

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Request for Proposals

February 5, 2025

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is pleased to announce a competitive grant opportunity through the John E. Blair Fund. The Hartford Foundation will award grants ranging from **\$1,000 to \$40,000**, depending upon the scope of work to be performed through the proposed project.

Applicants are requested to complete the [online grant application](#) by the end of day (11:59pm) on March 19, 2025. We expect to announce grant awards in late April 2025.

Purpose of the Fund

The John E. Blair Fund provides support to organizations that assist individuals with visual impairments throughout the [Foundation's 29-town region](#).

Types of Support and Grant Focus:

Grants awarded through this Request for Proposals may support a wide range of needs for organizations with programs dedicated to serving residents with visual impairments in Greater Hartford, including:

1. Capital/equipment projects (support for *small* capital improvements, such as renovations or the purchase of equipment),
2. Capacity building (support for strengthening organizational capacity),
3. Enhance or strengthen existing activities (support to enhance, expand, or strengthen the range, quantity, and/or quality of an agency's programs and services. However, in general these funds **are not meant** to maintain the current activities or level of service),
4. General Operating Support (support of a board approved strategic plan and/or annual plan), and
5. New activities or services (support for new programs or demonstration projects that do not commit the Foundation to recurring expenditures).

Proposals will be considered for the specific areas noted above. Requests for start-up support or scholarships will not be considered through the John E. Blair Fund. Applicants must meet the Hartford Foundation basic grantee criteria:

- Is your organization a 501(c)(3) non-profit? Non-501(c)(3) community-based groups may apply using a fiscal sponsor that is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.
- Does a significant portion of your organization's services benefit residents of the Hartford Foundation's [29-town funding region](#)?
- Does your organization operate under best practices for governance? Do you have a board that meets regularly? Do they provide financial oversight of the organization's resources?

Funding Amounts and Duration:

The maximum grant award is up to **\$40,000 for a 12-month period**. Requests for projects that are finite in duration or will become self-sustaining over time are encouraged. **This funding is not intended to replace governmental funding of projects or needs that should be properly funded through the municipal appropriations process.**

Proposal Process:

To apply for a grant from the John E. Blair Fund, please log into our online system by following [this link](#).

Applicants should complete all required questions of the online application and submit it by the deadline in order to be deemed eligible for funding consideration. Each organization is invited to submit one proposal. The deadline for proposals is 11:59 pm on March 19, 2025.

You may also contact Susan Hills, Community Impact Manager, at shills@hfpg.org, or 860-339-3565 with any questions regarding eligibility.