Gilead Sciences Awards $10M in 20 Grants for Racial Equity

Building on the drugmaker's HIV grants, this new funding is part of Gilead's Racial Equity Community Impact Fund.

January 14, 2021 By Trent Straube

Pharma giant Gilead Sciences, known for its line of blockbuster HIV meds, awarded $10 million in grants to 20 organizations that promote racial equity and social justice for African Americans. The grants, provided over three years, are part of the newly launched Racial Equity Community Impact Fund, according to an announcement by Gilead.

"This is, for many of them, the largest donation that they have received for their organization. So we are happy, and they are thrilled to be part of this community impact fund," Shanell McGoy, director of corporate social responsibility at Gilead, told Fierce Pharma.

African Americans and other marginalized groups—such as Latinos and members of the LGBTQ community—are at higher risk of contracting HIV. In fact, as the last year has shown, they experience more health inequities in general, including those related to COVID-19.

Groups receiving grants are based in the United States and focus on three areas, as spelled out by Gilead:

- Community Advocacy and Mobilization: Groups that organize and mobilize communities to join the quest for racial equity and social justice, working toward an equitable distribution of resources for Black communities.

- Social Justice: Organizations and historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) training the next generation of leaders.

- Educational Innovation: Institutions focused on providing educational advancement and career development services for Black students, young professionals and families from cradle to

career.

“Gilead is committed to creating equitable opportunities for the patients we serve, our employees and the communities in which we live and work,” Daniel O’Day, the chairman and chief executive officer of Gilead Sciences, said in the press statement. “The Racial Equity Community Impact Fund will provide resources to groups that are working on the front lines to combat social inequities directly impacting the health and wellness of the Black community. This program is one of the ways that we are delivering on our commitment to promote racial equity and social justice.”

The organizations receiving Gilead funding include:

- 100 Black Men of Metropolitan Houston
- Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub
- Black Organizing for Leadership and Dignity (BOLD)
- Black Youth Project 100 (BYP100)
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington
- Center for Racial Justice in Education
- Claflin University
- East Oakland Youth Development Center
- The Equity Alliance
- Grantmakers for Girls of Color

- Harlem Children's Zone
- Horatio Williams Foundation
- The Marsha P. Johnson Institute
- Morehouse College
- Shaw University
- Southerners on New Ground (SONG)
- Spelman College
- Tougaloo College
- Ubuntu Inc.
- Xavier University of Louisiana.

The Racial Equity Community Impact Fund builds on other Gilead programs, notably the COMPASS (Commitment to Partnership in Addressing HIV/AIDS in Southern States) Initiative, through which the pharmaceutical manufacturer has pledged to invest $100 million over 10 years in the fight against HIV in the South, the epicenter of today's epidemic. For more on that, see "40 Group Fighting HIV int eh South Awarded Total of $2.3M in Grants."

Similarly, GLAAD, an advocacy group that focuses on LGBTQ representations in the media, received a $9 million grant from Gilead for two of its programs. Funding from the grants helped GLAAD spearhead a national survey titled the State of HIV Stigma Study. Survey results were released last summer. For more, see "How Comfortable Are Americans Around People With HIV? [VIDEO]" and watch the video above (it features Michelle Visage, Peppermint, Sheryl Lee Ralph, Tatiana Maslany and more).

As Fierce Pharma points out, the fund is part of a growing trend among drugmakers to support health equity and advocate for racial equality. Johnson & Johnson and AbbVie, for example, have pledged over $100 million and $50 million, respectively, to similar efforts.

To learn more about the intersection of race and the HIV epidemic, see the POZ Basics on HIV and African Americans. And for a collection of articles about COVID-19 and the Black community, click Real Health's tag #COVID-19.

© 2026 Smart + Strong All Rights Reserved.
http://beta.docker.poz.com/article/gilead-sciences-awards-10m-20-grants-racial-equity-african-american