

RAFT

Reparations Action Fund For Tomorrow

6/22/26

Reparations Action Fund
for Tomorrow

Info Session

I'm Deborah Wilson Gadsden.

Disbursement Team Members

Deborah Wilson Gadsden
Patricia Hopson-Shelton
Derek Vincent Smith
Makeda Flowers



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The Reparations Action Fund for Tomorrow's mission is to drive **transformative** restorative **justice** initiatives in Lancaster that **address historical inequities** in the African American/Black community.

I'm Makeda Flowers!

RAFFT Fund History

- Created in 2023 by Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster
- Addresses inequities experienced by descendants of enslaved Africans
- Invites congregations of all faith traditions and individuals to contribute.



Funding Areas

Requests from \$500 - \$10,000

Business & Economic
Development

Cultural & Community
Preservation

Education

Health & Wellness

Housing

Funding Examples



Cultural & Community Preservation

Projects that preserve Black history, culture, and language.



Housing

Home ownership assistance (closing or inspection costs), water heater, roof repairs, etc

Business & Economic Development

- small business start-up
- business expansion
- equipment
- marketing
- training
- personal credit recovery assessment

Education

- tuition at college, certification program, vocational training
- school supplies
- required books



Health & Wellness

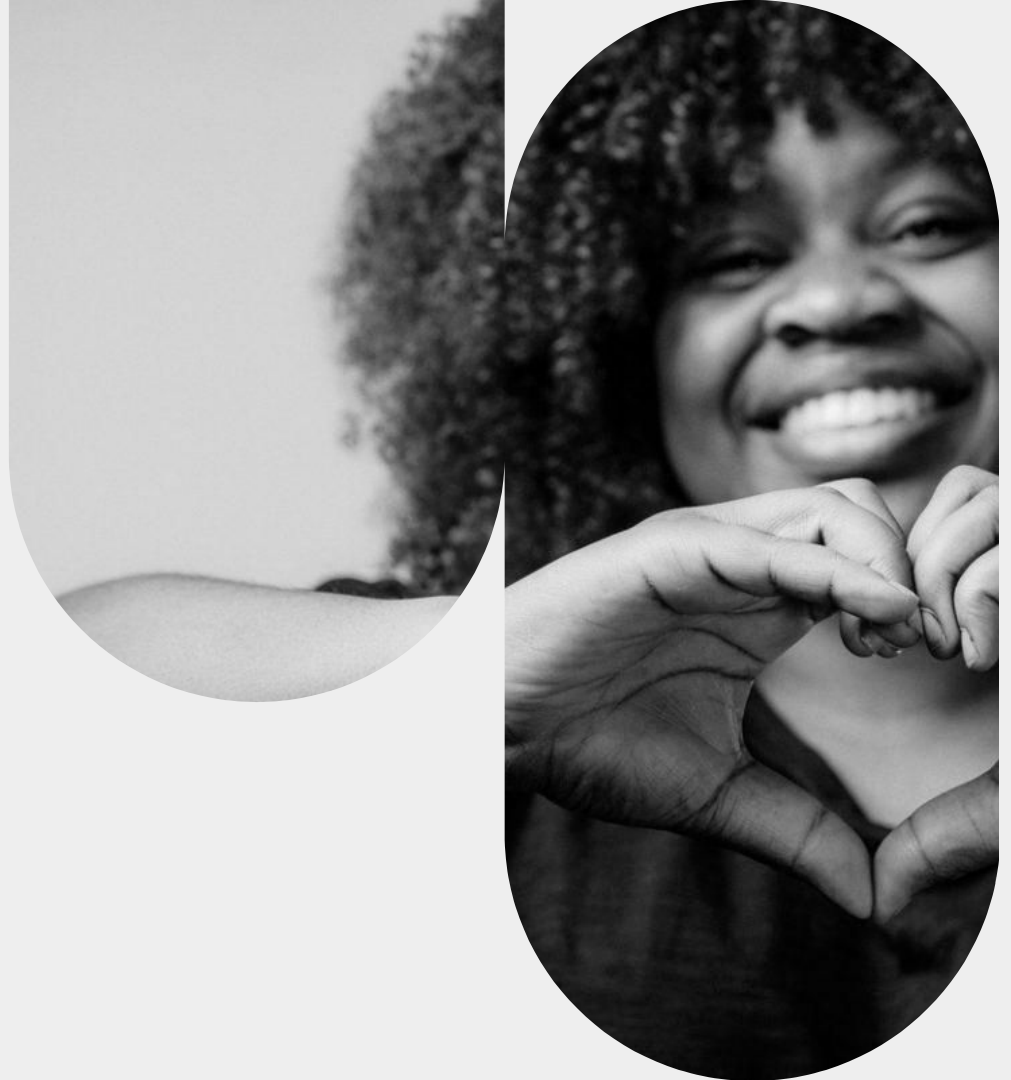
For services not covered by health insurance

- fitness membership
- certified nutritionist
- mental health care
- therapeutic services



Application Process

- Open to African American/Black community members in Lancaster County.
- Apply online via Google form.
- You will provide:
 - Individual or small business owner
 - Organization information
 - Purpose of application
 - Contact information
 - Funding amount requested
\$500 - \$10,000



Answer 5 Questions

How will the funds be used?

What are the expected outcomes?

Will this funding be combined?

What is your timeline?

What is your budget?



Application process & timeline.

Application Opens

**June 19, 2026
(Juneteenth)**

Portal opens for online form submissions.

Complete the application form at www.rafft.org/grants and begin preparing your project proposal and budget outline.

Submission Deadline

Friday, August 7, 2026 at 5:00 PM

All applications must be submitted by this deadline.

Ensure your project proposal, budget outline, and supporting documents are complete.

Review Period

August – September 2026

The RAFFT Disbursement Team reviews all applications.

Additional documentation or interviews may be requested as needed.

Award Announcements

Monday, September 28, 2026

Awards announced via email with important follow-up steps.

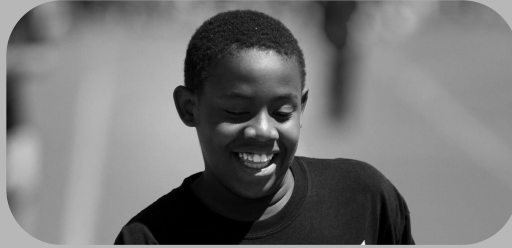
Funding ranges from \$500 to \$10,000.

Review Process

RAFFT applications



Is in alignment with reparations goals & funding areas.



Describes a demonstrated need.



Is complete and clear.

Thank you for being here!

RAFFT Disbursement Team:

Makeda Flowers, Deborah Gadsden, Patricia Hopson-Shelton, and Derek Vincent Smith

Special thanks to:

Marty Kelley - Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster
Marie Cleaves-Rothacker & Fran Rodriguez -
Lancaster County Community Foundation

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