$3,500 Investment Available for Black Leaders!

To recognize and support Black leaders working tirelessly on initiatives on behalf of their community, Family Independence Initiative (FII) is giving a $3,500 investment to 285 Black leaders. They can use the money any way they choose and do not have to pay it back.

Who is eligible for the investment?
- Black people who work as one of the following in an effort to advance the fight for Black liberation, end systemic racism and create a more just and equitable country:
  - Paid or unpaid activists
  - Organizers
  - Grassroots leaders

- AND -

- Live in:
  - Boston/Cambridge, Chicago, Detroit, Central Texas or Oakland (FII’s core cities)

What’s the selection and payment process?
The selection and payment process is three steps:
1. Black leaders nominate themselves by completing an online application and choosing how they would like to receive the investment if selected.
2. After the application period closes, FII will select applications at random and begin distributing funds until we have selected 285 leaders or until funds are exhausted.
3. Selected leaders will receive the investment in the method they selected during the application process.

What’s the catch?
There is no catch!

Given the entrenched racism embedded in our health, economic, and social service systems, FII created the UpTogether Equity Fund to recognize the impact of racism and honor the unique contributions of Black people.

Investing money directly in families and communities that are undervalued and underinvested in — and learning from the way they support, motivate and provide for each other — is something FII has been doing for the past 20 years.

Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applications accepted</th>
<th>February 1 - February 10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applications processed at random and awardees notified</td>
<td>February 12 - March 11</td>
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APPLY TODAY!

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Frequently Asked Questions

Logistics

● When does the application period begin?
  ○ The application period is February 1st-10th
● How can I apply?
  ○ You can find the online application here.
● How are people selected?
  ○ FII will use a randomized selection process to select leaders to receive the investment. Before distributing funds, FII will verify the identity and address of the applicant.
● When will selected leaders be notified?
  ○ FII will notify selected leaders beginning February 12th
● Why did you select Boston/Cambridge, Chicago, Detroit, Central Texas and Oakland?
  ○ These are FII’s core cities. We are fundraising to be able to invest in Black leaders in additional areas.

The Application

● What types of questions are in the application?
  ○ The application includes questions related to your leadership story, the primary focus of your work in the Black community and how you plan to use the investment. FII will not use this information to approve or deny your application, but to get to know more about you and your work. The application does not have the ability to save or return to these questions to finish them later, so you may want to create a draft in another document first, and then copy and paste the text into the application. Responses should be kept to one or two paragraphs.

● How will the application be scored?
  ○ Because applicants will be selected at random to receive the investment, there is no scoring for the application. The application will be used to verify that the leader meets the eligibility requirements and to learn more about the leaders and the work they are doing in their communities.

The Investment

● Why is FII giving money to Black leaders?
  ○ For 20 years, FII has been engaging philanthropy and governments across the country to adopt a strength-based, rather than paternalistic approach — steeped in racist beliefs — to investment in families living in undervalued communities. We are making this investment, through our newly-created UpTogether Equity Fund, to demonstrate our commitment to investing

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directly in people, and to inspire action toward the long-term and sustained investment in the unique contributions of Black leaders and communities of color at a moment in time when it is more important than ever.

- What can leaders use the investment for?
  - The investment is unrestricted and selected leaders can use the money however they want.

**Fund Applicants**
- How do you define activists, organizers and grassroots leaders?
  - An individual who is doing formal or informal, paid or unpaid activity or initiative to uplift their community. Their efforts can be focused on their block, neighborhood, or through an organization or faith-based institution.
- Will you publicize the names of the leaders who receive this investment?
  - We will only share the names of selected leaders who have given us permission.

**Other**
If I have questions about the application or selection process, who do I contact?
- You can reach us [here](http://fii.org).