



“Moving from Complaint to Possibility...from Planning to Implementation”

Foundations/Charitable Trusts

Foundations have an important role to play in reducing violence because of their ability to foster initiatives which are holistic, comprehensive, systematic, evidence-based *and* empowering. They can recommend resources and guide the process when it comes to determining solutions for ending the violence plaguing our communities. Furthermore, foundations can play an important role by making innovative and non-traditional grants that may have a profound impact within the African American community. Therefore, foundations and charitable trusts are strongly encouraged to do the following:

- **Convene** a community collaboration that would generate a detailed, strategic and tactical plan to address the issue of violence; one that would engage and empower a wide spectrum of concerned citizens, organizations, and community leaders to reach those who are impacted by violence. Support key elements of the plan once it is in place.
- **Fund** this strategic and tactical planning exercise, which might include finding model programs implemented across the country. Make site visits to neighborhood organizations that are currently implementing solutions to assess program success.
- **Fund** service organizations that develop and offer needed services identified through this planning process, including currently unfunded and under-funded services. Redefine the criteria for their success rate to reflect more than the “numbers.”
- **Place** members of the community with life experience relevant to the issue of violence on their boards, key commissions, and committees.
- **Provide** funding for youth employment, training, and apprenticeship programs.
- **Embrace** youth violence and youth education as major initiatives. Identify and fund effective programs that provide solutions.
- **Monitor** donations made to the community to determine effectiveness and real needs, in order to justify future funding. The evaluation process must include reports from the people who are the recipients of the services provided by the funding source. Each foundation and charitable trust should identify a process by which those served by such programs can have an opportunity to assess such programming.
- **Fund** grass roots organizing efforts, community centers, and neighborhood revitalization programs.
- **Develop** programs and give funding to street workers and community outreach programs so they can implement the agendas above.

- **Report** investments in the African American community annually to the wider community. Publicize a list of the organizations that have applied for and have received foundation monies.