



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Friday, June 26, 2015

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Asian, Black & Latino Leaders Praise NYC Council Restoration of Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund

\$2.5 Million Will Grant Dozens of Nonprofits Capacity Building Support

(June 26, 2015)—New York, NY: Coordinating organizations for the recently-established Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund (CCNSF) today praised the New York City Council for committing to restoring \$2.5 Million for Fiscal Year 2016. Established by the City Council in 2014, the Fund is the first of its kind in New York City and provided capacity building support to 80 emerging and seasoned social services organizations in the inaugural year. After receiving applications from over 250 nonprofits across the five boroughs, organizers and Council Members agreed that the initiative should continue for years to come.

The coordinating organizations – the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, Hispanic Federation, New York Urban League, Asian American Federation and Black Agency Executives – oversaw the selection of the awardees, offered 24 training sessions, and provided technical support to build the administrative, fundraising and outreach capacity of nonprofit organizations in communities of color.

Following a competitive Request for Application (RFA) process, interested nonprofits were screened by the coordinating organizations and decisions were made by independent panels of philanthropic experts. Awardees were provided grants of up to \$35,000 to address infrastructural needs including leadership development, financial management, fundraising, management information systems and outcomes system development, among others. The 80 awardees are community-based organizations from all five boroughs and cover a range of services and communities including arts, educational, immigration, anti-poverty, seniors, health, youth, LGBTQ, worker rights, small business, organizing and others.

“We are extremely grateful to the New York City Council for their vision and continued support for the Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund and the great benefit it has been to the city’s Asian, Black and Latino community based organizations,” said **José Calderón, President of the Hispanic Federation**. “These institutions have been historically underfunded and under-capitalized by city government, foundations, and other funding entities. This ongoing investment in our nonprofits is an overdue, wise and responsible step forward towards ensuring we have a healthier and more robust safety net for our city’s majority communities of color population.”

“The New York Urban League is grateful for the renewal of funding of the Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund. The New York City Council has made it clear this initiative is important to the City of New York and we couldn’t be more excited. It is the mission of the Urban League to advocate for equal access to opportunities for all New Yorkers, which includes fledgling nonprofits. This initiative, which proved to be an important and integral part of the infrastructure of a number of small nonprofits, has allowed our grantees to engage and rebuild their boards in order to grow the work, develop creative and innovative fundraising strategies, develop data management systems to learn about the impact of their work in their communities among a number of other successes. The renewal of this greatly needed initiative informs us that capacity building support is a need and important to the growth of all nonprofit organizations – large and small,” stated **Arva R. Rice, President & CEO of the New York Urban League.**

"We are very appreciative that the New York City Council has renewed funding for the Nonprofit Stabilization Fund. This project, which funds capacity building grants to community based organizations has truly made a difference and positive impact. These grants allow for organizations to grow and prosper in the ever changing economy. For many, it represents the opportunity to truly meet the potential for their communities and constituents," said **Sheelah A. Feinberg, Executive Director of the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families.**

“We thank the City Council for their continued support of this important initiative. We, along with our membership and grantees, applaud our Council's leadership and vision in supporting our city’s nonprofit organizations that serve communities of color. For years, our agencies have provided life-changing services to some of the most vulnerable New Yorkers, with little infrastructure support. CCNSF has enabled us to provide our grantees with invaluable technical assistance and training to serve their communities with increased knowledge and capacity. The renewal of CCNSF is an affirmation of the work of our agencies, as well an investment in the successes to come,” said **Jo-Ann Yoo, Executive Director of the Asian American Federation.**

"Black Agency Executives is incredibly proud to be part of this unprecedented collaboration to ensure that all members of our nonprofit community have access to the resources needed to build strong institutions that are well-positioned to address the most pressing needs in our city. We thank the City Council and all partnering city agencies for their responsiveness and support. Stronger human services means a stronger New York City," said **Dr. Danielle Moss Lee, President of Black Agency Executives.**

While the success stories resulting from the Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund are numerous and extraordinary, here are testimonies from three grantees on its importance:

“Ocean Bay Community Development Corporation, a small nonprofit located in Far Rockaway, applied for the Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund with the New York Urban League. We are grateful for this grant because it allowed us to focus on building capacity within our board of directors. Through the CCNSF grant, we were able to engage in board development and leadership training and we are so pleased with the work of the consultant, which this grant afforded us. We are also very pleased with our more-prepared-to-govern board of directors and look forward to growing and developing fundraising opportunities. We are also grateful to the New York Urban League as a conduit in making sure that our grant experiences were seamless,” stated **Patricia Simon, Executive Director of Ocean Bay Community Development Corporation.**

"The Asian American Arts Alliance is deeply grateful to serve as a CCNSF grantee. This funding allowed us to work with an experienced arts consultant to thoroughly assess, reflect on, and strengthen two core areas of our work—our membership structure and our online communications including our website and social media. With the findings from this capacity-building work, we'll be able to better support the full range of exciting Asian American artists and small arts groups we serve," said **Andrea Louie, Executive Director of the Asian American Arts Alliance.**

“Sure We Can is extremely thankful to the Hispanic Federation and the CCNSF for the grant we received. Because of it, we could finally develop a new program: a Community Compost Station to serve small restaurants in our neighborhood to recycle better their organic materials while expanding sources of livelihood for our members,” stated **Ana de Luco, President and Executive Director of Sure We Can.**

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