

SparkNJ is a nonprofit organization that awards unrestricted funding to charitable, community, and civic organizations in northern New Jersey whose leadership identifies as Black.

- We support nonprofits that are already fulfilling their mission but need additional operating funds to continue and grow their work.
- We fund organizations that fill a wide variety of a local community's needs—from theater and the arts to daycare to food banks.
- We operate independently but under the umbrella of The Community Foundation of New Jersey.

OUR PROCESS

SparkNJ does not require applications from nonprofit organizations. We rely on a team of Donors, Nominators and a Selection Committee; all play an essential role in funding our Grant Recipients.



Donors, who provide the funds distributed annually, may choose from one of two levels of giving: \$5,000 per year for five years, or \$1,000 per year for five years. Donations are due by March 1 of a given year. One-year donations are also considered.



Nominators have deep connections to local charitable/civic/community worlds. Every year a majority are Black women and men. Nominators attend an Orientation session in March and submit an online nomination form during April of each year.



A diverse **Selection Committee** is charged with reviewing all nominations and ascertaining that nominated organizations meet the criteria for a SparkNJ grant. Selectors attend an Orientation session each year and meet in person to discuss and finalize their decisions.



Grant Recipients are notified of their SparkNJ equity grant in June and receive funds via our account at the Community Foundation of New Jersey shortly after July 1. They are asked to stay connected to SparkNJ by providing a brief description of the progress their organization has made during the year the grant was received.

MISSION

In the interest of promoting racial equity, our mission is to build a diverse community that provides trust-based funding to Black-led nonprofit organizations.

VISION

We envision a world where funding and support are equitably available to all nonprofits, sparking change so that all communities in NJ have the resources they need to thrive.

IMPACT

Grant recipients:

- Become part of a supportive network of like-minded individuals
- Are the focus of a celebration event where their work is applauded
- Are candidates for mentoring opportunities and capacity-building guidance
- Have opportunities to attend SparkNJ forums and gatherings for networking and peer exchanges
- Amplify their good work by spreading the word through SparkNJ

COORDINATORS

The vision and passion of Carole Rogers, Kathy Teti and Lisa Firkser melded to create SparkNJ. Their collective knowledge of nonprofit organizations, philanthropy, and grant-making processes, combined with their desire to serve under-represented communities, provided the spark for this fund.

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