



## *Melanated Movement Fund*

### *Request for Pre-Applications*

Pre-Application Due Date: April 4, 2024

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## Executive Summary

The Melanated Movement Fund is an initiative that supports tailored strategies to address the holistic HIV prevention and care needs of Black cisgender and transgender women. The Fund offers grants, capacity building, and technical assistance through the generous support of Gilead Sciences, Inc. This request for pre-application is part of a multi-stage process to select five (5) community-based organizations to receive multi-year grant funding to implement activities that advance Black women’s engagement in HIV prevention and/or care, provide supportive services that address social determinants of health, as well as promote self-efficacy with regard to their health and well-being.

## Background

Black women are disproportionately impacted by the HIV epidemic. Black women currently represent 54% of all new HIV diagnoses among women in the United States, despite comprising only 13% of the population.<sup>1</sup> The rate of Black women living with HIV is 16.6 times that of White women.<sup>2</sup> The disparities are even starker for Black transgender women. Recent surveys have found that over 62% of participating Black/African American transgender women are living with HIV.<sup>3</sup> These disparities persist when examining health outcomes among Black women living with HIV. Compared to women of all races,

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/library/reports/hiv-surveillance/vol-34/content/special-focus-profiles.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://aidsvu.org/local-data/united-states/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/policies/data/transgender-issue-brief.html>

Black women have the lowest rate of viral suppression (62%)<sup>4</sup>. In addition, the HIV mortality rate is 15 times higher for Black women than for white women<sup>4</sup>. Heightened social and structural barriers including poverty, inadequate sexual health education, HIV stigma and discrimination, racism, misogyny, transphobia, lack of access to health care, housing, and other supportive services, as well as intimate partner violence drive these disparities.

HIV-related stigma has a particular impact on Black women, confronting intersectional stigmas associated with race and gender identity. This can result in individuals delaying medical care due to experiences of discrimination, which results in poorer health and quality of life. This hesitancy to access care can exacerbate structural barriers as people of color most impacted by HIV in the United States often live in parts of the country with limited healthcare access, including lack of access to health insurance, high levels of HIV-related stigma, and high rates of unemployment, such as the U.S. South.

Women also face unique barriers to HIV prevention. Although PrEP is a highly effective, woman-controlled prevention option for women at-risk for HIV, PrEP use among women has been very low. Less than 10% of women who could benefit from PrEP were prescribed PrEP in 2019, and Black people were less likely to have initiated PrEP compared to white people<sup>5</sup>.

Intimate partner violence (IPV) contributes to HIV risk and HIV outcomes. Nearly 36% of women experience IPV during their lifetime; for women living with HIV that rate is 55%. While anyone can be impacted by IPV, women of color experience higher rates of violence during their lifetimes. Experiencing IPV can both impact a woman's risk for acquiring HIV, as well as negatively impact health outcomes among those living with HIV<sup>6</sup>. The Melanated Movement Fund works to address these and other barriers by supporting holistic, tailored, and innovative approaches to HIV prevention and care for Black women.

## **Purpose**

The Melanated Movement Fund works to address the structural and social barriers faced by Black women impacted by HIV by supporting holistic, tailored, and innovative approaches to HIV prevention and care. This initiative will provide multi-year funding to five (5) community-based organizations providing HIV services and who want to expand their programming that is uniquely tailored to Black women. Organizations working on intersectional issues impacting Black women, including but not limited to reproductive health organizations, domestic violence shelters, or other organizations that promote community and provide supportive services to Black women are also encouraged to apply to expand their existing programming.

Grantees will be funded and supported to implement and/or expand a tailored program to engage Black women in HIV prevention and/or care services in one or more areas:

- Arts & Advocacy, including culturally relevant media or creative arts to raise HIV awareness and combat stigma.
- Community, including peer support groups or interventions that build connection between women, provide education, and improve self-efficacy.
- Education, including developing and delivering culturally relevant HIV education resources

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<sup>4</sup> <https://aidsvu.org/national-women-girls-hiv-aids-awareness-day-toolkit/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/library/reports/hiv-surveillance/vol-26-no-2/content/national-profile.html#7>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.kff.org/hivaids/issue-brief/hiv-intimate-partner-violence-ipv-and-women-an-emerging-policy-landscape/>

and/or educational programming.

- Addressing social determinants of health, including housing, food security, transportation, cell phone and internet connectivity.

Grants through this initiative will be 2.25 years (27 months in length). The grant period will run from July 1, 2024 – September 30, 2026. Each grantee is eligible to receive a maximum of \$90,000: \$20,000 in 2024, \$40,000 in 2025, and \$30,000 in 2026. These grant amounts have been prorated to correspond for the number of funded months in each calendar year.

## Eligibility

To be eligible for funding through the Melanated Movement Fund, the applicant must meet the following criteria:

- **Nonprofit Status** – Applicants must be nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations, per the guidelines set forth by the Internal Revenue Service with proper 501(c)(3) status. Verification of this status will be undertaken by AIDS United before final grant decisions are made. Organizations or coalitions that do not hold 501(c)3 status must have a fiscal sponsor. *Note that 501(c)4 designation is not the same. While it is possible for an organization to have both IRS (c)3 and (c)4 status, AIDS United will verify that each applicant organization has a (c)3 designation.*
- **Geographic Location** – Applicants must be located and perform work within the United States. This includes the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Native American Reservations/Tribal Lands, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- **Financial Stability** – Organizations should be fiscally stable and viable prior to submission of the funding application, meaning organizations should have the financial ability to operate for the duration of the grant period.
- **Equity** – The Melanated Movement Fund recognizes that HIV outcomes are significantly impacted by poverty, racism, homophobia and transphobia, heterosexism, and misogyny. As such, we will prioritize funding for organizations led by and serving Black cisgender and transgender women. We will also have particular focus on organizations in high needs jurisdictions like the U.S South.
- **Good Standing** - Current or previous grantees of any AIDS United funding portfolio must be in good standing with regards to reporting and all other grant requirements.
- **Grant Period** – Applicants must be able to utilize the funds within the 27 month grant period (July 1, 2024 – September 30, 2026).
- **Relationship to AIDS United** – Current AIDS United grantees are eligible to apply. Organizations who have not been funded by AIDS United before are also eligible to apply.

## Approach

- **Intersectionality and Social Justice** – Intersectionality is a framework for understanding how interrelated systems of oppression support discrimination among people who share overlapping social identities. For example, a person living with HIV may face racism and homophobia, in addition to HIV stigma, all of which may present barriers to that individual's access to care and their achievement of optimal health. Systemically, all must be addressed if we are to see an end to HIV in the United States and create real change for people living with and affected by HIV. Melanated Movement Fund grantees are expected to address HIV-related disparities through an intersectional framework through their organization's ongoing work and proposed project. Applicants can leverage the following resources to deepen their understanding of this approach:
  - [We the People Report](#) (Black AIDS Institute, 2020)

- [A Declaration of Liberation: Building a Racially Just and Strategic Domestic HIV Movement](#) (HIV Racial Justice Now, 2017)
- **Meaningful Involvement of People Living with HIV** – MIPA ensures that communities most affected by HIV are involved in decision-making at every level of the response, including in the development, implementation, resolution and evaluation of programs and policies that impact their lives. Competitive organizations will incorporate MIPA into their organizational management, staffing, board of directors, and governance, as well as their proposed project. Applicants can leverage [resources from AIDS United](#) to deepen their understanding of best practices for incorporating MIPA.

## Requirements

- **Participation in Evaluation** – Grantees will be asked to report the number of unduplicated beneficiaries, the demographics of beneficiaries (age, race/ethnicity, gender identity, HIV status and sexual orientation) of each beneficiary, as well as service utilization data. Organizations will be provided technical assistance to collect the requested information as needed.
- **Participation in Technical Assistance** – Grantees will be required to attend a grantee convening in the fall of 2024 and to participate in virtual technical assistance calls on a quarterly basis.

A summary of evaluation, technical assistance and grant management activities are included below. By submitting a pre-application, the applicant acknowledges and agrees to participate in the activities as described.

Activity/Requirement/Deliverable	Timeframe/Deadline
Grant Payments	Grant payments will be made in two installments each calendar year. 50% of the annual approved grant amount upon signing the grant agreement or beginning of the calendar year thereafter. The other 50% of the annual approved grant amount will be provided upon submission of each interim report noted below.
Welcome Webinar	By July 31, 2024
Participation in evaluation activities, including completion of a baseline, interim and final report.	A baseline report will be due by July 31, 2024, in addition to the interim and final reports noted below.
Attendance at an in-person All Grantee Convening	By October 31, 2024
Annual Interim Narrative and Expenditure Reports	By October 31, 2024 By June 30, 2025 By May 29, 2026
Annual Final Narrative and Expenditure Reports	By January 31, 2025 By January 30, 2026 By October 30, 2026
Check-In Calls between AIDS United and the Grantee	Calls will occur on a quarterly basis for the duration of the grant
Participation in other grantee meetings (in-person, online, or otherwise), local or regional advocacy or community meetings/events, and any other required grantee meetings.	As applicable

Participation in technical assistance activities, including webinars, online courses, and peer-to-peer learning calls with fellow grantees	Completed on a quarterly basis for the duration of the grant
Site Visits or Audits by AIDS United staff	Site visits or audits are not anticipated to occur for this program; however, AIDS United retains the right to conduct site visits or audits as needed
Completion of surveys required by AIDS United	Grantees must complete one annual all grantee survey

### Submission and Timeline

Applicants have two options to submit responses to this request for pre-applications:

1. Written pre-applications will be submitted via AIDS United’s online [Pre-Application Form](#) by 11:59 p.m. ET on April, 4 2024. Questions do not have a word limit. However, applicants should aim for written responses to the Pre-Application Narrative questions to be no longer than one-page, single space with 12 point font.
2. Applicants can submit a pre-recorded video that is no longer than 15 minutes in length, responding to the Pre-Application Narrative Questions. Videos should be uploaded to AIDS United’s online [Pre-Application Form](#) by 11:59 p.m. ET on April, 4, 2024. Applicants submitting a pre-recorded video will submit responses to the overview questions in the Pre-Application Form.

Submitting a pre-application is the first stage in our selection process. **Submitting a pre-application is required; [click here to start your pre-application](#).** A community-based review committee will evaluate all pre-application submissions and invite up to 25 applicants to submit a full proposal. The timeline for the selection process is:

Activity	Date
Pre-Application Opens	March 4, 2024
Pre Application TA Webinar ( <a href="#">Register here</a> )	March 21, 2024
Pre-Application Closes	April 4, 2024
Full Application Opens. <i>Applicants will be notified if they have been invited to submit a complete application.</i>	April 11, 2024
Full Application TA Webinar	April 24, 2024
Full-Application Closes	May 16, 2024
Date of Funding Notification	June 21, 2024
Grant Period Begins	July 1, 2024
Grant Period Ends	September 30, 2026

### Restrictions

Grant funds may not be used for: medications or purchasing of medications; direct medical expenses, including lab expenses; existing deficits of Grantee; basic biomedical research, clinical research, or clinical trials; projects that directly influence or advance Gilead’s business, including purchase, utilization, prescribing, formulary position, pricing, reimbursement, referral, recommendation or payment for pharmaceutical products; individuals with prescribing authority, individual health care providers, or physician group practices; events or programs that have already occurred; indirect expenses outside of the percentage noted in grantees’ approved budgets; and/or direct or grassroots

lobbying. An in-depth description of direct and grassroots lobbying can be [accessed here](#).

Organizations that discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression are not eligible to apply.

## Pre-Application

### Organizational Overview

1. Organization name
2. Organization EIN
3. Organization address
4. Organization city
5. Organization state
6. Organization zip code
7. Organization website
8. Primary contact name
9. Primary contact title
10. Primary contact phone
11. Primary contact email
12. Fiscal Sponsor Information, if applicable
  - Name
  - Address
  - Contact person name
  - Contact person title
  - Contact person email
  - Contact person phone number
  - EIN
  - Website
13. Organization Type (CBO/ASO/faith-based/human rights/clinic or medical provider/legal aid/health department/other \_\_\_\_\_.)
14. Total organizational budget, rounded to the nearest dollar (current fiscal year)
15. Summarize the organization's mission (two to three sentences)
16. Year organization founded
17. Year organization began working in HIV
18. Total number of staff
19. Are you or any member of your organization an employee of AIDS United, a member of AIDS United's Board of Trustees, or the Public Policy Council (PPC)?
  - If yes, please provide the person's name(s): \_\_\_\_\_
  - No
    - If the answer was "yes" to the question above, do you attest that this person will recuse themselves from any involvement in the application process and/or financial decisions associated with this opportunity?
      - Yes
      - No

### Organizational Leadership

AIDS United seeks to understand the leadership of the organizations we fund. We define an organization as led by a certain demographic group or community when all of the conditions below are met:

- 1) The executive director/highest paid staff or equivalent identifies as a member of the group.
- 2) 51%+ of senior leadership identify as part of the group.
- 3) 51%+ of staff identify as part of the group.

We recognize that these definitions are imperfect. We are committed to continued learning, updating our language and being cognizant of the ways in which HIV status, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, and lived/living experience impact people’s access to power.

Based on the definition above is your organization led by:

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>We do not collect the data needed to answer this question/not applicable</b>
<b>People living with HIV</b>			
<b>Black people</b>			
<b>Indigenous people</b>			
<b>Latine people</b>			
<b>People of color</b>			
<b>Transgender and gender non-conforming people, including non-binary people</b>			
<b>Lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, asexual, aromantic and same-gender-loving people</b>			
<b>Cisgender women</b>			
<b>People who use drugs</b>			
<b>Sex workers</b>			
<b>People who are or have been unhoused/unstably housed</b>			
<b>People with a history of incarceration</b>			
<b>People with other relevant lived experience</b>			
<b>Youth (under the age of 24)</b>			

1. If you do not collect the data needed to answer any of the above questions, please explain why your organization does not collect the information.
2. Please share any additional information you would like us to know about the demographics of your organization and how the leadership is reflective of the intersectional experiences and

identities of the people that you serve.

### **Pre-Application Overview**

1. Project title
2. Total funding amount requested
3. Melanated Movement Fund focus area (Arts & Advocacy, Community, Education, Social Determinants of Health). *Check all that apply.*
4. Geographic area to be served by project or grant (urban, suburban, rural, reservation, statewide, region, campus etc.). *Check all that apply*
5. How many unduplicated individuals will participate in grant-funded activities?
6. What services or programming will be supported by this grant? Please check all that apply.
  - Prevention
  - Linkage to care services
  - HIV care and treatment (directly provided by your organization)
  - HIV care and treatment (referrals to other providers)
  - Retention in care services
  - Social services (directly provided by your organization)
  - Social services (referrals to other providers)
  - Digital campaigns and events
  - Harm reduction
  - Training and leadership development
  - Advocacy
  - Additional services or programming
    - Please specify
7. Please indicate which of the following groups your proposal is designed to reach. *Check all that apply.*
  - Black/African American/African/Afro Caribbean people
  - Latino/Latina/Latinx/Latine people
  - American Indian, Native American, Native Hawaiian or Alaska Native people
  - Asian, Asian American, or Pacific Islander people
  - White people
  - People aged 50 and older
  - Young people
  - Women of trans experience
  - Cisgender women
  - Men of trans experience
  - Cisgender men
  - Gender nonbinary, gender nonconforming or genderfluid individuals
  - LGBTQA+/SGL people
  - People living with HIV or AIDS
  - People living with viral hepatitis
  - Sex workers
  - People who use drugs
  - System-impacted individuals (i.e., those in or who have formerly been in jail or prison)
  - Immigrant populations
  - People who are homeless or unstably housed
  - People in rural communities



- Additional groups (specify)

**Pre-Application Narrative**

1. Please provide a brief overview of your organization, including your history providing tailored programming to Black women.
2. Please provide a brief description of your proposed project.

**Technical Assistance During the Pre-Application Process**

AIDS United is committed to assisting applicants with the preparation of a complete and responsive pre-application. Our staff will be available to answer any questions and provide technical assistance. Please direct all questions to [movement@aidsunited.org](mailto:movement@aidsunited.org). Additionally, a webinar will be held on March 21, 2024, 12-1PM ET to provide clarification about the grant announcement and key pre-application submission tips. Register [here](#).

**Thank you for your interest in the Melanated Movement Fund and your commitment to supporting Black women living with and affected by HIV!**

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