



DEFENSE FUND

Grant Seekers Orientation



Agenda

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About the Southern Black Girls and Women's Consortium

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Our Grant Philosophy

3

Overview of the Defense Fund and the Grant Application Process



Southern Black
GIRLS
and Women's Consortium

Our Journey

The Southern Black Girls and Women's Consortium is a collective of Black women-led organizations, activists, and funders investing in and uplifting Black girls and women across the South. Operating in 13 states, SBGWC provides funding, resources, and programs that support leadership, opportunity, and community impact.



Key Insights That Guide Our Work

GIRLS EXPERIENCE RACISM & EDUCATIONAL GAPS

Girls experience racism and educational inequities in schools and want more supportive learning environments.

GIRLS ARE PERSONALLY RESILIENT; LESS CONFIDENT ABOUT THEIR INTELLECT

Black girls show resilience but often struggle with confidence in their intelligence.

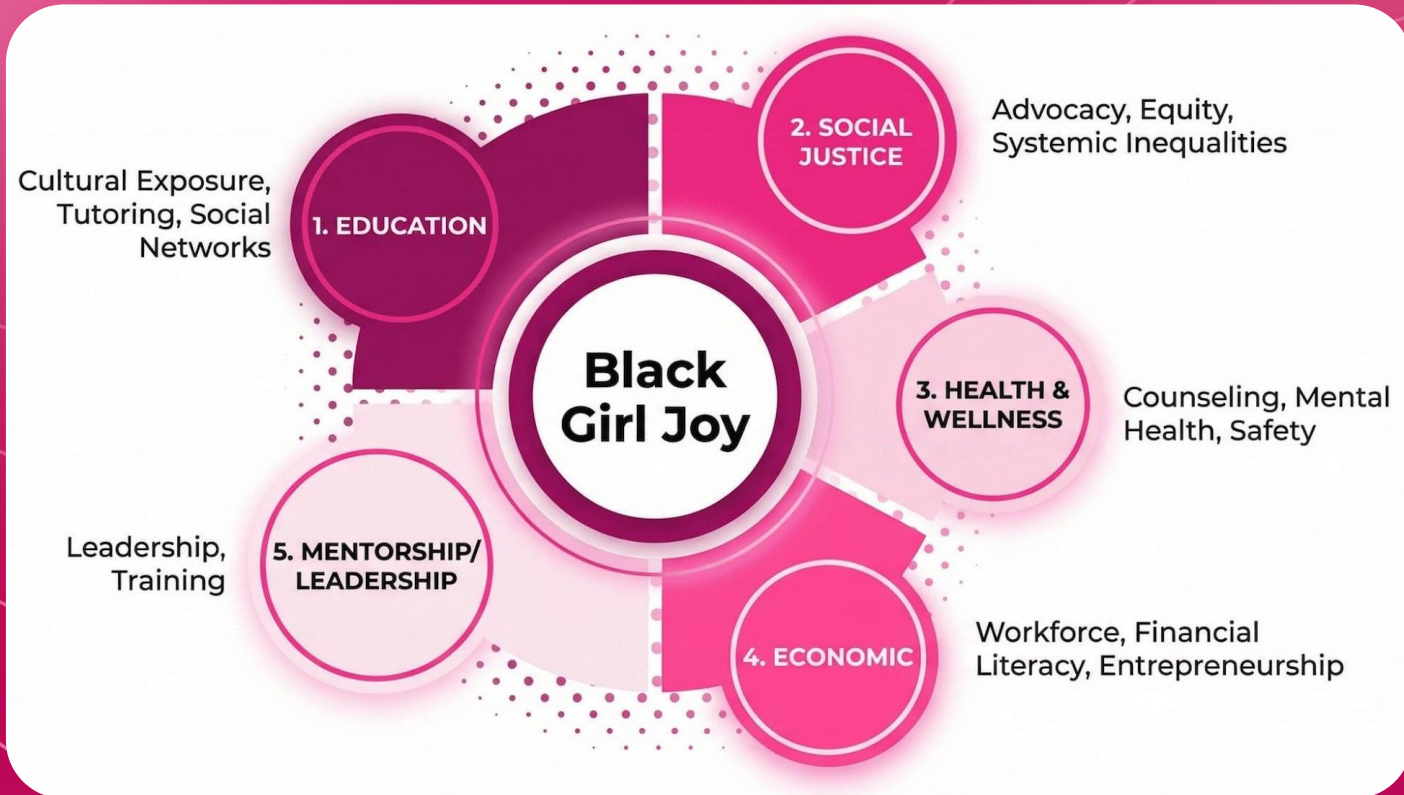
GIRLS EXPERIENCE ECONOMIC INSTABILITY & INSECURE HOUSING

Economic instability, housing insecurity, and limited healthcare access are major concerns.

GIRLS ARE EQUALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR COMMUNITIES, FAMILIES & THEIR ECONOMIC FUTURES

Girls are deeply aware of how systems affect their families, communities, and future opportunities..

Joy is essential to preserving Black girlhood





DEFENSE FUND

About the Fund

The Defense Fund supports organizations advancing the rights, safety, and well-being of Black girls, women, and femme-identifying youth.

Organizations may receive up to \$20,000 to support community-led efforts addressing issues such as dehumanization, reproductive and maternal health, gender-based violence, and other health and safety challenges.



Defense Fund

Dedicated to supporting organizations advocating for Black girls, women, and femme-identifying youth in the South.

Eligibility

- Support Black girls/women/femmes in one of our 13 Southern States
- 501(c)(3) organization or fiscal sponsorship
- Organizational budget less than \$1 Million

Grant Award Range

\$5,000–\$20,000

Key Dates

- **Opens:** May 5th, at 9am EST
- **Closes:** May 14th at 8pm EST

Frequently Asked Questions

1

How will grants be disbursed when awarded?

Grants will be disbursed in one payment from one of our Anchor Organizations.

2

What is the age requirement to apply for a grant?

13-year-old girls and older, women, and femme identifying.

3

What is the targeted demographic eligible to receive a grant?

Black women-led or Black girl-led organizations/projects serving mostly Black girls in 13 Southern states (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, TX, WV, VA).

4

Is this a single-year grant?

This is a single-year grant.

Non-Eligible Funding & Fund Disbursement

Non-Eligible Funding

- Profit-making organizations
- Lobbying
- Major capital projects
- Religious-based programming

Fund Disbursement

You are required to turn in all documents within a week of receiving confirmation of being a Grantee Partner.

Key Guidance

- **Clearly explain your mission and the community you serve.**
- **Be specific about the issue you are addressing and your approach.**
- **Show how your work impacts Black girls, women, and femme-identifying youth**
- **Include clear activities, goals, and outcomes where possible.**
- **Highlight community connection, leadership, and lived experience.**
- **Align your budget with your proposed work.**
- **Keep responses clear, direct, and focused.**
- **And importantly, carefully review eligibility requirements to ensure your organization meets the criteria before applying.**



Creating Your Profile on JUSTFUND

Step 1:

Register Your Organization

1. Visit the Registration Page: Go to justfund.us/register and enter your organization's email address.
2. Select Your Tax Status
3. Provide Applicant Contact Information: Enter primary contact's name; job title, and email.
4. Submit Your Application: JustFund staff will verify eligibility (up to 1 business day).

Step 2:

Complete and Publish Your Common Application™ Profile

Once your registration is approved, you'll need to complete the JustFund Common Application™ profile:

1. Access Your Profile

Log in to your JustFund account and navigate to your profile settings.

2. Fill Out Required Information

- Mission Statement
- Organization Description
- Team Description
- Annual Operating Budget
- Tax Status
- Focus Areas
- Leadership Composition

1. Upload Supporting Documents

Attach any relevant documents, such as your organization's logo, banner image, and media links.

2. Preview and Publish

Review your profile for accuracy. Once satisfied, publish it to make your organization discoverable to funders on, JustFund Search.

Step 3: Apply for Funding Opportunities

With your profile published, you can now apply for funding:

- 1 Explore Opportunities:**
Browse available funding opportunities on the JustFund platform.
- 2 Select an Opportunity:**
Choose a funding opportunity that aligns with your organization's mission.
- 3 Complete Application:**
Fill out any additional questions or upload requested documents specific to the funding opportunity.
- 4 Submit Application:**
After completing the application, submit it for review.

Your organization can apply to multiple funding opportunities using the same Common Application™ profile, saving time and effort.

Social

Stay Connected

Instagram

@SouthernBlackGirls

TikTok

@SouthernBlackGirls

Facebook

SouthernBlackGirls

Threads

@SouthernBlackGirls

Community Programs

- **The Southern Black Girls Mighty Network:** Online community for opportunities and connection.
- **Our Monthly Soul Sessions:** Safe, nurturing environment for girls 12-24 to explore self-care and empowerment.
- **Our Monthly Sage Circle:** Wisdom sharing and online learning sessions.
- **Our Wisdom Council:** Members informing regional issues and serving as the grant selection committee.



THANK YOU!

Q&A Session

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