

**Request for Approval of Expenditure >\$10,000**  
**Professional Development and Support provided by BLOC-KC**  
**Submitted: June 2024**

**Request:** Approve proposal for BLOC to provide support to AFIA's administrative team and professional development to AFIA staff members. The cost, \$10,000, is a part of (not in addition to) the existing professional development budget. It will be coded to the Kauffman DEI grant which currently has over \$22,000 remaining to be spent on professional development related to AFIA's [Equity Work Plan](#).

**Background:** This professional development and support continues work we have been doing for multiple years. During the past two school years, we were able to provide intensive professional development utilizing this funding source. We are excited to be able to build from this foundation with this continued work.

Through AFIA's partnership with BLOC we are able to provide professional development to our staff around culturally responsive teaching. This aligns with our goal to improve student culture and increase student achievement. As a result of this partnership, we were also able to recruit and hire a specialist teacher. Lastly, conferences and networking opportunities hosted by BLOC have supported AFIA in forming and strengthening community partnerships.

**Brother Liberating Our Community (BLOC):** BLOC is dedicated to advancing the number of Black men working in education. This work progresses through recruiting, connecting, developing, and engaging Black men working in educational spaces. This professional network of Black men are engaged in the work of uplifting the Kansas City Metropolitan Area through education. This includes providing culturally relevant professional development in PK-12 school buildings. In addition, BLOC provides educational conferences that connect the educational community in improving their pedagogy.

**Training details:** AFIA will partner with BLOC for the 24-25 school year to provide professional development to all staff members. BLOC will support the AFIA leadership team in the implementation of the priorities and goals in AFIA's Equity Work Plan. Specifically, BLOC KC will support AFIA in the following areas:

- Collaborate with AFIA's leadership team to support the implementation of our [Equity Work Plan](#), including the facilitation of an inclusive and supportive environment for diverse and underrepresented educators.
- Facilitate four professional development sessions related to culturally responsive teaching to increase proficiency in those practices leading to improved classroom culture and increased student achievement.