



The Black Belt Community Foundation:

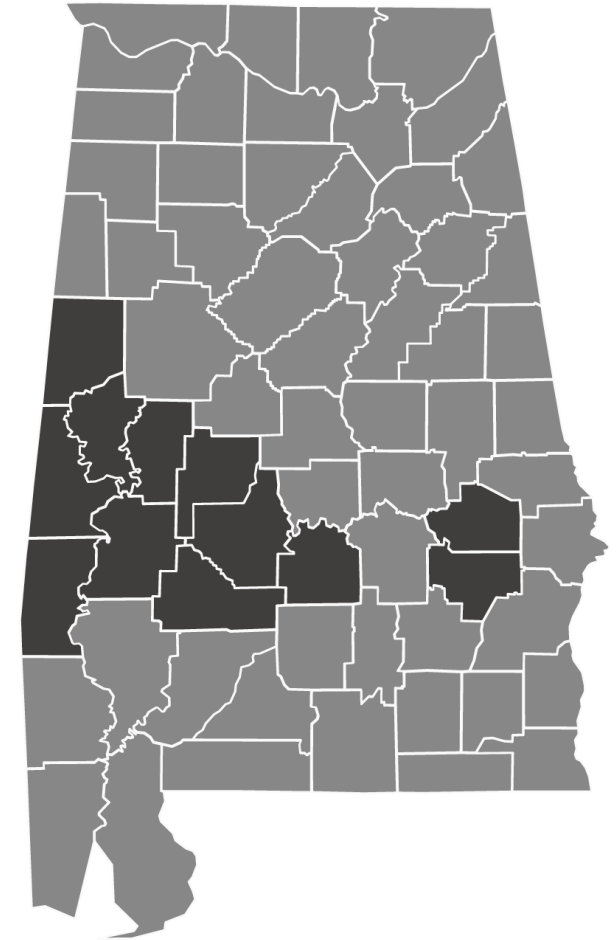
Taking a Multi-Faceted Approach to Rural Funding

Presented by: Felecia Lucky, BBCF President

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What is the Black Belt Community Foundation?

- The Black Belt Community Foundation (BBCF) was founded in 2004 to foster philanthropy in the low-wealth and under resourced region of Alabama's Black Belt.
- The BBCF is based in Selma, Alabama and serves twelve counties — Bullock, Choctaw, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Perry, Pickens, Sumter, and Wilcox – a combined population of approximately 184,000 people and a land area that encompasses 1/5 (20%) of the State of Alabama.
- BBCF utilizes a variety of funding sources to pursue our philanthropic mission and to actively put needed resources into the region that make a lasting impact.



Community Associates Program:

- As of 2023, there is a total of 102 Community Associates throughout the 12 counties BBCF serves, contributing countless hours of invaluable service in their capacities.
- These trained volunteers work alongside grassroots organizations to help nonprofits apply for grants, decide where the support flows, donate personal funds and raise money. They support every aspect of BBCF's philanthropic work.
- They are the eyes and ears of the Black Belt Communities, the heart and soul of the BBCF.



102 COMMUNITY ASSOCIATES

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| BULLOCK: 8 | HALE: 4 | PERRY: 9 |
| CHOCTAW: 11 | LOWNDES: 3 | PICKENS: 6 |
| DALLAS: 7 | MACON: 11 | SUMTER: 7 |
| GREENE: 9 | MARENGO: 17 | WILCOX: 12 |



Funding and Granting:

- BBCF has given out over \$3 million to organizations in the arts, community and economic development, education, and health and wellness, embracing “power sharing” and trust-based philanthropy.
- The BBCF board allocates funding for each county to be used for grants, and when possible, matches individual donations up to a certain amount.

DISASTER RELIEF FUNDING



\$1M
GRANTED IN STORM
RELIEF FUNDS



4
BLACK BELT COUNTIES
AFFECTED BY TORNADO

2023 Statistics for Arts Grants, Community Grants, and Disaster Relief Funding

ARTS GRANTS



\$87.4K

DISTRIBUTED TO



28
BLACK BELT GRANTEE
ORGANIZATIONS

COMMUNITY GRANTS



54

BLACK BELT GRANTEE
ORGANIZATIONS



\$181K
DISTRIBUTED TO BLACK
BELT ORGANIZATIONS

COVID-19 CARES Act – Funding Solution:

- Federal CARES Act funding for COVID-19 was awarded to Alabama (\$1.9 billion).
- The hurdle was that this money was only available on a reimbursable basis; many Black Belt cities and counties did not have the liquidity to make the needed purchases upfront.
- BBCF stepped in and partnered with Hope Credit Union to provide zero-interest financing to local governments in the Black Belt Region as upfront funding to unlock the COVID Cares funding.
- When the governments get reimbursed by the state, they repay the community foundation, making them available again for others to use as upfront funds.



Questions?

To learn more about the Black Belt Community Foundation and our grantmaking successes, please visit blackbeltfound.org/bbcf-bulletin/

