



Grant Announcement

Nike Black Community Commitment Grant | \$50,000.00

Word is Bond is proud to announce it is one of eight local non-profits selected for a grant from Nike's Black Community Commitment. Word is Bond has received \$50,000.00 which will be used to support a staff position, office space, and a Historically Black College Tour.

Nike, Converse, Jordan Brand, and Michael Jordan have committed a combined \$140 million to invest in and support organizations focused on economic empowerment, education, and social justice to address racial inequality for Black Americans. As part of this commitment, Nike will invest \$250,000 annually in seven U.S. cities: Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Memphis, New York City, Portland, and St. Louis. And, In Portland, home to Nike's World Headquarters, this year the company will invest an additional \$1 million in local organizations addressing racial inequality. Read more on the commitment [here](#).

“The Nike Black Community Commitment Fund represents a new chapter for our organization, where we can take the next step as an organization because of the support of a global brand like Nike. With their support, we will be able to engage more young Black men here in Portland and connect them with leadership experiences both locally and nationally. Securing funding such as this is key to our goal in becoming a national model for the development of young Black men.”
-Lakayana Drury, Founder, and Executive Director

With the addition of five new participating law enforcement agencies this fall and winter as well as new partnering communities in the greater Portland metro area, Word is Bond expects record demand for slots in this summer's internship program. The Black Community Commitment Funds will build our capacity to serve the increasing demand and interest in our programs.

Word is Bond is currently running an awareness campaign on the experiences of young Black men in celebration of Black History Month called I Got A Story to Tell. Midway through the campaign, Word is Bond community ambassadors (youth leaders) have facilitated 15 teach-ins to over 300 participating officers, with another 7 teach-ins scheduled through the end of the month and early March. Learn more about the campaign on the campaign webpage [here](#).

Addressing systemic racism in America requires urgent action, partnership, and sustained engagement – and together with Nike, we are committing to all of them.