



## United for Equity Fund Grant Recipients

February 2021

The United for Equity Fund was established to make grants to reduce and prevent racial inequities across systems that impact education, income and health in the Quad Cities.

The Equity Investment Panel a Black-led, diverse group of volunteers determined the funding priorities which were established from data and solution-based community input received from the Equity Summit in October 2020. The following funding priorities included:

- **Strengthen Families**  
*Providing support to parents and families of color by increasing access to social services.*
- **Empower the Next Generation**  
*Supporting and engaging youth of color to better inform them about the issues of today and equip them to tackle the challenges of the future.*
- **Educate & Equip the Community**  
*Creating safe spaces to unpack the history of race and systemic inequalities alongside making Diversity Equity and Inclusion training widely available.*

### United for Equity Investment Panel:

Kathleen Badejo  
Aimee Bland  
Kevin Gibbs  
Alisha Hanes  
Jim Huiskamp  
Frank Klipsch III  
Pandora Lawrence  
Stacy Litchfield  
Matt Mendenhall  
Margarita Mojica

Randy Moore  
Anna Oliver  
Maria Ontiveros  
Kent Pilcher  
Alfred Ramirez  
Dr. Burl Randolph - CHAIR  
Jennifer Rouse  
Alex Schnell  
Tameka Toney

The grant application was open to local social entrepreneurs, grass roots organizations and nonprofits to submit proposals for grant support to implement efforts that align and improve equitable outcomes. Applications were received from 36 organizations totaling \$686,948 in requests.

Grants were awarded to 25 organizations totaling \$275,000.

## **Empower the Next Generation -**

The Martin Luther King Jr Center - Youth Services Manager (YSM) will oversee and lead on and off-site afterschool programming, summer programming and partnerships to ensure that exceptionally effective practices are implemented, monitored and evaluated towards the goal of high academic achievement and viable post-secondary education plans. \$25,000

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. -Delta G.E.M.S. catches the dreams of African-American at-risk, adolescent girls aged 14-18. Delta G.E.M.S. provides the framework to actualize those dreams through the performance of specific tasks that develop a CAN-DO attitude. \$4,999

Project Renewal -Futures Group mentoring program for high school students offering opportunities to visit 2- and 4-year colleges, meet trade representatives to learn about apprenticeships, talk with people about their careers, and work on team building, life skills and personal strengths through group activities and field trips. \$15,600

Well Suited - Youth Development Academy will identify and work with rising freshman and sophomore high school students. Providing wrap around services with access to tools that support youth to succeed in school and in life. Youth will have access to professionals in mental health, health and wellness, financial literacy, and life coaching. \$4,999

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Mississippi Valley - Education & STEM, The Arts, Leadership & Service, Health & Wellness and Sports & Recreation. \$12,808

Iowa Jobs for Americas Graduates (iJAG) Inc. - iJAG's comprehensive programming delivered using the evidence-based JAG model, which operates in three key domains: Graduation/Academic Success, Workplace Skills and Postsecondary Transition. \$25,000

YWCA of the Quad Cities - Reading to End Racism (RER) will be offered in the schools and serves youth grades K-4, is designed to engage students through interactive presentations led by trained volunteer readers. Students have an opportunity to listen to literature, personal stories and insights regarding racism, participate in discussions about racism, and gain reinforcement about the power of literature. \$15,000

YouthHope - Providing educational assistance for students who need help catching to their peers with individualized learning guides, literacy tutors, and a safe place to complete homework assignments. In addition to school assignments, learning opportunities will be offered for creative arts, self-expression, cooking, music, and dance. Educational Assistance will primarily focus on the learning goals set by the districts, with the extra creative learning as a fun, customized, and optional enrichment time. \$30,000

QC Women In Action - Work with young women to provide college preparation, new skills building class and self-confidence. Each young lady is assigned a mentor and is provided support with transportation, ACT/SAT preparation, and colleges visits. \$4,500

STEAM ON WHEELS - Scaling up technology and engineering to expose new cutting-edge technology and new skills to the community. \$4,999

Narratives QC, Inc. - Life coaches work young adults to discover how they want their life to unfold so they become both "what" and "who" they want in life. This holistic approach expands

on mere career coaching to help them to find their life's purpose and become contributing members of the Quad Cities community. \$4,999

Quad Cities Heat Track Club - Develop the skills and disciplines which are essential to learning and improving in the area of track and field competition, while continuing to maintain a high academic standard. \$3,000

Quad Cities Open Network -Provide help to low-income students, which are predominately from the black and brown communities, in the Quad Cities area gain access to accessories for their technology. \$4,500

### **Strengthen Families -**

TMBC @ The Lincoln Center - Effective Black Parenting Program (EBPP) providing culturally-specific parenting strategies, general parenting strategies, basic parenting skills taught in a culturally-sensitive manner, using African American language expressions and African proverbs. Effective Black Parenting Program also incorporates Black history and culture into the lessons, including dealing with racism, which makes this program stand out from other general parenting classes. \$4,999

Iowa Black Doula Collective - The Young Mom Mentorship Program is designed to address critical needs of young Moms to have support during infancy to preschool age that may not be available in the new Mom's immediate home environments. Specifically geared toward supporting Black, Latino, Indigenous and other communities of color. \$4,999

Tapestry Farms - Connecting refugee families with resources that can help them reach their self-identified goals. \$20,750

QC Haven of Hope - Case management providing every family with a comprehensive, individualized family service plan that addresses three main core areas; stabilizing through basic needs and wellness, life skills that include job readiness and parent engagement, and pathway to independence through job placement and building asset. \$8,350

NEST (Nourish Everyone Sustainably Together) - Addresses food insecurity and health disparities associated with food insecurity. Additionally, the "Token for Lunch" program will provide an opportunity for community members who are struggling with food insecurity and other financial stresses to meet and work with people from various backgrounds and demographics, make meaningful connections and potentially develop valuable job and social skills. \$3,000

Quad Cities Community Broadcasting Group - WGTV has formed partnerships with Rock Island County Health Department and Scott County Health Department, and is currently producing and airing messaging about their programs and services, to each traditionally underserved and marginalized segments of our community. In addition, WGTV is actively seeking more partnerships to facilitate greater access to public services by traditionally underserved and marginalized populations. \$10,000

The Minnie Fridge - Community fridge provided free and open to the public everyday offering primarily fresh foods but also some dry goods and toiletry items. The fridge aims to provide fresh and nutritious food to those who need it, specifically those who cannot afford or don't have easy access to fresh foods. \$4,999

### **Educate and Equip the Community -**

Putnam Museum and Science Center - Ground On Which We Stand (GroWS) project, with the Putnam Museum serving as fiscal agent. The collaboration includes Azubuike African American Council for the Arts, Friends of MLK Interpretive Center (FoMLK,) and the League United Latin American Citizens Davenport Chapter 10 (LULAC.) Project activities will use local history, heritage, and storytelling to advance an understanding of race and systemic inequalities including providing high-quality training on issues of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) for community leaders, employers, and educators. \$45,000

WVIK Quad Cities NPR - Hidden Conversations a series of hour long, virtual discussions that take place on WVIK's Facebook page featuring community members who share their own experiences related to issues facing people of color in the Quad Cities today. \$7,500

Child Abuse Council - Provide high quality training to our staff and our Board of Directors on the topic of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. \$2,500

The Gene Garden Project - Addressing food equality for anyone who is in a food desert, not able to buy food, the education behind eating healthy and how it affects people of color. \$2,500

Liberte Educational Consulting - Parent University. Parent University is a program that will offer a variety of information to parents regarding educational services and resources that are available to them here in the Quad Cities. This will assist parents in partnering with stakeholders connected to their individual child's needs and will provide them with knowledge to be strong advocates for themselves and their children. \$4,999