

Tigerlily Foundation Receives Grant to Expand SheLEADS Program for Communities Facing the Greatest Breast Cancer Disparities

New funding will train peer navigators and healthcare professionals and expand community outreach for young Black breast cancer survivors and women living with metastatic breast cancer.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 24, 2026) — Pivotal, a group of organizations founded by Melinda French Gates to accelerate social progress for women and young people in the U.S. and around the world, has awarded a multi-million dollar grant to Tigerlily Foundation to expand SheLEADS (She Leverages Empowerment, Advocacy & Diversity), strengthening culturally responsive peer navigation, psychosocial support, education, and advocacy for young Black breast cancer survivors and women living with metastatic breast cancer; in addition to healthcare provider integration and systems change.

Breast cancer does not affect all women equally. Black women are more likely to be diagnosed at younger ages, experience more advanced disease, and face higher mortality rates, yet many continue to encounter barriers to healthcare access, resources, and supportive services. Too often, the burden of navigating treatment, survivorship, and metastatic disease extends beyond the clinic, leaving women and families searching for support that is rooted in understanding and compassion.

SheLEADS was created to help bridge those gaps. Through trusted guidance, education, and support, the program helps young Black women navigate their cancer journey with knowledge, confidence, and hope.

"Breast cancer touches women everywhere, but access to equitable care does not," said Maimah Karmo, President and CEO of Tigerlily Foundation. "This investment allows us to reach more women and families in communities where needs are greatest and opportunities have too often been limited. Together with our partners, we are building a future where every woman has access to informed, high-quality care and where communities themselves become catalysts for healing and lasting change."

Guided by the voices of survivors, SheLEADS represents more than a program—it is a model for what becomes possible when equity, partnership, and lived experience transform care. Through this work, Tigerlily Foundation is helping ensure that every woman facing breast cancer has access not only to quality care, but to dignity, understanding, compassion, and the support she needs to thrive.

About Tigerlily Foundation

Tigerlily Foundation is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit women's health and oncology organization with a mission to end disparities and empower young women and their families by providing education, awareness, advocacy, and hands-on support before, during, and after cancer.

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