

Call to Action!

Join us in our 2nd urgent appeal to create funding opportunities for African American-led organizations.

African American-led Organizations Being Denied Innovation Funding is Unacceptable

Contra Costa Board of Supervisors Meeting

Tuesday, April 15th, 2025 at 9:15 am

Let's gather outside and start with prayer

In-Person at: Administration Building - 1025 Escobar Street, Martinez

Zoom link: <https://cccouny-us.zoom/join/89586041575>

Call in: 888-278-0254 Access code: 843298#

The only two African American-led organizations that moved on to phase 2 were not recommended for Round 2 Measure X Innovation funding: **NAMI Contra Costa's "Lifting Up the Voice of those Most Harmed, the African American Male" Project**. There is an absence of African American males on most decision-making bodies in this county despite having the most dismal outcomes. This innovative approach was designed to identify and train black males across the age span (as early as 6 years old) to have their voices amplified. As the county states on its website, we too recognize utilizing lived experience creates opportunities for more effective and positive outcomes. A major concern to us, despite a verbal agreement to correct an error by the county lead, our program was unfairly summarized as serving only ages 20-25. We also don't agree with the process used to identify culturally astute reviewers. We strongly feel that if using African Americans to serve as reviewers, the community should be selecting their own cultural brokers. There should certainly not be county employees who may be compromised.

Not recommended for Round 2 Measure X Innovation funding: **Bridge Builder's to the New Generation "Change the Narrative" Project**. College and career readiness for 300 high and middle school students through mentorship, field trips to colleges and career centers, workshops on essential skills, and an out-of-state tour to historically black colleges and universities. The goals are to increase

post-secondary enrollment and career readiness among students from marginalized backgrounds, provide students exposure to higher education institutions, and equip staff to support the students.

As we wait for the African American Holistic Wellness Hub we can't settle for less than what others receive. Allies are welcome to join our voices.

We need over 40 voices speaking up on Tuesday! We need allies, accomplices, and especially black males who are the most harmed and therefore have the most to lose by not having representation.

What is happening and why is it important?

- We are speaking up because on Tuesday, March 25th, after passionate appeals the four supervisors present (newly appointed Sup. Shanelle Scales-Preston was absent) reminded us that their November 2020 Resolution “Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis” in Contra Costa was nothing more than words on paper. This was demonstrated by initially appointing only two black males out of twelve members of the Feasibility Study Steering Committee.
- The county has failed to honor its own public commitments. The following statements were lifted from the Contra Costa County Website. They demonstrate they are not honoring what they have stated.
 - “Governments work best when there is strong and diverse community participation.”
 - “Public advisory boards, commissions, and councils serve as excellent institutions for empowering resident involvement, training grounds for ascending leaders, and great opportunities for people wanting to serve.”

What are we asking you to do?

- Our **request** to you is to provide verbal and/or written public comment to the Supervisors, expressing the necessity of urging them to support funding for African American Innovation Programs
- **Keep in mind that public comment will be limited to two minutes per speaker, so select a few of the points to focus on, and add your own story about why you care about this issue and why you support this request.**
- When one suffers, all suffer. If you believe and support that, please join us in this call to action by participating at the Contra Costa County Board of

Supervisor Meeting on Tuesday, April 15th, and every following Tuesday that a meeting is held until we get what we deserve.

If you prefer to write a letter or send an email please submit it as soon as possible:

- **All letters should state “You’ve silenced the voice of black males in this county and it hurts me because...” Please personalize your own reason, including the city you live in.**
- **For physical letters send attention CAO with cc’s to each supervisor to: Administration Building - 1025 Escobar St, Martinez, CA 94553 OR email to gigi@namicontracosta.org for printing**
- You can also send it directly via the BOS Supervisors emails below:
 - District 1 – John Gioia, John.Gioia@bos.cccounty.us
 - District 2 – Candace Anderson, supervisorandersen@bos.cccounty.us
 - District 3 – Diane Burgis, Diane.Burgis@bos.cccounty.us
 - District 4 – Ken Carlson, SupervisorCarlson@bos.cccounty.us
 - District 5 – Shanelle Scales-Preston, district5@bos.cccounty.us

Sample Talking Points for Live/Written Comment and Letters

Remember: Public comment will be limited to two minutes per speaker, so select a few of the points below to focus on, and add your own story about why you care about this issue and why you support this request. Please end your comment with a specific request for the Board to swiftly halt the funding and reconsider a fair process that supports the African American Community

- ★ My name is _____ and I live/work in _____ region of the county.
- ★ I support funding for African American Innovation Programs.
- ★ If words fail you simply state “Say it loud, I’m Black, and I’m proud” and deserve to live peacefully in Contra Costa County and Black Males need a voice at the table to make that happen.

****Please adapt your public comment to reflect why you believe funding for African American Innovation Programs is important/matters to you.****

If you can, please attend in person at the Contra Costa County Administration Building. You can also provide live testimony via zoom or phone. If you cannot attend live, please send a letter or email to all five county supervisors.

 **JOIN THE MEETING VIA ZOOM OR IN-PERSON** 

- In-Person: Administration Building 1025 Escobar Street, Martinez
- Zoom link for the Board of Supervisors meeting:
<https://cccouny-us.zoom/s/89586041575>
- Call in: 888-278-0254 Access code: 843298#
- Public comment is limited to 2 minutes. The Board generally calls in-chamber public comment first, then moves to those participating virtually.
- The Board meeting will begin at 9:15am.

If you have any questions, please email us at gigi@namicontracosta.org or call Gigi R. Crowder at 510-990-2670.

Thank You, Your Voice Matters! -40 Voices Campaign