|  | **Website**: <https://villagefundla.org/>**Email**: VillageFundLA@investinkidsla.org**Grant Application**: <https://www.judgify.me/VillageFund2021> |
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***African American Infant and Maternal Mortality (AAIMM) Prevention Initiative***

**The Village Fund**

 **Request for Proposals**

### Background

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) in collaboration with the Department of Health Services and First 5 LA launched the African American Infant and Maternal Mortality (AAIMM) Prevention Initiative in 2018 to address persistent disparities in birth outcomes between Black and white babies, as outlined in the report: [A Pathway to Equity](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/CenterForHealthEquity/PDF/AAIM-ActionPlan.pdf), which showed that Black/African American babies are two to three times more likely to die before their first birthday than babies of other races, and Black/African American women are four times more likely to die as a result of pregnancy complications than women of other races in LA County. The Initiative uses a racial justice framework to strengthen systems of support for Black moms and babies by centering Black/African American communities and leaders. The goal is to transform public health systems and build critical community infrastructure in places and spaces that Black families trust.

While the initiative is countywide, AAIMM prioritizes two communities where the disparities are highest: South LA/South Bay and Antelope Valley. In addition to allocating its existing resources to launch a doula pilot for Black expecting mothers and expand access to home visitation, in 2019, DPH also received $1.4MM in funding from the state’s *Perinatal Equity Initiative* to implement locally-driven solutions, including those supported by The Village Fund.

### The AAIMM Village Fund — Purpose

The Village Fund seeks to support community-led efforts that reinforce the broad goals of the AAIMM Initiative. In the spirit of “it takes a village to raise a child,” The Village Fund will partner with nonprofit organizations, small businesses, social enterprises, networks, and other service providers that provide valuable support and services to Black birthing mothers and their families. We are seeking applications from those who are interested and capable of supporting the journey to a joyous and healthy birth for Black families but are unlikely to receive or administer a county contract directly.

The Village Fund is administered by the [LA Partnership for Early Childhood Investment](https://investinkidsla.org/) and capitalized by a combination of public and private philanthropic dollars. The LA Partnership for Early Childhood Investment is a project of the [California Community Foundation](https://www.calfund.org/) Community Initiatives Fund (CCF-CIF), a US-based, 501(c)(3) public charity.

### Grantmaking Strategies & Funding Timeline

The Village Fund will support efforts that support the physical, emotional, and mental well-being of Black women/birthing persons, fathers, partners, and families before, during, after birth including:

1. Provide respite care (short-term relief, support, services) before, during, or after birth. Respite care includes services that relieve and/or mitigate stress on mom, baby and family.
2. Foster a positive sense of self.
3. Increase access to a healthy and joyous birth.
4. Test new ideas and/or contribute new discoveries to the body of knowledge around Black infant and maternal health.
5. Promote community education and/or engagement through program services.

| **Activity** | **Date** |
| --- | --- |
| **Application Opens** | October 1, 2021 |
| **Informational Webinar** | October 12, 2021 |
| **Deadline to Submit** | November 5, 2021 |
| **Review and Selection Process** | November 5 - December 10, 2021 |
| **Award Decisions Announced** | Week of December 13, 2021 |

### Eligibility Criteria

* Independent and fiscally-sponsored nonprofit organizations, networks, coalitions, individual service providers, micro-enterprises, or small businesses are eligible to apply. Priority consideration will be given to entities that are Black-led. See Section 1 (Application Information) below for further information on business applicants.
* Applicants must be located in Los Angeles County.
* Funds received from The Village Fund must be used to serve Los Angeles County’s Black communities.
* Applicants must have a history of working with Black families and an ongoing commitment to empowering and supporting Black people.
* Funds must be used to support one or more grantmaking strategies listed in the section above.
* If funded, applicants must commit to participating in the AAIMM Ambassadors program. The program is a cohort-based learning community that meets once every quarter over the duration of the grant. More information about the AAIMM Ambassadors program is below. An additional financial stipend is provided to organizations to support their ability to participate in quarterly convenings.

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**

* Only projects or services that **cannot** be billed to MediCal or another health insurer will be eligible for funding.
* Only projects which **cannot** be paid for with other existing resources will be eligible for funding. We want to fund the unfunded needs/ideas.
* Events such as conferences, workshops, symposiums, one-time trainings and/or briefings are **not** eligible for funding.
* Political activity including lobbying, products, and online platforms are **not** eligible.

### Submission Process

Application materials, bulleted below, must be submitted via a form, linked [here](https://www.judgify.me/VillageFund2021). Those materials must include:

* Responses to the [Application Questions](#7104q85cwikw) (see page 5).
* Project budget (using only the budget template found [here](https://villagefundla.org/apply)). *Please upload the budget as a PDF with all relevant columns and rows visible.*
* Your organization's W9 or IRS letter of determination (if you have a fiscal sponsor, please send in their W9 or IRS letter). Individual service providers, micro-enterprises, or small businesses will need to apply using a fiscal sponsor. Please email VillageFundLA@investinkidsla.org if you are looking for a fiscal sponsor or need more information.

If you have any questions about the terms used in the grant application, please refer to the “[Definitions](#jhuujrbdo7bp)” section at the end of this document.

### Review and Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed and scored by a community review committee representing the breadth of the LA County AAIMM Prevention Initiative. The committee will select 8-10 applicants based on the scoring criteria and will endeavor to choose a cohort that represents the geographic diversity of the County as well as a mix of programs, business services, and innovations offered by the applicant pool.

### Awards

There will be 8-10 grants awarded, ranging from $5,000 to $30,000, depending on the nature of the project and The Village Fund’s total capital.

Grants are awarded on a one-year basis and ***may*** be renewed depending on community need, funding available, and if The Village Fund remains a good fit for your work.

### Reporting Requirement

A final report will be due at the end of the one-year grant, which will be used for the evaluation, and will ask each grantee to share their progress on the work they were funded to perform, highlights, lessons learned, and new skills and/or competencies gained from the AAIMM Ambassadors Learning Community.

### AAIMM Ambassadors Learning Community

The Village Fund is intended to accomplish three goals: 1) fund community-led programs and services that aid in joyous and healthy births for Black families; 2) build community among the funded partners; and 3) connect those organizations to the broader countywide AAIMM network. Funded partners will be asked to participate in quarterly, facilitated learning sessions and connect with a local AAIMM Community Action Team to further plug into the countywide network.

**Benefits of the AAIMM Ambassadors**

As part of the community-building process, grantees of The Village Fund will become a cohort. The cohort participates in a series of facilitated learning sessions designed to meet the cohort’s desired learning goals and connect each of the funded participants to the broader AAIMM network. Participants become AAIMM Ambassadors by learning to tell the story of the initiative and share how your work advances its broader goals.

The LA Partnership will convene four (4) learning community meetings per year. Each meeting will be a half-day (10am—2pm PT). Those who should attend the convenings are: 1) the person performing/delivering the service directly and 2) someone who can influence the learning culture of the organization/business/service provider/network/collaborative.

The commitment is for one year. Participation in the learning community is mandatory and each participant is expected to attend all meetings and share their story, experience, challenges, and successes with the evaluator, both orally and in writing, throughout the year.

**Each organization/entity in the cohort will receive a $500 per meeting stipend ($2,000 total). This is in addition to your grant award.**

### Definitions

* **Black-led is defined as: (Black Equity Collective definition):** A plurality of the Board of Directors is Black (i.e., are the largest racial group represented on the Board) and the Executive Director/Organizational Leader or the Executive Leadership is majority Black. This demonstrates that Black people are in positions of power to influence organizational culture, make strategic decisions around programming, operations, and use of funds, and have responsibility for the successful execution of the mission and vision.
* **Community presence:** The applicant has pre-existing and long-standing relationships in the community for which it seeks funding support through The Village Fund, either because the applicant currently provides programs or services in the community that work to address racial disparities or because the applicant partners with others who do. It is expected that applicants do not see The Village Fund as an opportunity to “helicopter in” to a community or serve a population with which they have no prior relationship.
* **Fiscal sponsor:** Fiscal sponsorship is an arrangement between a non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status and a project conducted by an organization, group, or an individual that does not have 501(c)(3) status. Fiscal sponsorship permits the exempt sponsor to accept funds restricted for the sponsored project on the project’s behalf. The sponsor, in turn, accepts the responsibility to ensure the funds are properly spent to achieve the project’s goals. (Definition provided by CharityLawyerBlog.com)

The California Black Women’s Health Project has agreed to serve as a fiscal sponsor for The Village Fund. If you do not already have a fiscal sponsor and are interested in seeking fiscal sponsorship, please contact Sonya Young-Aadam at sonya@cabwhp.org.

### Contact Information

For more information on The Village Fund, please email Kaci Patterson at kaci@investinkidsla.org. For technical questions on the application, please email Mary Kopp at mary@investinkidsla.org. For general questions, please email VillageFundLA@investinkidsla.org.

### Application Questions

*Please note, you will be required to register when you start your grant application. You will have the opportunity to save your grant application as a draft in the portal.*

**Primary Contact Person for the Grant**

* Name, Title, Email, Phone Number

**Category (choose one):**

* Nonprofit organization, network, or coalition
* Individual service provider, micro-enterprise, or small businesses

**Section 1A: Applicant’s Information (Nonprofit Organization, Network, or Coalition)**

* Applicant’s Name (Legal name of organization, network, coalition, etc.), Email, Phone Number
* Fiscal Sponsor (if applicable)
* Street Address, City, State, Zip (if fiscally sponsored, please list the fiscal sponsor’s address)
* Name of highest-ranking staff member or leader in charge, Title, Email, Phone Number
* Is the Executive Director (or highest-ranking staff member) Black?
* Year Established/Launched
* Website or social media handle (if applicable)
* Brief description of your service or mission (the entity performing the funded work, not the fiscal sponsor) (75 words)
* Geographic communities served (i.e. Pasadena/Altadena, South LA, Van Nuys, etc.)
* Demographic communities served (i.e. Black fathers, Black mothers generally, Black mothers experiencing postpartum stress, etc.)

**Section 1B: Applicant’s Information (Individual Service Providers, Micro-Enterprises, or Small Businesses)**

* Applicant’s Name, Address, Email, Phone Number
* Is the business owner or person performing the service Black?
* Year Established/Launched
* Website or social media handle (if applicable)
* Brief description of your service or mission (75 words)
* Geographic communities served (i.e. Pasadena/Altadena, South LA, Van Nuys, etc.)
* Demographic communities served (i.e. Black fathers, Black mothers generally, Black mothers experiencing postpartum stress, etc.)
* Do you need a fiscal sponsor (yes, no)?
	+ Individual service providers, micro-enterprises, or small businesses will need to apply using a fiscal sponsor. Please inquire if you are looking for a fiscal sponsor or need more information.

**Section 2: Proposed Work**

1. Provide a brief description of your project. What do you plan to do and what results will you achieve? Please include the number of Black people and/or families you plan to serve. (150 words)
2. How does the work you do address the high rates of Black infant and maternal mortality in LA County? If you are not sure, that’s OK. Please say how it might help to address the problem. (250 words)
3. How do you recognize and support Black women on your staff or in community as leaders and experts in infant and maternal health? If you are new to the infant and maternal health field, please describe how your work empowers the voices and leadership of Black women. (500 words)
4. Please choose the strategy that best describes your proposed work:
* Supporting the physical, emotional, and mental well-being of Black women/birthing persons, fathers, partners, and families before, during, or after birth by providing respite care; fostering a positive sense of self; increasing access to healthy and joyous births.
* Testing new ideas and/or contributing new discoveries, lessons, or information to the body of knowledge around Black infant and maternal health.
* Promoting community education and/or engagement through program services.
* Promoting community engagement, partnership, and advocacy.
1. How is your work unique/impactful or how does it meet a specific need with Black families experiencing pregnancy or childbirth? Why do you believe this work is important to help increase joyous and healthy births for Black moms and babies? (500 words)
2. Can your proposed work be billed to MediCal or another health insurer (or paid for with other existing resources)? If you are unsure, please ask us. (Yes/No)
3. If you answered yes to the above question, please describe why you believe this project should be considered for funding by The Village Fund? If you answered no, please proceed to the next question. (150 words)
4. Describe how you will implement the project and how you will use the funds to implement your proposed work. Please include staffing for the proposed project and their experience with conducting the specific work proposed as part of the project. (250 words)
5. Please name any organizations or businesses that you plan to collaborate or work with on this project. If you are not sure, that’s OK. Please tell us who you currently partner with within the community.
6. What is the most difficult aspect of this project that could affect your success? (150 words)
7. What do you (or your organization) hope to gain from participating in the AAIMM Ambassadors (Learning Community)? What do you hope to contribute? (250 words)