



ABFE

A Philanthropic Partnership
for Black Communities

CFLeads

Community Foundations
Leading Change

Sustainable Development Goals 2025 Community Foundation Cohort

Led by ABFE and CFLeads

ABFE and CFLeads are joining forces to offer a **free new cohort program** in 2025 for community foundations to collaboratively engage with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and advance their racial equity agenda. Combining expertise and peer learning among and within participating organizations, the 2025 SDG Cohort will help institutions mobilize stakeholders, advance their missions, and increase impact and accountability.



Background

Canadian wildfire smoke darkened the skies throughout the Northeast United States last summer, with dangerous and disparate impacts on vulnerable populations, and sending an unnerving wakeup call.

And to the south, families from around the world are arriving at the border in record numbers, overwhelming federal services, and creating a humanitarian crisis that is impacting communities across the country in ways that are unprecedented.

Increasingly, the things that threaten our wellbeing in tangible ways, and intensify our struggle for equity, are global in nature. The 2025 Sustainable Development Goals Community Foundation Cohort offers a place-based, equity-driven approach to global trends at a critical moment.

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The Program

For 2025, ABFE and CFLeads are combining their respective areas of expertise and longstanding relationships with funders across the country to offer a comprehensive program for staff, board members, and donors. In 2024, ABFE developed and refined a new curriculum, adapting its Responsive Philanthropy in Black Communities framework (RPBC) to the SDGs to increase impact and accountability. And for 2025, CFLeads is incorporating its Community Leadership framework to further enhance a collective approach to long-term impact for community foundations. The 2025 program, and ABFE's previous community foundation cohort programs, are supported by the C.S. Mott Foundation.



Whether or not an SDG framework is already in place, community foundations are already working in areas that are called out by the seventeen goals. The 2025 program helps funders advance their existing SDG framework, and helps institutions that are new to the SDG framework understand their existing priorities in this context and how the SDGs can advance those priorities, with a distinct emphasis on racial equity. Practically speaking, the SDG offers opportunities to target programs, understand and address structural barriers, center equity, track and measure impact, and communicate more effectively to community stakeholders and donors. Beyond impact specifically related to SDGs and racial equity, the program is designed to strengthen overall external and internal organizational effectiveness.

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How it Works

The 2025 SDG Community Foundation Cohort is an entirely virtual program, offered in two sections: Spring 2025 and Fall 2025. Each section will consist of three monthly half-day sessions. In addition to these three formal cohort sessions, each participating organization is offered six hours of customized consulting to facilitate implementation in the context of each organization's unique circumstances.

Each participating organization is encouraged to identify several individuals across functional areas and at many levels. We recommend that each foundation select 1-4 participants to attend. A diverse range of program staff, administrative staff, board members, and donors offers the best opportunity for short- and longer-term impact. Organizations may join one or both sections (Spring/Fall).

Each session will be led by ABFE and CFLeads facilitators, augmented by two specialists: Dr. Helen Bond (Howard University), and Dr. Lawrence McGill (Ambit 360). Dr. Bond's seminal "In the Red" report and research demonstrates how to understand and track racial equity outcomes using the SDGs, and Dr. McGill offers lessons based on first-hand experience helping high-performing community foundations incorporate the SDGs into their existing systems.

In addition to the expertise and experience offered by program facilitators and specialists, the program is designed to maximize peer learning and trust-based relationship and network building among individual participants and organizations.

Timeline

- Cohorts A & B application released: October 15, 2024
- Q&A/information session: October 29, 2024, 1PM ET
- Application deadline: November 22, 2024
- Participants announced: December 8, 2024
- Cohort A sessions: February 12, March 12, April 9, 2025
- Cohort A consulting, TA, and coaching: May-July, 2025
- Cohort B application released: May 12, 2025
- Q&A/information session: June 4, 2025
- Cohort B applications due: June 20, 2025
- Announcement of Cohort B: July 7, 2025
- Cohort B sessions: September 10, October 15, November 12, 2025
- Cohort B consulting, TA, and coaching: Dec 2025-Feb 2026

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