



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 15.3.1
Halifax Regional Council
January 27, 2026

TO: Mayor Fillmore and Members of Halifax Regional Council

FROM: Councillor Jean St-Amand, Chair, Grants Committee

DATE: January 20, 2026

SUBJECT: **HRM Anti-Black Racism Grants Program: Fiscal 2025 – Recommended Awards**

ORIGIN

January 20, 2026 special meeting of Grants Committee, Item 4.1.1.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Grants Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council approve sixteen (16) awards as detailed in Attachment 2 of the staff report dated January 8, 2026 for a combined total of \$100,000 from Operating Account E401-8004 Anti-Black Racism Grants.

BACKGROUND

The Grants Committee received a staff recommendation report dated January 8, 2026 to consider the recommended award recipients for the Anti-Black Racism Grants Program.

For further information refer to the attached staff report dated January 8, 2026.

DISCUSSION

The Grants Committee considered the staff report dated January 8, 2026 and approved the recommendation to Halifax Regional Council as outlined in this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications are outlined in the attached staff report dated January 8, 2026.

RISK CONSIDERATION

Risk consideration is outlined in the attached staff report dated January 8, 2026.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Grants Committee is comprised of 6 citizen members and 4 Councillors. Meetings are live webcast on Halifax.ca. The agenda, reports, video, and minutes of the Committee are posted on Halifax.ca.

For further information on Community Engagement refer to the attached staff report dated January 8, 2026.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Environmental implications are outlined in the staff report dated January 8, 2026.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives are outlined in the attached staff report dated January 8, 2026.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Legislative Authority is outlined in the attached staff report dated January 8, 2026.

HRM Grants Committee, Terms of Reference, Mandate:

The HRM Grants Committee shall review, evaluate, and make recommendations to Regional Council regarding annual cash grants, rent subsidies, property tax exemptions, less than market value property sales, and leases to registered non-profit organizations and charities managed by a duly appointed Grants Committee.

HRM Grants Committee Terms of Reference, section 4 Duties:

The duties of the HRM Grants Committee are to:

4.1 Advise Regional Council on all matters related to the allocation of grants, as defined by Regional Council;

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Staff recommendation report dated January 8, 2026.

P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 4.1.1
Grants Committee
January 20, 2026

TO: Chair and Members of Grants Committee

FROM: Brad Anguish, Commissioner of Operations

DATE: January 8, 2026

SUBJECT: **HRM Anti-Black Racism Grants Program: Fiscal 2025 – Recommended Awards**

ORIGIN

Staff Initiated. The Anti-Black Racism Grants Program is an annual grant program of project-specific cash grants.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2025 Anti-Black Racism Grants Program received a total of 39 applications of which 12 are ineligible for consideration. From the eligible submissions a total of 16 awards are recommended at a combined total cost of \$100,000.

This report presents the recommended award recipients for the Anti-Black Racism Grants Program. A total of 16 recipients have been selected, each demonstrating a strong commitment to addressing the systemic challenges faced by Black communities. Each application submitted aligns with at least one of the funding categories, and in most cases, addresses multiple areas of focus:

- Racial segregation
- Historic omission
- Lack of recognition
- Systemic expropriation
- Negative portrayal in media and literature

In addition, all recommended applications align with Halifax Regional Council's priorities, ensuring that the funded initiatives contribute to building stronger, safer, and more inclusive communities.

The recommended grant recipients reflect a broad spectrum of innovative and impactful initiatives that address critical systemic issues while aligning with the municipality's commitment to equity and inclusion.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve sixteen (16) awards as detailed in Attachment 2 of this report for a combined total of \$100,000 from Operating Account E401-8004 Anti-Black Racism Grants.

BACKGROUND

HRM's Anti-Black Racism Grants Program provides project-specific funding across five (5) categories to eligible registered non-profit organizations and charities located within the geographic boundary of the Halifax Regional Municipality. Project Grant awards range from \$500.00 up to \$10,000. An organization can apply for only one grant in any given year but may elect to make successive application. Multi-year awards are not issued under the Anti-Black Racism Grants Program, awards are project-specific (not operating grants).

DISCUSSION

This year represents the second application period of the Anti-Black Racism Grants Program. Building on the inaugural launch in 2024, staff have observed a significant and encouraging increase in interest from community organizations and groups across the municipality. The growing volume of applications reflects increased awareness of the program and continued demand for funding that supports initiatives aimed at addressing anti-Black racism and advancing equity within Halifax.

The 2025 Anti-Black Racism Grants Program application period opened on September 1, 2025, and closed on October 31, 2025. By the application deadline, the Program received 39 applications, nearly doubling the number received during the first application period in 2024. This notable increase demonstrates both the relevance of the program and the trust that communities are placing in the municipality to support meaningful, community-led responses to anti-Black racism.

Applications were assessed against the eligibility and funding criteria outlined in Administrative Order 2024-002-ADM, Respecting the Anti-Black Racism Grants Program. As with the previous year, a program guidebook was made available to prospective applicants to provide clarity on eligibility requirements, funding priorities, and application expectations. Applicants were also encouraged to contact staff in advance of submission with any questions or requests for clarification. All applications deemed ineligible or not recommended for funding will receive written notification outlining the rationale for the decision.

Applications were reviewed by a dedicated review committee composed of Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Advisors and a representative from the Community Grants Program. This interdisciplinary review process ensured that proposals were assessed through an equity-informed and consistent lens, with a focus on initiatives that demonstrate clear community impact, alignment with program objectives, and the potential to advance efforts to dismantle anti-Black racism within the municipality. Detailed evaluation criteria were applied to support a fair and transparent decision-making process.

Successful applicants will receive funding agreements along with a final reporting template. Funded organizations will be required to submit a final report by October 31, 2026, outlining project outcomes, providing proof of approved expenditures, and sharing any additional information relevant to the delivery and impact of their initiative. Submission of the final report is a mandatory requirement to maintain eligibility for future funding under the Anti-Black Racism Grants Program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding for this grant program was included in the approved 2025-26 operating budget in E401-8004.

Anti-Black Racism Grants 2025 Budget E401-8004	\$100,000
Less Proposed Awards (16)	<u>(\$100,000)</u>
Balance	\$0.00

RISK CONSIDERATION

The primary risks associated with cash grants are representational (accuracy of information), financial misappropriation or loss, and reputational risk to the Municipality. The following measures are aimed at reducing the risk of default:

- Applications are screened for ineligibility;
- Funding is suspended if an applicant has not submitted a final report within the required time frame or reporting is incomplete for a grant issued in a prior year; and
- any carry-forward of a grant to the following fiscal year to complete a project is limited to one (1) year and the organization's eligibility for further funding under the Community Grants Program is suspended.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Information regarding program eligibility, application timelines, applicant scoring, and previous awards are posted on the municipality's web site. Printed materials are also available through HRM Customer Service Centres and the Corporate Call Centre.

Legislation mandates that municipalities notify the public of all grants; this obligation is fulfilled in accordance with HRM's Administrative Order 2019-007-ADM Respecting Public Disclosure of Municipal Grants.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No environmental implications were identified.

ALTERNATIVES

The Grants Committee could recommend that Halifax Regional Council decline a grant, amend the value of award or the terms and conditions of funding or refer an application to staff for further review.

A referral allows for reconsideration in relation to any balance remaining in the 2025 Anti-Black Racism Grants Program budget. Given that all applications have been evaluated using the information provided by an applicant and any additional due diligence on the part of a reviewers, referrals are strengthened if a rationale is provided.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, SNS 2008, c 39:

7A The purposes of the Municipality are to (a) provide good government; (b) provide services, facilities and other things that, in the opinion of the Council, are necessary or desirable for all or part of the Municipality; and (c) develop and maintain safe and viable communities.

79A (1) Subject to subsections (2) to (4), the Municipality may only spend money for municipal purposes if (a) The expenditure is included in the Municipality's operating budget or capital budget or is otherwise authorized by the Municipality;...

Administrative Order 2024-002-ADM Respecting the HRM Anti-Black Racism Grants Program

3 The purpose of this Administrative Order is to provide project grants to eligible applicants located within the geographic boundary of the Halifax Regional Municipality to support community-based, community-led projects that increase the capacity of local African Nova Scotian and African descent communities in

addressing Anti-Black racism and to empower the community that is impacted by anti-Black racism through monies directed by and for the community.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Overview of Review Methodology

Attachment 2 - Recommended Awards: 2025 Anti-Black Racism Grants Program (i) Award
Recommendations

Attachment 3 - Not Recommended for Funding: 2025 Anti-Black Racism Grants Program

Attachment 4 - Applications Ineligible for Consideration: 2025 Anti-Black Racism Grants Program

Report Prepared by: Russel Brooks Advisor, Anti-Black Racism 902.943-3742

Overview of Review Methodology

As stated in Administrative Order 2024-002-ADM, the purpose of this Administrative Order is to provide project grants to eligible applicants located within the geographic boundary of the Halifax Regional Municipality to support community-based, community-led projects that increase the capacity of local African Nova Scotian and African descent communities in addressing Anti-Black racism and to empower the community that is impacted by anti-Black racism through monies directed by and for the community.

The program is designed to support projects that address the Programs funding priorities and Halifax Regional Council’s 2021 to 2025 strategic priorities, all of which are described in the program guidebook and application form. All applications either awarded, declined or deemed ineligible will be referenced in the report in attachment(s) X.

Project applications are evaluated using the following criteria, which is also available for the applicant to review in the program guidebook.

Criteria	Description	Weight
Funding Impact	Demonstrated inability to self-fund; project cannot proceed without municipal funds. Limited access to public or private sector funding. Expands or enhances the work or knowledge of anti-Black racism.	5
Community Benefit	Awareness, understanding, knowledge, education, community capacity building specific to anti-Black racism.	10
Organizational Capacity	Viability. Community-led. Applicant demonstrates ability to enhance organizations offerings or further their work with respect to anti-Black racism.	5
Program Funding Priority	Project aligns with municipal priorities and those related to anti-Black racism	5
Total		

The evaluation score does not correspond to the value of any award recommended, meaning that a higher score does not translate into a higher cash grant. Additionally, those applications who score less than 50% of the total score are not necessarily declined.

All staff must declare a conflict of interest if applicable to any of the applications received.

RECOMMENDED AWARDS 2025

1. A-Team Unites Association

The A-Team Unites project is being recommended to receive a grant award in the amount of \$6,000 to support the delivery of Passing the Torch – Building Anti-Racist Leaders for an Equitable Nova Scotia, as it strongly aligns with the Anti-Black Racism Grants Program priorities of Negative Portrayal in Media & Literature and Historic Omission and Lack of Recognition. Through a hybrid symposium delivered in partnership with The Black Vote Canada, the initiative directly challenges harmful narratives by equipping young Black leaders with media literacy, civic education, and leadership skills while intentionally uplifting the often-overlooked history and contributions of Black political leaders and change-makers in Nova Scotia. By creating intergenerational learning opportunities, centering Black voices and lived experiences, and providing tools to navigate and transform political and public systems, this project addresses systemic exclusion and advances more accurate representation, recognition, and participation of Black communities in civic and public life.

2. Beechville Baptist Church

The Beechville Baptist Church is being recommended to receive a grant award of \$7,500 to support this initiative, as it strongly aligns with the Anti-Black Racism Grant Program priorities of Historic Omission and Systemic Expropriation, as well as Regional Council priorities. The community of Beechville, like the other 51 historic African Nova Scotian communities, has endured generations of discrimination, marginalization, and disinvestment. The preservation and revitalization of the former community schoolhouse, an important site used to educate residents during segregation represents a meaningful step toward restoring historical pride, addressing past injustices, and strengthening community cohesion. As the church remains the central gathering place for residents and descendants, this project will help create a more accessible, welcoming, and functional space for cultural programming, intergenerational connection, and community-led activities. This initial phase of cleaning and preparation serves as a critical foundation for a long-envisioned revitalization effort and demonstrates the community's commitment to reclaiming and sustaining its shared history.

3. Beechville Education Society

The Beechville Education Society is being recommended to receive a grant award of \$5,500 through the Anti-Black Racism Grant Program, as this project strongly aligns with program priorities related to Racial Segregation, Historic Omission, and Systemic Expropriation, as well as Regional Council priorities. This initiative is designed to serve the residents and descendants of Beechville by strengthening community involvement and fostering inclusive, empowered participation. Through a range of proposed activities including health and wellbeing fairs, community cleanups, intergenerational recreation, volunteer engagement, and support for cultural and academic programming. The project creates meaningful opportunities for residents of all ages to contribute, connect, and build collective pride. In addition, the work to revive community organizations, engage in advocacy around land, infrastructure, and housing,

and deepen collaboration with the municipality reflects a strong commitment to addressing historical and ongoing systemic barriers. The inclusion of a community history document further responds to historic omission by preserving and elevating Beechville's lived experiences and legacy. Collectively, this project supports healing, empowerment, and long-term community resilience while advancing equity and reconciliation goals.

4. Beechville Lineage of Light

The Beechville Lineage of Light initiative is being recommended to receive a grant award of \$5,000 through the Anti-Black Racism Grant Program, as this initiative strongly aligns with program priorities related to Racial Segregation, Historic Omission, Negative Portrayal in Media and Literature, and Lack of Recognition, while also supporting Regional Council priorities. Beechville's Lineage of Light: Healing Trauma, Honoring Heritage is a culturally grounded, trauma-informed project designed to advance mental wellness, healing, and cultural affirmation within the historically Black community of Beechville. Through a Community Conversation Series rooted in Africentric healing practices and a reflective book club centered on *My Grandmother's Hands* by Resmaa Menakem, the initiative creates safe, empowering spaces for youth, adults, elders, and families to engage in dialogue, somatic healing, and collective reflection. By addressing intergenerational trauma, challenging harmful narratives, and elevating lived experience and cultural wisdom, this community-led project contributes to long-term wellness, strengthens identity and belonging, and supports collective resilience within African Nova Scotian communities.

5. BLM. In This Together Club

BLM In This Together is being recommended to receive an Anti-Black Racism Grant award in the amount of \$6,000, as the proposed initiative strongly aligns with program priorities related to Racial Segregation, Historic Omission, Negative Portrayal in Media and Literature, Lack of Recognition, and Systemic Expropriation, while also supporting Regional Council priorities. *Reclaiming Rhythm: Radical Rest and Resilience*, a one-time summit for Black women in leadership held on the National Day of Rest for Black Women (March 10, 2026), offers a culturally grounded and timely response to the disproportionate impacts of anti-Black racism experienced by Black women leaders. By centering radical rest, healing, and community connection as acts of resistance and restoration, the initiative addresses the cumulative effects of historic and ongoing inequities, including overwork, invisibility, and lack of institutional support. Through restorative programming, dialogue, ceremony, and creative expression, the summit uplifts Black women's lived experiences, affirms their leadership, and contributes to broader community awareness of anti-Black racism and its impacts advancing HRM's goals of fostering an inclusive, equitable, and resilient municipality.

6. Box it Out Association

Box It Out is being recommended to receive an Anti-Black Racism Grant award in the amount of \$6,000, as this initiative aligns with the program priority of Negative Portrayal in Media and Literature, as well as Regional Council priorities. This youth-focused empowerment program uses boxing, mentorship, and mental health education to challenge harmful stereotypes and narratives that disproportionately impact Black youth and youth of African descent. By creating safe, culturally responsive spaces led by Black mentors and coaches, Box It Out affirms Black identity, promotes positive self-expression, and builds resilience, confidence, and emotional strength. Through its 10-week non-contact boxing and wellness program, participants develop discipline, coping skills, and a sense of belonging, while engaging in

conversations around identity, self-esteem, and emotional regulation. The leadership and lived experience of founder and professional athlete Custio Clayton further reinforces positive representation, demonstrating that Black identity is a source of strength and possibility directly countering negative portrayals and supporting healthier outcomes for Black youth within the municipality.

7. Boys & Girls Club of Preston

The Boys & Girls Club of Preston is being recommended to receive an Anti-Black Racism Grant in the amount of \$4,500 in recognition of the strong alignment of their proposed project, Voices of Preston: Youth Media Collective, with the grant program priorities of Negative Portrayal in Media & Literature and Historic Omission and Lack of Recognition, as well as Regional Council priorities. This 10-week youth media initiative will empower African Nova Scotian youth ages 12–16 to reclaim and redefine narratives about their community through photography, videography, podcasting, and digital storytelling. By equipping participants with technical skills, mentorship, and a platform to showcase youth-led media that highlights the culture, resilience, and leadership within Preston, the project directly counters long-standing misrepresentation and underrepresentation of African Nova Scotian communities. In doing so, it affirms community identity, uplifts overlooked local histories, contributions, and expands access to media and digital spaces that have historically excluded Black voices.

8. Trustees of Emmanuel Baptist Church Society

Emmanuel Baptist Church (EBC) is being recommended to receive an Anti-Black Racism Grant award in the amount of \$8,500, as the proposed Kingdom Grounds Café initiative strongly aligns with program priorities related to Racial Segregation, Historic Omission, and Lack of Recognition, as well as Regional Council priorities. Located within the largest public facility in Upper Hammonds Plains one of Nova Scotia's historic African Nova Scotian communities founded by Black Refugees of the War of 1812 the project builds on EBC's longstanding role as a trusted community anchor. Kingdom Grounds Café will create an inclusive, welcoming community hub that centers African Nova Scotian residents while intentionally fostering connection between long-standing community members and newcomers to the area. By providing equitable access to shared space, elevating Black leadership and cultural stewardship, and supporting everyday relationship-building, the initiative directly responds to the community's history of segregation, disinvestment, and social exclusion, while strengthening belonging, visibility, and social cohesion in Upper Hammonds Plains.

9. Hope Blooms

Hope Blooms is being recommended to receive an Anti-Black Racism Grant award in the amount of \$6,000, as its proposed initiative strongly aligns with program priorities of Racial Segregation, Historic Omission, and Systemic Expropriation, as well as Regional Council priorities. This community-led Black youth mentorship and healing justice initiative represents a deliberate racial justice intervention within the education system, addressing the longstanding impacts of systemic anti-Black racism experienced by African Nova Scotian and African-descent youth. Through culturally grounded peer mentorship, trauma-informed mental health supports delivered by Black clinicians, and strong partnerships with Citadel High School and community practitioners, Hope Blooms embeds Black-led care, advocacy, and healing directly into school and community spaces. By disrupting functional segregation in education, restoring cultural continuity and belonging, and reinvesting in youth impacted by generations of displacement and loss of support infrastructure, this initiative advances meaningful structural change. The project strengthens pathways to graduation and postsecondary success while building an intergenerational pipeline of Black leadership, visibility, and resilience—directly contributing to more equitable educational outcomes and community well-being across the municipality.

10. It Takes a Village

It Takes a Village is being recommended to receive an Anti-Black Racism Grant in the amount of \$6,500 in recognition of the strong alignment of The Crossroads of Anti-Black Racism project with the program priorities of Negative Portrayal in Media & Literature, Historic Omission, Lack of Recognition, and Systemic Expropriation, as well as Regional Council priorities. This initiative will convene community members, elders, youth, leaders, educators, and policymakers from across African Nova Scotian communities to engage in intergenerational dialogue and action-oriented learning focused on the historical and ongoing impacts of anti-Black racism. Through facilitated storytelling circles and a series of educational workshops led by knowledgeable speakers, the project will create space to examine misrepresentation, erased histories, and systemic barriers while uplifting lived experiences and community wisdom. By centering Black voices within Black communities and fostering collective reflection, healing, and collaboration, The Crossroads of Anti-Black Racism advances equity, strengthens community connections across generations, and supports sustainable pathways toward justice and systemic change.

11. NDI IGBO Cultural Association Nova Scotia

The NDI IGBO Cultural Association of Nova Scotia is being recommended to receive an Anti-Black Racism Grant in the amount of \$4,500 in support of its IRI-JI 2026: Empowering Youth Against Anti-Black Racism initiative, as the project strongly aligns with program priorities of Racial Segregation, Negative Portrayal in Media & Literature, Historic Omission, and Lack of Recognition, as well as Regional Council priorities. Building on the success of its 2025 IRI-JI Festival and *Áfàméfùnà* documentary, this initiative intentionally integrates anti-Black racism education into culturally grounded youth programming that centers leadership, identity, and resistance. Through paid youth leadership opportunities, anti-racism conferences, documentary screenings, and a large-scale cultural resistance festival, the project equips Black youth with practical tools to confront discrimination while uplifting positive African and African Nova Scotian narratives. By positioning cultural preservation as a form of resistance, the initiative addresses historic erasure, counters harmful media portrayals, creates inclusive spaces for intercultural dialogue, and affirms Black excellence and belonging—advancing meaningful community education, youth empowerment, and collective action against anti-Black racism across the municipality.

12. The Africadian Empowerment Academy Society

The Africadian Empowerment Academy Society is being recommended to receive an Anti-Black Racism Grant in the amount of \$5,000 in support of its project, Enhancing Workforce Readiness Through Anti-Black Racism Training for Youth of African Descent and Employers in Skilled Trades, as the initiative aligns with program priorities of Historic Omission and Lack of Recognition, as well as Regional Council priorities. This community-led project responds to the longstanding exclusion and underrepresentation of people of African descent within skilled trades by equipping youth with the knowledge, confidence, and tools to navigate workplace racism while simultaneously supporting employers to recognize and address anti-Black racism, unconscious bias, and systemic inequities. By delivering culturally responsive, anti-racism training to both youth and employers, the project advances more equitable employment pathways, affirms the value and contributions of African Nova Scotian and African-descent workers, and helps to create safer, more inclusive workplace environments that support long-term success and retention.

13. Bus Stop Theatre

The Bus Stop Theatre Co-Op is being recommended to receive an Anti-Black Racism Grant award in the amount of \$7,000 in support of The Ink Collective, as the project strongly aligns with program priorities of Racial Segregation, Negative Portrayal in Media & Literature, Historic Omission and Lack of Recognition,

and Systemic Expropriation, as well as Regional Council priorities. The Ink Collective addresses long-standing systemic barriers that limit Black and African Nova Scotian writers' access to mentorship, publishing pathways, industry networks, and editorial development. By expanding the program in 2026 to serve a new cohort of 15–25 emerging writers, the initiative creates equitable access to professional training, media literacy, and creative exploration across multiple storytelling platforms, including poetry, fiction, non-fiction, children's literature, and television writing. Through a structured series of workshops led by accomplished facilitators and grounded in community building and ethical storytelling, the program uplifts historically excluded voices, challenges harmful narratives, and ensures Black stories are authored, shaped, and celebrated by Black writers themselves.

14. UHP Community Development Association

The Upper Hammonds Plains (UHP) Community Development Association is being recommended to receive an Anti-Black Racism Grant award in the amount of \$10,000 in support of its project to create permanent murals and historical displays at the Elizabeth Mantley Youth Recreation & Arts Centre, as the initiative strongly aligns with program priorities of Racial Segregation, Negative Portrayal in Media & Literature, Historic Omission and Lack of Representation, as well as Regional Council priorities. By depicting the history of the Upper Hammonds Plains Volunteer Fire Department, the first all-Black volunteer fire department in Canada and honoring community trailblazers such as Ms. Elizabeth Mantley, the project preserves and uplifts a legacy that has been historically overlooked. Through visual storytelling, shadow box exhibits, and intergenerational knowledge sharing within a culturally affirming space, the initiative counters erased narratives, celebrates Black civic leadership, and connects youth with the resilience, sacrifice, and positive citizenship of their elders. In a community shaped by historic segregation and ongoing geographic and social marginalization, this project strengthens community pride, intergenerational relationships, and collective wellbeing by ensuring that Black history, leadership, and contributions are visibly and permanently recognized.

15. UHP Community Cemetery

The Upper Hammonds Plains Community Cemetery initiative is being recommended to receive an Anti-Black Racism Grant award in the amount of \$9,000, as the project strongly aligns with program funding priorities of Racial Segregation and Historic Omission and Lack of Recognition, as well as Regional Council priorities. This initiative supports the protection and preservation of the historic Upper Hammonds Plains Community Cemetery, a sacred site that holds the remains and stories of generations of African Nova Scotians, including descendants of the Black Refugees from the War of 1812 who helped establish the community. By reinvesting in a site that has experienced decades of underfunding and neglect due to systemic barriers, the project restores dignity, visibility, and stewardship to an essential piece of Black heritage land. Through infrastructure improvements, strengthened governance, and opportunities for community and youth engagement, this work honors ancestral contributions, counters historical erasure, and reinforces the cultural and historical significance of African Nova Scotian communities for present and future generations.

16. YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth

The YMCA of Halifax/Dartmouth is being recommended to receive an Anti-Black Racism Grant in the amount of \$3,000 in support of the Africentric Social Work Expo: Empowering Community, as the project aligns with program funding priorities of Negative Portrayal in Media & Literature, Lack of Recognition, and Systemic Expropriation, as well as Regional Council priorities. This initiative directly challenges harmful stereotypes and misconceptions by visibly centering Black Nova Scotian social workers as skilled professionals and community leaders, countering long-standing negative and incomplete portrayals of Black communities in professional spaces. By increasing access to culturally responsive services, elevating the contributions of Black social workers, and strengthening trust between service providers and African-descent communities, the project helps address systemic barriers that have historically limited awareness, access, and recognition of culturally grounded supports. Through education, connection, and visibility, this initiative advances equity, community well-being, and meaningful inclusion within Halifax's social support landscape.

Not Recommended for Funding: 2025 Anti-Black Racism Grants Program

African Orthodox Community & Cultural Association - The application from the “African Orthodox Community & Cultural Association” will not be awarded grant funding this application period. The application does not contain required statements which disqualifies it under the program's guidelines. Additionally, ongoing operational costs fall under ineligible expenditures, further rendering the application non-compliant with the grant's policies.

Believing in Transformation, A Society in Action (BITASA) - The application from “Believing in Transformation, A Society in Action (BITASA)” will not be awarded grant funding this application period. This recommendation is based on the submission of incomplete financial statements and insufficient verification regarding identified non-recurring professional fees. As a result, the application cannot be fully assessed for financial viability and accountability at this time.

East Preston Day Care & Family Resource Centre – The application from the “East Preston Day Care & Family Resource” will not be awarded funding this application period. This recommendation is based on the proposed expenses being ineligible under the program guidelines, as they are primarily associated with out-of-town travel costs, which fall outside of eligible expenditures for this grant.

Leading Leaders Society of Nova Scotia – The application from “Leading Leaders Society of Nova Scotia” will not be awarded funding this application period. This recommendation is based on the proposed project start date occurring prior to the anticipated release of grant funding. As a result, the application does not align with program requirements regarding eligible project timelines.

MyCom Information Society – The application from “MyCom Information Society” will not be awarded funding this application period. This recommendation is based on insufficient project information provided, including a lack of clarity regarding the scope and purpose of the proposed initiative and the intended platform or distribution plan for the documentary. As a result, the application could not be fully assessed and does not meet the requirements for funding at this time.

Nova Scotia Research & Literacy Association – The application from the “Nova Scotia Research & Literacy Association” will not be awarded funding this application period. This recommendation is based on insufficient project information provided. As a result, the application could not be fully assessed and does not meet the requirements for funding at this time.

Ummah Society – The application from “Ummah Society” will not be awarded funding this application period. This recommendation is based on insufficient project information provided to allow for a full assessment, as well as the inclusion of recurring operational costs, which fall outside of eligible expenditures under the program guidelines. As a result, the application does not meet program requirements at this time.

YWCA – The application from the “YWCA” will not be awarded funding this application period. This recommendation is based on the proposed expenses being ineligible under the program guidelines, as they are primarily related to staff training costs, which fall outside the scope of eligible expenditures for this grant. As a result, the application does not meet the requirements for funding at this time.

Applications Ineligible for Funding: 2025 Anti-Black Racism Grants Program

A2GYA – The application request for “All in Together Youth Association”, is ineligible for the Anti-Black Racism Grants Program. The application was incomplete, as it did not meet the requirements outlined in [policy section 9].

All Voices Society- The application request from “All Voices Society” is ineligible for the Anti-Black Racism Grants Program. The application was incomplete, as it did not meet the requirements outlined in policy [section 9].

Association of Nigerians in Nova Scotia- The application request from the “Association of Nigerians in Nova Scotia” is ineligible for the Anti-Black Racism Grants Program. The application was incomplete, as it did not meet the requirements outlined in policy [section 9].

Berhan Cultural & Educational Association- The application request from “Berhan Cultural & Educational Association” is ineligible for the Anti-Black Racism Grants Program. The proposal includes expenditures that fall under the ineligible expenditures list outlined in the policy, rendering the application non-compliant with program guidelines as well the application was incomplete and did not meet the requirements outlined in policy [section 9].

Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission- The application request from “Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission” is ineligible for the Anti-Black Racism Grants Program. The application was incomplete, as it did not meet the requirements outlined in policy [section 9].

Imhotep’s Legacy Academy- The application request from “Imhotep’s Legacy Academy” is ineligible for the Anti-Black Racism Grants Program Applicant is ineligible based on [policy subsection 13(c)].

LOVE (Leave Out Violence) Nova Scotia - The application request from “Love (Leave Out Violence) Nova Scotia is ineligible for the Anti-Black Racism Grants Program. The proposal includes expenditures that fall under the ineligible expenditures list outlined in the policy, rendering it non-compliant with program guidelines.

POSSE (Peer Outreach Support Services & Education- The application request from “POSSE (Peer Outreach Support Services & Education)” is ineligible for the Anti-Black Racism Grants Program. The proposal includes expenditures that fall under the ineligible expenditures list outlined in the policy, rendering it non-compliant with program guidelines.

North End Halifax “New Roots” Community Land Trust – The application request from “North End Halifax New Roots Community Land Trust” is ineligible for the Anti-Black Racism Grants Program. The application was incomplete, as it did not meet the requirements outlined in policy [section 9].

St. Georges YouthNet - The application request from “St. Georges YouthNet” is ineligible for the Anti-Black Racism Grants Program. The proposal includes expenditures that fall under the ineligible expenditures list outlined in the policy, rendering it non-compliant with program guidelines.

Sudanese Association of the Maritimes- The application request from the “Sudanese Association of the Maritimes” is ineligible for the Anti-Black Racism Grants Program. The proposal includes expenditures that fall under the ineligible expenditures list outlined in the policy, rendering it non-compliant with program guidelines.

Wallace Lucas Community Centre- The application request from the “Wallace Lucas Community Centre” is ineligible for the Anti-Black Racism Grants Program. The proposal includes expenditures that fall under the ineligible expenditures list outlined in the policy, rendering it non-compliant with program guidelines.