



PROGRAM OVERVIEW · 2026-2027

# BPDA

*Collective*

## Access Program

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A national partnership initiative connecting public defender offices with community, training, and the tools to build a stronger Black defender pipeline.



## ABOUT BPDA

# Our Mission

The mission of the Black Public Defender Association (BPDA) is to nurture a national coalition of zealous Black public defenders and allies to lead the fight against carceral systems.

We are a national network of attorneys, social workers, and other professionals who have extraordinary insight as both legal experts and those personally impacted by these issues.

Ultimately, BPDA helps all public defenders become more powerful advocates and transformational leaders — because Americans need and deserve legal representation that is not just sympathetic to racism and oppression, but meaningfully informed by and fighting against it.

*"Legal representation that is not just sympathetic to racism and oppression, but meaningfully informed by and fighting against it."*

BPDA MISSION STATEMENT



## STRATEGIC GOALS

# What We Set Out to Do

*BPDA is building a movement — one defender, one office, one community at a time. Our four strategic goals define how we show up for Black defenders and the people they serve.*

## 01

**Build Individual & Collective Power**

We nurture a community of like-minded peers to gain the tools, understanding, and power to embody Black excellence, center race in our work, and transform our practices and the systems around us.

## 02

**Nurture the Next Generation of Black Defenders**

We inspire and support young Black freedom fighters to become public defenders — investing in the pipeline that will sustain this movement for generations.

## 03

**Transform the Practice of Public Defense**

We aim to shift the culture and practices of public defender offices toward inclusion, equity, and anti-racism — making the office itself a vehicle for justice.

## 04

**Disrupt Carceral Systems**

By transforming our practices and collaborating with broader movements, we can disrupt oppressive systems — from the courtroom to policy halls to the communities we call home.

# The BPDA *Collective Access Program*

The Collective Access Program (CAP) is BPDA's annual partnership initiative designed to support public defender offices through community, training, and strategic collaboration. CAP provides offices with the tools, resources, and network needed to strengthen defender teams and better support the communities they serve.

Participation in CAP includes a full year of benefits — from curated programming and job board access to fellowship eligibility and professional development support.

CAP is intentionally structured to foster community across participating offices, create shared learning opportunities, and deepen long-term investment in the Black defender pipeline. **Enrollment is limited to ensure curated support and meaningful engagement.**

#### PROGRAM CYCLE

June 1, 2026 – May 31, 2027

A full year of benefits, programming, and partnership from day one through year-end.

#### WHO IT'S FOR

Public defender offices seeking to collectively join the BPDA community, with unified benefits extending to all staff employees for the year.

#### ANNUAL PROGRAM FEE

**\$5,000**

Covers all benefits for every employee in your office for the full program year.

# Exclusive Benefits

ENROLLMENT NOTE

Limited spots available to ensure meaningful engagement for all offices.

**01 Priority Access to Fellows**  
CAP offices receive first opportunity to host BPDA's Law School Fellows and Community Engagement Fellows. Only CAP offices are eligible to serve as host sites.

**02 Discount Rates to Anti Racism Training Institutes**  
CAP offices receive exclusive discounted rates for participation in BPDA's Anti-Racism Training Institute — equipping your team with actionable strategies to combat racial biases within the legal system and beyond.

**03 Website & Social Recognition**  
Your office will be recognized on the BPDA website and across social media platforms as a Collective Access Program participant.

**04 Access to the BPDA Job Board**  
Only CAP offices can submit job postings directly to the BPDA Job Board — connecting your office with a network of talented professionals committed to justice and equity.

**05 Discounted Rate for Annual BPDA Conference**  
CAP offices receive a discounted registration rate for the Annual BPDA Conference, extended to your entire team.

**06 CAP Community Access**  
Access the CAP community for ongoing networking, resource-sharing, and communication with fellow participating offices.

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## IN DEPTH

# Benefits

## *Explained*

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## TALENT &amp; RECRUITMENT

### Access to Fellows for Public Defender Offices

Every CAP office gains priority access to BPDA's Law Student and HBCU Community Engagement Fellows. This initiative connects your team with passionate, emerging talent in legal advocacy and racial equity — offering a meaningful pool for mentorship and potential recruitment. Only CAP offices are eligible to serve as host sites for these fellows.

**Fellowship Host Eligibility:** Host site status for BPDA's Law School Fellows and Community Engagement Fellows is exclusively available to Collective Access Program offices.

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Discount Rates to Anti Racism Training Institutes

CAP offices receive exclusive discounted rates for participation in our Anti-Racism Training Institute. This opportunity underscores your office's dedication to systemic change while equipping your team with actionable strategies to combat racial biases within the legal system and beyond.

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## BRAND &amp; RECOGNITION

### Recognizing Our CAP Partners

As a valued participant, your office will be recognized on the BPDA website and across our social media platforms, reinforcing your role as a key supporter of BPDA's mission and a vital part of our growing community.

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HIRING &amp; TALENT PIPELINE

## Access to the BPDA Job Board

Gain exclusive access to submit job opportunities directly to the BPDA Job Board, helping connect your office with a wide network of talented professionals committed to justice and equity. The BPDA Job Board is a dedicated hub for public defense career opportunities — exclusively accessible for posting by CAP offices.

**Job Board Access:** Only Collective Access Program offices may submit job postings to the BPDA Job Board, ensuring meaningful connections between committed offices and qualified candidates.

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NETWORKING &amp; VALUE

## Discounted Rate for Annual BPDA Conference

CAP offices receive a discounted registration rate for the Annual BPDA Conference, extended to your entire team. The conference provides unparalleled opportunities to learn from peer offices, build relationships across the defender community, and strengthen your network nationwide.

### A NOTE ON CAP ENROLLMENT

The Collective Access Program is limited in enrollment to ensure curated support and meaningful engagement for every participating office. We are committed to showing up for each partner — not just in name, but in practice.

CAP

# BPDA Benefits

## Breakdown

All benefits below are extended to every employee at your public defender office upon joining the BPDA Collective Access Program.

### ■ Resources

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#### **Monthly Newsletter**

Stay informed on BPDA news and updates

#### **Feature Your Office**

Highlight accomplishments, events & opportunities shared with 1,500+ members

#### **Early Access to Events**

First insight on upcoming events, Facebook Lives, and actions

### ■ Professional Leadership Development

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#### **Tailored Leadership Development**

Uniquely designed opportunities for holistic client representation

#### **Recorded Webinar Library**

Exclusive access to past webinars & training content, including wellness sessions

### ■ Networking

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#### **Skilled Legal Network**

Networking with leaders in the legal field & career opportunities

#### **Private Virtual Community**

Special access to a private online community and closed Facebook group

#### **Quarterly Meetings**

Quarterly membership meetings for all CAP participants

#### **Anti-Racist Leadership Tools**

Access to a national network of anti-racist leadership resources

READY TO JOIN

# Become *a Partner.*

Contact us today if your office is interested in joining BPDA's Collective Access Program for the 2026–2027 cycle. Enrollment is limited — we encourage you to reach out early.

EMAIL US AT

[membership@blackdefender.org](mailto:membership@blackdefender.org)

