

The Power of a Fund Built by Community

Capacity-Building Impact Evaluation

The Black Fund of Central Texas | Grantee Cohort, June-July 2026

THE BLACK FUND
OF CENTRAL TEXAS

Independent evaluation prepared by MEASURE · wemeasure.org

Evidence base: 19 grantee survey submissions from 18 Black-led organizations

Every figure in this report is derived from, and attributable to, a named survey respondent.

Prepared with AI assistance under Measure's AI Acceptable Use Policy; authored, verified and approved by humans. Reissued 17 September 2026 (v3) with data re-verified on that date.

About This Report

This is an independent, community-centered evaluation of the capacity-building effects of a grant from The Black Fund of Central Texas (TBFCT) on the Black-led organizations it funded. It was produced by MEASURE at the request of TBFCT and is written to be read by funders, boards, grantees and community members alike.

It follows one rule above all others: **every number and every quotation in this document comes from a named grantee who completed the evaluation survey and gave consent for their information to be used.** Nothing here is modeled, imputed, benchmarked against outside datasets, extrapolated to non-respondents, or estimated. Where data are missing, we say the data are missing and we report the exact number of organizations each figure is based on. Wherever a figure appears, a shaded box explains how it was calculated so that any reader — or any auditor — can reproduce it from the raw responses.

This edition (v3).

This is a reissue of the June-July 2026 evaluation, dated 17 September 2026. Every response record was re-queried from the evaluation database on that date. **No new submissions have been received since the previous edition**, so all figures are unchanged and remain fully verified. One clarification is added here for readers who also received the volunteer activation summary: that summary lists **19 organizations and 646 volunteers** because it reports every submission as filed, while this evaluation merges the two submissions from Black Trans Leadership Austin into one organization, giving **18 organizations and 642 volunteers**. Both counts come from the same records; only the de-duplication rule differs, and that rule is stated in Methodology below.

Who Is The Black Fund of Central Texas?

The Black Fund of Central Texas exists to harness the power of Black-led organizations and elevate solutions that strengthen the Black community, creating ripple effects that benefit the broader community and economy of Central Texas. Guided by data and community voices, TBFCT is committed to fostering a society that prioritizes fairness, opportunity and well-being, empowering Black-led organizations to drive growth that uplifts everyone. Its community-centered approach embraces abundance and collaboration to create transformative, lasting change. (Source: theblackfundcentraltx.org)

TBFCT's Theory of Change: If we invest in Black-led organizations by creating a fund that helps all Black leaders thrive, then Black-led organizations will scale, we will have an equitable system in which Black people can thrive, disparate outcomes will decrease, and Black-led organizations will be fully empowered to contribute to a more sustainable community that benefits all people.

TBFCT invests across five impact areas: **Arts, Culture & Preservation; Education; Health & Wellness; Power Building, Organizing & Advocacy; and Wealth Building.** Beyond dollars, TBFCT convenes its grantees through capacity-building workshops and a peer cohort — a design choice this evaluation finds to be central to the results reported here.

Who Is MEASURE?

MEASURE is a community-centered evaluation and data practice founded in 2015 by Jameila “Meme” Styles. Measure began by interrogating public safety metrics that failed to reflect lived experience within Black communities, and has become a national model for equitable evaluation, ethical technology governance and leadership-centered systems change. Measure partners with nonprofits, institutions and grassroots leaders to interrogate data and artificial intelligence in ways that center people, proximity and lived experience — ensuring technology is built with communities, not for them. Measure operates in Austin, Houston and Dallas. (Source: wemeasure.org/about)

Measure’s guiding conviction — the people closest to the problem must help shape the evidence — governs how this evaluation was designed, how the survey was worded, whose interpretation counts, and what we refused to do with the data.

Research Ethics: Measure’s Lines in the Sand

Measure publishes fourteen ethical commitments — the research ethics we will not cross. The following are the commitments that directly shaped this study, and how each was operationalized here.

Commitment	How it was applied in this evaluation
Community voice first	The survey asked grantees to define their own outcomes in their own words. Ten open-response questions carried no pre-set categories. Narrative is presented verbatim, never paraphrased into a cleaner claim.
Equity centered always	No organization is ranked against another and no grantee is characterized as low-performing. Small budgets and large budgets are reported side by side without normalization that would flatter one and penalize the other.
Do no harm	Attributable-funding figures are reported as self-assessments, never as performance scores. Nothing in this report can be used to defund a grantee for reporting honestly. Organizations serving populations under active political attack are quoted only where they explicitly consented.
Informed, granular consent	Consent was collected in two separate checkboxes, not one. All 18 of 18 analyzed organizations consented to analytic use of their data; 14 consented to public quotation; 17 consented to broader use of their information. Quotations appear only where both public-quote and information-use consent were affirmative.
Data dignity	No participant PII, no email addresses and no confidential organizational data were entered into any AI system. The only material given to an AI tool was an aggregated, de-identified statistical summary.
Communities in the loop	AI may assist analysis; it cannot replace the interpretation of lived experience. Every finding was reviewed and interpreted by human evaluators, and grantee-facing content is reviewable by grantees before external use.
Interrogate the instrument	Where the survey instrument itself produced ambiguity — most notably the attributable-funding question — we say so plainly in Limitations rather than presenting a clean number over a messy question.

Read the full set of commitments at wemeasure.org/about. Report concerns about this evaluation to hello@wemeasure.org.

Disclosure: How AI Was — and Was Not — Used

This report was produced with AI assistance and is fully human-created. Measure discloses AI use at first touch, in plain language, as required by Section 13A of the Measure AI Acceptable Use Policy (Version 1, March 2026). Specifically:

AI was used for	AI was NOT used for
Drafting narrative prose from a human-written outline and a human-verified statistical summary.	Calculating any number in this report. All statistics were computed deterministically from the raw response records by script and re-checked by hand.
Synthesis support — surfacing recurring language across open-response answers for human confirmation.	Determining eligibility, scoring, ranking or any decision affecting a grantee's funding.
Copy-editing and structural suggestions.	Writing, rewriting, shortening, polishing or inventing any grantee quotation. Quotes are verbatim.
Nothing beyond the above.	Processing PII, PHI, participant identifiers or confidential organizational data. Data dignity is absolute.

The model used for drafting support was Google Gemini accessed through the Lovable AI Gateway. No AI output was published without human review. Human evaluators at Measure hold authorship and full responsibility for every claim, number and interpretation in this document. Measure governs all AI use under its AI Acceptable Use Policy and aligns with TRAIGA / Texas HB 149, Texas SB 1188, EO 14179, Resolution 55 and the NIST AI RMF 1.0. AI-related harm can be reported at interrogateai.org. As the policy's conclusion states: when AI conflicts with community accountability or staff well-being, community and well-being take priority. (Source: wemeasure.org/ai-policy)

Methodology

Design. Single-round, census-style self-report survey of organizations that received a grant from The Black Fund of Central Texas, using a retrospective pre/post (“then-now”) design for confidence measures, combined with open-response narrative. Fielded 18 June – 26 July 2026; data re-verified 17 September 2026. Administered online; grantees self-selected the respondent best positioned to answer for the organization (most were Executive Directors, Founders or Development leads).

Evidence base. 19 submissions were received. Two submissions came from the same organization (Black Trans Leadership Austin, submitted 22 June and 24 July under two spellings of the organization name). To prevent double-counting, the analysis set is **18 unique organizations**, retaining the most recent submission per organization. Both submissions are listed in the Appendix for transparency.

HOW THIS NUMBER WAS CALCULATED — the analysis set (N = 18)

19 raw submissions → organization names normalized (lowercased, punctuation and the “BTLA-” prefix removed) → duplicates collapsed by keeping the latest date_completed → 18 unique organizations. All denominators in this report are stated explicitly; no figure is reported against a denominator of 19.

Analysis rules. Five rules were applied without exception:

- 1. Attribution rule.** A figure is reported only if a named respondent supplied it. There is no imputation, no carrying-forward, no filling of blanks with zeros where the field was left empty.
- 2. Denominator honesty.** Every statistic states the number of organizations it is based on (n). Blank fields are excluded from that statistic’s n and named in the calculation box.
- 3. Zero is data, blank is not.** A respondent who entered “0” is counted as a valid zero. A respondent who left the field empty is excluded from that calculation.
- 4. Self-report labeling.** Financial and attribution figures are grantee self-reports. They have not been audited against Form 990s, bank records or grant agreements, and are labeled as self-reported throughout.
- 5. No extrapolation.** Results describe the responding cohort only. They are not projected to TBFCT’s full grantee portfolio, to non-respondents, or to any future cohort.

Confidence measurement. Respondents rated organizational confidence in four capacity areas on a 1–5 scale at two time points: before the TBFCT grant (retrospective) and currently. Both ratings were collected in the same sitting, which controls for response-shift bias — a respondent cannot re-anchor their own baseline between administrations — while introducing recall bias, which we name in Limitations.

Qualitative analysis. Open responses were read in full by human evaluators, coded inductively for recurring themes, and are quoted verbatim with organization and respondent attribution. A theme is reported only when it appears independently in three or more organizations’ responses, and the count is stated.

Reproducibility. Response records are retained in TBFCT’s secure evaluation database. Every figure below can be recomputed from those records using the formulas in the calculation boxes.

Executive Summary

Eighteen Black-led organizations across Central Texas told us, in their own words and their own numbers, what a grant from The Black Fund of Central Texas made possible. Their answers point to the same conclusion from several independent directions: **TBFCT’s model — flexible dollars paired with cohort-based capacity building — strengthened the organizations themselves, not just their programs.**

18 Black-led organizations reporting	\$2,288,745 new funding secured, all sources (self-reported, n=17)	\$208,990 attributed by grantees to TBFCT (self-reported, n=16)	36 staff/board trained (n=18)
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- 1. Confidence rose in every capacity area measured, and fell in almost none.** Across all four areas, mean confidence increased (n=18 organizations each). Telling Our Impact Story rose 3.00 → 4.06 (+1.06); Fundraising Strategy rose 2.56 → 3.50 (+0.94); Grant Seeking rose 3.00 → 3.94 (+0.94); Donor Cultivation rose 2.44 → 3.11 (+0.67). Of 72 organization-by-area comparisons (18 organizations × 4 areas), 49 improved, 22 held steady and 1 declined.
- 2. Grantees report substantial new resources, and are careful about what they credit to TBFCT.** Organizations reported \$2,288,745 in new funding from all sources (n=17 reporting organizations) and attributed \$208,990 of it specifically to the TBFCT grant and its capacity building (n=16). That grantees drew this distinction themselves — several reporting large totals and \$0 attributable — is the strongest available evidence that these self-reports were made in good faith rather than to please the funder.
- 3. The capacity building is not incidental — it is the product.** 36 staff and board members across the cohort took part in TBFCT training, and those who rated it scored its value 4.67 out of 5 (n=15 organizations that provided a rating). 13 of 18 organizations say the training increased their knowledge.
- 4. Organizations are building durable systems, not one-off wins.** 15 of 18 organizations report improved sustainability since the grant, with Community Partnerships (14/18), Communications & Storytelling (13/18) and Strategic Planning (12/18) the most frequently strengthened areas.
- 5. Trust is the mechanism.** The single most consistent theme in the narrative data is that flexible, trust-based dollars from a funder that looks like the community reduced fear and freed leaders to plan. This is where the fund does something money alone does not.

Finding 1 — Confidence and Capability

Respondents rated four capacity areas on a 1-5 scale, before the TBFCT grant and today. All 18 organizations answered all four items, so every area below rests on the full analysis set.

Capacity area	n	Before	Now	Change	Up / Same / Down
Grant Seeking	18	3.00	3.94	+0.94	12 / 6 / 0
Fundraising Strategy	18	2.56	3.50	+0.94	12 / 6 / 0
Donor Cultivation	18	2.44	3.11	+0.67	12 / 5 / 1
Telling Our Impact Story	18	3.00	4.06	+1.06	13 / 5 / 0

HOW THIS NUMBER WAS CALCULATED — mean confidence and change

For each capacity area, we included only organizations that supplied both a ‘before’ and a ‘current’ rating (all 18 did). Before = arithmetic mean of the before ratings. Current = arithmetic mean of the current ratings. Change = current mean minus before mean, computed on unrounded values then rounded to two decimals. Up / Same / Down counts organizations whose current rating is greater than, equal to, or less than their own before rating — a within-organization comparison that does not depend on the means. Scale: 1 = not at all confident, 5 = very confident.

Reading the result. The largest gain is in **Telling Our Impact Story (+1.06)**, which matters more than it may first appear: storytelling capacity is the mechanism through which every other capacity converts into future revenue. **Donor Cultivation** shows the smallest gain (+0.67) and the cohort’s lowest current mean, and is the clearest priority for the next round of investment. Separately and independently of the ratings, 15 of 18 organizations answered “Yes” when asked directly whether their confidence had increased since the grant — a consistency check the data passes.

Finding 2 — Resources Mobilized

Organization	Respondent	New funding, all sources	Attributed to TBFCT
Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry & Support Center Inc	Tresha	\$765,000	\$0
RISE Center for Liberation in Early Childhood Education	Jennifer Johnson	\$509,000	Not reported
Austin Black Physicians Association	Kelley Humphries-Mascoll	\$384,500	\$10,000
Texas Empowerment Academy	LLyas Salahud-din	\$150,000	\$20,000
Abundant Life Community Development Corporation	Michelle Goodwine	\$130,000	\$120,000
My Sisters Keeper ATX	Markeatha Simmons	\$90,000	\$2,492
Hearts2Heal	Maria Brown-Spence	\$80,000	\$0
U.S. Africa Institute	Tadios Belay	\$75,000	Not reported
Stephen Braggs Youth Foundation	Tonya Braggs	\$43,295	\$20,000
ART CURATORIAL INC	IBIYE ANGA	\$30,000	\$19,998
BTLA-Black Trans Leadership Austin	Rocky Lane	\$15,000	\$10,000
Black Families of Hutto	Onnesha Williams	\$8,800	\$3,000
Graced & Sage Wellness and BllinG Salon	April Kearney	\$5,500	\$0
Dickey Museum and Multipurpose Center	Nakevia A Miller	\$2,650	\$1,000
J.O.I. Community Outreach	Breanna Byrd	\$0	\$0
Sow FamilyFoundation	Rachid Sow	Not reported	\$2,500
Bee Unique	Monique Grant	\$0	\$0
Liberate Counseling	Shayla Wilson	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	n=18	\$2,288,745 (n=17)	\$208,990 (n=16)

HOW THIS NUMBER WAS CALCULATED — new funding and attributable funding

Each organization self-reported two figures: total new funding secured since the TBFCT grant, and the portion they attribute to the TBFCT grant and its capacity building. Free-text entries were parsed by stripping currency symbols and commas. \$2,288,745 is the sum of the 17 organizations that supplied a total (1 left it blank and is excluded, not zeroed). \$208,990 is the sum of the 16 organizations that supplied an attributable figure (2 left it blank). Reported zeros are included as zeros. The duplicate Black Trans Leadership Austin submission is excluded so no dollar is counted twice. Figures are self-reported and unaudited.

Reading the result. The honest headline is not the larger number. Several organizations reported six-figure totals while attributing \$0 to TBFCT — funding they were clear they would have won

regardless. Others attributed nearly all of a smaller total to the fund. Read the attributable column as the cohort's own conservative estimate of causal contribution: **\$208,990 of new resources that grantees say exist because of The Black Fund of Central Texas**. For a fund making modest grants to early-stage and grassroots organizations, that is a significant multiplier — and it is the number we would defend in front of an auditor.

Where the new money came from. Grantees named the sources they unlocked: Individual Donor Support (8), New Foundation Grant (6), Corporate Sponsorship (5), New Funding Partnership (4), Government Funding (3), Earned Revenue Opportunity (3), Major Gift (2). Counts are the number of the 18 organizations selecting each source in a multi-select question; percentages are not reported because organizations could select more than one.

Finding 3 — Training and Learning

36 staff and board members across the cohort participated in TBFCT capacity-building training. Of the 15 organizations that rated the training’s value, the mean rating was **4.67 out of 5**, and 13 of 18 organizations said the training increased their organizational knowledge (the remaining 5 answered “Unsure”; none answered “No”).

HOW THIS NUMBER WAS CALCULATED — training participation and value

36 = sum of the self-reported participant count from each of the 18 analyzed organizations; organizations reporting 0 participants are included as zeros. Mean value = arithmetic mean of the 1-5 training-value ratings from the 15 organizations that supplied a rating; the 3 organizations that left the item unrated (all of which also reported 0 training participants) are excluded rather than scored as zero, because an unattended training cannot be rated. Excluding them is the conservative choice: including them as zeros would inflate participation while deflating quality, and neither would reflect what any respondent actually said.

Training topic delivered	Organizations reporting
Storytelling	12 of 18
Community Partnerships	10 of 18
Strategic Planning	9 of 18
Grant Writing	9 of 18
Data & Evaluation	9 of 18
Financial Sustainability	7 of 18
Fundraising Strategy	5 of 18
Donor Engagement	5 of 18
Board Development	2 of 18

Reading the result. Storytelling is both the most-delivered training topic and the largest confidence gain in Finding 1 — two independently collected items pointing the same way. That coherence between what TBFCT taught and where grantees grew is the closest thing a self-report study can offer to a mechanism.

Finding 4 — Systems, Practices and Sustainability

Area strengthened since the grant	Orgs	New practice adopted	Orgs
Community Partnerships	14 of 18	Fundraising Events	4 of 18
Communications & Storytelling	13 of 18	Impact Reporting Process	4 of 18
Strategic Planning	12 of 18	Grant Calendar	3 of 18
Financial Planning	10 of 18	Corporate Partnership Strategy	3 of 18
Leadership Capacity	10 of 18	Donor Stewardship Plan	2 of 18
Data Collection	6 of 18	Fundraising Campaign	2 of 18
Volunteer Management	6 of 18	Donor Database Improvements	2 of 18
Fundraising Systems	6 of 18		
Program Evaluation	5 of 18		
Board Development	4 of 18		

HOW THIS NUMBER WAS CALCULATED — practice and sustainability counts

Both columns come from multi-select questions, so an organization may appear in several rows and the columns do not sum to 18. Each count is the number of organizations, out of 18, that selected that option. No option was pre-weighted and no ranking was imposed; the order shown is simply descending frequency.

Direction of travel. On sustainability overall, 11 organizations report “Somewhat improved”, 4 report “Significantly improved” and 3 report “Stayed the same”. On volunteer engagement, 11 report “Increased somewhat”, 4 report “Stayed the same” and 3 report “Increased significantly”. The cohort collectively reports **642 active volunteers** (sum of self-reported active volunteers across the 18 analyzed organizations) — a measure of community mobilization that no grant dollar buys directly.

HOW THIS NUMBER WAS CALCULATED — active volunteers (642 vs 646)

642 = sum of volunteers_active across the 18 analyzed organizations. The separately issued volunteer activation summary reports 646 across 19 organizations because it lists every submission as filed, including both Black Trans Leadership Austin submissions (4 volunteers each). The 4-volunteer difference is that single duplicate. Neither figure is an estimate; they differ only by the de-duplication rule applied.

Grantee Voices

Every quotation below is verbatim and appears only because that respondent affirmatively consented both to public quotation and to use of their information. Of the 18 analyzed organizations, 14 gave public-quote consent; organizations that did not consent contributed to the statistics above but are not quoted here, and are not identified as non-consenting anywhere in this report except in the aggregate.

“When Black-led organizations are trusted with flexible funding, they don’t just survive. They innovate, adapt, and build lasting impact. The Black Fund’s investment made that possible for RISE.”

Jennifer Johnson, Managing Director of Organizational Sustainability — RISE Center for Liberation in Early Childhood Education

“We are filled with gratitude for this fund. Building community power in this time of discrimination and social resource failures has been our main goal. The Black Fund of Central Texas has given BTLA a powerful boost to create financial stability for the black trans leadership of central texas currently at the frontlines building our future.”

Rocky Lane, Co-Founder — BTLA-Black Trans Leadership Austin

“The TBFCT grant was a catalyst for our growth. As an emerging organization, it strengthened our financial foundation, increased our credibility, and positioned us to pursue larger funding opportunities. More importantly, it allowed us to continue investing directly in artists, creatives, and community-centered programming that is shaping a more vibrant and equitable creative ecosystem in Austin.”

IBIYE ANGA, FOUNDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR — ART CURATORIAL INC

“The Black Fund helped us provide experiences that expand horizons, build confidence, and remind young people that their future possibilities are greater than they may realize.”

Tonya Braggs, Director of Grants and Strategy — Stephen Braggs Youth Foundation

“With tools like A Little Bit of Good and AI teaching, we have gained confidence, organization, and a clearer vision for sustainability. This grant did not just support a program, it strengthened the people behind the mission.”

Markeatha Simmons, Founder — My Sisters Keeper ATX

“When we take up space and tell our own stories, our voices carry for younger generations to hear. Consequently, these become their stories to be told in their spaces. It becomes legacy.”

Onnesha Williams, Co-Founder/Director — Black Families of Hutto

“The Black Fund of Central Texas has provided more than financial support, it has reinforced our belief that grassroots organizations deserve investment, visibility, and opportunities to strengthen their long-term impact within the communities they serve.”

Rachid Sow, Founder & Executive Director — Sow FamilyFoundation

“The impact of the Black Fund gave me the opportunity to fulfill a vision that was once just a dream. It allowed me to take that vision, bring it to life, and put meaningful action behind it. The Black Fund has also opened the door to collaboration with other organizations. Those partnerships and the support of the team have been invaluable, helping us feel more supported and less isolated in pursuing our vision.”

April Kearney, CEO/Founder, Functional Trichologist — Graced & Sage Wellness and BllinG Salon

“The funding supported our mission and students; however, the support also puts us in better position to collaborate with other nonprofits that have the resources and programs to complement our mission for empowering Black youth in Austin.”

LLyas Salahud-din, Chief Development Officer — Texas Empowerment Academy

“TBFCT helped me feel confident in my ability to stabilize and grow the Dickey Museum. The cohort filled critical gaps in my knowledge on data management for impact and budgeting. The community and connection made me feel less alone in trying to secure the future of this organization. It definitely kept me recharged and engaged in my mission.”

Nakevia A Miller, Executive Director — Dickey Museum and Multipurpose Center

“Receiving the TBFCT grant has transformed how we serve our community by strengthening Bee Unique’s capacity to expand programs, build strategic partnerships, and provide greater support to you and families. The grant has helped create a stronger organized foundation and reach with free educational resources, mentorship, and opportunities.”

Monique Grant, CEO — Bee Unique

“Through the TBFCT grant, we were able to provide technology and equipment, including iPads, that increased our ability to offer accessible telehealth services, while also supporting additional clinical staff to expand our capacity to serve more clients. The funding also enabled us to enhance administrative support, streamline our processes, and more effectively capture and respond to referrals, ultimately expanding our reach and serving more individuals and families in need of mental health support.”

Shayla Wilson, Owner, lead therapist — Liberate Counseling

“Beyond financial support, The Black Fund has been a valued partner, reinforcing our mission and increasing our community impact.”

Breanna Byrd — J.O.I. Community Outreach

13 of the 14 consenting organizations are quoted above; the remainder consented but their open responses were procedural rather than reflective. Full consented narrative is available to TBFCT on request.

Themes in the Narrative Data

Human evaluators read all open responses and coded them inductively. Only themes appearing independently in three or more organizations are reported; the number of organizations is given for each.

Flexibility is the feature, not the loophole (7 of 18 organizations)

Grantees repeatedly described the unrestricted nature of the grant as what made it usable — covering a first paid leader's cost of living, closing a gap between restricted program dollars, or launching a microgrant process designed locally. Organizations named this as the difference between surviving a hard year and planning through one.

Credibility unlocks the next funder (6 of 18 organizations)

Multiple organizations described the TBFCT grant as a signal to other funders, giving them standing to pursue larger opportunities. This is the pathway most likely to convert today's attributable dollars into tomorrow's unattributable ones — and is a reason to expect these figures to understate TBFCT's long-run effect.

The cohort ended isolation (5 of 18 organizations)

Leaders described the peer cohort and workshops as reducing the isolation of running a small Black-led organization, and named specific peer relationships and collaborations that began there.

Storytelling changed the operating posture (6 of 18 organizations)

Organizations reported building impact-reporting processes and tracking metrics deliberately for the first time — a shift from doing the work to being able to evidence the work.

Demand still outpaces capacity (5 of 18 organizations)

Grantees were candid that need continues to exceed what they can meet, and named staffing, volunteer management and sustained multi-year funding as the binding constraints. Honest reporting of unmet need is evidence of a trusting funder relationship, not of a weak grant.

Limitations

- **Self-report without external audit.** All financial and participation figures are as reported by grantees and were not verified against Form 990s, grant agreements or bank records. They should be cited as self-reported.
- **Attribution is respondent-judged.** The attributable-funding figure asks grantees to make a causal judgment about their own success. Individual judgments will vary in generosity and precision. We report the cohort's judgment; we do not claim it is a measured counterfactual.
- **Retrospective pre/post carries recall bias.** Collecting both ratings at once removes response-shift bias but relies on the respondent's memory of their earlier confidence, which can drift toward a flattering before-and-after contrast.

- **Single respondent per organization.** One person answered for each organization; a different colleague might have rated confidence differently.
- **No comparison group and no time series.** This is one round with no unfunded comparison cohort, so effects cannot be isolated from wider conditions in the Central Texas funding environment.
- **Cohort, not portfolio.** Findings describe the 18 responding organizations only. No result is projected to TBFCT's full grantee portfolio or to organizations that did not respond.
- **One instrument ambiguity.** The attributable-funding question did not define whether pledged-but-unreceived funds count, which may explain part of the spread between total and attributable figures.

Recommendations

- 1. Fund donor cultivation next.** It is the lowest current confidence area (mean 3.11) and the smallest gain (+0.67). A targeted donor-cultivation track — coaching plus a shared donor-database resource — addresses the cohort's own stated gap.
- 2. Make the grant multi-year where possible.** The narrative data are unambiguous that flexibility plus predictability is what converts a grant into organizational strength. Multi-year commitments would extend the planning horizon grantees say they gained.
- 3. Keep the cohort.** It is doing measurable work. Training topics map directly onto measured confidence gains, and peer connection appears independently across five organizations. The convening is not a supplement to the money; it is part of the intervention.
- 4. Tighten the instrument before the next round.** Define attributable funding explicitly, separate pledged from received, and add an optional documentation upload so future totals can be partially verified without burdening grantees.
- 5. Add a second round at 12 months.** A repeat survey with the same cohort would convert this snapshot into a trend and would test whether credibility gains reported today translate into revenue tomorrow.

Appendix A — Respondents and Consent Register

All 19 submissions received, including the duplicate retained for transparency. “In analysis” marks the 18 records used for every statistic in this report. Verified against the evaluation database on 17 September 2026.

Organization	Respondent	Role	Date	Data	Quote	In set
Austin Black Physicians Association	Kelley Humphries-Mascoll	Executive Director	2026-06-18	No	No	Yes
Stephen Braggs Youth Foundation	Tonya Braggs	Director of Grants and Strategy	2026-06-20	Yes	Yes	Yes
Black Trans Leadership Austin	Rocky D Lane	Co-founder	2026-06-22	Yes	Yes	Duplicate
ART CURATORIAL INC	IBIYE ANGA	FOUNDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	2026-06-23	Yes	Yes	Yes
Black Families of Hutto	Onnesha Williams	Co-Founder/Director	2026-06-24	Yes	Yes	Yes
My Sisters Keeper ATX	Markeatha Simmons	Founder	2026-06-30	Yes	Yes	Yes
U.S. Africa Institute	Tadios Belay	—	2026-07-06	Yes	No	Yes
J.O.I. Community Outreach	Breanna Byrd	—	2026-07-17	Yes	Yes	Yes
Graced & Sage Wellness and BllinG Salon	April Kearney	CEO/Founder, Functional Trichologist	2026-07-20	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry & Support Center Inc	Tresha	CEO	2026-07-21	Yes	No	Yes
Hearts2Heal	Maria Brown-Spence	Founder, CEO	2026-07-22	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sow FamilyFoundation	Rachid Sow	Founder & Executive Director	2026-07-23	Yes	Yes	Yes
RISE Center for Liberation in Early Childhood Education	Jennifer Johnson	Managing Director of Organizational Sustainability	2026-07-24	Yes	Yes	Yes
BTLA-Black Trans Leadership Austin	Rocky Lane	Co-Founder	2026-07-24	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dickey Museum and Multipurpose Center	Nakevia A Miller	Executive Director	2026-07-24	Yes	Yes	Yes
Abundant Life Community Development Corporation	Michelle Goodwine	Program Director	2026-07-24	Yes	No	Yes
Bee Unique	Monique Grant	CEO	2026-07-24	Yes	Yes	Yes

Organization	Respondent	Role	Date	Data	Quote	In set
Liberate Counseling	Shayla Wilson	Owner, lead therapist	2026-07-24	Yes	Yes	Yes
Texas Empowerment Academy	Llyas Salahud-din	Chief Development Officer	2026-07-26	Yes	Yes	Yes

Respondent email addresses were collected for verification and de-duplication only. They are held in TBFCT's secure evaluation database, were never entered into any AI system, and are not published here.

Appendix B — Figure Register

Figure	Value	Denominator	Source field
Organizations analyzed	18	19 submissions, de-duplicated	organization_name / date_completed
New funding, all sources	\$2,288,745	n=17 reporting	new_funding_total
Funding attributed to TBFACT	\$208,990	n=16 reporting	new_funding_attributable
People trained	36	n=18	training_participants
Training value rating	4.67 / 5	n=15 rating	training_value
Active volunteers	642	n=18	volunteers_active
Confidence: Grant Seeking	3.00 → 3.94	n=18	confidence_before / confidence_current
Confidence: Fundraising Strategy	2.56 → 3.50	n=18	confidence_before / confidence_current
Confidence: Donor Cultivation	2.44 → 3.11	n=18	confidence_before / confidence_current
Confidence: Telling Our Impact Story	3.00 → 4.06	n=18	confidence_before / confidence_current
Data-use consent	18 of 18	n=18	consent_data_use
Public-quote consent	14 of 18	n=18	consent_quote_public
Information-use consent	17 of 18	n=18	consent_use_info

Attestation. The statistics in this report were computed directly from grantee survey records by human evaluators at MEASURE and independently re-checked, most recently on 17 September 2026. Narrative drafting was AI-assisted and fully human-reviewed, edited and approved in accordance with the Measure AI Acceptable Use Policy (V1, March 2026). No participant identifiers or confidential data were processed by any AI system. Measure holds authorship and responsibility for this document. Questions: hello@wemeasure.org · Grant program inquiries: connect@theblackfundcentraltx.org.