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For Immediate Release

BIRMINGHAM CHANGE FUND SOLICITING PROPOSALS FOR \$20,000 STEM GRANT

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On March 15, 2016, The Birmingham Change Fund (BCF), a local giving circle comprised of 24 young, African-American professionals in and around the Birmingham area, announced the opening of its 2016 competitive grant cycle. BCF is soliciting proposals from non-profit organizations focused on enhancing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) outcomes for middle school students in Birmingham City Schools. The Change Fund is looking to grant up to \$10,000 per year over the course of 2 years.

BCF is seeking a grantee that will design, implement, and evaluate a program that combines an effective extra-curricular model with mentorship in an effort to close existing performance and participation gaps in STEM. The objective of the grant is to create and/or identify programming that will result in measurable academic improvements in STEM classes while simultaneously providing mentors to students to further support their academic and personal development.

BCF Chairman, Bobby Maxena says, "STEM is an area where we see both dire need and a huge opportunity. BCF selected STEM and middle grades after much research and many community conversations conveying this as the area where we could make the greatest potential impact on the academic and personal outcomes of students."

The grant is open to all 501(c)(3) organizations that meet the requirements as stated in the RFP.

The final date to submit completed applications is Friday, April 8, 2016 at 11:59pm. Questions regarding the grant along with completed submissions should be directed to grants@birminghamchange fund.org

To obtain a copy of the RFP, please visit the BCF website at <http://birminghamchange fund.org> and visit the grants section.

To obtain a hard copy of the RFP, please email: grants@birminghamchange fund.org or contact David Scott, 205-807-9202.

For more information please contact Bobby Maxena at (205) 243-8217 or via e-mail at maxenab@gmail.com; David Scott at (205) 807-9202 or via e-mail at dwsco t t10@gmail.com.

About The Birmingham Change Fund

Named an *Outstanding Charitable Organization* in 2015 by the Alabama Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, the Birmingham Change Fund is a giving circle of young African-American philanthropists in the Birmingham area. The twenty-four, young professionals combine their time, talent and treasure toward changing outcomes in the city of Birmingham, Alabama with a focus on three core areas: Education, Economics and Healthcare. In 2009 BCF decided to hone in on understanding the opportunities around enhancing educational opportunities for students in Birmingham City Schools. In 2011, a 3-year award of \$30,000 was granted to the McWane Science Center and W.J. Christian School for the *Science Education Partnership*, which impacted 810 students and resulted in state standard test score increase from 41% to exceeding standards at 65%. Additionally, W .J. Christian students also took home multiple awards at the 2013 district-wide science fair. This 2016 STEM Education Grant represents continued steps toward funding transformative yet practical solutions.

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