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NFL LAUNCHES *INSPIRE CHANGE*, FURTHER ADVANCING NATIONAL CONVERSATION, PROGRESS ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

Platform will highlight ongoing engagement efforts, provide grant funding, and includes the creation of new programs to improve communities

The National Football League today announced the launch of the [*Inspire Change*](#) platform, showcasing the collaborative efforts of players, owners and the league to create positive change in communities across the country.

Working together with the [Players Coalition](#), NFL teams and the league office continue to support programs and initiatives that reduce barriers to opportunity, with a focus on three priority areas:

- Education and economic advancement
- Police and community relations
- Criminal justice reform

The *Inspire Change* platform includes the debut of a new television spot, which will air during this weekend's playoff games. Additional versions of the television spot will continue to air throughout the post-season, including on Super Bowl Sunday during pregame programming.

New Social Justice Grants

As part of the league's ongoing commitment to social justice, the [joint NFL players-owners working group](#) recently approved two new social justice grants focused on the three priority areas. The grants were issued to [Big Brothers Big Sisters of America](#) (BBBSA) and [Operation HOPE](#). BBBSA will use the funding to support agencies across the country as they create long-term mentoring relationships that empower youth to reach their full potential and help communities connect across racial and economic divides. Operation HOPE will use the funds in support of their nationwide work within underserved communities to equip young people and adults with the financial tools and education to secure a better future.

"Our vision is to create a stronger, more inclusive economy—and by extension, society through financial empowerment – and financial dignity. Think of the difference our programs make in people's lives as they improve their FICO scores by 100 points or more. Think about the impact on families and communities as more people and more local businesses succeed. And consider the new investments and jobs that come to communities where people are financially secure and young people have the skills to be productive. We are proud to partner with the NFL as part of the Inspire Change initiative to bring meaningful impact to our communities and advance the critical dialogue on social justice taking place nationally." – **JOHN HOPE BRYANT**, Operation HOPE Founder, Chairman, and Chief Executive Officer.

"We are honored to be working with the NFL on the Inspire Change Initiative. Mentoring is a proven long-term strategy for bridging gaps in academics and income, and this grant will allow our agencies to create more strong mentoring relationships," – **PAM IORIO**, President and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

These grants build on the two grants issued last season to [Dream Corps](#) and the UNCF ([United Negro College Fund](#)). With this support, Dream Corps' #cut50 initiative helped pass the bi-partisan First Step Act, and UNCF is developing and launching a new criminal and social justice initiative. The new program aims to alleviate the impact of mass incarceration on individuals and communities through the prism of higher education, specifically UNCF's 37 member-institutions and other historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). Additional grants will be announced as they are approved in the coming months.

“The coalition of bi-partisan support was the secret sauce behind the passage of the First Step Act, and the unlikely allies we brought together for the historic legislation are what we are all about -- we work across deep divides to inspire change and solve America's toughest problems. We back initiatives that close prison doors (#cut50) and open doors of opportunity (#YesWeCode) and we are excited to continue our NFL partnership for even bigger changes in the future.” – **VAN JONES**, President & Founder of the Dream Corps.

“For 75 years, UNCF has supported educational opportunities for the most disenfranchised communities. With the support of the NFL, this new effort will build on the history of HBCUs as some of the oldest social justice organizations in this country. Our ultimate aim is breaking the cycle of incarceration and increasing the likelihood that low-income individuals and individuals of color are on a path to educational and economic success, not prison,” – **DR. MICHAEL LOMAX**, President and CEO of UNCF.

The league also announced today that it will partner with digital learning curriculum leader EverFi on a high school-focused [African-American History education program](#). NFL funding will allow thousands of students in 175 underserved schools in Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Montana and North Carolina to take part in the digital curriculum, at no charge to the schools or students. The schools were selected by EverFi based on areas of need and biggest opportunities for impact.

Activating for Impact

Inspire Change is a comprehensive platform for social change that also includes:

- **Community activation.** During Super Bowl week in Atlanta, the league will take part in several events related to social justice, including events with RISE ([Ross Initiative in Sports for Equality](#)) and Morehouse College. More details will be announced in the coming weeks. The league is also supporting the Martin Luther King, Jr. Global Youth Leadership Conference, taking place in Washington, D.C. in January in partnership with The Memorial Foundation, the builders of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial on the National Mall. The event will bring together youth leaders from around the country to learn from Dr. King's legacy of leadership and to help them develop their own voices.
- **Grassroots funding.** The Players Coalition will announce the recipients of their social justice grants during Super Bowl week. [The NFL Foundation](#) continues funding social justice matching grants as submitted by current players, NFL Legends and teams. To date, the Foundation has matched 365 social justice grants from players, and 28 grants submitted by teams, totaling nearly \$2 million.
- **New nationwide programming, digital content and social media support.** NFL Media will also unveil programming across its platforms focused on the efforts of current and former players toward social progress and understanding. The new documentary series *Indivisible* launches on Tuesday, January 15, featuring real conversations with players and local leaders on the issues and values at the heart of six communities. The six-part series premieres Tuesday, January 15, with new episodes unveiled weekly across NFL Media's digital platforms (NFL.com, NFL app, NFL YouTube and Facebook channels). In addition, on Monday, January 14, the seventh installment within the *Impact & Influence* series is set to premiere within *NFL Total Access*. The installment follows the creation of the Bears' nine-person social justice committee and their efforts to donate more than \$800,000 to local social justice efforts. All installments from the *Impact & Influence* series can be viewed digitally by visiting [NFL.com/impactandinfluence](#).

Please visit www.nfl.com/inspirechange and join the conversation on social media with the hashtag #inspirechange.

Additional Information

For more information about the joint commitment of NFL players and the league to strengthening communities through social justice, please see the following:

- [Background](#): NFL Social Justice Initiative
- NFL becomes the first and only sports league to [endorse](#) criminal justice reform
- [Fact Sheet](#): NFL Social Justice Initiative is Making an Impact
- Additional successful Players Coalition advocacy efforts for state criminal justice reforms (2018)
 - Florida Amendment 4 – Passed with 64.5% of the vote.
 - Louisiana Amendment 2 – Passed with 64.4% of the vote.
 - Michigan Proposal 2 – Passed with 61% of the vote.
 - Michigan Proposal 3 – Passed with 66.7% of the vote.
- NFL [endorses](#) the First Step Act
- Club Involvement:

CLUB INVOLVEMENT

NFL clubs and players have been supporting social justice efforts in many ways. Hundreds of social justice events and initiatives have been organized and implemented by each of the 32 NFL clubs in the last year. These events include:

- Training sessions, community gatherings and ridealongs with players and local police departments, as well as team-facilitated volunteer programs that involve police officers and underserved youth.
- Events with local job-placement programs for the formerly incarcerated, as well as inmates nearing release from prison.
- Involvement with local police explorers programs.
- Financial commitments to underserved schools, ranging from support for busing to assistance in purchasing uniforms for students in need.
- Facilitation of mentorships or daylong learning sessions for at-risk youth and players and team staff and executives.
- Team participation in Listen & Learns and criminal justice reform legislation efforts organized by the Players Coalition.
- Numerous events with local Boys & Girls clubs, Big Brothers & Sisters chapters, and similar organizations, focused specifically on underserved youth and mentoring programs.
- Community gatherings and discussions organized by RISE.
- Organization of community unity summits, many held at team facilities or hosted by NFL players.



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