The Case for Reparations

About

Decolonizing Wealth Project is an Indigenous and Black-led racial justice organization that envisions a world where racial equity has become a societal norm – where new systems ensure everyone can live their best lives, thrive in their cultures, and heal from generations of colonial trauma. Our work aims to disrupt the existing systems of moving and controlling capital by offering truth, reconciliation, and healing from the ails of colonization through education, radical reparative giving, and narrative change.

Our fund, Liberated Capital, is excited to announce a $1 million funding opportunity to support local, regional and national movement building and advocacy efforts for reparations. We’re aiming for this to be a multi-year, multi-million dollar initiative to support systemic and policy change efforts that return wealth to impacted individuals.

Why Reparations?

The United States was built on a history and practice of enslavement, genocide, and extraction of and from Indigenous peoples and African descendants - resulting in more than 400 years of policies and practices that fueled economic extraction and systemic violence in Indigenous and Black communities.

Last year, U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) introduced legislation that would fund the first commission to study and develop proposals for providing reparations to African Americans. It was reintroduced this year and is gaining traction with national support from leaders and supported by artists like Alicia Keys who are calling for Congress to support this legislation in the first 100 days. There are also a number of reparative efforts underway to address the historical and ongoing theft and control of land that has led to the extreme concentration of wealth among a small group of people that exists today.
Across the country, cities are also acknowledging reparations and taking action as well. St. Paul, Minnesota; Portland, Oregon; Providence, Rhode Island; Chicago, Illinois; and Burlington, Vermont are all exploring reparations as a form of racial healing after generations of institutionalized racism.

Portland approved as their top racial justice measure to lobby the federal government on reparations for Black and Indigenous communities harmed by the U.S. government. Evanston, Illinois is levying a tax on newly legalized marijuana to fund projects benefiting African Americans in recognition of the enduring effects of slavery and the war on drugs. In the San Francisco Bay Area, local residents and businesses can pay to help restore Indigenous land to Indigenous stewardship, as a land tax for reparations.

Because of the effectiveness of social movements over the past few years – coupled with the successful philanthropic organizing of Decolonizing Wealth Project – we are seeing new opportunities to unearth, support, and scale efforts to actualize reparations for Black and Indigenous peoples.

To support this progress, Liberated Capital will provide untethered resources to support organizing and advocacy to community-driven reparations efforts that will help build the case for local, regional, and national policy opportunities that will inform ways wealth can be redistributed by institutions and/or governments.

This funding opportunity aims to source both the spaces and places where reparations campaigns are taking hold, provide vital funding to fuel their efforts and utilize our platform as a reparations fund and field disruptor to document and share this reparations movement ecosystem with our network of national philanthropic institutions and donors.

The spirit of reparations is that those who hold the bulk of ill-gotten resources and influence (including philanthropy) must hold responsibility for repairing the harms done.
Eligibility

- Priority is given to organizations and/or coalitions led by BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color).
- Grant dollars must be paid to a 501c3 nonprofit organization, we accept applications from fiscal sponsors. Individuals are not eligible.
- Applicants must be based in the United States.
- Coalitions and organizations working on advocacy campaigns to shift policies and systems that result in the payback of money or land from governments or institutions in the United States to Black and Indigenous peoples.
- Funding must be used for a charitable purpose (no direct lobbying).
- Approximately 15-25 organizations will be selected for funding and grant awards will average $50,000 in Year One. Proposals will be evaluated by an advisory group of Black and Indigenous leaders.

Key Dates

- **Proposal Deadline:** June 4, 2021 at 5:00 PM Pacific Time
- **Decisions Announced:** July 9th, 2021

How to Apply

The Case for Reparations is accepting applications on JustFund:

- Visit [www.justfund.us](http://www.justfund.us) to log in or register for an account
- Once you are logged in, you can view this RFP in JustFund here
- Return to the home page and click "Create a New Proposal" to begin your draft
- Check out our [tutorial video](#) for how to apply
- For more information, see [JustFund FAQs](#) or email info@justfund.us

JustFund utilizes a [Common Proposal](#) with four narrative questions

- Proposal Summary (140 characters): Think of this like a tweet. Please tell us about the mission of this proposal in a couple of sentences.
- Proposal Description (2500 characters): Tell us about your proposal.
- Team Description (1250 characters): Tell us about who the organizers are.
- Financial Need (500 characters): Please describe what you will use the funding for.
Additional Proposal Questions

● What specific reparations policy or institution are seeking to change and what movement building strategies are you employing (e.g. base building, communications, networking building, policy, etc.).

● What partners/coalitions are actively engaged in your campaign? Who are your targets?

● What's your communications strategy? How are you engaging media?

Requested Resources

● Campaign Plans: Please attach any document that clearly outlines your specific campaign goals (if not included in the text above).

● Budget: what is the budget for the campaign? What is your organization's budget size? What funding is secured or pending?

● Leadership: Please share a list with information on the race/ethnicity and gender of your leadership (e.g. board/staff/community advisors).

Contact Information

● Contact Person: Edgar Villanueva

● Contact Email: info@decolonizingwealth.com

● Website: www.DecolonizingWealth.com

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