

groupassets



The Group Foundation Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Fund: Investing in a Diverse and Culturally-Responsive Mental Health Community and Workforce

Kelechi Fluitt, PhD, and Francois Williams, MD, Co-Chairs, Group Foundation Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Fund Committee

The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health is a philanthropic organization dedicated to changing lives through therapeutic group work by advancing the most effective and innovative approaches to group therapy education, training, research and community outreach. Our hope is that every mental health professional is trained to do group treatment, and professionals and the public would see the value of group therapy as a treatment option. Group therapy offers a living laboratory for learning, where members can develop interpersonal effectiveness skills, experience authentic connection, and witness and partake in the processes of rupture and repair that fosters lasting emotional growth. It is a highly effective therapeutic modality that provides benefit both as a stand-alone treatment and as part of a comprehensive care plan that may include individual psychotherapy and psychiatric medication management.

We would make an impact in the world through the power of group. We know that:

- Good mental health can improve quality of life and well-being
- Group therapy plays a key role in good mental health as an effective modality
- The more we can build the field of practice the more groups can be offered

We also know that we can build the field of practice by:

- Increasing the number of trained group therapists through scholarships, local training support, e-Learning programs, and other educational activities
- Building the knowledge base by developing resources with innovative methods and theories, including training manuals and curricula and research
- Advancing the collective knowledge, clinical wisdom, and therapeutic skills of mental health professionals.

As part of these goals, we also recognize increased needs for diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility initiatives, including the need to invest in a diverse, culturally-responsive mental health workforce. This is the guiding purpose of the Group Foundation’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Fund. The fund has raised over \$100,000 in its first few years of existence, and it continues to raise funds to further its mission. The Group Foundation Board of Directors established the DEI Fund Committee and charged it with identifying the most valuable and useful ways to provide funding support to programs that will best advance anti-racism initiatives.

“Our hope is that every mental health professional is trained to do group treatment, and professionals and the public would see the value of group therapy as a treatment option.”

We want to take this opportunity as chairs of the DEI Fund Committee to provide AGPA members and Group Foundation donors with information on what the fund has supported to date, where we would like to see it go in the future, and invite your engagement with us to make this happen. This engagement could be financial support, participation on our committee in helping to guide use of the funds, and/or referrals to groups and individuals that could benefit from fund support. We welcome introductions to those who can help facilitate work that could benefit from the funding available.

We also want to continue to emphasize our interest in working with Affiliate Societies of AGPA. We believe the Affiliate Societies play a key role in delivering educational activities in the group therapy field and welcome their participation and partnership in this work. In addition to being eligible for the opportunities listed below, we encourage societies to share this information with their members so that they are aware of the support available. Additionally, there are grants specific to societies to help support expenses such as speaker honoraria and travel for trainings that expand the catalog of diversity, cultural responsiveness, cultural and generational trauma, and antiracism trainings. We encourage societies to apply for these grants.

What follows here is a listing of what has been expended to date as well as areas into which we would like to expand. As you read it please consider: are there activities in which you are already engaged that you think would be eligible for support? Are you interested in participating in the programs noted below or helping to develop them? Are you interested in financially supporting this work? Reach out to us. We want to hear from you.

Funding to Date

Please note that we have included specific amounts spent in order to be as transparent as possible in the spending of the funds that have been donated.

Develop a continuing education framework for organizational leadership, faculty, and CGP-certified clinicians, including annual competency-based learning modules that support lifelong learning, professional growth, and adherence to evolving best practices in group psychotherapy.

\$3,800

AGPA membership fees for students and early career professional members

\$375

Expand scholarship support to include Certified Group Psychotherapist (CGP) application fees, and support of consultation hours for certification and education

\$3,970

Fund antiracist research into alternative models and cultural approaches

Seeking Opportunities

Sponsor non-eurocentric model presentations

Seeking Opportunities

Representation matters: Support expenses related to participating on organizational boards (e.g., when needing to attend extra days at Connect for leadership meetings); Funding for members (or discounts on membership/Connect) for those who are volunteering time to help DEI work in the organization

\$5,590

Provide scholarships to culturally diverse candidates and expand scholarship support to include e-Learning registration fees

\$17,700

\$4,800 National Instructor Designate BIPOC Specific Training Groups (20 BIPOC Instructors Trained)

\$10,000 Connect Scholarships (over 4 years)

\$2,900 e-Learning Scholarships (various individual scholarships as well as a DEI-Focused Online Institute):

Supplement honoraria to ensure inclusion of more diverse AGPA Connect, e-Learning, and leadership training presenters.

\$11,060

Provide funding to local affiliate societies to provide training on culturally-responsive group leadership and expand the catalog of diversity, cultural responsive, cultural and generational trauma, and antiracism trainings by supporting educational

\$9,000 (18 grants to 11 societies)

Support a more DEI friendly website

Committed: \$2,700

Committed/spent to-date: \$54,195

Total available (cumulative since start of fund): \$112,000

48% funds spent

In seeking to thoughtfully expend remaining (as well as future) funds, we would like to share the following areas in which we would truly like to expand our program support and very specifically invite suggestions and referrals for individuals and programs, including self-referrals, that could benefit from financial support.

- Expand scholarship support to include Certified Group Psychotherapist (CGP) application fees, support of consultation hours for certification, and education. An example of how this was recently accomplished was funding of a local society training program which includes training and consultation resulting in CGP eligibility that has a diverse faculty and student body.

Continued reverse side

2026 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GROUP FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH
GIFTS ACKNOWLEDGED HERE ARE FROM JANUARY 1, 2026, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026

We extend our thanks and appreciation to the donors whose support makes our programs possible. In recognition of our belief that gifts of all sizes are important and contribute to our mission to advance the field of group therapy, the Group Foundation will be presenting its donor listing in alphabetical order. We will continue to explore ways to acknowledge and thank our donors and welcome your feedback.

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FOUNDATION AWARDS AND GRANTS

The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health presents the following awards and encourages all to consider nominations of eligible applicants, including self-nominations.

- The Robert H. Klein Social Responsibility Award recognizes an AGPA member or group of members, an Affiliate Society, or an affiliated organization of mental health professionals who has provided an exceptional service that ultimately benefits the public at large (**deadline for nominations October 1, 2026**).
- The Humanitarian Award is presented to an esteemed individual whose ability and position,

either personal, corporate, foundation, and/ or politically based, have enabled them to do work reaching into and providing vitally needed services to a community (**deadline for nominations October 1, 2026**).

- The Foundation supports research that demonstrates the effectiveness of group psychotherapy and is soliciting proposals for original critical research reviews, either qualitative or quantitative (particularly meta-analyses), that focus on some selected area of group psychotherapy (**deadline for submissions is November 1, 2026**).

- The Alonso Award for Excellence in Psychodynamic Group Theory reasserts, in a concrete way, the value of original thinking about psychodynamic group theory. Individuals may qualify in a variety of ways. Suitable entries include doctoral dissertations, videos, published papers, and other creative research (**deadline for nominations December 1, 2026**).

Detailed award and grant descriptions, as well as listings of past recipients, are posted on AGPA’s website at www.agpa.org. For additional information, contact Diane Feirman, CAE, Public Affairs Senior Director, at dfeirman@agpa.org.

Behind The Circle:
Group Therapists Share Their Journey
A Special Interview Series Benefitting the Group Foundation!

The Behind the Circle Webinar Series is being reimagined as a monthly interview that will be recorded and distributed as a program available to the entire AGPA membership and mental health community free of charge. This will be an opportunity to expand upon the visibility of group therapy by introducing the members and the broader mental health community to group therapists, the work they do, and the personal journey that led them to this work. Keep an eye out for more information on the program launch.

In the meantime, we are working on bringing together a giving circle of people and organizations to present as the series sponsors. We invite members to consider joining this effort. Sponsorships are available at the Benefactor Level at \$1,000, Patron Level at \$500, and Friend Level at \$250 for one year (12 sessions) of the series. To become a sponsor of the event, visit <https://members.agpa.org/sponsorships/become-a-sponsor> and pick your preferred sponsor level.

THE GROUP FOUNDATION DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION FUND:
INVESTING IN A DIVERSE AND CULTURALLY-RESPONSIVE MENTAL HEALTH
COMMUNITY AND WORKFORCE (CONTINUED)

- Locate BIPOC group therapists in AGPA who can provide trainings and mentoring for BIPOC leaders to develop groups on an ongoing basis and pay leaders
- Funding for members (or discounts on membership/Connect) for those who are volunteering time to help DEI work in the organization

We would close by repeating our calls to action for our readers to participate in the work we are doing to develop a cultur-ally-responsive group therapy workforce that provides mental health services to communities. We invite:

- Your referrals, both self and to other individuals and organizations, that could benefit from funding
- Your participation on the DEI Fund Committee to help make programs and funding possible
- Your donation to the fund to continue our ability to fund this work.

We hope to hear from you. We can be reached at the Group Foundation office at dfeirman@agpa.org

LEGACY SOCIETY

We appreciate the provisions these planned gift donors have made for the Group Foundation.

- Ramon Alonso
- Maryetta Andrews-Sachs
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