



Center for African American Recovery Development

RCO Toolkit

Resource 8.1

Grant & Funding Opportunities



8.1 Grant & Funding Opportunities

Sustaining Black-Led RCOs Through Financial Support

The Problem: Black-led RCOs are consistently underfunded compared to white-led counterparts. This isn't about capacity — it's about access. Too often, our organizations are locked out of the networks where dollars already circulate.

The Response: We cannot sit and wait for one funder to “see” us. Sustainability means moving in many directions at once — federal, state, foundation, grassroots, community-powered dollars, and entrepreneurial streams.

The funding landscape is not stable — it shifts with politics, with economic tides, and with philanthropic trends. That's why Black-led RCOs must be fluent in searching, diversifying, and building their own streams. SAMHSA and federal grants are one lane, but not the only lane. This section points you toward grant databases, foundation directories, and equity-focused networks that can help you find opportunities no matter how the winds shift.

And remember: you don't have to do this alone. Join the CAARD Collective, where we “crowd-search” for funding — pooling knowledge, sharing leads, and moving resources across our network so no Black-led RCO is left behind.

Where to Search for Grants & Funding

Federal & State Grant Portals

- [Grants.gov](#) — Central database for all federal grants (SAMHSA, HRSA, DOJ, etc.).
- [SAMHSA Grants](#) — Behavioral health/recovery funding (⚠ note: priorities shift with each administration).
- [HRSA](#) (Health Resources & Services Administration) — Health workforce and community health.
- [Office of Minority Health \(OMH\)](#) — Equity-focused projects.
- **State & Regional Funding** — Many states manage opioid settlement dollars through behavioral health agencies; check your state's Opioid Settlement Fund dashboard.
- **County & City Opioid Response Funds** — Local recovery coalitions are gaining access to settlement streams; partner with them early.

Foundation & Philanthropy Databases

- [Candid / Foundation Directory Online](#) — Comprehensive database of U.S. foundations (often free at public libraries).
- [GrantWatch.com](#) — Subscription site searchable by category.
- [Philanthropy News Digest](#) — Weekly listings of foundation RFPs.
- [Council on Foundations](#) — National philanthropy tools & funder directories.
- [ABFE \(Association of Black Foundation Executives\)](#) — Leads Black-focused philanthropy networks.
- [Inside Philanthropy](#) — Database + analysis of major funders, including those in health, mental health, and addiction.

Equity- and Recovery-Focused Funders

- [FORE Foundation](#) — Leading private funder advancing equity in recovery.
- [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) — Health equity, racial disparities, and wellness.
- [Ford Foundation](#) — Racial and social justice funding.
- [Rx Foundation](#) — Community-rooted recovery equity initiatives.
- Local **community foundations** often have racial equity or wellness funds — start with your city or county foundation directory.

Community & Grassroots Pathways

- **CDFIs (Community Development Financial Institutions)** — Many Black-owned CDFIs invest in health, housing, and community recovery.
 - **Faith-based Giving** — Many Black churches, AME networks, and interfaith coalitions fund recovery work.
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Beyond Grants: Building Ecosystem & Capital Pathways

Recovery funding doesn't stop at recovery. Black-led RCOs can and must step into **ecosystem funding streams** that support our broader mission:

- **Workforce Development** — Apply for training and re-entry grants (USDOL, state workforce boards).
 - **Housing Initiatives** — Tap into HUD and state affordable housing dollars for recovery housing.
 - **Youth Development** — Access afterschool and mentoring grants for prevention and early recovery.
 - **Health Equity Funding** — Position RCOs as partners in mental health, maternal health, and trauma-informed initiatives.
 - **Social Enterprise & Earned Income** — Launch recovery-friendly businesses (cafés, consulting arms, training services) that create unrestricted revenue.
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Strategies for Collective Funding Power

- Partner with other Black-led orgs to apply for **joint funding** (shows funders collaboration and scale).
- Work with **fiscal sponsors** to get early access to grants while building your own 501(c)(3).
- Use the **CAARD Collective** to exchange grant templates, share contacts, and flag new opportunities across states.
- Blend **grassroots giving + large-scale funding** — e.g., pair a community donor drive with a FORE or RWJF proposal.

Want to take this work to the next level? Partner with CAARD for in-depth training, facilitation, and Collective strategy.