [Battle Tested Kids, Inc.](#) – Offer week-long summer basketball and soccer camps, weekend sports clinics and enrichment program focused on communication, conflict resolution and leadership.

Philadelphia

- [Soul Food CDC \(Unity in the Community\)](#) – Support Carpentry Academy for youth ages 14-19 to learn the basics of carpentry, connect with mentors and discover career opportunities.

San Francisco

- [Ladies In Power](#) – Advance Project Elevate, a three-month course for older youth that focuses on mental and physical health, career enhancement, community connections, and financial education.
- [Museum of the African Diaspora \(MoAD\)](#) – Support MoAD teacher visits to student classrooms, museum field trips and additional visits where 3rd and 4th grade students will create their own African-inspired works of art.

ROUND 3 GRANTEES

Eighteen community organizations across 11 metro areas received grants ranging from \$30,000-\$100,000 each.

Atlanta

- [L.E.A.D. Center for Youth](#) offers a baseball-focused sport for development program for elementary through middle school students. The program provides uniforms, sports equipment, training and transportation free of charge. On and off the field, participants learn and practice critical skills like self-advocacy, goal orientation, self-confidence and social-emotional skills.

Baltimore

- [AZIZA PE&CE](#) serves non-binary and LGBTQ+ youth ages 14 to 24. The organization provides culturally competent, trauma-informed programming that engages participants in mental health workshops, peer mentoring and cultural enrichment while preparing for STRUT, the organization’s annual fashion show. The program improves mental health

outcomes, social connectedness and personal development while helping to identify and connect participants who would benefit from additional mental health resources.

- [Grow Home](#) connects Baltimore neighborhoods with green spaces through neighborhood parks revitalization and free after-school and weekend sports activities. Through the Community Empowerment Grant, the organization will purchase additional equipment and provide operational support for 3-4 different South Baltimore communities to offer year-round sports opportunities for youth.

Chicago

- [Focus Fairies Mentoring](#) program for young women ages 14 to 21 aims to reduce gun violence and increase economic opportunities. This outreach model will provide as many as 45 young women with a 19-week modular curriculum and one-on-one mentoring from female professionals on conflict resolution, economic independence, social-emotional stability, leadership, manners, and career development. Participants will learn to self-regulate and demonstrate mindfulness; develop a growth mindset; maintain positive relationships; become financially stable through sustainable employment; and be respectful, kind, and responsible citizens.
- [Ladies of Virtue](#) connects Chicago-area girls and young women to leadership development, career readiness and college exploration, along with exposure to professional women of color and a personal mentor. Participants ages 16 and older are matched with summer jobs and internships. All participants in 6th through 12th grade can tour up to three colleges and universities.

Dallas

- [Cornerstone Community Development Corporation's](#) educational enrichment program will offer 75 students activities to improve self-confidence, develop new skills and increase their academic performance through small-group, individual and peer-to-peer tutoring and instruction. Participants will learn innovative thinking, relationship skills and conflict resolution through a variety of STEM and entrepreneurial activities.

Houston

- [8 Million Stories](#) helps young adults (16-24) attain life outcomes that are grounded in positive relationships and creates equitable opportunities through education, job readiness, and personal development. Students who graduate from the program earn free tuition to an in-state college/university or trade school.

Los Angeles

- [THINKWATTS Foundation](#) will use the grant to build the Think Watts HQ community space, an incubator space offering workforce development programming including coding certification and financial literacy to youth and young adults.
- [Urban TXT: Teens Exploring Technology](#) will secure tech equipment to support its core programs in its new physical space, The Cube 3.0, an 8,000-square-foot innovation hub in South LA. From MacBook Pros and 3D printers to drone creation tools, the state-of-the-art equipment will provide learning opportunities to more than 800 youth who visit the hub annually.

New York City

- [Bridge Street Development Corporation](#) helps youth ages 14 to 21 learn civic engagement, leadership, and service through a combination of weekly workshops, civics education, community organizing and training. Throughout the year, youth donate seven hours of service each month and take part in leadership training. The program culminates at the annual Youth Summit at the caucus of the New York State Association of Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislators. Youth earn a stipend for participation and receive coaching for college scholarships, internships and employment training.
- [PeacePlayers Brooklyn](#) uses basketball to reach young people ages 8 to 21 with a focus on developing a pipeline of leaders devoted to conflict resolution through peaceful means. The funding will expand career exploration, employment opportunities, and continued support and engagement post-high school.

Newark

- [Brothers Building A Better Nation](#) (BBABN) is committed to helping young men achieve their full potential. Through its *One Nation Pilgrimage* program, BBABN bridges service gaps and enhances coordination between providers with a focus on mental health. Built on direct feedback from the youth it serves, the program invests in the individual and his future through an array of curated events, activities and partnerships. The grant will enable BBABN to expand its geographic scope and help participants gain exposure to more HBCUs and colleges.

Oakland

- [Hack the Hood](#) is solving the tech equity challenge by providing free programs to Oakland youth who have limited exposure to tech education; delivering rigorous, standards-based and career-aligned tech curricula that incorporate a racial justice lens;

building learners' social capital by introducing them to a network of tech leaders and mentors; and providing access to career pathways into the field by partnering with higher education and other post-secondary opportunities.

- [New Door Ventures](#) will provide Oakland youth with foundational workplace skills, comprehensive supports and successful employment experiences. The outcome will be successful preparation for and placement of youth into middle-income jobs within quality career pathways, resulting in long-term, sustained impact that enables youth systemically excluded from opportunity to achieve upward mobility.

Philadelphia

- [The Education Culture Opportunities \(ECO\) Foundation](#) tackles youth unemployment, poverty, and food insecurity in Philadelphia through a multi-pronged approach to youth empowerment and community support. The Community Eats Program empowers youth through employment, community engagement, and mentorship opportunities by hiring them to distribute food to community members facing food insecurities.

Washington, DC

- [Alliance of Concerned Men](#) equips youth and young adults with effective conflict resolution strategies and enhanced interpersonal communication abilities through a combination of immersive in-person workshops and engaging virtual sessions. The program goes beyond theoretical knowledge, fostering a hands-on learning environment where real-life scenarios are simulated. As an incentive, stipends are offered to those who actively engage in the training, encouraging safer communities and brighter futures.
- [GOODProjects](#), through its GoodLearningHub, provides Southwest DC youth from public housing year-round after school support, along with a seven-week summer program. Participants from ages 5 to 9 focus on reading, while ages 10 to 14 get support with math. Both groups learn and practice decision making, teamwork, and social emotional skills augmented with outdoor pursuits and choice-based activities.
- [Hope and a Home](#) will use its grant to support *The Grace Dickerson Higher Education for All* program, an essential component of the organization's wraparound services which, in addition to academic support, provide transitional housing through 19 on-site units, case management, basic needs and resources, and financial literacy workshops. These programs ensure that 72 vulnerable DC families have access to stable housing and employment training as their children build the academic foundation necessary to improve their futures.