



Black Women Thriving East of the River (BWTEotR) Patient Bill of Rights Request for Proposals

Summary:

Black Women Thriving East of the River (BWTEotR) is seeking to fund one organization, or a collaboration between multiple partners, to develop and implement a strategy to disseminate and ensure uptake of the Black Women Thriving East of the River Cancer Patient Bill of Rights. The BWTEotR Bill of Rights consists of the Cancer Patient's Bill of Rights and the Cancer Provider's Patient Bill of Rights. Each is designed to educate Black women and providers serving Black women interacting with the cancer care system on what they should reasonably expect when receiving health care services in the District of Columbia. The Cancer Patient's Bill of Rights is intended to be disseminated among patients and health care providers caring for Black women living east of the river in the District of Columbia.

Release Date: January 25, 2023

Due Date: April 2, 2023

Expected Decision Date: May 15, 2023

Amount Available: Up to \$250,000 for 18 month project period

To Apply: Qualified applicants are invited to submit proposals to BlackWomenThrivingEOTR@gmail.com Subject line: *BWTEotR Patient Bill of Rights*

Page Limit: 10 Pages (*up to 12 Pages for entities proposing a collaborative partnership structure*)

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Introduction

Black Women Thriving East of the River (BWTEotR) was founded through a collaborative effort between Jane Bancroft Robinson Foundation and Black women living east of the river who are impacted by the District's cancer morbidity and mortality disparities. The work of the BWTEotR initiative is intended to disrupt racially unjust and inequitable systems that perpetuate the District's cancer disparities. BWTEotR envisions a reduction of cancer morbidity and mortality disparities for women in Wards 7 & 8 of the District of Columbia.

This work is guided by the *Black Women Thriving East of the River Patient Navigation Road Map*, developed by BWTEotR members; the majority of whom are native Washingtonians, residents of Wards 7 or 8, have generational ties to East of the River communities, founded nonprofits based East of the River, or work for regional nonprofits that serve residents of Wards 7 & 8 who are intimately aware of the needs of East of the River communities. *The Road Map* bolsters existing patient navigation systems in ways that are designed to address the pain-points in a woman's cancer experience, including the root causes of barriers preventing her from being able to prioritize cancer screenings, prevention, treatment and survivorship care. The *Road Map* includes strategies that ensure:

- 1) Community partners and service providers have sufficient capacity to provide patient navigation services; can facilitate outreach beyond the clinic setting; and are able to respond to Ward 7 and 8 clients in a timely way;
- 2) Cancer related services are provided within an anti-misogynoir framework that addresses the intersection of anti-Black racism and sexism; and that there is greater patient-provider racial and gender concordance by increasing the number of Black female providers located East of the River; and
- 3) Solutions/interventions are clear, well-defined, and provide the necessary building blocks to assess the financial return on investment (ROI) for comprehensive cancer patient navigation, to inform the development of sustainable funding streams.

The road map consists of the three intervention focus areas below:

- 1) Education, Awareness Raising, Communication, and Health Literacy
- 2) Developing Cancer Patient Navigation Systems
- 3) Anti-Black Racism / *Misogynoir*

Each focus area contains multiple strategies (i.e., interventions) aimed at achieving the goal of that focus area. The *BWTEotR Patient Bill of Rights* referenced in this request for proposals is one of the strategies within Focus Area 3 (Anti-Black Racism/Misogynoir) of the Patient Navigation Road Map.

Overview of the Patient Bill of Rights

The BWTEotR *Patient Bill of Rights* consists of two components: the Cancer Patient's Bill of Rights and the Cancer Provider's Patient Bill of Rights. Each is designed to educate Black women and providers serving Black women interacting with the cancer care system on what they should reasonably expect when receiving health care services in the District of Columbia. The document directly addresses intersectionality – the ways in which multiple oppressed identities, such as race and gender, interact to produce even more severe inequities. Formative data collected for this program showed that misogynoir¹ perpetuates systemic and institutionalized barriers that reduce the care that Black women receive and often includes the invalidation or gaslighting of Black women's experiences as they seek health care.

The [Cancer Patient's Bill of Rights](#) and the corresponding [Cancer Provider's Patient Bill of Rights](#) were developed through a community-led process with women impacted by cancer disparities in the District. The Cancer Patient's Bill of Rights was ground-truthed through a focus group with cancer patients and care partners living in Ward 7 and 8, as well as cancer care providers. Interestingly, when the Cancer Patient's Bill of Rights was tested among providers, including cancer surgeons, oncologists and cancer patient navigators, the participating providers suggested that their colleagues could benefit from a similar document that explained what was expected of them in the delivery of appropriate care for Black women living East of the River. These providers became the impetus for the development of the complementary Cancer Provider's Patient Bill of Rights.

While it should be noted that the tenets outlined in the Cancer Provider's Patient's Bill of Rights are not legally binding for an adopting institution or provider, they represent best practices along the cancer continuum (e.g., risk reduction, diagnosis, treatment, supportive care services, survivorship and end of life care) that should be the standard of care in the District. The Cancer Patient's Bill of Rights also serves as a resource for patients to use when they believe that these best practices are not being honored and need to advocate for themselves. Lastly, a critical component of this intervention is developing a process for the regular assessment of clinics and hospitals, where Black women access care, to ensure each healthcare facility is living up to the standards for care detailed in the Cancer Patient's Bill of Rights.

¹ Misogynoir refers to the ways anti-Black and misogynistic representation shape broader ideas about Black women

Scope of Work

BWTEotR is seeking an entity to develop and implement a strategy to disseminate and ensure uptake of the Cancer Patient's Bill of Rights among patients and health care providers caring for Black women living east of the river in the District of Columbia. Specifically, the entity should propose creative and community-based strategies to accomplish the stated goals. *Although potential strategies have been outlined within this request for proposals, these potential strategies are meant to be suggestive and not meant to be prescriptive.*

A. Community Engagement and Education

The applicant should describe and be able to implement a community engagement strategy designed to increase awareness of the Cancer Patient's Bill of Rights and how to incorporate it in a Black women's cancer journey. The strategy may include activities such as partnering with libraries, community centers, senior centers, public housing communities, and community-based organizations serving Black women east of the river to provide education and dissemination of the Bill of Rights. The plan may also include outreach to patient navigators, community health workers, social workers and other professionals that make up the non-physician cancer care system. A combination of direct one-on-one or group education; social, paid and/or earned media; and community ambassadors; etc., may be utilized. Activities that involve community workers such as ambassadors or community health workers should provide appropriate compensation through stipends, etc., to recognize the value of their time and effort. The plan should also detail an appropriate evaluation strategy that documents the impact of these activities.

B. Provider Engagement and Education

The applicant should describe and be able to implement an engagement strategy for District of Columbia health care systems including hospitals, Federally Qualified Health Clinics, Senior Wellness Centers, and other facilities. The goal of this engagement strategy is the uptake of the patient and provider-oriented Cancer Patient's Bill of Rights within the healthcare system across the District. Strategies may include meetings with senior leadership; identifying a system champion; providing training and education to increase awareness of cancer disparities and of the Bill of Rights resource; utilizing media (social, earned and paid media) to increase awareness, etc. The plan should also detail an appropriate evaluation strategy that documents the impact of these activities.

C. Assessment and Reporting

Evaluation and assessment of community and health system/provider engagement is critical to documenting the success of this program. The applicant will work with the BWTEotR designated evaluation partner to report on program implementation and conduct assessments of clinical care settings to evaluate the extent to which the Cancer Patient's Bill of Rights document is reaching its intended audiences, and whether or not the information is having the intended effect. Example assessment and reporting information may include:

- 1) usefulness and satisfaction with the Cancer Patient's Bill of Rights,
- 2) usefulness and satisfaction with education conducted or received,
- 3) the number and type of individuals and organizations engaged,
- 4) uptake of Provider's Cancer Patient Bill of Rights.

It should be noted that the above does not represent an all-inclusive list of evaluation measures. The development of assessment tools and methodology will be led by the evaluation partner and created in partnership with the successful grantee.

Proposal Requirements

It is important to note that the implementation of this program should uphold the values of Black Women Thriving East of the River and the women who formed the backbone of this initiative. To that end, all partners and community members—as well as any subcontractors or subgrantees engaged in this effort—should feel valued, listened to and understood by the program implementer and others involved. Below please find additional requirements for this proposal.

A. Cover Page Information

- Name of the organization(s)
- Organization or business website (if applicable)
- Location of your work/service area (i.e., national, regional, specific counties, State(s), District Ward(s))
- Name of fiduciary (fiscal) agent (if applicable)
- Organization or business website for fiduciary (fiscal) agent (if applicable) o Location of your work/service area (i.e., national, regional, specific counties, State(s), District Ward(s))
- Tax ID of applicant or fiscal agent (if applicable)
- Full legal name of Point of Contact
- Job title or role in community
- Email address
- Phone number

B. Introduction to the Organization

Provide a brief summary of your organization, what you are proposing, why you are proposing this approach and why you should be selected for this intervention.

C. Background and Problem Statement

Provide an overview of Black women's cancer experience in the District, specifically women from Wards 7 and 8; the role patient navigation plays in the overall cancer service delivery system. The applicant should also demonstrate a keen understanding of the role anti-Black racism and misogyny plays in cancer disparities. Particular attention should be paid to describing your understanding of the cancer continuum barriers to accessing care.

D. Organization Description

Provide an overview of the lead organization including primary location of the organization, type of organization (for-profit, nonprofit, etc.), history of organization, mission and vision, areas of focus and/or services, and any other relevant information that helps provide an overview of the organization. Describe how this work fits in with the overall mission of your organization.

If applying as a partnership between multiple organizations, include how long the partners have been operating together and provide a brief history of each organization and the role that they will play on this team. Please specify which organization will serve as the lead entity. Additionally, please provide a signed letter of support or memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the entities. *Please note: the lead organization does not have to be the fiscal agent.*

Community Relationships: Describe your or your organization's history of working in Ward 7 and/or 8; the nature of that work; and the people, networks, communities with whom you collaborate. This requires a description of the deep connections that you have to East of the River communities. For example, did you serve on advisory committees specific to those Wards; have you engaged in programs in collaboration with community members and/or organizations.

Equity. Provide the data showing the racial/ethnic and gender composition of the organization's management, other staff and board members, as applicable (please mark n/a if a category is not represented in your organizational structure). Additionally, the applicant should include how it will work with members of the community in a representative way. For example, if ambassadors are being proposed as a vehicle for providing community education, the applicant should include a description of their plans to recruit, train and support community

ambassadors that resemble the community being served. Please provide a description of how this diversity assures culturally congruent approaches and community connections and how it informs your work. Additionally, how does equity inform your organizational structure and practices? If the organization’s management, staff, or Board are not majority people of color, and not gender diverse, etc. what are your plans to achieve these goals? Priority will be given to applicants that demonstrate a value and deep understanding of racial and gender equity.

Organizational Matrix

Please provide number of people (not %)	Male	Female	Trans-gender	Gender Non-Conforming	White	African American	Latino	Asian/Pacific Islander	Multi-ethnic	Cancer Survivor/Caregiver
Management staff										
Other staff										
Board of Directors										

E. Staffing Plan

Describe the staffing plan and management structure proposed. Clarify which team members or outside consultants/dissemination partners will participate in the delivery of services funded by this RFP. Specify qualifications of each team member as well as their role, or that of community partners, in implementing the program. Previous experience in community engagement, group/one-on-one education, provider engagement should also be included. Previous team member’s experience in health equity, or that of your external partners, should be highlighted. Include resumes for key team members as part of the Appendix.

F. Project Description

Please outline your approach for conducting this implementation program. The description should include a proposed methodology for engaging with the community, working in Wards 7 and 8, as well as a plan for ensuring uptake of the Cancer Provider Patient’s Bill of Rights within hospitals and other health care systems. Successful applicants will propose creative and effective strategies that are specific to each audience.

The applicant should provide a summary of skills and experience that demonstrate the organization's ability to accomplish the goals and tasks outlined in this RFP. Please give examples of any similar work you have conducted as well as accomplishments, barriers/challenges, steps taken to overcome those challenges and outcomes.

A work plan should be included with your proposal. The work plan should include a timeline for completion of each proposed objective as well as the corresponding responsible staff member.

G. Budget and Funding Information

Applicants may request funding of up to \$250,000 for a period of 18 months. Applicants must adhere to the following budget guidelines:

- Allowable costs include salaries, materials, travel and other meeting related expenses.
- Equitable compensation of subcontractors, ambassadors, etc. required to perform services beyond staff capability.
- In-State travel costs are allowed for meetings specifically related to the proposed project and must be in line with the Applicant's Institution travel policies.
- Visa costs are NOT allowed.
- Indirect costs are capped at 35%

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

- Preference will be given for non-profit or for-profit organizations based in the District and/or located East of the River, that are Black women owned/led.
- National organizations and academic institutions may apply in partnership with community-based non-profit or for-profit groups located East of the River, as long as there is a shared leadership structure proposed.
- The organization or team must be able to demonstrate a deep understanding and commitment to racial, gender, and health equity within their organization and a significant ongoing connection, commitment and experience with serving Ward 7 & 8 communities.
- Preference will be given to groups that collaborate with other groups to conduct this outreach/implementation project.
- Collaborations between organizations and Black women with lived cancer experience are encouraged. *For entities proposing a collaborative/partnership, 2 additional pages can be added to the 10-page limit.*

Due Date and Submission Instructions

- All proposals are to be submitted in accordance with the general conditions and procedures stated in this RFP. Digital copies of the following must be submitted by email by **Sunday, April 2, 2023 at 11:59 pm (EST)** to: BlackWomenThrivingEOTR@gmail.com Please include *“Response to Patient Bill of Rights”* in the subject line.
- Proposal should be no more than 10 pages (up to 12 pages, if proposing a collaborative partnership structure). Applicants must use 12-point, Times New Roman font and 1-inch margins to ensure fairness in page count limits across proposals.
- All applications will be reviewed for completeness. Those missing components or over the page limit will not be forwarded for further review
- Please submit any questions to BlackWomenThrivingEOTR@gmail.com. Please include in your subject line: *BWTEotR Patient Bill of Rights Inquiry*. Technical assistance will be available until 4:00 p.m. on March 29, 2023.
- We expect that decisions and/or notifications to the successful applicant will be made by May 15, 2023.